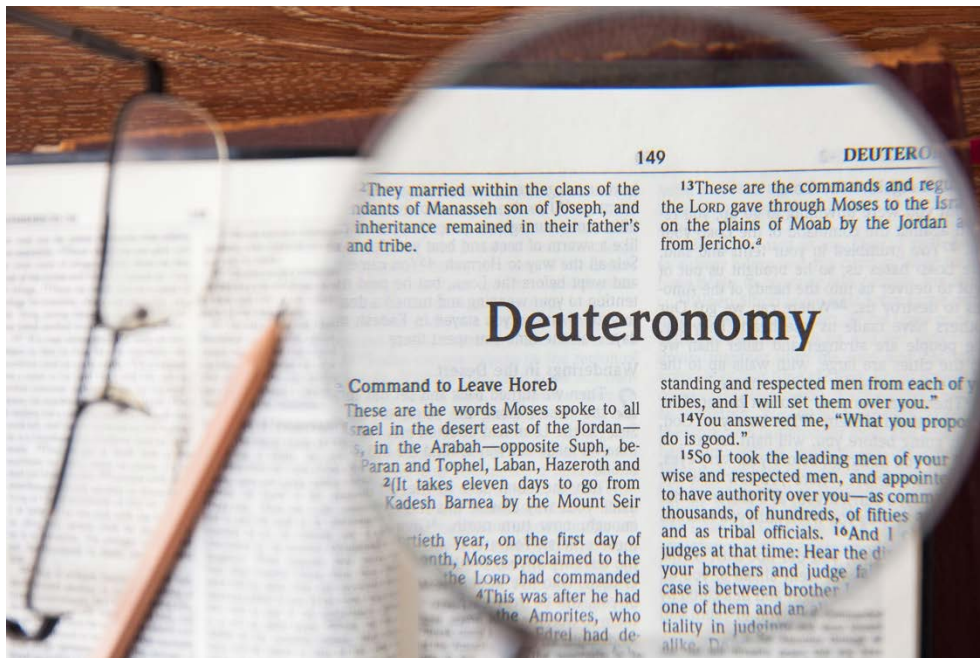


Remember!: Deuteronomy 7-9

THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

REMEMBER! DEUTERONOMY 7-9



T. M. and Susie Moore

A Scriptorium Study

The Fellowship of Ailbe

Remember!: Deuteronomy 7-9
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Susie Moore, Editing and Finishing
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Introduction to Deuteronomy 7-9

In these three chapters, Moses is at pains to press onto the minds of God's people important reminders about His love, His covenant, their deliverance, their parent's rebellion, the blessings of God, and His faithfulness to His Word.

If only they had a heart for God, these reminders might have helped. As it happened, within one generation of these firm exhortations, Israel was once again adrift.

But the message to us is clear: Get your heart right in the fear and love of God, then apply your mind to knowing, loving, and serving Him according to His Law.

Susie and I hope you will find this study challenging and enriching for your walk with and work for the Lord.

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T. M. and Susie Moore

1 Remember You Are Loved

Opening Prayer: Psalm 23.1, 2

The LORD *is* my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.

Psalm 23.1, 2

(The Gift of Love: [*Thou I May Speak with Bravest Fire*](#))

Because the Lord my Shepherd is
I shall not want, for I am His!
He makes me lie in pastures full;
I rest in Him by waters still.

Today's Text: Deuteronomy 7.1-11

Preparation

1. Why was Israel supposed to destroy the peoples in the land?
2. Why did God choose Israel?

Meditation

This passage is important because it destroys a myth common among many who profess faith in Christ, but who have turned their backs on the Old Testament because of the difficulties they encounter in reading it. All that violence and killing. All those commandments and proscriptions. Those threats of wrath. Some even go so far as to say that the God of the Old Testament was a stern and wrathful taskmaster, while the God of the New Testament as embodied in Jesus, is all about love.

This passage dashes that myth to pieces, for it shows us that the God Who planned the destruction of Israel's enemies, and threatened to discipline His people should they stray from Him, is the God Who loved them from all eternity past.

Who were these peoples mentioned in verses 1-5? They were the descendants of Noah. Presumably, at least at some point in their history, they would have heard of how God had destroyed the sinful world through a flood. The lingering evidence of flood stories in ancient cultures around the world today is evidence of that. They also would have known Abraham, and the covenant God had made with him. They would have known that they could find favor and blessing with God by blessing the people He sent to bless them. At some point in their histories, they would have known all this.

