

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



Deuteronomy Part 28 (chapter 26) KJV

8.09.2023

Chapter 26

Worship with First Fruits and Tithes

What does the first fruit indicate? How must the first fruit be celebrated? What do we learn about worship and thanksgiving? (1-11)

What are the laws governing tithes? (12-15)

What does the Lord expect from his children? What does the Lord promise to his children? (16-19)

Chapters 12-26

APPLYING THE LAW

Chapters 1-11:

History| 10 commandments, ark| Love, Trust & Obey God

Chapters 12-26: Application of laws to specific situations

Different Laws

Ceremonial laws (ex. feasts, Ch.12)

Civil laws (ex. Land disputes, Ch.19)

Moral laws (ex. Murder, Chapter 21)

Sundry laws (ex. Diet, Ch.14)

Chapters 12-26: Anchored in Worship

Ch.12 ... began with worship

Ch. 26 ... ends with worship



Worship at the chosen place: Summary

(Deut.: 12)

- I. Go to a “chosen” place (5)
- II. Bring offerings, sacrifices, tithes, vows (6,11)
- III. Eat and rejoice with your family, servants and Levites (7, 12)
- IV. Do not do as you please ... there is a divine order (8)
- V. Do not go to a different place (13)
- VI. Do “all” that I command thee (14)
- VII. Do not bring “unholy” things (26)



Worship Celebration with first fruits (1-11)

Worship Celebration with First fruits (1-11)

And it shall be, when thou art come in unto the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and possessest it, and dwellest therein; ² That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the Lord thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the Lord thy God shall choose to place his name there.

³ And thou shalt go unto the priest that shall be in those days, and say unto him, I profess this day unto the Lord thy God, that I am come unto the country which the Lord sware unto our fathers for to give us. ⁴ And the priest shall take the basket out of thine hand, and set it down before the altar of the Lord thy God.

⁵ And thou shalt speak and say before the Lord thy God, A Syrian ready to perish was my father, and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous:

⁶ And the Egyptians evil entreated us, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage: ⁷ And when we cried unto the Lord God of our fathers, the Lord heard our voice, and looked on our affliction, and our labour, and our oppression: ⁸ And the Lord brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders: ⁹ And he hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey.

¹⁰ And now, behold, **I have brought the firstfruits of the land**, which thou, O Lord, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the Lord thy God, and **worship** before the Lord thy God:

¹¹ And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the Lord thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you.

Worship Celebration of First Fruits

Offering of First fruits

A time of worship & thanksgiving (not just a social event or tradition)

First fruit brought to a chosen place and given to the priest

Fruit set at a designated place - before the altar of the Lord

Worship Celebration:

- Recognize of God's faithfulness to His promise of promised land (1)
- Recognize the Presence of God in the promised land (2)
- Recognize God as the source of all blessings (2)
- Recall Past & present dealings (5-9)
- Include both Corporal and personal worship (11)
- Worship must involve sacrifice (10) (I will not offer to the Lord that which costs me nothing, II Samuel 24:24, Romans 12:1)

Thanksgiving Prayer & worship (5-11)

⁵ And thou shalt speak and say before the Lord thy God, A Syrian ready to perish was my father, and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous: ⁶ And the Egyptians evil entreated us, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage: ⁷ And when we cried unto the Lord God of our fathers, the Lord heard our voice, and looked on our affliction, and our labour, and our oppression: ⁸ And the Lord brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders: ⁹ And he hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey.

Thanksgiving Prayer (looking back with gratitude)

- Found shelter and provision in Egypt (during famine) (Syrian ~ Jacob, 5, Hosea 12:12)
- Went as a few but God multiplied the families (5)
 - (from seventy, Genesis 46:27 to 603,550 men in Numbers 1:46)
 - (Deuteronomy 10:22 Thy fathers went down into Egypt with threescore and ten persons; and now the Lord thy God hath made thee as the stars of heaven for multitude.
- Miraculous Redemption from Egypt and home in Promised Land (6-9)
 - Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard labor (Exodus 1:11,14)
 - Israelites cried out to God ... God heard their prayers and delivered them after 400+ years of bondage (Exodus 2:23-25, 3:9, 4:31)
 - Lord has brought Israelites to a land that flows with milk honey

Worship: First fruits are an acknowledgment of God's favor (10)

**Today, God has given Israelites reason(s) to rejoice (11) (Deuteronomy 12:7,12,18; 16:11)
but they must be thankful and not forget the past blessings!**

Annual and Triennial Tithes

Annual Tithes

Tithes given annually to the priest

Numbers 18:21

And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Leviticus 27:30-32

30 And all **the tithe** of the land, *whether* of the seed of the land, *or* of the fruit of the tree, *is* the LORD's: *it is* holy unto the LORD. 32 And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, *even* of whatsoever passeth under the rod, **the tenth** shall be holy unto the LORD.

Numbers 18:26 Tithing also practiced by priests

Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the Lord, even a tenth part of the tithe.

Tithing

Genesis 14: 18(Abraham Gave) Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, ¹⁹ and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High Creator of heaven and earth. ²⁰ And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” **Then Abram gave him a tenth (tithe) of everything**

Genesis 28:20 (Jacob Promised) And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, ²¹ So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the **LORD** be my God: ²² And this stone, which I have set *for* a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me **I will surely give the tenth unto thee.**

Triennial Tithe (12-15)

In the third year, tithe also given to widow, fatherless, and the stranger

- Given in response to God's commandment (13)
- No impurity (not offered to dead, unclean use, or eaten in mourning) (14)
- Blessings requested from God in response to tithes (15)
- Compassion and generosity to be practiced (worship by works)

I John 3:16-18 Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. ¹⁷ But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? ¹⁸ My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Give our “first” and “best” to the Lord

God First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you (Mathew 6:33)

Time

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee (Psalm 63:1)

Money

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the **LORD** of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.* (Malachi 3:10)

Harvest

Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase: (Proverbs 3:9)

God's covenant

¹⁶ This day the Lord thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.

¹⁷ Thou hast avouched the Lord this day to be thy God, and to walk in his ways, and to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and to hearken unto his voice:

¹⁸ And the Lord hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people, as he hath promised thee, and that thou shouldest keep all his commandments;

¹⁹ And to make thee high above all nations which he hath made, in praise, and in name, and in honour; and that thou mayest be an holy people unto the Lord thy God, as he hath spoken.

God's expectation and Promise (16-19)

God's expectation and promise

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God's expectation

- Obedience ... do with all thine heart and soul (16)
- Complete obedience (all commands, 18)
- Listen to His voice (17)
- Be a peculiar people (18)
- Be Holy (19)

God's promise

- God will exalt them as a nation above all nations (that will lead to honor & praise of Israelites and God)

Today, God's expectations have not changed (practice obedience & holiness)... and he promises us 'all spiritual blessings through Christ'

I Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; ¹⁰ Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God:

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