

Deuteronomy 8

Verses 1 – 5

“All the commandments that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, so that you may live and increase, and go in and take possession of the land which the Lord swore *to give* to your forefathers. ² And you shall remember all the ways which the Lord your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, in order to humble you, putting you to the test, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. ³ And He humbled you and let you go hungry, and fed you with the manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, in order to make you understand that man shall not live on bread alone, but man shall live on everything that comes out of the mouth of the Lord. ⁴ Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. ⁵ So you are to know in your heart that the Lord your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son.

All the commandments that I am commanding you today you shall be careful to do, so that you may live and increase, and go in and take possession of the land which the Lord swore *to give* to your forefathers

There were 3 reasons why the Jews were supposed to keep the commandments

That they may live

That they may increase in numbers

So they can take possession of Canaan

And He humbled you and let you go hungry, and fed you with the manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, in order to make you understand that man shall not live on bread alone, but man shall live on everything that comes out of the mouth of the Lord

God used the harshness of the desert to teach them humility.

He also used it to teach them to rely on God for their needs.

At some point the people should have learned to quit complaining and simply ask God for the things they needed.

Christ quoted verse 3 when the devil tried to tempt him.

See Luke 4:1-4

Jesus had not eaten for 40 days and the devil suggested he should turn a stone into bread.

Jesus replied by saying, man shall not live on bread alone.

Jesus saw His situation as a test, and would not use His supernatural powers to supply his own food, but waited on His heavenly father to provide it.

God responded by sending His angels to minister to His Son.

Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.

Some commentators try to nullify the miraculous nature of this by saying that the Israelites had enough supplies and skills to make whatever clothing they needed.

Sometimes it seems like people say things like this just to see if others are foolish enough to believe what they say without examining the facts.

But the fact is, Moses said the clothes did not wear out.

There is a huge difference between clothes not wearing out and the people having to make new clothes to replace the worn out clothes.

⁵ So you are to know in your heart that the Lord your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son.

The discipline brought about because of the wilderness environment was used to teach them obedience and trust in God.

God was training them to rely on Him, not on their own ability.

Unfortunately, the first generation didn't understand this principle and decided not to enter Canaan because they were still relying on their ability instead of Gods.

They thought entering Canaan was beyond what they could do (and it was), because they never "connected the dots". They did not understand that God would be doing the fighting for them just as He had when he took them out of Egypt and sustained them in the wilderness for the last year and 3 months. They did not see the bigger picture.

Verses 6 - 10

⁶ Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. ⁷ For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of streams of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in valleys and hills; ⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines, fig trees, and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; ⁹ a land where you will eat food without shortage, in which you will not lack anything; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. ¹⁰ When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you.

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land

A land of streams of water, of fountains and springs

A land of wheat and barley, of vines, fig trees, and pomegranates

A land of olive oil and honey, a land in which you will not lack anything

See Pic 805



When you look at the Middle East there is very little green that can be seen.

Hey, I'm a poet and I didn't know it. 😊

When Israel lived in Egypt, God provided the land of Goshen, the best land in Egypt. Now Israel was about to receive the land of Canaan, the best land in the area.

When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you.

God gave them land that wasn't theirs, cities they didn't build, houses they didn't buy, cattle they didn't raise, and riches they didn't earn.

All of this came from God.

Did Israel bless the Lord for all the good things they had received?

A lot of the time they did not.

Verses 11 – 16

¹¹ “Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God by failing to keep His commandments, His ordinances, and His statutes which I am commanding you today; ¹² otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, and you build good houses and live *in them*, ¹³ and when your herds and your flocks increase, and your silver and gold increase, and everything that you have increases, ¹⁴ then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ¹⁵ He who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, *with its* fiery serpents and scorpions, and *its* thirsty ground where there was no water; He who brought water for you out of the rock of flint. ¹⁶ In the wilderness *it was* He who fed you manna which your fathers did not know, in order to humble you and in order to put you to the test, to do good for you in the end.

¹¹ “Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God by failing to keep His commandments, His ordinances, and His statutes which I am commanding you today.

It is amazing how many times Moses has already warned this group of people not to forget the Lord.

Some people believe this is not possible but their doctrine is not based on what the bible clearly teaches.

Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, and you build good houses and live *in them*,¹³ and when your herds and your flocks increase, and your silver and gold increase, and everything that you have increases,¹⁴ then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery

It is not uncommon for people to delude themselves with the idea that their good fortune is the result of their own efforts.

If we ever begin to feel this way we need to repent quickly.

Wealth can be a real blessing and it can solve a lot of problems in a material world but it can also become a greater problem than any it can solve.

Jesus warned his followers concerning the dangers of wealth?

See Luke 12:13-15

See Matthew 19:16 - 22

Verses 17 - 21

¹⁷ Otherwise, you may say in your heart, ‘My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.’¹⁸ But you are to remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, in order to confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.¹⁹ And it shall come about, if you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods and serve and worship them, I testify against you today that you will certainly perish.²⁰ Like the nations that the Lord eliminates from you, so you shall perish, because you would not listen to the voice of the Lord your God.

¹⁷ Otherwise, you may say in your heart, ‘My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.’¹⁸ But you are to remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, in order to confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.

So how can people avoid the pride of thinking they have created wealth?

Remember the one who gave us the ability to prosper.

Also, we should think about what God wants us to do with the wealth he has given us.

See video 810 500 million in 3 years

<https://www.levickfamily.com/9.21.html>

People of faith should admire the maturity of this young man.

He made 500 million in 3 years working for Facebook but he was mature enough to realize that this did not happen because of his great genius and hard work. As he put it there is a built in unfairness that has been engineered into our economy.

The other thing to admire about him is that he wants to find a way to share his good fortune and hopefully the good fortune of other people like him with others.

If this concept does not fit our political thinking maybe our political thinking is not in line with doing what is right in the eyes of God.

See Luke 16:19-31