But at some point they chose to repudiate it all, to make up gods to allay their fears and satisfy their lusts, and to devise religious ceremonies involving human sacrifice, the infliction of self-harm, and indulgence in sexual license; and they would have routinely either been set upon by or would have set upon neighboring nations for the purpose of plunder, dispossession, slaughter, and genocide.

In short, the nations mentioned here were not without revelation from God, even the revelation that comes through creation (Rom. 1.18-32). But they chose not to receive it, not to seek God, and not to follow the example of the people who knew Him. They chose a path of wickedness, violence, and oppression. And God had had enough of them and their ways.

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He warned Israel against sparing or mingling with them. Then He reminded them of who they were – a holy people unto the Lord – and of Who He is – the God Who set His love on them, to keep and continue the covenant He made with their fathers. He is the loving, faithful, merciful, covenant-keeping God Who blesses His faithful people “for a thousand generations” of those who keep covenant with Him. But He destroys those who, like the nations of Canaan, hate Him, turn from Him, and think their own ways and laws are more to be desired than His (vv. 9-11).

Remember that you are loved. And remember to love in return.

Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162

“Strike a scoffer, and the simple will become wary; rebuke one who has understanding, and he will discern knowledge. Rebuke is more effective for a wise man than a hundred blows on a fool” (Prov. 19.20, 17.10). “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten” (Rev. 3.19). God was trying to teach His dear children about obedience, and about the consequences of disobedience. He hoped that they would learn by watching what happened to the people who had fallen into disfavor with Him. We, too, should look around, become wary, seek understanding, discern knowledge, and observe the commandments. And remember that we are loved!

Reflection

1. Why were the people of God not to mingle with the people of the surrounding nations?
2. What does it mean to be “a holy people unto the Lord”?
3. How would you expect to hear a rebuke from God? What should you do then?

The fear of the Lord includes awe for His greatness and holiness, love for Him, and submission to His will. Initially, the fear of God may involve fright. Yet it leads to a sense of wonder, a commitment to worship, and delight in knowing God. Earl Radmacher (1931-2014) NKJV Study Bible Notes on Deuteronomy 6.2

Let Your Word dwell in me richly today, Lord, so that I...

Closing Prayer: Psalm 23.3-6

Meditate on the many ways your Good Shepherd loves and cares for you. Commit your day to following Him in the path He has marked out for you (1 Jn. 2.1-6).

Psalm 23.3-6

(The Gift of Love: [*Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire*](#))

My soul He quickens and will bless;
He leads in paths of righteousness.
Though I may walk through death’s dark vale,
I shall not fear – He will not fail!

The Lord is ever by my side;
His rod and staff with me abide.
A table rich for me He spreads;
with oil my Lord anoints my head.

Goodness and mercy, full and free,
shall ever after follow me,
and in the house of God, my Lord,
shall I abide forevermore!

2 Remember God's Promises

Opening Prayer: Psalm 132.13-18

For the LORD has chosen Zion;
He has desired *it* for His dwelling place:
“This *is* My resting place forever;
Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.
I will abundantly bless her provision;
I will satisfy her poor with bread.
I will also clothe her priests with salvation,
And her saints shall shout aloud for joy.
There I will make the horn of David grow;
I will prepare a lamp for My Anointed.
His enemies I will clothe with shame,
But upon Himself His crown shall flourish.”

Psalm 132.13-18

(Finlandia: [*Be Still My Soul*](#))

God dwells among us, and He will forever,
to meet our needs and clothe us with His grace.
He has to us sent Jesus Christ, our Savior,
and made us His eternal resting-place.
His foes are banished from His Presence ever,
but we shall reign with Him before His face.

Today's Text: Deuteronomy 7.12-26

Preparation

1. How many different kinds of blessing does the Lord promise here?
2. Besides the promise of blessing, what else did Moses call the people to remember?

Mediation

What more could these people have wanted out of life? God promised them the blessings of His covenant and mercy, as He had sworn to their fathers (v. 12). He promised to love them and make them fruitful, as He had promised Adam and Eve (v. 13). He promised to cause their gardens and vineyards and orchards and flocks to abound, as He had planned from the beginning with the garden of Eden (v. 13). He intended to elevate them in blessings “above all peoples”, making them fruitful in every way (v. 14). He promised good health (v. 15), victory over their enemies (v. 16), and His Presence with them for deliverance and salvation (vv. 23, 24).

That covers about everything, doesn't it?

