

# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



## Deuteronomy Part 4 (chapter 4)

1.11.2023

## 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 survive and succeed in Promised Land?

(1-6)

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

## Why Obey?

Leads to life (1)

Shows our wisdom (6)

Is our testimony (6)

Blessings for next generation (40)

**Greatness of  
nation  
defined  
(7,8)**

**Israel is a great nation because:**

- 1. God is near**
- 2. Righteous laws** that lead to moral and social/civil order.

# Danger of Idolatry (9-31)

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Heard a voice but did not see physical form (12)

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Redeemed from the “iron furnace of Egypt” to  
“people of inheritance” (20)

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Our God is consuming fire (a Jealous God) (24)

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Idolatry leads to God’s wrath (25), destruction  
(26) scattering(27) diminishing (27) idolatry(28)

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Idols cannot do anything (Psalms 115)

**Quick review  
from last  
week**

**(9-28)**

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

**BUT, (29)**

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Israel's idolatry in the **past** lead to scattering and destruction

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**But future** can be different

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Israelites offered an opportunity for change

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Bible offers hope for everyone, regardless of their past.

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**How?**



# Repentance leads to Mercy

(29-31)

<sup>29</sup> But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.

<sup>30</sup> When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days **you will return to the Lord** your God and obey him.

<sup>31</sup> **For the Lord your God is a merciful God**; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your ancestors, which he confirmed to them by oath.

# Mercy & Restoration to Repentant (29-31)

We tend to seek God when in distress situations (31)

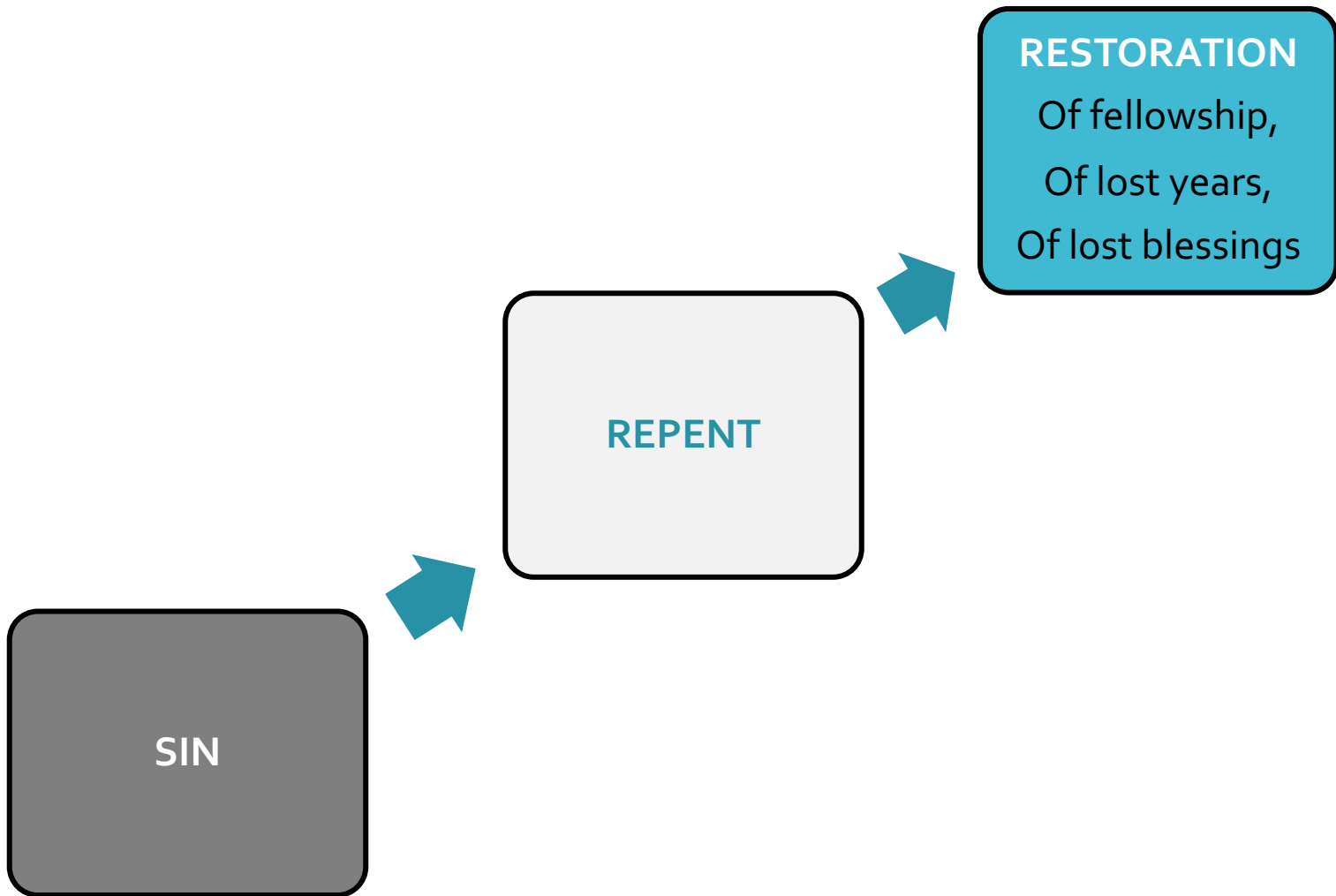
When we seek God sincerely, everything changes

