

# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



## Deuteronomy Part 10 (chapter 9)

2.22.2023

## Chapter 9

Who is greater: God or our enemy? (1-3)

Why were the Israelites victorious? (4-6)

What is one persistent failure of Israelites? (7)

What does history reveal about Israel? (8-13) (22-23)

What was God's surprising offer to Moses? (14)

How did Moses react to idol worship? (15-29)

Our enemy is great,  
but God is Greater!  
(1-3)

## Our God is greater (1-3)

**Hear, O Israel:** Thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven,

<sup>2</sup> A people great and tall, the children of the Anakims, whom thou knowest, and of whom thou hast heard say, Who can stand before the children of Anak!

<sup>3</sup> Understand therefore this day, that the Lord thy God is he which goeth over before thee; as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the Lord hath said unto thee.

# HEAR, O ISRAEL

Speak, for thy servant heareth (I Samuel 3:10)

Are we listening?

# The Challenge of enemy & God's Assurance (1-3)

## The Challenge of Enemy:

- Greater and mightier
- Cities great and fenced up to heaven
- Giants
  - And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers (Numbers 13:33)

## God's Assurance:

- I go before you as a consuming fire
- I will destroy them & bring them down

# What must Israelites do? (3)

## What must Israelites do?

Drive them out, and destroy the enemies quickly

## When God goes before us ...

He fights the battle and Victory is assured

## What must we do?

We have to simply believe and follow God's instructions

Let us not be discouraged by children of Anak, giants



Why were the  
Israelites victorious?  
(4-6)

## Reason for Victory (4-6)

<sup>4</sup> Speak not thou in thine heart, after that the Lord thy God hath cast them out from before thee, saying, For my righteousness the Lord hath brought me in to possess this land: **but for the wickedness of these nations** the Lord doth drive them out from before thee.

<sup>5</sup> Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thine heart, dost thou go to possess their land: but for the wickedness of these nations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee, and that he **may perform the word** which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

<sup>6</sup> Understand therefore, that the Lord thy God giveth thee not this good land to possess it for thy righteousness; for thou art a stiffnecked people.



## Reason for Victory

### NOT BECAUSE OF THE

- The Righteousness of Israel

### BUT BECAUSE OF THE

- Wickedness of these nations
- Promise made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob

### SO

- Don't be proud after victories

## God's evaluation of Israelites: Stiffnecked (6)

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Israelites thought they were “righteous and upright”

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But God considered them to be “stiffnecked” (stubborn)  
(6)

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Yet, surprisingly God used them to bring about  
judgement/defeat to the Canaanites

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God can use anyone to execute His plans. God used  
wicked Babylon to bring rebellious Israelites to captivity.

**What is one persistent  
failure of Israelites (7)**

# History of Rebellion

<sup>7</sup> Remember, and forget not, how thou **provokedst the Lord** thy God to wrath in the wilderness: **from** the day that thou didst depart out of the land of Egypt, **until** ye came unto this place, ye have been rebellious against the Lord.

History of  
Rebellion (7)

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Remember and forget not

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Long history of rebellion

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From the time of leaving  
Egypt ... until today (7)

# History of Rebellion

(8-13, 22-23)

FIVE EXAMPLES

# #1 at Horeb (Mt. Sinai) (8-13)

<sup>8</sup> Also in Horeb ye provoked the Lord to wrath, so that the Lord was angry with you to have destroyed you. <sup>9</sup> When I was gone up into the mount to receive the tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant which the Lord made with you, then I abode in the mount forty days and forty nights, I neither did eat bread nor drink water:

<sup>10</sup> And the Lord delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God; and on them was written according to all the words, which the Lord spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly. <sup>11</sup> And it came to pass at the end of forty days and forty nights, that the Lord gave me the two tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant.

<sup>12</sup> And the Lord said unto me, Arise, get thee down quickly from hence; for thy people which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt have corrupted themselves; they are quickly turned aside out of the way which I commanded them; they have made them a molten image.