So great and mind-boggling are the promises of God, that the people of Israel were sure to doubt that He could deliver on His promises. Moses told them to remember not just the promises yet to be realized, but all the great and powerful works God had done in the past to fulfill His promises (vv. 17-19). He had overcome the greatest nation of the day; the pagan nations of Canaan would be no match for Him.

The people must take courage and go forward in faith (v. 21). Gaining all that God promised would take time (v. 22), but God would not fail. They must persevere, refuse to compromise in any way, and resist the temptations of material and sensual indulgence they would face in the land of Canaan (vv. 25, 26). If they

would remember the promises of God, all that God had promised would be theirs.

All that God has promised us is “Yes!” and “Amen!” in Jesus Christ. Remember Him crucified, resurrected, and reigning at the Father’s right hand; and go forward in faith and obedience to know God’s blessing in everything you do.

Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162.

To remember God’s promises correctly, we need to remember them as fulfilled. Not always according to our time frame, nonetheless fulfilled. “And the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once, lest the beasts of the field become too numerous for you” (Deut. 7.22). I’m sure they thought the speedier the better for their enemies to be dispatched, but God in His wisdom, knew better. It was for their good and safety that He did things the way He did them. Joseph voiced the same idea when talking to his hateful brothers: “But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive” (Gen. 50.20). Joseph probably would have preferred to do the saving without being sold as a slave and enduring all the trips to prison. Paul joins in on this thought: “But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel...” (Phil. 1.12). We do well to remember as Moses, Joseph, and Paul did, that God does all things well, sometimes little by little, in His perfect timing for our good and for the furtherance of the Gospel and His Kingdom.

Reflection

1. Which of the promises of God do you most cling to day by day?
2. How can believers encourage one another to hold fast to the promises of God, and to wait on Him?
3. How can focusing more intensely and consistently on God Himself help us in laying hold on His promises?

The past saving acts of God demonstrated His nature and power. The people were to remember the details of His actions so that they could face the present moment in the light of eternity. Earl Radmacher (1931-2014), NKJV Study Bible Notes on Deuteronomy 7.17-19

Lead me into Your blessings today, O Lord; and lead me to be a blessing to others as I...

Closing Prayer: Psalm 132.1-12

Thank God for His promises to Abraham, Moses, and David. And praise Him for Jesus, our King, Who daily leads us deeper into the blessings of God!

Psalm 132.1-12

(Finlandia: [*Be Still My Soul*](#))

Remember, Lord, we pray, in David’s favor,
the hardships he endured, the oath he swore,
the vow he made to Jacob’s mighty Savior:
“I shall not enter through my palace door;
I shall not sleep, nor slumber my eyes favor,
until I make a dwelling for the Lord!”

The word throughout the chosen nation spread,
to Ephrata, and in the fields of Jaar:
“Now let us go,” the faithful people said,
“and worship where our Savior’s dwellings are!
Around His footstool let our worship spread;
come, gather to Him, all from near and far!”

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Arise, O Lord, come to Your resting place;
Your holy Presence meet with us in might.
Clothe us with righteousness in Jesus' grace,
and we will shout to Your divine delight!
For David's sake, turn not away Your face,
but look upon us in Your holy light.

Remember, Lord, the oath You swore to David;
do not turn back, do not deny Your Word:
"One of your sons, with your throne I will favor,
and He shall keep My cov'nant evermore,
and walk within My testimonies ever,
thus He shall ever rule as Israel's Lord."

3 Remember to Guard God's Law

Opening Prayer: Psalm 115.1-3

Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us,
But to Your name give glory,
Because of Your mercy,
Because of Your truth.
Why should the Gentiles say,
“So where *is* their God?”
But our God *is* in heaven;
He does whatever He pleases.

Psalm 115.1-3

(Plainfield: [*Nothing but the Blood of Jesus*](#))

Not to us, O God, not us, but unto Your Name give glory!
For Your love and faithfulness, ever to Your Name be glory!
Why should the nations cry, “Where is their God on high?”
You rule us, Lord, on high: Ever to Your Name be glory!

Today's Text: Deuteronomy 8.1-11

Preparation

1. What did Moses expect the people to do with God's Law?
2. Why should they do that?

Meditation

The word “remember” provides a linking force for Deuteronomy 7-9. It links by recurring use of key ideas and disciplines the people of God would need to attend to continuously. Chapter 7 begins with the reminder of God's love, and chapter 9 ends with the reminder of how Moses appealed to God's love on behalf of His people. As we have seen thus far, God through Moses called the people to remember His love for them and the promises He gave to their forebears. As the people “looked back” at their history, they would be renewed in these important aspects of God's covenant, and more likely to remain devoted to Him.

