

Deuteronomy 29

Verses 1 – 9

These are the words of the covenant which the Lord commanded Moses to make with the sons of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He had made with them at Horeb.

² And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, “You have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh and all his servants, and to all his land; ³ the great trials which your eyes have seen, those great signs and wonders. ⁴ Yet to this day the Lord has not given you a heart to know, nor eyes to see, nor ears to hear. ⁵ And I have led you in the wilderness for forty years; your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandal has not worn out on your foot. ⁶ You have not eaten bread, nor have you drunk wine or *other* strong drink, in order that you might know that I am the Lord your God. ⁷ When you reached this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon and Og the king of Bashan came out to meet us for battle, but we defeated them; ⁸ and we took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of the Manassites. ⁹ So you will keep the words of this covenant and do them, in order that you may be successful in everything that you do.

These are the words of the covenant which the Lord commanded Moses to make with the sons of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He had made with them at Horeb.

The law was given at Mount Sinai during the first year (1446 BC) in the wilderness.

Deuteronomy, the second law, was given near the end of the 40th year (1407 BC) in the land of Moab.

The Law given at Sinai was reaffirmed but with some changes that were made to fit the changes that were about to take place in the land of Canaan.

We covered these changes in Deut. 12, 14, 15, and 18

Besides the changes that were just mentioned, there were also some new laws.

We covered some of those in Deut. 22.

² And Moses summoned **all Israel** and said to them, “**You have seen** all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh and all his servants, and to all his land; ³ the great trials which your eyes have seen, those great signs and wonders.

Who in this present community had seen the miracles in Egypt?

Only those who were 20 years of age or younger at the time of the rebellion had seen the miracles and even some of them (the infants) were too young to remember what had taken place.

Since the rebellion took place 38 years ago those people are now 38 to 58 years old.

Everyone under the age of 38 didn't see the miracles and anyone over the age of 58 died in the wilderness.

This means that only 1/3 of the people present saw the miracles Moses is referring to.

⁴ Yet to this day the Lord has not given you a heart to know, nor eyes to see, nor ears to hear.

Despite all the signs and wonders, those who did see them, they were still unable to understand the implications of what had happened.

And I have led you in the wilderness for forty years; your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandal has not worn out on your foot. ⁶ You have not eaten bread, nor have you drunk wine or other strong drink, in order that you might know that I am the Lord your God

Here we learn some additional facts that had not been previously mentioned.

Their clothes and shoes did not wear out during those 40 years.

This had to be difficult for the woman!

No new shoes for 40 years, how did they survive? 😊

Also God withheld bread, wine and strong drink from the people.

How did the people survive!

Are there any good restaurants that don't serve bread? 😊

Verses 10 - 21

¹⁰ “You stand today, all of you, before the Lord your God: your heads, your tribes, your elders and your officers, *that is*, all the men of Israel, ¹¹ your little ones, your wives, and the stranger who is within your camps, from the one who gathers your firewood to the one who draws your water, ¹² so that you may enter into the covenant with the Lord your God, and into His oath which the Lord your God is making with you today, ¹³ in order that He may establish you today as His people, and that He may be your God, just as He spoke to you and as He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ¹⁴ “Now *it is* not with you alone *that* I am making this covenant and this oath, ¹⁵ but *both* with those who stand here with us today in the presence of the Lord our God, and with those who are not with us here today ¹⁶ (for you know how we lived in the land of Egypt, and how we passed through the midst of the nations through which you passed; ¹⁷ moreover, you have seen their abominations and their idols *made of* wood and stone, silver and gold, which *they had* with them); ¹⁸ so that there will not be among you a man or woman, or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the Lord our God, to go to serve the gods of those nations; that there will not be among you a root bearing poisonous fruit and wormwood. ¹⁹ And it shall be when he hears the words of this curse, that he will consider himself fortunate in his heart, saying, ‘I will do well though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart in order to destroy the watered *land* along with the dry.’ ²⁰ The Lord will not be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the Lord and His wrath will burn against that person, and every curse that is written in this book will lie upon him, and the Lord will wipe out his name from under heaven. ²¹ Then the Lord will single him out for disaster from all the tribes of Israel, in accordance with all the curses of the covenant which is written in this Book of the Law.

