

The Wilderness (59): A Reminder of Who We Really Are Deut 9

Deuteronomy from the Gk LXX which means "second law" is really not another law but a review and exhortation to obey God's law given at Mt. Sinai and the wilderness.

Why Did God Give Israel the Promised Land?

1. It was given due to the **covenant promise of God**. 9:1-5, 27
 - a. He gives **grace to the humble**. (Total dependence on God)
 - 1) Enemies are mightier.
 - 2) God goes before and fights for His people.
 - 3) To learn through God's provision
 - b. He confirms the promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
2. It was given due to the **wickedness of the existing nations**. 9:4-5
 - a. He confirms the promise to Abraham in Gen 15:16
 - b. He performs the duty of the righteous Judge.
3. It was given not for **Israel's righteousness**. 9:4-17, 22-24
 - a. Self-righteousness always **usurps God's glory**. "I've done"
 - b. Self-righteousness always **demands a reward**. "I'm worthy"
 - c. Self-righteousness always **ignores sin**. "I'm not that bad"
 - 1) 11 Ungodly traits: Pride (4); Stubbornness (6, 13, 27); Rebellion (7, 23, 24); Provocation (8, 18); Corruption (12); Idolatry (12, 16); Sinfulness (16); Evil (18); Unbelieving (23); Disobedience (23); Wicked (27)
 - 2) 5 Specific acts of defiance highlights their journey (7): Golden calf at Horeb (8); Complaint of difficulties at Taberah (22); Complaint of Moses at Massah (22); Longed to return to Egypt at Kibroth Hattaavah (22); Refusal of the Promised Land at Kadesh Barnea (23)
4. It was given due to the **intercession of Moses**. 9:18-21, 25-29

Submissive - *Sovereign Lord* (26); Persistent - 40 days (18, 25); Sacrificial - fasted 40 days (18); Specific - *Do not destroy* (26); Compassionate - *I prayed for Aaron* (20); Comprehensive - *your people, your redeemed, remember your servants, lest the Egyptians say, by your great power* (26-29); Effective - *Cut 2 tablet like the first* (10:1)

4 Great Lessons

1. God is **faithful** to His Word - His love is unconditional - Eph 1:3-11

2. *Salvation is a totally **undeserved gift**, not a spiritual reward.*

Raymond Brown - Rom 3:24; Gal 2:16; Titus 3:3-7

Rock of Ages - Augustus Toplady

Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to Thy Cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.

3. Man has always been sinful; his only hope is **Jesus Christ** where repentance and mercy can exist. Rom 3:23-25; Eph 2:1-9

4. Jesus is the great **intercessor**, calling His people to imitate Him.

Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25; 1 Tim 2:1-8

Additional Notes: Various Points of the Sermon

Righteousness - Heb - what is right, standard, normal - From Yahweh's view, He was involved with establishing what was "right" which the nations were in the "wrong." Thus, Yahweh was "right" in assisting Israel to possess the land for this was His divine promise inside of His divine plan of redemption.

Pride - Heb for "Say in your heart" 7:17, 8:17, 15:9 contrast "hear" 9:1

Stiff-necked (v6) - a word picture of cattle that refuses to go or do what its master wants, thus rebellious. Stephen (Acts 7:39-41) recalls the event and uses same term on the Jewish leaders (v51). No doubt they understood the connection and this produced their rage.

Remember - not forget: ch 8:2, 11 - who, what God has done

Remember - not forget: ch 9:7 - who and what you have done

Lord GOD (v26), also 3:24 - Moses used in prayer as deeply personal plea to the Lord acknowledging his sovereignty, see Gen 15:2, 8; Josh 7:7-9

Promise to Abraham is one of identity, place, and worth - all by grace through faith; yet this is jeopardized when God threatens to destroy Israel by telling Moses to step aside.