In today's text, the Law of God itself is in view. The idea of “remembering” God's Law appears at the end of our text, in verse 11, where Israel is admonished not to “forget” the Lord by failing to keep (literally, “guard”) His commandments (NKJV: “be careful”, v. 1; “keep”, v. 6, “keeping”, v. 11).

That word “guard” provides an image for how we are to remember God's Law. A good picture of how to think about this word is the way it is used in Genesis 2.15 and 3.24. In Genesis 2.15, God instructed Adam to “serve” and “guard” the garden. By serving it, he tended actively to whatever would cause the garden to increase in order, beauty, and fruitfulness. By guarding it, he would keep out whatever frustrated his service to the garden.

Adam's failure to “guard” the garden led to sin, which affects even God's beautiful creation. Adam and Eve were driven from the garden to live in the sinful world they had brought into being; and God set angels and a flaming sword to “guard” the garden against their return (Gen. 3.24).

“Guarding” carries the meaning of continuous vigilance, ongoing defense, and careful obedience. We “remember” God's Law when we “guard” it like this. As we look back to how God has saved and blessed us,

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and how He has tested and cared for us (vv. 2-4), we will be moved to “remember” and “guard” His Law, so that we “walk in His ways” and “fear Him” (cf. 1 Jn. 2.1-6). Keeping in mind all that God promises us for faithful obedience (vv. 7-9) can also help us in remembering to guard His Law, for doing so is the key to living in the love and promises of God (v. 11).

Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162

“And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you *and* test you, to know what *was* in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna...” (Deut. 8.2, 3). “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you” (1 Pet. 5.6, 7). God always looks to see what is in the heart of His people. “Keep your heart with all diligence, for from it spring the issues of life” (Prov. 4.23). Similarly, He leads us, humbles and tests us in various ways to know what is in our hearts. He does all this because He loves us and cares for us, too. We need to remember that.

Reflection

1. How would you explain to a new believer what it means to “guard” the commandments of God?
2. What can you do each day to “remember” how much God loves you? Why is it important to do this?
3. Knowing that God looks to see what is in your heart, what do you want Him to see as He looks there?

Therefore Moses not only commands the Israelites not to be ungrateful to God, but warns them to guard themselves (for he uses this word for to beware) from that impious ingratitude. He immediately after uses this same word for the keeping of the Law. John Calvin (1509-1564), Commentary on Deuteronomy 8.11

Lord, help me guard Your Law today as I...

Closing Prayer: Psalm 115.9-18

Consider the day ahead in prayer. What blessings of God do you seek? How will you remember to guard His Law throughout the day?

Psalm 115.9-18

(Plainfield: [*Nothing but the Blood of Jesus*](#))

All who trust in Jesus yield – ever to His Name be glory! –
find in Him their help and shield – ever to Your Name be glory!
O Israel, trust the Lord! He helps us evermore!
Fear Him obey His Word: Ever to Your Name be glory!

Blessings from our gracious Lord – ever to Your Name be glory –
will attend us evermore – ever to Your Name be glory!
Bless all who fear You, Lord, all who obey Your Word,
all who Your Name adore: Ever to Your Name be glory!

Grant us, Savior, great increase – ever to Your Name be glory!
Bless us with eternal peace – ever to Your Name be glory!
Heaven and earth are Yours; let every soul adore
and bless You evermore: Ever to Your Name be glory!

4 Remember Your Savior

Opening Prayer: Psalm 116.1-6

I love the LORD, because He has heard
My voice and my supplications.
Because He has inclined His ear to me,
Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.
The pains of death surrounded me,
And the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me;
I found trouble and sorrow.
Then I called upon the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I implore You, deliver my soul!”
Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
Yes, our God is merciful.
The LORD preserves the simple;
I was brought low, and He saved me.

Psalm 116.1-6

(Mit Freuden Zart: [*All Praise to God Who Reigns Above*](#))

I love the Lord because He hears my cries and pleas for mercy.
Because He bends to me His ears, my prayers shall ever thus be.
The snares of death encompassed me; hell's grip could not unloosened be;
distress and anguish pressed me.

I called to God, “O Lord, I pray, my soul redeem with favor!”
The Lord is gracious in His way, and righteous is our Savior.
His mercy to the simple flies; He lifted me up to the skies –
I rest in Him forever!