¹⁰ You stand today, all of you, before the Lord your God so that you may enter into the covenant with the Lord your God, in order that He may establish you today as His people

This covenant extended to all of Israel, men, woman, and children. Even the strangers who performed menial tasks for the Israelites were included.

¹⁴ “Now *it is* not with you alone *that* I am making this covenant and this oath, ¹⁵ but *also* with those who are not with us here today

This covenant would cover future generations.

¹⁸ So that there will not be among you a man or woman, or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the Lord our God, to go to serve the gods of those nations

God gave Israel the law to protect them from the pagan gods of the other nations.

Unfortunately, most of Israel did not keep the law.

In fact during the days of Ahab, the faithful in Israel consisted of only 7,000 people.

See 1 Kings 19:18

¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

This was 7,000 out of how many?

Israel numbered 2.5 million when they first went into Canaan in 1406 BC

During the time of King David (1000 BC) the population has been estimated to be about 5 million.

In 860 BC, during the time of Ahab, the population had probably decreased somewhat and may have been around 4 million.

7,000 faithful out of 4 million people is a frightful thought.

Using that same percentage, the faithful in America would be 577,500 people.

²⁰ The Lord will not be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the Lord and His wrath will burn against that person, and every curse that is written in this book will lie upon him, and the Lord will wipe out his name from under heaven.

For those who turned away from the Lord, their life would be very difficult.

And since the Lord would not be willing to forgive him, the next life would be worse than any suffering he would endure in this life.

See Luke 16:19-31

²⁷ And he said, ‘Then I request of you, father, that you send him to my father’s house—²⁸ for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not come to this place of torment as well.

Verses 22 - 29

²² “Now the future generation, your sons who rise up after you and the foreigner who comes from a distant land, when they see the plagues of that land and the diseases with which the Lord has afflicted it, will say, ²³ ‘All its land is brimstone and salt, burned debris, unsown and unproductive, and no grass grows on it, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the Lord overthrew in His anger and in His wrath.’ ²⁴ All the nations will say, ‘Why has the Lord done *all* this to this land? Why this great outburst of anger?’ ²⁵ Then *people* will say, ‘*It is* because they abandoned the covenant of the Lord, the God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt. ²⁶ And they went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods that they have not known and whom He had not assigned to them. ²⁷ Therefore, the anger of the Lord burned against that land, to bring upon it every curse which is written in this book; ²⁸ and the Lord uprooted them from their land in anger, fury, and in great wrath, and hurled them into another land, as *it is* this day.’ ²⁹ “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, so that we may follow all the words of this Law.

²² “Now the future generation, your sons who rise up after you and the foreigner who comes from a distant land, when they see the plagues of that land and the diseases with which the Lord has afflicted it, will say, ²³ ‘All its land is brimstone and salt, burned debris, unsown and unproductive, and no grass grows on it, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the Lord overthrew in His anger and in His wrath.

God is revealing what will happen to Israel in the future.

Israel will not keep the law and they will suffer the curses that Moses warned them about in the previous chapter.

Because of the plagues and diseases Israel will look like the land of Sodom and Gomorrah.

²⁴ All the nations will say, ‘Why has the Lord done *all* this to this land? Why this great outburst of anger?’ ²⁵ Then *people* will say, ‘*It is* because they abandoned the covenant of the Lord, the God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt.

Israel as a nation did not keep the law.

²⁸ And the Lord uprooted them from their land in anger, fury, and in great wrath, and hurled them into another land, as *it is* this day.

The destruction that Babylon brought on Israel in 586 BC was catastrophic.

We covered this in the previous chapter.

²⁹ The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, so that we may follow all the words of this Law.

There are many hidden things that we don't know or understand but we have been given everything we need to know in order to know and live for God.