- We are No longer abandoned
- We are No longer destroyed
- We are No longer forgotten

We go astray but God does not forget his covenant

Like the earthly father, God eagerly waits for prodigal sons to return

**Repentance leads to Mercy & Restoration**



SIN

REPENT

RESTORATION

Of fellowship,  
Of lost years,  
Of lost blessings

**SIN**

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graph LR; A[SIN] --> B[NO REPENTENCE]; B --> C[DESTRUCTION  
Of fellowship,  
Of blessings,  
Of Joy & Peace];
```

The diagram consists of three rounded rectangular boxes arranged in a descending staircase pattern from left to right. The first box is dark gray and contains the word 'SIN'. A black arrow points from the bottom-right corner of the first box to the top-left corner of the second box. The second box is light gray and contains the words 'NO REPENTENCE'. Another black arrow points from the bottom-right corner of the second box to the top-left corner of the third box. The third box is dark gray and contains the word 'DESTRUCTION' followed by three lines of text: 'Of fellowship,', 'Of blessings,', and 'Of Joy & Peace'.

**NO  
REPENTENCE**

**DESTRUCTION**  
Of fellowship,  
Of blessings,  
Of Joy & Peace

Can everyone  
find God?

# True Seekers find God (28)

And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart (**Jeremiah 29:13**)

And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: **if thou seek him, he will be found of thee**; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever (**I Chronicles 28:9**)

Seek, and you will find (**Mathew 7:7**)

**Lord is God (32-40)  
Obey Him!**

# Lord is God and there is no other

(32-35)

<sup>32</sup> Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created human beings on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other. **Has anything so great as this ever happened**, or has anything like it ever been heard of? <sup>33</sup> Has any other people heard the voice of God speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived?

<sup>34</sup> Has any god ever tried to take for himself **one nation out of another nation**, by testings, by signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?

<sup>35</sup> **You were shown** these things **so that** you might know that the **Lord is God**; besides him there is no other.



Lord is God  
and there is  
no other

(32-35)

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Consider the creation

---

Consider the audible voice of God

---

Consider His miracles (signs & wonders, awesome deeds)

---

Consider His deliverance by mighty hand (from Egypt)

---