Today's Text: Deuteronomy 8.11-20

Preparation

1. What would distract God's people from remembering Him?
2. How many different facets of God's salvation are mentioned or alluded to in these verses?

Meditation

Here's what happens: God saves us – like He saved Israel – and unfolds before us exceeding great and precious promises. We are elated. Overjoyed. God loves us and has saved us for Himself! Hallelujah!

Then we begin to enjoy the good and perfect gifts that come to us from God. We're glad for those gifts and blessings. So glad, in fact, that our heart becomes filled with blessings more than the One Who blesses (v. 12, 13). Soon enough, our delight lodges more in these good gifts, and we begin to desire them, rather than the One Who saves us and gives us these gifts each day. We might even forget to delight in Him, to enjoy knowing Him, and rejoicing in His Presence (v. 14). We might stop remembering that He saved us and just keep looking forward to whatever the next blessing might be (vv. 15, 6). We might even go so far as to congratulate ourselves on being so blessed, and think that somehow we had achieved this state of happiness on our own (v. 17).

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The antidote to drifting into such idolatry is to remember the Lord – that He is our Savior, He grants us every good gift, and He is with us to teach and guide according to His covenant and promises (v. 18). For if we do forget Him, and long more for the gifts than the Giver, God will bring discipline against us, just as He threatened to do with the people of Israel (vv. 19, 20; cf. Heb. 12.3-11).

Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162

Beware, lest you encounter another terrible wilderness, fiery serpents, scorpions, and no water! Well, no. That is not what Moses is warning the people of at all: “Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes...” (Deut. 8.11). And just to confirm the point he adds, “As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God” (Deut. 8.20). We must remember to love and obey Him, our Savior, Who carries us through the bugs and disasters; and we must keep our fear fixed on the right thing.

Reflection

1. How can you tell when someone is beginning to exchange love for God for love for His blessings?
2. What can you do to keep God and His salvation and blessings more in the forefront of your mind throughout the day?
3. Why is it important that Christians encourage one another to remember our Savior?

We ought, indeed, the more kindly we are dealt with by God, to submit ourselves the more meekly to His rule; but, as I have said, the depravity of our nature hurries us quite the other way, so that we grow insolent under God's indulgence, which should bend us to submission. And if this does not happen immediately, yet whenever prosperity flows on uninterruptedly, its delights gradually corrupt even the best of us, so that they at last degenerate from themselves. John Calvin (1509-1564), *Commentary on Deuteronomy 8.12*

Thank You, Lord, for the great blessing of knowing You! Help me to increase in You today as I...

Closing Prayer: Psalm 116.7-19

Renew your vows and commitments to God, your Savior, and seek His filling for the day ahead.

Psalm 116.7-19

(Mit Freuden Zart: [*All Praise to God Who Reigns Above*](#))

Full well the Lord has dealt with me; my soul from death He delivered.
My weeping eyes, my stumbling feet, He has redeemed forever.
Forever I before His face shall walk with those who know His grace,
and dwell with them forever.

Afflicted, I believe His Word, though lying men would undo me.
What shall I render to the Lord for all His blessings to me?
Salvation's cup I lift above and call upon the God of love
and pay my vows most truly.

How sweet to Him when saints depart – save me, Your servant, Savior!
From sin You loosed my wand'ring heart; I praise Your Name forever!
On You I call, my vows to pay; here in Your presence I would stay
Your praise to offer ever.

5 Remember to Fear the Lord

Opening Prayer: Psalm 85.1-3

LORD, You have been favorable to Your land;
You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.
You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people;
You have covered all their sin.

Selah

You have taken away all Your wrath;
You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.

Psalm 85.1-3

(Lyons: [O Worship the King](#))

O Lord, You Your favor showed to Your land;
Your people You saved by Your mighty hand.
Their sins You forgave, all Your wrath You withdrew;
You turned back the anger which to them was due.

Today's Text: Read Deuteronomy 9.1-11

Preparation

1. What were the people of Israel *not* to fear?
2. What were they to guard against?

Meditation

Solomon wrote, perhaps while reflecting on our passage for today: “The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe” (Prov. 29.25). Soon the people of Israel would cross the Jordan River and begin “to dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourself” (v. 1). They would encounter peoples fearsome in aspect, but who were not to be feared, because God would be with His people (vv. 2, 3). No people, no matter how fierce or great or well-armed, and no matter how great and strong their cities, would be able to stand against God and His people (v. 3). So Israel should not fear such people; they should fear God, lest they provoke Him to anger against them (vv. 7, 8). The fear of man is a snare; the fear of God is the path to blessing.

