



Lesson Summary

Israel has finally made their way to edge of the Promised Land and are camped in the plains of Moab, just across the Jordan river from Canaan. They have just wandered through the desert for 40 years and this new generation has just buried their parents and grandparents. The old generation has died off because they refused to go into the Land. Now, the new generation is ready to go, but Moses cannot go with them. Therefore, Moses delivers to Israel his final farewell sermons in the book of Deuteronomy. Today we explore the part of his sermon where, after restating the blessings and curses of the covenant like we read about in Leviticus, Moses begins to predict Israel's future. Unfortunately, Moses knows that this new generation is just like their fathers before them - unfaithful and unwilling to trust the LORD. Moses predicts that they will go after other gods and will ultimately fall under the covenant curses and be driven away from the Land where they are headed. However, these curses are not final judgment, but discipline. Their purpose is to cause Israel to repent. Moses then tells them that once all this has fallen upon them and they finally turn back to the LORD, He will have mercy and compassion upon them and He will restore them to their Land and give them blessing. That is because the LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth.

Story of the Bible Chart

We remain in the "looking for the Messiah" part of the chart. Today, we reflect on God's character - that He is compassionate and merciful. We are reminded as we look at the LORD's character that man is not like Him. He is holy. However, we are looking for the One man, the true Image-Bearer who will be like Him and finally rule according to His character.

Story of the Bible Chart picture of the day:



DEUTERONOMY

RECAP/INTRO

In Deuteronomy, Moses is preaching his final sermons to the new generation of Israelites about to cross the Jordan River into their promised Land after 40 years of wandering in the desert. First, he reminded them of the LORD's faithfulness to them and challenged them to trust the LORD and not repeat the mistakes of their parents.

Next, he repeated the law to Israel and, as we saw last week, revealed their leaders who were to help them fulfill their purpose in being a holy nation and a kingdom of priests. They were to make sure Israel did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD. They were Judges, Priests, Kings, and Prophets.

After that, Moses reminded them of the covenant blessings and curses from Leviticus. If Israel lived by faith in the LORD and His coming Messiah (demonstrated by engaging in the sacrificial system and keeping of the Sabbath) then they get the benefit of entering into their land, receiving rest from their enemies in their land, prospering in their land, and the LORD dwelling and walking among them in the land forever. If Israel rejected the LORD and went after other gods, if they defiled or rejected the sacrificial system, or if they rejected the Sabbath (a temporary expression of the ultimate rest that was to come in Messiah) then Israel would suffer the curses of the covenant. The LORD would take away the prosperity of their land, cause their enemies to destroy them in their land (no rest from their enemies), and drive them out of the land to foreign lands.

Which path do you think this new generation will take? The path of blessing or the path of curse?

In this lesson, we will see what Moses thought. But pay close attention, because we will learn something really special about the LORD today.

Lesson Outline

LESSON OUTLINE

The LORD's Compassion

Deut 30



1. **Moses has no confidence that they will choose the path of blessing:**
“So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all nations where the LORD your God has banished you...” (Deut 30:1)
 - a. Moses says “when these things have come upon you,” revealing that he fully expects Israel to get the curses

2. **However, the good news is that the curses aren't the end:**
“...and you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, then the LORD your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you.” (Deut 30:2-3)
 - a. The curses were meant to remind Israel that the LORD alone is God and cause them to repent (turn from the false gods) and return to the LORD.
 - b. When they return, they will truly see the LORD's character – they would receive mercy and compassion.

3. **Not only would they be welcomed back, but they would finally be blessed in the Land (READ Deut 30:4-10)**
 - a. When they return to the LORD, the LORD will reestablish them back in their land.
 - b. The LORD will multiply them again.
 - c. The LORD will give them a new heart so that they will finally love to do what is good in God's eyes.
 - d. The LORD will crush their enemies who trampled Israel under their feet all those years when Israel was under curses.
 - e. The LORD will finally prosper them in the Land.

SUMMARY:

In Moses' eyes, this new generation was no different than their fathers. Their hearts were hard and they did not love to do what was good in God's eyes, only what was good in their own eyes. Moses knew they would not walk by faith, but by sight. As a result, he knew that they would be cursed and one day driven out of the Land which they were about to possess. However, the curses weren't just to wipe Israel out... they were for discipline. The curses were to cause Israel to return to the LORD with all their heart... and when they return, the LORD would show them mercy and compassion, because that is who the LORD is. When they finally return to Him in the distant future, it is at that time that they would finally be established in their Land and the Kingdom of blessing through the Messiah finally set up to bless all the nations!!



Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.

Ages 3-5

1. **Will God bring good things like food, rain, and health, called blessings on Israel in their land if they do what is good and right in God's eyes?**
Yes
2. **Will God bring bad things like lack of food, sickness, and lack of rain, called curses on Israel in their land if they do what is good and right in their own eyes?**
Yes
3. **Are both the blessings and the curses a part of God's plan to keep all of His promises to Israel?**
Yes

Grades 1-6

1. **Who is preaching his final sermon to God's special people Israel in Deuteronomy 30?**
Moses
2. **What does Moses remind the people about God?**
God has always been faithful and will always be faithful to keep all His promises to Israel.
3. **What does Moses warn the people that they need to do that their parents did not do?**
Trust the LORD to provide for them and do what is good in God's eyes.
4. **What does Moses tell Israel that God will do for them if they trust the LORD and do what is good and right in God's eyes?**
They will receive physical blessings from the LORD in the Promised Land like good health, good crops, and protection from their enemies.
5. **What does Moses tell Israel that God will do to them if they do not trust the LORD and instead do what is good and right in their own eyes?**
They will receive physical curses from the LORD to get them to return to Him including sickness, famine, and war.
6. **What does Moses predict will happen to Israel after they enter the land God has promised them?**
Israel will not follow the LORD but will reject Him and go after other gods in whom there is no salvation, and the LORD will kick Israel out of the Promised Land until they change their minds, or repent, and return to following Him alone.
7. **Because the LORD is faithful to keep all of His promises to Israel, what will ultimately happen to God's special nation at the end of the story?**
Israel will return to the LORD with all their heart and when they do the Promised One who is Israel's King, the Messiah that the story has been looking for, will arrive to set up His Kingdom and restore Israel to their land and bless all those who have joined God's Team throughout the story.