

Study Notes (Deuteronomy 15:1-23)



Chapter 15:1-6 **God invites us to become a part of what He is doing.**

- o The Law continues to shape the lives of the Nation of Israel in ways that reflect God's heart. The Law is an invitation to know the created intention God had with us- to know Him and be filled with His love to share that love with each other as we manage the Creation, He put us in charge over.
- o The Law would produce the fruit of works because of the Atonement; the obedience to the Law was to be the result of who they are through Atonement. Obedience to the Law did not make them God's children; sin would never allow this to be possible.
- o God provided the blueprint for a community without the poor among them. If they obeyed Him, He would supply all their need. Every 7th year was to be a time of universal debt relief. Regardless of amount or length, this was to be done. *Israel was poised to show the world what life with God is like!*

Chapter 15:7-11 **Living with Open Hands**

- o Despite the blueprint for the relief of the poor, the reality was there would always be the poor among them. Even though this was a National Covenant, not all of Israel were circumcised in heart as well as flesh. Not everyone obeyed this. Further, such things as illness, indulgence, abuse, etc would also factor into someone finding themselves impoverished.
- o The idea of being open handed is a mental and physical posture of our hearts. We are to be like our Father, and love as we are loved.

▪ **Note: Matthew 26:6-13**

Chapter 15:12-18 **Blessing Those in Your Care**

- o The invitation to work off a debt was a way to help heal and rehabilitate their neighbors. Becoming the hands and feet of God to love into well.

Chapter 15:19-23 **Giving to the Lord**

- o Keeping God and His atonement at the center of everything is how we keep our hearts beating to the rhythm of His. This would remind Israel that God is not burdening them with needless rules to complicate their lives, but that this is who they are in God's family. This is how we were created to live- in Him and He through us.

"And in the wilderness, where you have seen how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way that you went until you came to this place." -Deuteronomy 1:31

Cornerstone Wednesday Night Bible Study Series

Study: Deuteronomy "Together Forever"

Instructor: Pastor Damian Mericka

Week 20: Second Discourse (Part 13)



Deeper Questions for Application

- 1) *How was the Law an invitation from God for Israel? What was He inviting them to do? Are works the result of atonement or are works the requirement for atonement?*
- 2) *What was the Sabbatical Year and what happened for those who had debt? Does the amount or length of loan matter on the Seventh Year? Was this to be universally applied over all the Nation?*
- 3) *What is the two-fold implication of living "open handed"? How were there to be no poor in the land? Why would there always be poor among them? What is to be our attitude toward those who are in need?*
- 4) *How do we bless those in our care according to Vv.12-18? What benefit was to be received by those who worked off their debt and how does this reflect the heart of God?*
- 5) *Why does God remind Israel of their servitude in Egypt?*
- 6) *Why is it important to keep atonement central for Israel then and us today? How is this reflected by observing the Lord's Supper? What does atonement mean for how we are to live?*

*Type your answers and send them to me at damianmericka@live.com or attach through facebook messenger. ***For Next Time read Deuteronomy Chapter 16:1-22**