Further, the people must guard against thinking that they deserved the land of promise, and that God drove the nations out because the people of Israel were so righteous (v. 4). They were not (vv. 5, 6). But God had promised this land to their forefathers (v. 5), and the people who now lived there were irredeemably wicked (v. 5). God would drive them out to fulfill and vindicate His Word.

Thus the people would see God’s wrath against wickedness. They should also remember how their parents, by their wickedness, had provoked God to wrath throughout all the time of their wandering in the wilderness (v. 7). This new generation must remember the wrath of God and fear Him accordingly. In His grace, and despite their wickedness, God had given them His Law (vv. 8-11). The people should embrace what God had freely given them by grace; and they should turn from trusting in themselves or in any way considering themselves to be worthy of the gifts of God.

If we do what God calls us to do, knowing that He loves us and is with us, we need fear nothing or no one. Fear God; delight in Him and His Word; and obey Him eagerly. That’s the way to blessing.

Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162

Perhaps if people counted the cost of following Jesus, we would have a vibrant Church full of grace, wisdom, obedience, and truth. True commitment would be evident if, when we share the plan of salvation, it included more of the frankness and reality of these preparatory verses: You will face enemies far greater than yourself, and situations difficult and “fortified to heaven”. Those you will encounter are giants, and seriously, who can compete with them? Plus, you’re not being offered this amazing gift because you are so sweet; in fact, you are downright stiff-necked and always have been! Well OK, sign me up. Instead, we offer the “just check here and everything will be good” witness. Our Christian walk is serious business. We need to know it and tell others the same. And the Good News is this (the same Good News that Moses shared), “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast...created in Christ Jesus for good works...” (Eph. 2.8, 9). But do count the cost.

Reflection

1. How does the fear of man keep us from fulfilling our witness for Christ? How can we overcome that fear?
2. How can fearing God help us to resist the temptation to fear men?
3. How does the fact that we are entirely undeserving of salvation magnify the nature of God’s grace? How should we respond to that grace?

Sure it is that God did not act otherwise than He had determined; but Moses goes no deeper than the sentence that was revealed to him; just as we must assuredly conclude that destruction is prepared for us when we transgress; and that God's anger is appeased when we fly to His mercy in true faith, and with sincere affections. John Calvin (1509-1564), Commentary on Deuteronomy 9.7

Lord, take away from me every fear but the fear of You, so that I will...

Closing Prayer: Psalm 85.4-13

Pray for revival for yourself and for all God’s people, that the Lord may turn away His wrath from us, restore us to our proper path and calling, and lead us more fully into His blessings.

Psalm 85.4-13

(Lyons: [*O Worship the King*](#))

Restore us, O God, renew us in peace,
and cause all Your wrath against us to cease.
Will You evermore all Your wrath to us show?
Revive us that we may Your joy again know.

Lord, show us Your love; restore us, we pray!
And help us to hear the words that You say.
Speak peace to Your people; in truth let us stand.
We fear You; let glory and grace fill our land.

In Jesus God’s grace and truth are combined;
both goodness and peace in Him do we find.
Truth springs from the earth as He walks in our midst,
and righteousness flows from the heav’ns as a gift.

The Lord by His grace will give what is good;
our land will produce abundance of food.
And righteousness will go before the Lord’s face,
and make of His footsteps a way in this place.

6 Remember Your Sinfulness

Opening Prayer: Psalm 105.1-7

Oh, give thanks to the LORD!
Call upon His name;
Make known His deeds among the peoples!
Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him;
Talk of all His wondrous works!
Glory in His holy name;
Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD!
Seek the LORD and His strength;
Seek His face evermore!
Remember His marvelous works which He has done,
His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth,
O seed of Abraham His servant,
You children of Jacob, His chosen ones!
He is the LORD our God;
His judgments are in all the earth.

Psalm 105.1-7

[*\(Warrington: Give to Our God Immortal Praise\)*](#)

Give thanks unto the Lord Most High; call on His Name, before Him cry!
Make known His deeds in every land; sing praise for all the works of His hand.

Glory in God, rejoice in heart, all you who seek His holy part.
Him and His strength and Presence seek; His works proclaim, His judgments speak.

