

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



Deuteronomy Part 3 (chapter 4)

1.04.2023

Chapter 4

How to succeed in the promised land? (1-6)

What makes Israel a great nation? (7-8)

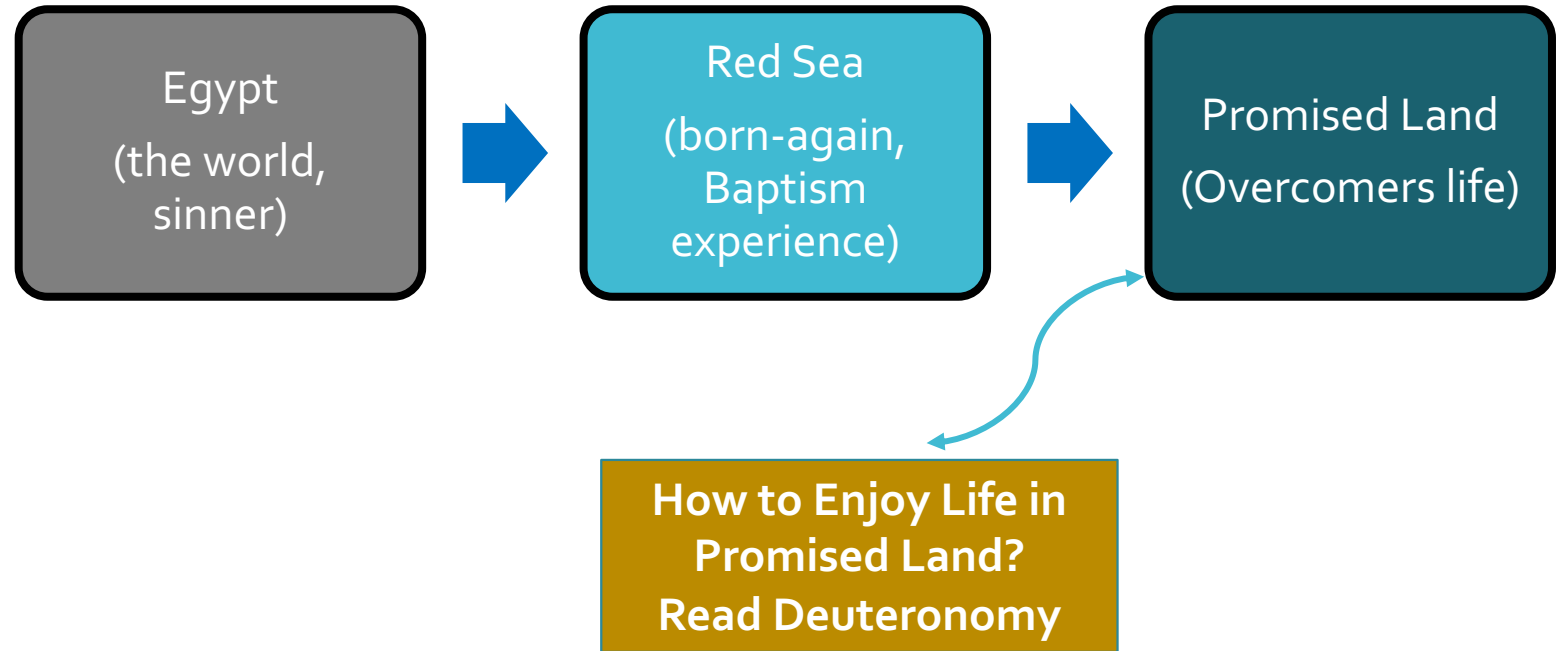
What is the outcome of idolatry? God as a consuming fire and merciful God (9-31)

Why is there no other like our God? (32-40)

Cities of refuge (41-43), Conclusion (44-49)

How to Succeed in the Promised Land? (1-6)

**Promised
Land follows
Redemption ...
Promised land
represents life
after
redemption**



Surviving and Succeeding in the Promised Land (1-6)

Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers giveth you. ² Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you. ³ Your eyes have seen what the Lord did because of Baalpeor: for all the men that followed Baalpeor, the Lord thy God hath destroyed them from among you.

⁴ But ye that did cleave unto the Lord your God are alive every one of you this day. ⁵ Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. ⁶ Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

Summary: Tips for success

(1-6)

- Hear God(1)
- Do what you hear (2,6)
- Do not edit God's instructions (2)
- Learn from past mistakes (3)
- Be a witness to other nations(6)

Life & Death depends on Obedience (1)

Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that **ye may live**, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers giveth you.

Hear and do, that ye may Live

- Land will be given as per promise but enjoyment of the land depended on obedience
- Enjoyment of salvation experience also depends on continued obedience. At a minimum, practice Acts 2:42
- Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (Life & good, Death & evil)

Do not edit God's words

Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye **diminish** ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you (2)

Do not edit God's commandments ... no additions or deletions

Do not question/debate God's commandments ... just submit and obey

Warning repeated (Revelation 22:18,19)

Traditions can nullify the Word of God (Mark 7:13),

Sins of omission and commission dilute our Christian experience

Experience: Life & death

³Your eyes have seen what the Lord did because of Baalpeor: for all the men that followed Baalpeor, the Lord thy God **hath destroyed** them from among you.

