

Deuteronomy 32

This song teaches 3 main points

1. The faithfulness of God and the faithlessness of Israel
2. The punishment of Israel
3. God's compassion for his people

Verses 1 – 3

**“Listen, you heavens, and I will speak;
And let the earth hear the words of my mouth!
² May my teaching drip as the rain,
My speech trickle as the dew,
As droplets on the fresh grass,
And as the showers on the vegetation.
³ For I proclaim the name of the Lord;
Ascribe greatness to our God!**

**“Listen, you heavens, and I will speak;
And let the earth hear the words of my mouth!**

The calling of heaven and earth to listen and hear was a way of saying that this is a very important message for the people.

May my teaching drip as the rain,

Just as rain comes from heaven so do these words. And just as rain brings new life to the plants, so these words can give life to Israel.

**³ For I proclaim the name of the Lord;
Ascribe greatness to our God!**

The pagan gods never lead a nation of slaves out of a powerful military state.

Verses 4 - 6

**The Rock! His work is perfect,
For all His ways are just;
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and just is He.**

**⁵They have acted corruptly against Him,
They are not His children, because of their defect;
*But are a perverse and crooked generation.***

**⁶Is this *what* you do to the Lord,
You foolish and unwise people?
Is He not your Father *who has* purchased you?
He has made you and established you.**

**The Rock! His work is perfect,
For all His ways are just;**

The Rock, is used 5 times in this song to refer to God

**⁵They have acted corruptly against Him,
They are not His children, because of their defect;
*But are a perverse and crooked generation.***

That is quite a commentary on the nation of Israel.

**⁶Is this *what* you do to the Lord,
You foolish and unwise people?
Is He not your Father *who has* purchased you?
He has made you and established you.**

There is no doubt that Israel as a nation had seen many miracles.

The 10 plagues in Israel, the crossing of the Red Sea, the Egyptian army being drowned, the manna, water from a rock, and Mount Sinai ablaze in fire and smoke from the presence of God.

And how did they respond to all of this? They had Aaron mold a calf out of gold so they could praise and worship it.

Verses 7 - 11

**Remember the days of old,
Consider the years of all generations.**

**Ask your father and he will inform you,
Your elders, and they will tell you.**

**⁸ When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance,
When He separated the sons of mankind,
He set the boundaries of the peoples
According to the number of the sons of Israel.**

**⁹ For the Lord's portion is His people;
Jacob is the allotment of His inheritance.**

**¹⁰ He found him in a desert land,
And in the howling wasteland of a wilderness;
He encircled him, He cared for him,
He guarded him as the apple of His eye.**

**¹¹ As an eagle stirs up its nest,
And hovers over its young,
He spread His wings, He caught them,
He carried them on His pinions.**

**⁸ When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance,
When He separated the sons of mankind,
He set the boundaries of the peoples
According to the number of the sons of Israel.**

God changed the languages of mankind and scattered them over the face of the earth at the Tower of Babel.

See Genesis 11:1 – 9

This event took place at some point between the years 2697 to 2358 BC

When God did this He took into account what land Israel would need and gave it to the nations of Canaan until Israel was ready to take it over.

God has determined where and when the nations of mankind will live.

Israel took over the land beginning in 1406 and ending around 1400 BC

The time period from the Tower of Babel to the Exodus was 1,000 to 1,300 years.

See chart 3205

Genesis time line

Chapter	Person	Event	Year
7	Noah	Global flood	3098
8	Noah	Dry ground	3097
10	Arphaxad	Birth	3096
10	Shelah	Birth	2961
10	Eber	Birth	2831
10	Peleg	Birth	2697
10:25	Peleg	In his days the earth was divided	2697 to 2358
11	70 nations	Tower of Babel	2697 to 2358

Joshua time line

Chapter		Event	Year
1		Joshua as Leader	
2		Spies sent out	40 days
3		Crossing the Jordan	1-10-1406
4		12 stones at Gilgal	1-10-1406
5		Sons of Israel circumcised	
5		Passover	1-14-1406
6		Fall of Jericho	1-22-1406

**¹⁰ He found him in a desert land,
And in the howling wasteland of a wilderness;
He encircled him, He cared for him,
He guarded him as the apple of His eye.**

God “found” Israel in the land of Egypt (a wasteland except for the area around the Nile River).