You holy children of Abraham, You chosen ones of Jacob, stand!
He is our Lord, of wondrous worth; His judgments are in all the earth.

Today's Text: Deuteronomy 9.12-29

Preparation

1. What episode in Israel's history did Moses recall here?
2. Of what was Moses afraid? Why?

Meditation

Again, Moses points back to the disobedience of the previous generation of the people of God. They could not wait on Him, while Moses was with Him on the mountain, but instead, turned and made an idol to worship (vv. 12-16). Moses' act of dashing the tablets of the commandments dramatized how thoroughly sinful their actions were (v. 17).

But Moses didn't give up on them. Fearful lest God should destroy them (v. 19), Moses interceded for the people, that God would have mercy on them. God listened to him (v. 19), and Moses destroyed the idol the people had made.

But that was not the end of the disobedience of that generation. Again and again they "provoked the LORD to wrath" (vv. 22, 23). The parents of those to whom Moses had just given the Law (Deut. 5) were a rebellious generation, and Moses was urgent that their rebellion should not remain with their children (v. 24).

Remember!: Deuteronomy 7-9

For the sake of God and His glory, Moses interceded in prayer, that the Lord might not destroy His people (vv. 25-29). He pled God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and called on the Lord to bring His people into the land of promise, lest His Name be mocked among the pagan nations (vv. 27, 28). Moses wanted the people before him to remember two things: They were God's chosen people (v. 29), and they were naturally inclined to sin and rebellion. He called them to remember that they were sinners, so that they would shelter obediently in the grace and Word of the Lord.

Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162

The *Westminster Shorter Catechism* defines sin as "any want of conformity unto, or transgression of the law of God." Very inclusive. All-encompassing. Here is how Moses dealt with sin: "Then I took your sin, the calf which you had made, and burned it with fire and crushed it *and* ground *it* very small, until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into the brook that descended from the mountain" (Deut. 9.21). Job described his own repentance thus: "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42.5, 6). First, we need to remember our sinfulness, be horrified by it, grind it fine as dust, and throw it away from us. As Jesus tells us, "be zealous and repent" (Rev. 3.19). Then these words of comfort and hope can flood our souls with delight: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn. 1.9).

Reflection

1. Why is it important always to remember that we are sinners?
2. God has granted us grace in Jesus, so we don't have to languish in our sin. What should we do instead, whenever we become aware of sin in our lives?
3. What is repentance? How should we practice this important discipline?

*...he again repeats what they had deserved, and consequently that he discharged the office of a herald, so as to denounce, not by word of mouth only, but by a solemn rite also, that God's Covenant was broken and made void by their perfidiousness. For which reason also he cast down and broke the tables before their eyes, in order that being alarmed by so awful a punishment, they might more earnestly betake themselves to the expiation of their sins. John Calvin (1509-1564), *Commentary on Deuteronomy* 9.17*

Give me grace, Lord, to resist my natural tendency to sin against You, so that I...

Closing Prayer: Psalm 105.26-45

Recount to Him in prayer the many ways God has been faithful and gracious to you. In silence, listen as He searches your soul to bring to light any sins or areas where you need to grow in Him.

Psalm 105.26-45

[*\(Warrington: Give to Our God Immortal Praise\)*](#)

He brought His people from Egypt alive, and made their joy and song revive.
He made the nations' land their own, and all the wealth that they had known.

To them He granted the promised land, the portion of His gracious hand.
Though they were few, and wandered far, He kept them close within His heart.

So let us all in our Savior confide, and in His holy Law abide.
Let us observe His glorious Word, and praise our sovereign, faithful Lord!

7 Remember!

Opening Prayer: Psalm 78.1-5

Give ear, O my people, to my law;
Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings of old,
Which we have heard and known,
And our fathers have told us.
We will not hide *them* from their children,
Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD,
And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.
For He established a testimony in Jacob,
And appointed a law in Israel,
Which He commanded our fathers,
That they should make them known to their children...

Psalm 78.1-5

(Foundation: [*How Firm a Foundation*](#))

Give ear, O my people, attend to my word,
dark sayings and parables sent from the Lord,
things we have before by our fathers been told,
which we would not dare from our children withhold.

The glorious deeds of our God in His might,
and all of the works He has done in our sight,
together with all of the words of His Law,
would we on ourselves and our children bestow.

