

# Into the Promised Land - Joshua's Story - Lesson #39

## “Renewal & Wonder - Deuteronomy 29

### •HANDOUT•

► This lesson begins with Chapter 29 and the Renewal of the Covenant God is making with Israel. This is the Israel of the Second Generation. The goal is for this generation of Israel to become God's people thru obedience to the terms of the Covenant. The terms of the Covenant were laid out at Mt. Sinai [or Horeb, as Deuteronomy often refers to it] but that was to the First Generation. The rights to the Covenant are not passed on through inheritance, but by renewing and adding to the original Covenant, making it apply solely to the Second Generation.

The first verse of this chapter makes this very clear:

► Deuteronomy 29:1 • These are the terms of the covenant the LORD commanded Moses to make with the Israelites in Moab, in addition to the Covenant he had made with them at Horeb.

Q: What were the terms of the Covenant that God made with Israel some 40 years before, at Horeb [Mt. Sinai]?

► The principle terms of the Covenant is recorded in Exodus:

► Exodus 24:7-8 • Then Moses took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.” And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, “This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.”

Q: What does the phrase “in addition to the Covenant” in Deuteronomy 29:1 reference?

► Deuteronomy 29:2-3 • Moses summoned all the Israelites and said to them: Your eyes have seen all that the LORD did in Egypt to Pharaoh, to all his officials and to all his land. With your own eyes you saw those great trials, those miraculous signs and great wonders.

Q: How could Moses say: “You saw with your own eyes” what God did in Egypt to Pharaoh? The generation that witnessed that have all died.

► Deuteronomy 29:4-8 • Yet, to this day the LORD has not given you a mind that understands or eyes that see or ears that hear. During the forty years that I led you through the desert, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet. You ate no bread and drank no wine or other fermented drink. I did this so that you might know that I am the LORD your God.

When you reached this place, Sihon king of Heshbon and Og King of Bashan came out to fight against us, but we defeated them. We took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

Q: Is Moses really saying that Israel only “thought” they saw wonders but they really didn't?

Q: What are the wonders that Moses listed which took place during 40-years in the desert?

Q: What was the purpose for God performing these miraculous wonders?

Q: What place is it referring to when it says, “when you reached this place?”

► [Deuteronomy 29:9-13 \[NLT\]](#) • Carefully follow the terms of this covenant, so that you may prosper in everything you do. All of you -- tribal leaders, elders, officers, all the men of Israel -- are standing today in the presence of the Lord your God. Your little ones and your wives are with you, as well as the foreigners living among you who chop your wood and carry your water. You are standing here today to enter into the covenant of the Lord your God. The Lord is making this covenant, including the curses. By entering into the covenant today, he will establish you as His people and confirm that He is your God, just as he promised you and as he swore to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Q: What is significant about the people who are gathered, listening to Moses' words?

Q: What does the Covenant establish?

Q: What is included with the Covenant?

The Covenant God is making reaches beyond the Israel of the Second Generation ...

► [Deuteronomy 29:14-15](#) • I am making this covenant, with its oath, not only with you who are standing here with us today in the presence of the LORD our God, but also with those who are not here today.

Q: Who is to be the recipient of this Covenant?

► Acts 2:39 says it well:

*"This promise is to you, to your children and those far away – all who have been called by the Lord our God."*

► Deuteronomy 29:16-18 • You yourselves know how we lived in Egypt and how we passed through the countries on the way here. You saw among them their detestable images and idols of wood and stone, of silver and gold. Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the LORD our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.

Q: What is created when a person chooses to rebel against God and worship pagan gods?

► Deuteronomy 29:19-21 [NIV & NKJ] • When such a person hears the words of this oath, he invokes a blessing on himself and therefore thinks, "I will be safe, even though I persist in going my own way."

This will bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry. The LORD will not spare him; his wrath and zeal will burn against that man. All the curses written in this book will fall upon him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven. The LORD will single him out from all the tribes of Israel for disaster, according to all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law.

Q: What does this scripture teach regarding the attitudes and actions of those who rebel?

Q: Does the attitude of "persisting in doing it my way" exist in the church today?

► Deuteronomy 29:22-28 • Your children who follow you in later generations and foreigners who come from distant lands will see the calamities that have fallen on the land and the diseases with which the LORD has afflicted it. The whole land will be a burning waste of salt and sulfur--nothing planted, nothing sprouting, no vegetation growing on it. It will be like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in fierce anger. All the nations will ask: "Why has the LORD done this to this land? Why this fierce, burning anger?"

And the answer will be: "It is because this people abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, the covenant he made with them when he brought them out of Egypt. They went off and worshiped other gods and bowed down to them, gods they did not know, gods he had not given them. Therefore the LORD's anger burned against this land, so that he brought on it all the curses written in this book. In furious anger and in great wrath the LORD uprooted them from their land and thrust them into another land, as it is now."

Q: We are familiar with Sodom and Gomorrah. What were "Admah and Zebolim?"

Q: What is the one thing no one could ever say after reading this warning about abandoning the Covenant?

Q: How will the Promised Land be affected if the people choose to be abandon their Covenant with God?

Q: Was this a simple warning or was it prophetic in nature?

► [Deuteronomy 29:29](#) • The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.

Q: What are the “secret things which belong to the Lord, our God?”

► Isaiah spoke to this truth:

► [Isaiah 55:8-9](#) • "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

► Jesus conveyed the same thing to His disciples

► [John 14:15](#) • If you love me, you will obey My commandments."

**This section of scripture ended with Moses speaking about the secret things of God that would affect Israel's future.**

**Now, as we begin Chapter 30, Moses seems to be somewhat hesitant about Israel's future. Considering Israel's past behavior, his hesitancy should not come as a surprise. It all comes down to how Israel will choose. Will they choose to be holy unto the Lord? Or will they try to mix the pagan world with their devotion to God? We will pick up next lesson with these questions ...**



**Next Time • Lesson #40  
“Israel's Choice”**