When Moses uses the word “found” here we know he is using some figurative language because we know that God sent Joseph ahead of them so He could give Israel the best land in all of Egypt.

Later, when the Egyptians enslaved the Jews, God nurtured and cared for Israel like the mother eagle looks after her young until they are able to fly.

Verses 12 - 14

**The Lord alone guided him,
And there was no foreign god with him.
¹³ He had him ride on the high places of the earth,
And he ate the produce of the field;
And He had him suck honey from the rock,
And oil from the flinty rock,
¹⁴ Curds of the herd, and milk of the flock,
With fat of lambs
And rams, the breed of Bashan, and of goats,
With the best of the wheat;
And you drank wine of the blood of grapes.**

**The Lord alone guided him,
And there was no foreign god with him.**

This is equivalent to the expression found in the Pentateuch, I am God, and there is none else besides me

Produce, honey, oil, curds, milk, lambs, rams, goats, wheat and wine.

Israel ate and drank the best of the land in Canaan.

Verses 15 - 18

**“But Jeshurun became fat and kicked—
You have become fat, thick, *and* obstinate—
Then he abandoned God who made him,
And rejected the Rock of his salvation.
¹⁶ They made Him jealous with strange *gods*;
With abominations they provoked Him to anger.
¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons, *who were* not God,
To gods *whom* they have not known,
New *gods* who came lately,
Whom your fathers did not know.
¹⁸ You forgot the Rock who fathered you,
And forgot the God who gave you birth.**

**“But Jeshurun became fat and kicked—
Then he abandoned God who made him,**

After God blessed Israel they rebelled against Him.

**¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons, *who were* not God,
To gods *whom* they have not known,
New gods who came lately,
Whom your fathers did not know.**

Israel worshipped Johnny-come-lately gods.

**¹⁸ You forgot the Rock who fathered you,
And forgot the God who gave you birth.**

Future generations “forgot” what God had done for Israel. How he brought them out of Egypt and gave them their own home land.

This is the kind of forgetting that Peter talks about in 2 Peter 3:5-6

⁵ But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. ⁶ By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

Verses 19 - 22

**“The Lord saw *this*, and spurned *them*
Because of the provocation *by* His sons and daughters.**

**²⁰ Then He said, ‘I will hide My face from them,
I will see what their end *will be*;**

**For they are a perverse generation,
Sons in whom there is no faithfulness.**

**²¹ They have made Me jealous with *what* is not God;
They have provoked Me to anger with their idols.
So I will make them jealous with *those who are* not a people;
I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation,**

**²² For a fire has flared in My anger,
And it burns to the lowest part of Sheol,
And devours the earth with its yield,
And sets on fire the foundations of the mountains.**

**²¹ They have made Me jealous with *what* is not God;
So I will make them jealous with *those who are not a people*;**

The Jews thought they were superior to the other nations because they had been chosen by God to be his people.

Israel remembered this but not their responsibility to worship only the LORD.

Having a selective memory concerning God's word will not turn out well.

So when they rejected the God who had made them special God decided to use these inferior nations to humble Israel.

**²² For a fire has flared in My anger,
And it burns to the lowest part of Sheol,**

Does God get angry?

He sure does and for good reason.

God has had to deal with a lot of sorrow since He created mankind.

Adam & Eve sinned against him and He had to punish them.

He had to destroy all of mankind in a global flood except for 8 people because every thought of mankind was evil all the time.

He had to punish everyone over the age of 20 in Israel when they refused to enter Canaan

Then He had to punish Israel many times throughout the period of the Judges and even more during the period of the kings.