Consider His dealings with His people

Consider His promises

---

**There is none other like our Living God!**

Lord is God ...  
there is no  
other!  
(36-40)

<sup>36</sup> From heaven he made you hear his voice to discipline you. On earth he showed you his great fire, and you heard his words from out of the fire.

<sup>37</sup> Because he loved your ancestors and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength, <sup>38</sup> to drive out before you nations greater and stronger than you and to bring you into their land to give it to you for your inheritance, as it is today.

<sup>39</sup> Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. **There is no other.**

<sup>40</sup> Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the Lord your God gives you for all time.

# Out of heaven and out of Earth (36)

(Exodus 19)

Out of heaven: great voice; Out of earth: great fire.

(Exodus 19)

<sup>16</sup> And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. <sup>17</sup> And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount.

<sup>18</sup> And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.

<sup>19</sup> And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and **God answered him by a voice.**

**We can hear the voice of God today also**

**Lord is God  
(36-40) ...**

**Obey His  
commands**

Voice in the midst of fire (36)

He loved Israel so redeemed them (37)

Drove out nations greater and mightier than Israel (38)

Egypt and Canaan ... stronger than Israelite nation

God rescued from Egypt and promised victory in Canaan

**There is no other God in heaven above or earth beneath (39)**

**Therefore, obey His commandments (40)**

It will be well with thee (and your children) and you will prolong your days

## Cities of Refuge (41-43)

<sup>41</sup> Then Moses severed three cities on this side Jordan toward the sunrising;

<sup>42</sup> That the slayer might flee thither, which should kill his neighbour unawares, and hated him not in times past; and that fleeing unto one of these cities he might live:

<sup>43</sup> Namely, Bezer in the wilderness, in the plain country, of the Reubenites; and Ramoth in Gilead, of the Gadites; and Golan in Bashan, of the Manassites.

# Cities of Refuge (for Israelites and others)

(Numbers 35)

<sup>10</sup> Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come over Jordan into the land of Canaan; <sup>11</sup> Then ye shall appoint you cities to be cities of refuge for you; that the slayer may flee thither, which killeth any person at unawares. <sup>12</sup> And they shall be unto you **cities for refuge from the avenger**; that the manslayer die not, until he stand before the congregation in judgment.