<sup>13</sup> Furthermore the Lord spake unto me, saying, I have seen this people, **and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:**

5 examples of  
Israel's  
provocation of  
God &  
Rebellion  
(12, 22, 23)

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**Horeb** (12): Idolatry

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**Taberah**: Complaints lead to fiery judgement of God, Numbers 11:1-3

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**Massah**: Water crisis lead to murmuring, Exodus 17:7

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**Kibrothhattaavah**: Longed for meat instead of Manna, Numbers 11:31-35

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**Kadesh Barnea**: disbelief, refused to possess the land (Numbers 13, 14)

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**Moses conclusion**: “Ye have been rebellious against the Lord from the day that I knew you” (9:24)



## Nature of Israelites

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Proud (4)

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Stiffnecked (6, 13, 27)

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Rebellious (7, 23-24)

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Corrupt (12)

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Sinful (16)

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Evil (18)

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Unbelieving (23)

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Provoked God to anger (8, 18)

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Idolatry, making graven images (12, 16)

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Wicked (27)

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# God's surprising offer to Moses (14)

## God's Surprising Offer to Moses (14)

Let me alone, that I may destroy them, and blot out their name from under heaven:  
and I will make of thee a nation mightier and greater than they.

Destroy & blot out this generation

**The offer: Rebuild a nation (mightier and greater) under Moses**

How did Moses respond?



# Moses Reaction to Idol worship (15-29)

## Tables broken

<sup>15</sup> So I turned and came down from the mount, and the mount burned with fire: and the two tables of the covenant were in my two hands.

<sup>16</sup> And I looked, and, behold, ye had sinned against the Lord your God, and had made you a molten calf: ye had turned aside quickly out of the way which the Lord had commanded you.

<sup>17</sup> And I took the two tables, and cast them out of my two hands, and brake them before your eyes.

**Moses  
Reaction**

Breaks the tables of  
stone (15-17)

Intercedes for Israelites  
(18-21, 26-29)

# Moses Reaction

<sup>17</sup> And I took the two tables, and cast them out of my two hands, and brake them before your eyes.

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Breaks the original tables of stone (written with the finger of God, 10 and Exodus 20) ... why?

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Maybe Anger?

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Maybe Shock?

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Maybe Sadness?

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Maybe Frustration?

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**Moses  
reaction  
reveals the  
heart of Moses**

<sup>18</sup> And I fell down before the Lord, as at the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger.

<sup>19</sup> For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure, wherewith the Lord was wroth against you to destroy you. But the Lord hearkened unto me at that time also.

<sup>20</sup> And the Lord was very angry with Aaron to have destroyed him: and I prayed for Aaron also the same time.

<sup>21</sup> And I took your sin, the calf which ye had made, and burnt it with fire, and stamped it, and ground it very small, even until it was as small as dust: and I cast the dust thereof into the brook that descended out of the mount.



**Moses  
Reaction:  
Intercessory  
Prayer**

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**Fasted and interceded** for Israelites 40 days (18, 25, 26)

**Why?** to avoid God's anger and destruction (19)

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Interceded for Aaron also (20)

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**COMPLETE destruction of sin:** Burnt the calf with fire, ground it to powder, and cast the dust into the brook that descended out of the mount (21)

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**Lord listened to Moses (19)** (Deuteronomy 10:10)

# Moses

## Intercessory Prayer (26-29)

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<sup>26</sup> I prayed therefore unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, destroy not thy people and thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed through thy greatness, which thou hast brought forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

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<sup>27</sup> Remember thy servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; look not unto the stubbornness of this people, nor to their wickedness, nor to their sin:

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<sup>28</sup> Lest the land whence thou broughtest us out say, Because the Lord was not able to bring them into the land which he promised them, and because he hated them, he hath brought them out to slay them in the wilderness.

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<sup>29</sup> Yet they are thy people and thine inheritance, which thou broughtest out by thy mighty power and by thy stretched out arm.

# Intercessory Prayer of Moses

**Prayer** ... accompanied by fasting for 40-days (18) (Moses had already fasted 40 days previously to receive the ten commandments)

**Fasting & prayer** ... shows humility, reverence, and perseverance (25)

**Specific request** (26-27)...

- Destroy not thy people and thine inheritance
  - Forgive their stubbornness, wickedness, and sin
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- Similar intercessory prayers (Daniel 9, Nehemiah 9, Joel 2:17)

# Intercessory Prayer of Moses (26-29)

## Basis to plead for God's mercy:

- Israelites are God's people and inheritance
- God redeemed them (with His mighty power)
- The legacy of forefathers, AIJ
- His covenant of bringing to promised land
- Let not the heathen mock at Israelites
  
- No mention of righteousness/goodness of Israelites

What does Moses's  
reaction to continued  
rebellion by Israelites  
reveal?

# What does Moses's reaction to continued rebellion by Israelites reveal?

His patience

His spirit of forgiveness

His heart of a father (like Job's prayer for his children)

His focus on restoring Israelites rather than condemning them for their sins

His humility & contentment (did not grab the offer from God to start a new nation under him, 14)

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