

**Into the Promised Land - Joshua's Story**  
**Lesson #29 - "The Promise of Blessing"**  
**• HANDOUT •**

► This lesson picks up our study in the 11<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Deuteronomy. After challenging Israel to be obedient and reminding them how God had already blessed them, Moses speaks about the future rewards which would be waiting for them in the Land of Promise. Those reward would be theirs *if* they were obedient. Above all, Moses reminded them that God has already blessed them. They were to return His blessing by being obedient to God's commands, decrees and laws.

Remembering is the key to becoming totally committed as God's People ...

Deuteronomy 11:1-7 • Love the LORD your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always. Remember today that your children were not the ones who saw and experienced the discipline of the LORD your God: his majesty, his mighty hand, his outstretched arm; the signs he performed and the things he did in the heart of Egypt, both to Pharaoh king of Egypt and to his whole country; what he did to the Egyptian army, to its horses and chariots, how He overwhelmed them with the waters of the Red Sea as they were pursuing you, and how the LORD brought lasting ruin on them.

It was not your children who saw what he did for you in the desert until you arrived at this place, and what he did to Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab the Reubenite, when the earth opened its mouth right in the middle of all Israel and swallowed them up with their households, their tents and every living thing that belonged to them.

But it was your own eyes that saw all these great things the LORD has done.

Q: Why does Moses use the concept "to remember" in such a repetitious manner?

Q: Why does this section of scripture end with "But it was your own eyes that saw all these great things the LORD has done?"

Q: Moses names Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab the Reubenite, who were swallowed up by the earth because of their rebellion against Moses' leadership, [ref: Numbers 16:1-35]. But, notice that Moses doesn't mention Korah, who was the leader of the rebellion. Why would Moses omit his name?

There will be an abundant of blessings in the Promised Land. But there is an "if" clause attached ...

Deuteronomy 11:8-15 • Observe therefore all the commands I am giving you today, so that you may have the strength to go in and take over the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, and so that you may live long in the land that the LORD swore to your forefathers to give to them and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey. The land you are entering to take over is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you planted your seed and irrigated it by foot as in a vegetable garden. But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven. It is a land the LORD your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.

So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today--to love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul-- then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil. I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied.

Q: In addition to the expected description that the Promised Land was “flowing with milk and honey” the passage also adds: “it is a land that drinks rain from heaven.” What is significant about that added statement?

Q: What is the “if” clause?

### God's Blessing: How it is realized and how it is forfeited ...

Deuteronomy 11:16-21 • Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them. Then the LORD's anger will burn against you, and He will shut the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the LORD is giving you.

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

Q: What does this teach us about God's blessings being realized in the life of God's people?

Q: How is God's blessing it forfeited?

Q: What does God promise to do if Israel forfeits God's Blessing?

Q: Is this still true today?

Q: Of all the punishments God could choose to punish Israel if they began to worship other gods, why is it significant that God chose to withhold rain from the land?

Israel is given a choice and with the choice God details His promise to them.  
But the “if” clause remains in effect ...

Deuteronomy 11:22-25 • If you carefully observe all these commands I am giving you to follow--to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways and to hold fast to him-- then the LORD will drive out all these nations before you, and you will dispossess nations larger and stronger than you.

Every place where you set your foot will be yours: Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the Euphrates River to the western sea. No man will be able to stand against you. The LORD your God, as He promised you, will put the terror and fear of you on the whole land, wherever you go.

Q: In what two ways does the Lord limit the land they would acquire by obedience to Him?

1.

2.

Q: What was the ultimate promise God made to Israel in this passage?

### THE CHOICE ... It will lead to either Blessing or Cursing ...

Deuteronomy 11:26-32 • See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known. When the LORD your God has brought you into the land you are entering to possess, you are to proclaim on Mount Gerizim the blessings, and on Mount Ebal the curses.

As you know, these mountains are across the Jordan, west of the road, toward the setting sun, near the great trees of Moreh, in the territory of those Canaanites living in the Arabah in the vicinity of Gilgal.

You are about to cross the Jordan to enter and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you. When you have taken it over and are living there, be sure that you obey all the decrees and laws I am setting before you today.

Q: Was it unusual for God to set a choice before His people?

Q: Why does God only list the disobedience that would bring a curse as the “following of other gods which Israel had not known,” but doesn’t listed any other form of disobedience?

Idolatry is the: \_\_\_\_\_

Q: The Choices that will bring either blessing or cursing is plainly laid out in this passage. The Blessing was to be theirs for obedience and the Curse for disobedience. But why are the respective choices to be proclaimed from Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal?

► **Moses turns to the issue of how God's Covenant people are to worship the Lord. This addresses crucial spiritual elements for the Nation of Israel, as well as for the individual Israelite. This is where we pick up the story next time.**



Next Time • Lesson #30  
“All About Worshiping God” [Chapters 12, 13, 14]