Review Deuteronomy 7-9; meditate on Deuteronomy 8.11, 18-20

Preparation

1. What does it mean to “forget the LORD your God”? How does this happen?
2. How does God respond to our forgetting Him?

Meditation

The danger of Israel forgetting their God was great. It must have been, or Moses would not, over and over, have called on them to remember Him in these three chapters. He called them to remember God’s promises to their forebears; His deliverance of Israel from Egypt and all the wonders that accompanied that great event; His Presence with them through the wilderness; the fact that He had constituted them as a holy people unto Himself, and that He chose them on the basis of His love alone; that He is faithful to all His Word and promises; that He set before them blessings of abundance, safety, and prosperity in the land of Canaan; and that He would continue with them to defeat all their enemies.

Remembering these things would keep Israel from fearing their adversaries. It would lead them into obedience to God and fullness of life. Remembering God and His Law would ensure bounteous provision and safety for them and their offspring. And remembering all that Moses called them to remember would keep them from the mistakes of their parents, who rebelled against the Lord, preferred worshiping idols to

serving Him, and provoked Him to wrath in various ways.

Moses certainly remembered all these things, and he was determined that the people to whom he spoke on the plain of Moab should remember them, too.

But they would do so only if their hearts were right with the Lord. Only if they feared Him would they obey Him, and thus flourish in His love (8.6). Only if their hearts were fully devoted to God in gratitude and love would they be able to resist the temptation of turning to other gods, which are no gods at all.

And Israel's problem lay precisely here: They did not have a heart for God. Not yet. Their hearts were fickle, and prone to seek out other loyalties (7. 1-4). They were inclined to be prideful in their hearts (8.11-17; 9.4). Like their parents, they could be stubborn and rebellious against the Lord in their hearts (9.13, 24). And they more easily feared the people around them than the Lord Who was with them always (7.17-23).

We need to remember all the ways God's grace has worked for, in, upon, and through us, that we may be careful always to follow the path He has marked out for flourishing in that grace. But if we allow our hearts to wander from loving God supremely, we won't remember what we need to, and we'll miss the blessings He intends for us.

Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162

If you expect an appliance to work, it needs electricity. No matter how you talk to it, cajole it, and plead with it, it won't get started unless you plug it in. God warns us of the same thing: "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for *it is* He who gives you power..." (Deut. 8.18). Likewise, Jesus told His disciples, and tells us, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..." (Acts 1.8). No matter how badly we want to remember God and obey His commandments, we just cannot do it, until we plug into the Holy Spirit's power, for "without Me you can do nothing" (Jn. 15.5). But once we've hooked into the Power, we "can do all things through Christ who strengthens" us (Phil. 4.13). Through Him we can actually love God and keep His Law – powerfully!

Reflection

1. How do the heart and mind work together to help us obey God?
2. Can we love God apart from keeping His commandments?
3. What power does Jesus give us to love and obey Him? How does that power work in us?

But this is the sum, that they needed the utmost care and attention to beware lest forgetfulness of God should steal over them in happy circumstances, and thus they should shake off His fear, and cast away His yoke, and indulge themselves in the lusts of their flesh. For he shews that contempt of the Law would be a token of ingratitude; because it could not be but that they would submit themselves to God, and keep His Law, if they only reflected that it was to nothing but His blessing that they owed their prosperity. John Calvin (1509-1564), *Commentary on Deuteronomy 8.11*

Thank You, Lord, for the abundance of Your grace toward me. Keep my heart only unto You, O Lord, so that I...

Closing Prayer: Psalm 78.6-16

Use your time in prayer to remember all the ways God has been gracious to you. Make a point, throughout the day, to thank Him again in prayer, and to renew your love for Him.

Psalm 78.6-16

(Foundation: [How Firm a Foundation](#))

Lord, let all our children arise and declare
the truth of the Lord every day, everywhere,

Remember!: Deuteronomy 7-9

and set all their hopes in God's wonderful Word,
and never forget all the works of the Lord.

Our fathers were stubborn; they would not obey;
when faced with their foes they in fear turned away.
God's work of redemption they wholly despised,
forgetting the pow'r He had shown to their eyes.

Remember!: Deuteronomy 7-9

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

1. How many different things did Moses urge the people to remember in these chapters?
2. Why was it so important that they should remember these things?
3. What happens when we fail to remember these things? How does that come about?
4. What role does the heart play in helping us to remember – or to forget – our God and His grace?
5. What's the most important lesson you've learned from Deuteronomy 7-9? How are you putting that lesson to work in your life?

For prayer:

Remember!: Deuteronomy 7-9

The Fellowship of Ailbe

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