Then His people rejected his son and He was put to death in a very gruesome and painful way as though he was a criminal.

Does it seem odd to you that God can be in heaven and yet have to deal with all these problems that mankind continues to create?

We understand Jesus getting angry with the religious leaders because He came to earth in the flesh, but we often forget or don't think about all the problems God is dealing with from His throne in heaven.

Someday all of these problems will cease, but they have going on for 7,200 years and counting.

Verses 23 - 27

**'I will add misfortunes to them;
I will use up My arrows on them.**

²⁴ *They will be* wasted by famine, and emaciated by plague

And a bitter epidemic;

**And the teeth of beasts I will send against them,
With the venom of crawling things of the dust.**

**²⁵ Outside the sword will make *them* childless,
And inside, terror—**

Both young man and virgin,

The nursing child with the man of gray hair.

**²⁶ I would have said, "I will wipe them out,
I will remove the mention of their name from humanity,"**

**²⁷ Had I not feared the provocation by the enemy,
That their adversaries would misjudge,
That they would say, "Our hand is triumphant,
And the Lord has not performed all this.""**

**Famine, and plague
beasts and crawling things
the sword will make *them* childless,
And terror in their minds**

Israel often choose pain and suffering over being blessed.

Now much of the gentile world is doing the same.

**²⁶ I would have said, "I will wipe them out,
I will remove the mention of their name from humanity,"**

²⁷ Had I not feared the provocation by the enemy,

God could have destroyed Israel but then the enemies of Israel would have boasted that they had done it.

Moses used a different logic when he pleaded with God not to destroy Israel

He was afraid the Egyptians would say that God meant evil for the slaves.

See Exodus 32:1

Verses 28 -38

**“For they are a nation destitute of counsel,
And there is no understanding in them.**

**²⁹ If only they were wise *and* they understood this;
If only they would discern their future!**

**³⁰ How could one chase a thousand,
And two put ten thousand to flight,
Unless their Rock had sold them,
And the Lord had given them up?**

**³¹ Indeed, their rock is not like our Rock;
Even our enemies themselves judge this.**

**³² For their vine is from the vine of Sodom,
And from the fields of Gomorrah;
Their grapes are grapes of poison,
Their clusters, bitter.**

**³³ Their wine is the venom of serpents,
And the deadly poison of vipers.**

**³⁴ ‘Is it not stored up with Me,
Sealed up in My treasuries?**

**³⁵ Vengeance is Mine, and retribution;
In *due* time their foot will slip.**

**For the day of their disaster is near,
And the impending things are hurrying to them.’**

**³⁶ For the Lord will vindicate His people,
And will have compassion on His servants,
When He sees that *their* strength is gone,
And there is none *remaining*, bond or free.**

**³⁷ And He will say, ‘Where are their gods,
The rock in which they took refuge?**

**³⁸ Those who ate the fat of their sacrifices,
And drank the wine of their drink offering?
Let them rise up and help you,
Let them be your protection!**

**²⁸ “For they are a nation destitute of counsel,
And there is no understanding in them.**

**²⁹ If only they were wise *and* they understood this;
If *only* they would discern their future!**

The generation after Joshua became like the pagans living around them.

And when they forsook God they became foolish in their thinking.

No one was wise enough to see that worshipping these new gods was an act of rebellion and the blessing they had been given would soon be taken away.

**³⁰ How could one chase a thousand,
And two put ten thousand to flight,
Unless their Rock had sold them,
And the Lord had given them up?**

**³¹ Indeed, their rock is not like our Rock;
Even our enemies themselves judge this.**

God had blessed Israel in warfare during the time of Joshua but when they left the Lord God for the gods of Canaan they became weak and feckless.

**³² For their vine is from the vine of Sodom,
And from the fields of Gomorrah;
Their grapes are grapes of poison,
Their clusters, bitter.**

**³³ Their wine is the venom of serpents,
And the deadly poison of vipers.**

A vine supplies the nourishment that is needed for the branches to bear fruit.

