

A Different Future

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayers

Q: What happens to your present/future, when you forget or disregard your past?

Q: Why does this seem like a common phenomena?

Q: Have you ever thought that you would like a different future from the situation you grew up in?

Q: How might that happen?

Table Time...

READ: Deuteronomy 1:1a, These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel beyond the Jordan in the wilderness....

V.5 "Beyond the Jordan, in the land of Moab, Moses undertook to explain this law..."

Remember: The Name "Deuteronomy" means "second law". It is a "retelling, explaining, recounting" what God had given.

Q: Why would it be important for Moses to "undertake to explain this law"?

Q: Knowing the Israelites, what did Moses fear would happen if he didn't?

Q: Why is forgetting the past dangerous?

READ: Deuteronomy 1:29-33 "Then I said to you, 'Do not be in dread or afraid of them. ³⁰The Lord your God who goes before you will himself fight for you, just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes, ³¹and 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.' ³²Yet in spite of this word you did not believe the Lord your God, ³³who went before you in the way to seek you out a place to pitch your tents, in fire by night and in the cloud by day, to show you by what way you should go"

Q: In this section, Moses is recounting that dreadful time when the spies came back and told the people there were "giants" in the land. Why is misplaced FEAR dangerous in your relationship with God?

READ: 1 Samuel 12:24 "Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you."

READ: Psalm 111:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding."

READ: Deuteronomy 6:13-17 "It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. ¹⁴ You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you— ¹⁵ for the Lord your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the Lord your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth. ¹⁶ "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah. ¹⁷ You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and his testimonies and his statutes, which he has commanded you."

Q: What's the common thread in all these verses (there's a LOT more like these btw)?

Q: In the Deuteronomy passage, what happened at Massah?

Q: In the Deuteronomy 1:29-33 passage, what happened at the edge of the promised land the first time?

Q: Israel was AFRAID! Who were they "afraid" of?

Q: Who should they been afraid of?

Big Group Debrief....

READ: Deuteronomy 1:40-45 "But as for you, turn, and journey into the wilderness in the direction of the Red Sea.' ⁴¹ "Then you answered me, 'We have sinned against the Lord. We ourselves will go up and fight, just as the Lord our God commanded us.' And every one of you fastened on his weapons of war and thought it easy to go up into the hill country. ⁴² And the Lord said to me, 'Say to them, Do not go up or fight, for I am not in your midst, lest you be defeated before your enemies.' ⁴³ So I spoke to you, and you would not listen; but you rebelled against the command of the Lord and presumptuously went up into the hill country. ⁴⁴ Then the Amorites who lived in that hill country came out against you and chased you as bees do and beat you down in Seir as far as Hormah. ⁴⁵ And you returned and wept before the Lord, but the Lord did not listen to your voice or give ear to you."

Q: What happened here?

Q: According to verse 44-45, what happened when Israel continued to rebel against the Lord? Is that EVER successful?

Q: Whom shall we fear and obey?