

"YOU SHALL BE MY PEOPLE"

Moses' Last Words (3)

Lesson 12

January 3

The big book of *Deuteronomy* contains the last words of Moses—a series of speeches where he reminds, warns, challenges, and encourages Israel to live as the people of God. As a conclusion for our study, let's listen in to *Deuteronomy 28* as Moses puts God's covenant with Israel in the simplest terms possible:

“And _____ you faithfully _____ the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these _____ shall come upon you and overtake you, _____ you obey the voice of the LORD your God. Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. (28:1-6)

But covenants are relationships based on promises, right? Would it be a big deal if Israel was unfaithful to their covenant with God? It most certainly would (28:15-19). “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil” (30:15). It would be up to Israel to choose how they would live after Moses had died and they had entered the Promised Land.

“_____ you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall _____ and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But _____ your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall _____ live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess.” (30:16-18)

In *Deuteronomy 34*, Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, “and the LORD showed him all the land” (34:1).

And the LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to _____, to Isaac, and to Jacob, ‘I will give it to your offspring.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there.” So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD... (34:4-5)

Israel was finally ready to enter that long-hoped-for Promised Land. Joshua would be their new leader (34:9). But clearly, there was much to remember. Their covenant with the LORD was serious and the LORD was going to be faithful. Would they? It's been a long journey through this study, but these are really important things for us to know. In many ways, what happens throughout the rest of the Old Testament is a fulfillment of these promises and warnings in *Deuteronomy 28-30*. Let's talk about it...

For Class & Family Discussion:

- This last lesson in our series really revolves a lot around the idea and importance of a “covenant.” Jason described a covenant as “a relationship based on promises.” Let’s talk about that for a moment. What are some examples outside the Bible of a covenant?

- Take a moment to survey **Deuteronomy 28:1-14**—God’s promises of blessings “if” Israel was faithful to the covenant. What stands out to you? What could they expect if they “faithfully” obeyed the voice of the LORD their God?

- Take the time to also survey the rest of **Deuteronomy 28**—God’s promises of curses “if” Israel was unfaithful to the covenant. What stands out to you? What could they expect if they did “not obey” the voice of the LORD their God?

- “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil” (**30:15**). What is Moses communicating, in your own words?

- Let’s take all of that and think about us, today. Is God still interested in covenants? If so, what sort of covenants? Does he still take covenants as seriously today as he did back then? If so, what do we need to understand and remember from these ancient passages?

- We’ve walked a long way with Moses in this study. If you were going to summarize his life in just a few sentences, how would you do it? Notice how he’s described in **Deuteronomy 33:1** and **34:5**...

- Back in **Deuteronomy 18:15**, what promise did Moses make to Israel? Who was the ultimate fulfillment of that great promise, and what is that ancient promise still calling all of us to do, even today?