

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown
Bible Study Notes
6-1-22

Deuteronomy 7

The Conquest Of The Canaanites Is Commanded – Verses 1-5

¹ When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you—² and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy. ³ Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, ⁴ for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD’s anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you. ⁵ This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire.

7:2 God told the Israelites to completely destroy their enemies. How can a God of love and mercy wipe out everyone, even children? Although God is loving and merciful, he is also just. These enemy nations were as much a part of God’s creation as Israel was, and God does not allow evil to continue unchecked. God had punished Israel by keeping out of the Promised Land all those who had disobeyed. The command to destroy these nations was both a judgment (9:4-6) and a safety measure. On one hand, the people living in the land were being judged for their sin, and Israel was God’s instrument of judgment—just as God would one day use other nations to judge Israel for its sin (2 Chronicles 36:17; Isaiah 10:12). On the other hand, God’s command was designed to protect the nation of Israel from being ruined by the idolatry and immorality of its enemies. To think that God is too “nice” to judge sin would be to underestimate him.

7:5 Asherah was a Canaanite mother goddess of the sea, associated with Baal. Baal was the most worshiped god of the Canaanites. Most often cast in the form of a bull, he symbolized strength and fertility and was considered the god of agriculture. Asherah was Baal’s female consort (or wife). She was worshiped by means of wooden pillars (here called “poles”).

Conquer Them Completely Because The LORD Loves You – Verses 6-8

⁶ For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. ⁷ The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. ⁸ But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

7:6-8 How did Israel deserve to be chosen above all of the other nations at that time? It was not a matter of Israel’s merit, but of God keeping his promise to their ancestors. Just as God chose the nation of Israel, he has chosen all believers today to be a part of his treasured possession. Similarly, it is not because of our merit that we have come to faith in Christ. Instead, God chose us out of his goodness and grace.

Conquer Them Completely Because You Serve A God Of Justice – Verses 9-11

⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. ¹⁰ But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him. ¹¹ Therefore, take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you today.

7:9 It is true that the punishment for certain sins may have repercussions to the third and fourth generation (Exodus 20:5-6), yet the Lord keeps His covenant promises for “a thousand generations” to those who “keep his commandments” (Neh. 1:5; Dan. 9:4). By passing one’s faith to one’s children and their children, a person can impact the world beyond his or her years. The people are warned against rebellion and unfaithfulness. God is faithful and just. He blesses the person who keeps His commandments. He blesses their children, and grandchildren to a thousand generations.

7:10 He repays those who hate Him to their face: Over many generations the Canaanites had demonstrated their hatred for God, Now, using Israel as His instrument, God will repay them with judgment.

Abundant Blessings For Obedience – Verses 12-16

¹² If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the LORD your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your ancestors. ¹³ He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers. He will bless the fruit of your womb, the crops of your land—your grain, new wine and olive oil—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you. ¹⁴ You will be blessed more than any other people; none of your men or women will be childless, nor will any of your livestock be without young. ¹⁵ The LORD will keep you free from every disease. He will not inflict on you the horrible diseases you knew in Egypt, but he will inflict them on all who hate you. ¹⁶ You must destroy all the peoples the LORD your God gives over to you. Do not look on them with pity and do not serve their gods, for that will be a snare to you.

7:12 “The LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant” If Israel was obedient to the Lord, they would experience His covenantal mercy. However, the people could forfeit the blessings of the covenant through their own disobedience. Moses reminds them also that God will bless them abundantly, if they keep His commandments. There were blessings promised for obedience, and a cursing for those who would not obey. God always does exactly what He says. What He promises, He will do. He is a merciful God.

7:13 “Corn ... wine ... oil”: These were the 3 principal food products of Palestine. “Corn” (grain), included wheat and barley. “New wine” was the grape juice as it came from the presses. The “oil” was the olive oil used in cooking and in the lamps. This is a list of some of the blessings that would come upon them, if they kept their covenant with God. Hebrews considered children as a special blessing from God. They were blessed with big families, plenty of food, and an abundance of cattle and sheep. They would have need for nothing.

7:15 “The evil diseases of Egypt”: Some virulent and malignant diseases such as elephantiasis, ophthalmia, and dysentery were common in Egypt. Some diseases are caused from sin. The worldly diseases of our day are like A.I.D.S. Sinful acts sometimes cause disease. Sexually transmitted diseases are a good example of that. Not all diseases are sin. We know that, by the blind man that

Jesus healed. His disciples asked Him who had sinned, him or his parents. Jesus told them neither of them, it was to glorify God.

7:16 The enemy was a strong nation, but God would be with the Israelites. He told them to get rid of the people He had delivered before them. They should have no pity on them, because they served false gods. If they spared them, they might get ensnared by their worship of false gods.

Have Confidence In God's Strength – Verses 17-24

17 You may say to yourselves, “These nations are stronger than we are. How can we drive them out?” **18** But do not be afraid of them; remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt. **19** You saw with your own eyes the great trials, the signs and wonders, the mighty hand and outstretched arm, with which the LORD your God brought you out. The LORD your God will do the same to all the peoples you now fear. **20** Moreover, the LORD your God will send the hornet among them until even the survivors who hide from you have perished. **21** Do not be terrified by them, for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a great and awesome God. **22** The LORD your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little. You will not be allowed to eliminate them all at once, or the wild animals will multiply around you. **23** But the LORD your God will deliver them over to you, throwing them into great confusion until they are destroyed. **24** He will give their kings into your hand, and you will wipe out their names from under heaven. No one will be able to stand up against you; you will destroy them.

7:21-24 Moses told the Israelites that God would destroy Israel’s enemies, but not all at once. God had the power to destroy those nations instantly, but he chose to do it in stages, “little by little.” In the same way and with the same power, God could miraculously and instantaneously change your life. Usually, however, he chooses to help you gradually, teaching you one lesson at a time. Rather than expecting instant spiritual maturity and solutions to all your problems, slow down and work one step at a time, trusting God to make up the difference between where you should be and where you are now. You’ll soon look back and see that a miraculous transformation has occurred.

Do Not Share In Their Abominations – Verses 25-26

25 The images of their gods you are to burn in the fire. Do not covet the silver and gold on them, and do not take it for yourselves, or you will be ensnared by it, for it is detestable to the LORD your God. **26** Do not bring a detestable thing into your house or you, like it, will be set apart for destruction. Regard it as vile and utterly detest it, for it is set apart for destruction.

7:25-26 Moses warned Israel against becoming ensnared by the idols of the defeated nations by coveting the silver or gold on them. We may think it’s all right to be close to sin as long as we don’t participate. “After all,” we say, “I won’t do anything wrong!” But being close can hurt us as we become attracted and finally give in. Avoid the snare of sin by first reigning in your desires. Then stay as far away from sin as you can.