

# Further up, Further in

## Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

### "PROMISES & PROVISION"

For individual study or group discussion

Previously in Deuteronomy 7, we learned that Israel was chosen out of all the other nations, not for anything they had done, but "because the LORD loves you" (v. 8). In Deuteronomy 7:12-26, Moses further maintains that God "will love you, bless you, and multiply you," assuring Israel that God's *promises and provision* will meet their future needs of fruitfulness, health, and safety if they respond to his love in obedience. In today's passage we ascertain *God's covenant love for his people is displayed in providing the assurance of blessing for obedience* (vv. 12-16), *in the antidote to fear in the face of foes* (vv. 17-24), and *in the admonition to thoroughly eliminate idols* (vv. 25-26).

#### The assurance of blessing for obedience (vv. 12-16)

Throughout Deuteronomy, we repeatedly hear the message that God's blessings follow obedience (Deut. 11:13-15; 15:5-6; 28:1-14). God wants his people to reciprocate his love through obedience to his commands. In the New Testament, the correlation between love for God and obedience is echoed by Christ when he states, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). God desires to give us his best, but we often prevent him from doing so through our rebellion and disobedience.

- John Calvin concludes, "We cannot rely on God's promises without obeying His commandments." Today's passage inseparably links love for God and obedience to his commands. Read 1 John 3. Discuss how love and obedience go hand-in-hand.
- Is obedience a prerequisite to God's love? (1 John 4:19; Romans 5:8)

#### The antidote to fear in the face of foes (vv. 17-24)

Remembering God's faithfulness is the antidote to fear (v. 18). As Israel is about to enter the Promised Land, Moses anticipates their fearfulness and calls on them to remember how God delivered them from the Egyptians, the world's superpower at that time. Even the Canaanite nations are greater and far more numerous than the children of Israel, but Yahweh is on their side: "For the LORD is in your midst, a great and awesome God" (v. 21). God's presence and works of past redemption should have been an aid in increasing the faith and obedience of his people.

- How can Deuteronomy 7:9, 18, and 21 be strengthening aids to you as you face trials in your life? What experiences of God's faithfulness from your own personal life do you look back on for encouragement?
- As one commentator states, "Fear is the fruit of forgetfulness."<sup>1</sup> What fears have you personally encountered on repeat in your life? Throughout the ages, the book of Psalms has been a comfort and hope to God's people. Take time this week to strengthen your faith in the midst of your fears by reading through the Psalms. (See Psalms 23:4; 27:1-3; 34:4-5; 46:1-3; 56:3-4; 91:4-5; and 115:11.)

#### The admonition to thoroughly eliminate idols (vv. 25-26)

The second commandment warns the children of Israel not to compromise and worship the gods of the Canaanite nations (5:8). Deuteronomy 7:25-26 goes even further by commanding Israel to destroy the carved images and devote the pagan gods to destruction. Obeying God's call to eliminate idolatry is a call to live a life of holiness, one that is set apart from the world. When God's people imitate and adopt the priorities and practices of the world, they forfeit God's blessings while provoking his curse.

- Consider areas in your life where idols may exist. Read Colossians 3:1-17. How does God's call to holiness have the ability to radically change your relationship with him and enable you to lead a life of obedience?

DATE: May 21, 2023

SPEAKER: Chad/Brian

SERIES: Deuteronomy

PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 7:12-26

## Family Dinner Table

### Blessing and Curse

*summarized from The Bible Project*

In Genesis, the first blessing mentioned is when God blessed the animals, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply" (1:22). God's blessing is about flourishing and multiplication of life, as God shares his life-producing ability with his creation. Later in the creation account, God bestowed on humans an additional blessing that sets us apart from the animals: not only have humans been given the ability to generate new life, but they also have been appointed as God's representatives to rule and oversee that this world flourishes on his behalf. God desires mankind to rule over his creation, trusting in his abundance.

The curse came into the world when God handed Adam and Eve over to the consequences of their sin, seizing their own blessing on their own terms. Instead of experiencing God's abundance and life, they ended up with scarcity, isolation, and death.

After the Fall, God chose one couple, Abraham and Sarah, and blessed them. He told them that they would become a huge family. This blessing serves God's larger purpose—that through Abraham, God's blessing can go out to all of the nations. In order to bless the other nations, Israel needed to trust and live by God's wisdom. But they failed over and over again. Because of God's steadfast love, he promised a future, faithful Israelite who would come, and in his righteousness, make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.<sup>2</sup>

- Read Galatians 3:13-14. Jesus became a curse for you. What significance does that have on how you relate to God?

### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Alex Bosgraf, RUF Staff

Boise State University

### PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Laura & Mike Lothers, supported missionary partners

<sup>1</sup>Brown, Raymond. The Message of Deuteronomy. 1993, Downers Grove, IL. InterVarsity Press. 113

<sup>2</sup>Summarized from *The Bible Project: Blessing and Curse* video. <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/blessing-and-curse/>