

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown
Bible Study Notes
11-23-22

Deuteronomy 32

The Song Of Moses – Verses 1-4

¹ Listen, you heavens, and I will speak; hear, you earth, the words of my mouth. ² Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. ³ I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! ⁴ He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

32:1-52 Moses was not only a great prophet but also a song leader. After three sermons, he changed the form of his message to singing. Sometimes reciting something in a different form makes it easier to remember. This song gives a brief history of Israel. It reminds the people of their mistakes, warns them to avoid repetition of those mistakes, and offers the hope that comes only in trusting God.

The Accusation: The Child Has Forsaken Its Father – Verses 5-6

⁵ They are corrupt and not his children; to their shame they are a warped and crooked generation. ⁶ Is this the way you repay the LORD, you foolish and unwise people? Is he not your Father, your Creator, who made you and formed you?

32:5-6 They have corrupted themselves: Moses spoke as a witness against a rebellious Israel. Is He not your Father, who bought you? Has He not made you and established you: Their sin is even more foolish and unwise in light of what God has done for them. It is foolish and unwise to rebel against the God who has done so much for them.

Moses Recounts God's Past Faithfulness To Israel – Verses 7-14

⁷ Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you. ⁸ When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when he divided all mankind, he set up boundaries for the peoples according to the number of the sons of Israel. ⁹ For the LORD's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted inheritance. ¹⁰ In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye, ¹¹ like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them aloft. ¹² The LORD alone led him; no foreign god was with him. ¹³ He made him ride on the heights of the land and fed him with the fruit of the fields. He nourished him with honey from the rock, and with oil from the flinty crag, ¹⁴ with curds and milk from herd and flock and with fattened lambs and goats, with choice rams of Bashan and the finest kernels of wheat. You drank the foaming blood of the grape.

32:7-14 The Israelites had no excuse for abandoning God. He had shielded them like a kindly shepherd. He had guarded them like a person protects the pupil of his eye. He had been the encircling protector, like a mother eagle who protects her young. The Lord alone had led them. And he alone leads us. Let us remember to trust in him.

Israel Responded To God's Kindness With Apostasy – Verses 15-18

¹⁵ Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; filled with food, they became heavy and sleek. They abandoned the God who made them and rejected the Rock their Savior. ¹⁶ They made him

jealous with their foreign gods and angered him with their detestable idols. ¹⁷ They sacrificed to false gods, which are not God—gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your ancestors did not fear. ¹⁸ You deserted the Rock, who fathered you; you forgot the God who gave you birth.

32:15-18 Jeshurun: This is a title for Israel, which literally means the upright one (Isaiah 44:2). They sacrificed to demons: In forsaking God, Israel turned to the pagan idols of the nations around them and actually worshipped demons. There was a dark spiritual reality behind the idols of the nations, and Israel embraced that dark spiritual reality.

God's Reaction: Withdrawal From And Punishment Of Israel – Verses 19-27

¹⁹ The LORD saw this and rejected them because he was angered by his sons and daughters. ²⁰ “I will hide my face from them,” he said, “and see what their end will be; for they are a perverse generation, children who are unfaithful. ²¹ They made me jealous by what is no god and angered me with their worthless idols. I will make them envious by those who are not a people; I will make them angry by a nation that has no understanding. ²² For a fire will be kindled by my wrath, one that burns down to the realm of the dead below. It will devour the earth and its harvests and set afire the foundations of the mountains. ²³ “I will heap calamities on them and spend my arrows against them. ²⁴ I will send wasting famine against them, consuming pestilence and deadly plague; I will send against them the fangs of wild beasts, the venom of vipers that glide in the dust. ²⁵ In the street the sword will make them childless; in their homes terror will reign. The young men and young women will perish, the infants and those with gray hair. ²⁶ I said I would scatter them and erase their name from human memory, ²⁷ but I dreaded the taunt of the enemy, lest the adversary misunderstand and say, ‘Our hand has triumphed; the LORD has not done all this.’”