⁴But ye that did cleave unto the Lord your God **are alive** every one of you this day.

You have seen

Death at Baalpeor (Numbers 25:1-4)

- Reason: Whoredom with Moabite Women & Sacrifices to Idols
- Result – Death

And the Lord said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the Lord against the sun (Numbers 25:4)

Life to those who cleaved to the Lord (4)

Life & death
hangs on our
“belief”

John 3:15

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish,
but have eternal life

Obedience is Testimony

⁵ Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. ⁶ Keep therefore and do them; for **this is your wisdom and your understanding** in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, **Surely this great nation** is a wise and understanding people.

- Wisdom is found in obedience to laws
- Obedience to superior laws of God leading to order and peace will attract attention of other nations.

Greatness of nation
defined (7-8)

Greatness of nation defined

⁷ For what nation is there so **great**, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? ⁸ And what nation is there so **great**, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

Israel is a great nation because of:

A great God who is present, near, and accessible (Christianity is a relationship, not a religion)

Righteous laws that lead to social justice

We can be great if we recognize the presence of God in our lives (Immanuel, Holy Spirit) and Obey the scriptures.

Danger of Idolatry (9-31)

Greatest threat to Israel (9-31)

- Israelites came from Egypt – land of Idols
- Heading to Canaan – land of Idols

Blessings of promised land will be diluted/lost through Idolatry

Moses gives strong warning against Idolatry before Israelites enter the Promised land

Pass on to Children

⁹ Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou **forget** the things which thine **eyes have seen**, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but **teach them** thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

Don't forget the great things that you have witnessed

Experiences with God **must be passed on** to the next generations (sons and grandsons ...)

What did the eyes see? Mount Sinai Experience

Amazing Mount Sinai Experience: Encounter with God (10-14)

¹⁰ Specially the day that thou stoodest before the Lord thy God in Horeb, when the Lord said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children. ¹¹ And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the **mountain burned with fire** unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness.

¹² And **the Lord spake** unto you out of the midst of the fire: **ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude**; only ye heard a voice. ¹³ And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even **ten commandments**; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone. ¹⁴ And the Lord commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go over to possess it.

Amazing Mount Sinai Experience: Encounter with God

Mountain burned with fire with black clouds and thick darkness (11)

Heard a voice, but no form (so that they may fear Him) (10, 12)

God declared the ten commandments, which were written in two tablets of stone (13)

This great experience must not be forgotten ... it must be passed on to next generations

No visible
form of God

Only Voice
heard ...

even today
God speaks

but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice (12)

ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the Lord spake unto
you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire (15)

God was not seen ... so there is no basis for making idols

Idols Forbidden (16-19)

¹⁶ Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female,

¹⁷ The likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air, ¹⁸ The likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the waters beneath the earth:

¹⁹ And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the Lord thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

All forms of Idols prohibited

(2nd
commandment)

- Likeness of male or female (16)
- Beast, birds (16)
- Creepeth or fish (18)
- Sun, moon and stars (19)

400-years in Egypt would have exposed them to many idols

Foolishness of Idol worship

Psalms 115:4-8

⁴ Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. ⁵ They have mouths, but they **speak not**: eyes have they, but they **see not**:

⁶ They have ears, but they **hear not**: noses have they, but they **smell not**: ⁷ They have hands, but they **handle not**: feet have they, but they **walk not**: neither speak they through their throat.

⁸ They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.

What can the idols do? Nothing

People of Inheritance (20)

But the Lord hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto him a **people of inheritance**, as ye are this day.

Redeemed from the land of bondage to be a “people of inheritance”

Warning from the failure of Moses (21-24)

²¹ Furthermore the Lord was angry with me for your sakes, and sware that I should not go over Jordan, and that I should not go in unto that good land, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance:

²² But I must die in this land, I must not go over Jordan: but ye shall go over, and possess that good land. ²³ Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the Lord thy God hath forbidden thee.

²⁴ For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.

Learn from the failure of Moses (21-24)

Moses forbidden to enter the Promised land

Disobedience and disbelief is a sin

Idol worship is forbidden (23) ...

Remember, God is a consuming fire, a Jealous God (24)

Mercy + Justice co-exist ... mercy possible when there is true repentance (31)

Consequences of disobedience/ Idol worship

(25-28)

²⁵ After you have had children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time—if you then become corrupt and make any kind of idol, doing evil in the eyes of the Lord your God and arousing his anger, ²⁶ I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you this day that you will quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess. You will not live there long but will certainly be **destroyed**.

²⁷ **The Lord will scatter you** among the peoples, and only a few of you will survive among the nations to which the Lord will drive you. ²⁸ There you will worship man-made gods of wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or eat or smell.

Consequences of disobedience/ Idol worship

(25-28)

Your days will be cut short and you will be destroyed (26)

You will be scattered → weakened (27) (happened 550 years later, Babylonian exile)

In the scattered land, ye will serve idol gods (28) (he left them to indulge in their sinful desires)

**God is a consuming
fire (24) but He is also a
merciful God (31)**