If the vine is from Sodom & Gomorrah then the branches will bear bad fruit

See Ezekiel 16:49-50

⁴⁹ Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, plenty of food, and carefree ease, but she did not help the poor and needy. ⁵⁰ So they were haughty and committed abominations before Me. Therefore I removed them when I saw *it*.

This was another evil that was being committed by the people of Sodom.

**³⁵ Vengeance is Mine, and retribution;
For the day of their disaster is near,
³⁶ For the Lord will vindicate His people,
When He sees that *their* strength is gone,**

The day of disaster mentioned here is the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 586 BC by the Babylonians.

When this takes place the Jewish people will realize that they are weak and helpless because they have forsaken God

**³⁸ Those who ate the fat of their sacrifices,
And drank the wine of their drink offering?
Let them rise up and help you,
Let them be your protection!**

God says if Israel wants to sacrifice to these pagan gods then Israel can depend on those false gods to help and protect them.

Verses 39 - 43

**³⁹ See now that I, I am He,
And there is no god besides Me;
It is I who put to death and give life.
I have wounded and *it is I who* heal,
And there is no one who can save *anyone* from My hand.
⁴⁰ Indeed, I raise My hand to heaven,
And say, as I live forever,
⁴¹ If I have sharpened My flashing sword,
And My hand has taken hold of justice,
I will return vengeance on My adversaries,
And I will repay those who hate Me.
⁴² I will make My arrows drunk with blood,
And My sword will devour flesh,
With the blood of the slain and the captives,
From the long-haired leaders of the enemy.'
⁴³ Rejoice, you nations, *with* His people;
For He will avenge the blood of His servants,
And will return vengeance on His adversaries,
And will atone for His land *and* His people."**

**³⁹ And there is no god besides Me;
It is I who put to death and give life.
I have wounded and *it is I who* heal,**

The gods of ancient times were numerous but the Lord God is the only true God.

Only **YHWH** holds life and death in his hands.

**⁴³ Rejoice, you nations, *with* His people;
For He will avenge the blood of His servants,
And will return vengeance on His adversaries,
And will atone for His land *and* His people.”**

God always had a remnant in Israel that believed in Him and did what was right.

Some of the faithful died at the hands of the wicked but God’s vengeance would catch up with those adversaries.

Verses 44 – 47

⁴⁴ Then Moses came and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people, he, with Joshua the son of Nun. ⁴⁵ When Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, ⁴⁶ he said to them, “Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, which you will command your sons to follow carefully, all the words of this Law. ⁴⁷ For it is not a trivial matter for you; indeed it is your life. And by this word you will prolong your days in the land, which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.”

Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, which you will command your sons to follow carefully

Songs that teach a biblical message are important to every generation.

For it is not a trivial matter for you; indeed it is your life. And by this word you will prolong your days in the land of Jordan