32:19-20 I will hide My face from them: When God's people forsake Him, He withdraws the intimacy of His presence. At first, this is sometimes seen as a relief, because the conviction of sin is not so great. But then the darkness and desperation set in.

32:23-27 I will heap disasters upon them: When the hiding of His face does not draw God's people into repentance, God then sends His hand of correction, and allows calamity to bring the attention of His people back upon Him.

The LORD States His Case And Makes A Plea Unto Israel – Verses 28-43

²⁸ They are a nation without sense, there is no discernment in them. ²⁹ If only they were wise and would understand this and discern what their end will be! ³⁰ How could one man chase a thousand, or two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, unless the LORD had given them up? ³¹ For their rock is not like our Rock, as even our enemies concede. ³² Their vine comes from the vine of Sodom and from the fields of Gomorrah. Their grapes are filled with poison, and their clusters with bitterness. ³³ Their wine is the venom of serpents, the deadly poison of cobras ³⁴ “Have I not kept this in reserve and sealed it in my vaults? ³⁵ It is mine to avenge; I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them.” ³⁶ The LORD will vindicate his people and relent concerning his servants when he sees their strength is gone and no one is left, slave or free. ³⁷ He will say: “Now where are their gods, the rock they took refuge in, ³⁸ the gods who ate the fat of their sacrifices and drank the wine of their drink offerings? Let them rise up to help you! Let them give you shelter! ³⁹ “See now that I myself am he! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand. ⁴⁰ I lift my hand to heaven and solemnly swear: As surely as I live forever, ⁴¹ when I sharpen my flashing sword and my hand grasps it in judgment, I will take

vengeance on my adversaries and repay those who hate me. ⁴² I will make my arrows drunk with blood, while my sword devours flesh: the blood of the slain and the captives, the heads of the enemy leaders.” ⁴³ Rejoice, you nations, with his people, for he will avenge the blood of his servants; he will take vengeance on his enemies and make atonement for his land and people.

32:28-29 That they would consider their latter end: This can be a remarkably effective preventative to backsliding. When we are in a backslidden state, we should consider where it will lead us.

32:36 And have compassion on His servants: When we are in a backslidden state, we should also see the compassion of God we could receive.

32:39 There is no God besides Me: When we are in a backslidden state, we should see the greatness of God. The backslidden man needs to know more of God’s character and His nature.

Moses Encourages Israel -Verses 44-47

⁴⁴ Moses came with Joshua^[a] son of Nun and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people. ⁴⁵ When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel, ⁴⁶ he said to them, “Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. ⁴⁷ They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

32:46-47 Moses urged the people to think about God’s Word and teach it to their children. The Bible can sit on your bookshelf and gather dust, or you can make it a vital part of your life by regularly setting aside time to study it. When you discover the wisdom of God’s message, you will want to apply it to your life and pass it on to your family and others. The Bible is not merely good reading—it’s real help for real life.

Moses to Die on Mount Nebo – Verses 48-52

⁴⁸ On that same day the LORD told Moses, ⁴⁹ “Go up into the Abarim Range to Mount Nebo in Moab, across from Jericho, and view Canaan, the land I am giving the Israelites as their own possession. ⁵⁰ There on the mountain that you have climbed you will die and be gathered to your people, just as your brother Aaron died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people. ⁵¹ This is because both of you broke faith with me in the presence of the Israelites at the waters of Meribah Kadesh in the Desert of Zin and because you did not uphold my holiness among the Israelites. ⁵² Therefore, you will see the land only from a distance; you will not enter the land I am giving to the people of Israel.”

32:48-49 Go up this mountain... and die on the mountain: Moses, as the last act of his 120 years, will climb Mount Nebo, and die at the summit of the mountain.

32:52 You shall see the land before you, though you shall not go there: Though Moses will not be allowed to cross the Jordan and enter the Promised Land, he can view the land of Canaan.