

## **DEUTERONOMY**

### **Chapters 25 to 28**

#### **CHAPTER 25** Laws on various human relations

Verses 1-3 Give directions for judgment and specific punishments for the guilty.

Verse 4 Take care of the plow animal; muzzling the working animal is wrong.

Verses 5-10 Take care of the widow; carry on the family name by “surrogate” husband by way of a brother of the deceased. This is voluntary, but has social ramifications if neglected.

- See an example of “the Kinsman Redeemer” in Ruth 4.

Verses 11 and 12 Law is for the woman who would “rescue” her husband from a fight by using “immodest” means.

Verses 13-16 Gives laws for “honest weights” and true business dealings and decries variance as an abomination to YAHWEH.

- See how Yahweh feels about “dishonest weights” in Acts 5:1 (Ananias and Sapphira)

Verses 17-19 Yahweh commands them not to forget to destroy every trace of the Amalekites.

#### **CHAPTER 26** The Firstfruit & Tithe Offerings and **COVENANT VOWS** exchanged

Verses 1-11 The delivery of the firstfruit offering, and.... Note that verse 10 is declaring the keeping of our end and requesting YAHWEH keep His end of the agreement.

Verses 12-15 The delivery of the tithe is on the third year. Note verse 15 is a declaration also.

Verses 16-20 The formal declaration of the covenant and the rewards of keeping it

#### **CHAPTER 27** A monument, an altar, Mt. Gerizim for blessings, and Mt. Ebal for curses

- See photo of Shechem, Gerezim, and Ebal

Verse 1 Moses and the elders adjure the people to keep the commandments.

Verses 2-4 A plastered monument of stones inscribed with the law was to be built on Mt. Ebal.

Verses 5-7 They were to build an altar of unhewn stones and sacrifice burnt offerings there.

Verse 8 Inscribe the words of the Law plainly

Verses 9 and 10 “Then Moses and the Levitical priests spoke to all Israel, saying, Be silent and listen, O Israel! **This day you have become a people for the LORD your God.** You shall therefore obey the LORD your God, and do His commandments and His statutes which I command you today.”

Verses 11 and 12 Specified “representatives” on Mt. Gerizim for “antiphonal” blessings (declaration by the Levites; responded to by the people)

Verses 13-26 Specified “representatives” on Mt. Ebal for “antiphonal” cursings (declaration by the Levites; responded to by the people)

- Fulfilled by Joshua- Joshua 8:30-35

**CHAPTER 28** YAHWEH will bless Israel, or YAHWEH will curse Israel (conditional clause)

Verses 1-14 Describe conditions of great blessings from YAHWEH

Verses 15-68 Describe the most awful curses for disobedience (which history describes being fulfilled). Pestilence, consumption, isolation, oppression, madness, fear, slavery, terrible destruction. The land will dry up, the locust consume, and strangers exalt over them. Enslaved, oppressed, scattered, plagued and destroyed...even in verse 68 it says that they will be sent to Egypt to be sold as slaves, and not bought. Evidently, there were so many sent in the time of Vespasian, there was no more marketability for them, they wouldn't even be bought.

## **THOUGHTFULLY CONSIDER**

When we speak with Jewish people about YAHWEH, the gospel of reconciliation, and the hope of the Kingdom, the first thing we must do is to remember our audience, be compassionate, and in meekness, consider our own disobedience and the curses that followed US prior to being redeemed by Messiah's resurrection. We need to address the suffering of the Jews from the Assyrians, Greeks, Romans, Turks, and the more recent Nazis, within the context of THIS strong conditional COVENANT YAHWEH and Israel vowed to be in together. One very important point to consider is that some of the worst tormentors of Jews have been self-proclaimed “Christians” (i.e. Catholic “crusaders” and the Nazis). Be sure to defend our Master and not to allow his name to be tarnished by false brethren.