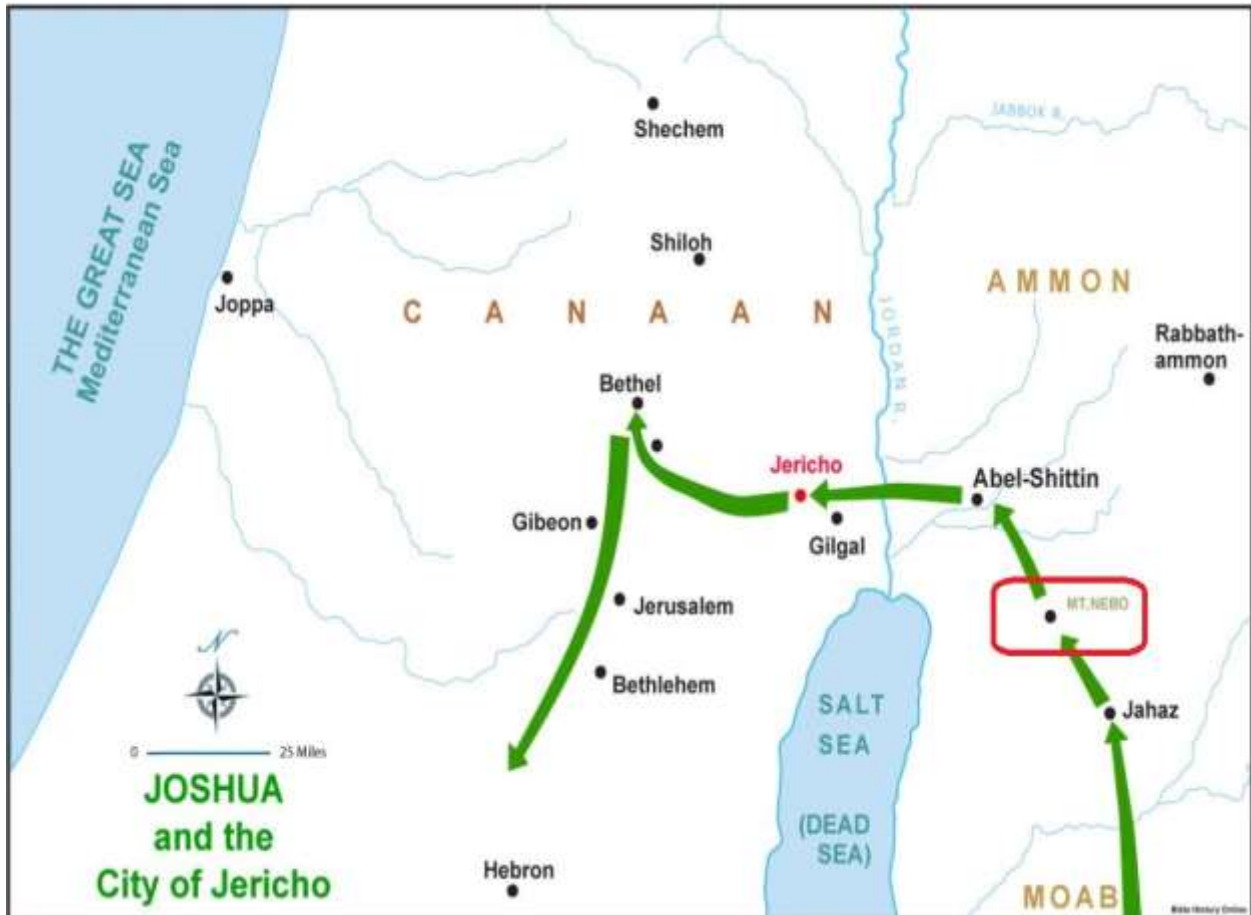
Life is meaningless unless we come to know God because knowing God is what brings meaning to our lives. It will also prolong our lives.

Verses 48 - 52

⁴⁸ Now the Lord spoke to Moses that very same day, saying, ⁴⁹ “Go up to this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab opposite Jericho, and look at the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the sons of Israel as a possession. ⁵⁰ Then you are to die on the mountain where you ascend, and be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people, ⁵¹ because you broke faith with Me in the midst of the sons of Israel at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, because you did not treat Me as holy in the midst of the sons of Israel. ⁵² For you will see the land at a distance but you will not go there, into the land which I am giving the sons of Israel.”

Go up to this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, this is in the land of Moab opposite Jericho.

See map 3210 Mount Nebo



Then you are to die on the mountain where you ascend, and be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people

Moses was a great leader and loyal to God, but great as Moses was, he could not lead the people over the Jordan.

See Number 20:9 -13

⁵¹ **because you broke faith with Me in the midst of the sons of Israel at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, because you did not treat Me as holy in the midst of the sons of Israel.**

This took place in the first month of year 40 in the wilderness.

See Numbers 20:8-13.