<sup>13</sup> And of these cities which ye shall give six cities shall ye have for refuge. <sup>14</sup> Ye shall give three cities on this side Jordan, and three cities shall ye give in the land of Canaan, which shall be cities of refuge. <sup>15</sup> These six cities shall be a refuge, both for the children of Israel, and for the stranger, and for the sojourner among them: that every one that killeth any person unawares may flee thither.

# Cities of Refuge (41-43)

**Cities of Refuge:** Person can seek refuge if he killed someone accidentally, until the case is heard by the Israelite judge/elders.

**3 cities on East of Jordan (Bezer, Ramoth-Gilead, and Golan)**

2.5 tribes given land before crossing Jordan;

Other tribes also given cities of refuge (3 cities, **Deuteronomy 19:2-13**)

Started with eight churches providing sanctuaries to refugees from Central America denied asylum by US government in 1980s.

More than 500 cities in 11 States are currently considered sanctuary cities (including Chicago, NYC, SFO, and Philadelphia)

## Sanctuary cities in USA



# God is our Refuge

Psalms 46:1-3

God is our refuge and strength, a very  
present help in trouble.

Therefore will not we fear, though the  
earth be removed, and though the  
mountains be carried

into the midst of the sea;

Though the waters thereof roar and be  
troubled, though the mountains shake  
with the swelling thereof. Selah.

# Conclusion

(44-49)

## Review & summary of chapters 1-3

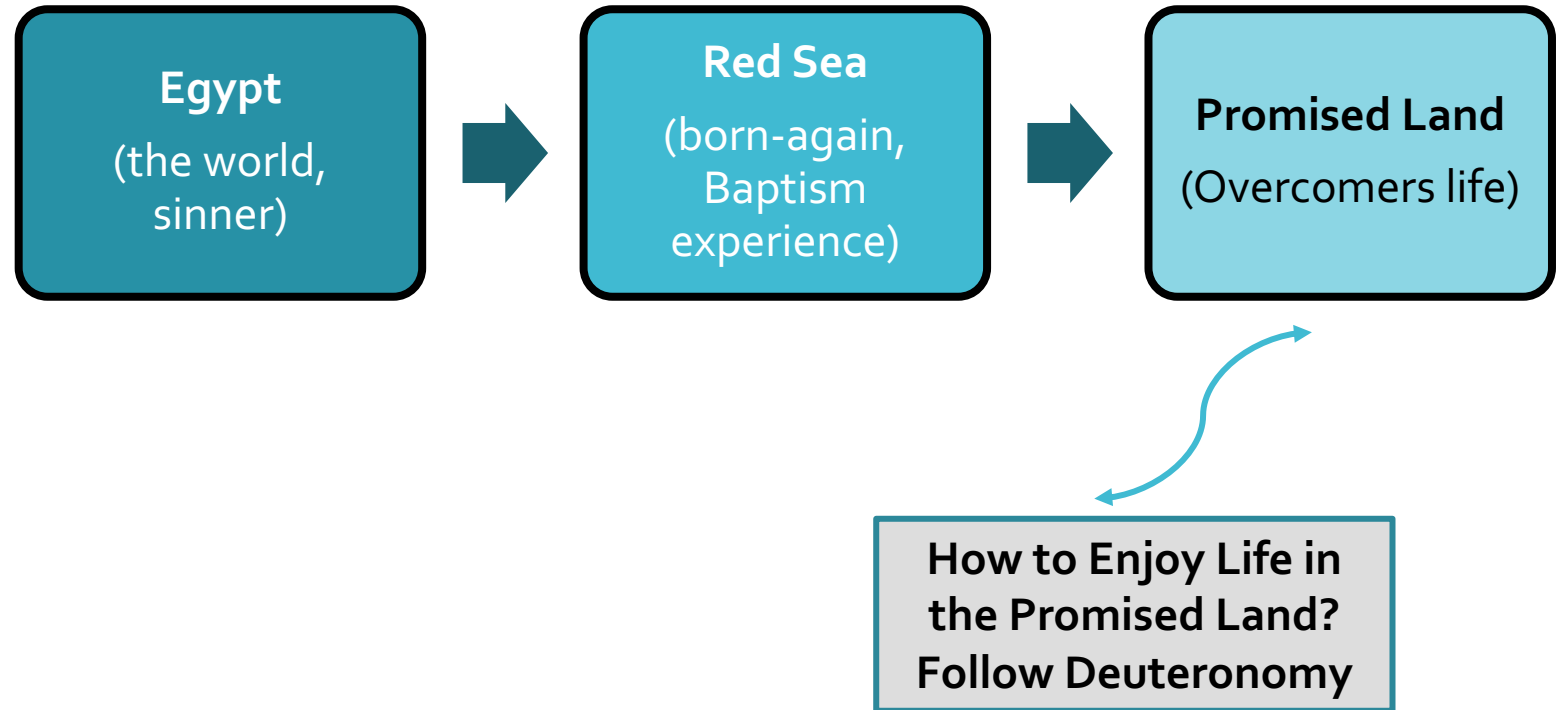
<sup>44</sup> And this is the law which Moses set before the children of Israel:  
<sup>45</sup> These are the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments,  
which Moses spake unto the children of Israel, after they came forth  
out of Egypt. <sup>46</sup> On this side Jordan,

in the valley over against Bethpeor, in the land of Sihon king of the  
Amorites, who dwelt at Heshbon, whom Moses and the children of  
Israel smote, after they were come forth out of Egypt: <sup>47</sup> And they  
possessed his land, and the land of Og king of Bashan, two kings of  
the Amorites, which were on this side Jordan toward the sunrising;

<sup>48</sup> From Aroer, which is by the bank of the river Arnon, even unto  
mount Sion, which is Hermon, <sup>49</sup> And all the plain on this side Jordan  
eastward, even unto the sea of the plain, under the springs of  
Pisgah.

Promised  
Land follows  
Redemption ...

Promised land  
represents life  
after  
redemption



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