



**Deuteronomy 28:45-68
Back To Egypt**

45 "Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.

46 "And they shall be upon you for a sign and a wonder, and on your descendants forever.

47 " Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything,

48 "therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.

49 "The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand,

50 "a nation of fierce countenance, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young.

51 "And they shall eat the increase of your livestock and the produce of your land, until you are destroyed; they shall not leave you grain or new wine or oil, or the increase of your cattle or the offspring of your flocks, until they have destroyed you.

52 "They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the LORD your God has given you.

53 "You shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you.

54 "The sensitive and very refined man among you will be hostile toward his brother, toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the rest of his children whom he leaves behind,

55 "so that he will not give any of them the flesh of his children whom he will eat, because he has nothing left in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates.

56 "The tender and delicate woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because of her delicateness and sensitivity, will refuse to the husband of her bosom, and to her son and her daughter,

57 "her placenta which comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears; for she will eat them secretly for lack of everything in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates.

58 " If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD,

59 "then the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues -- great and prolonged plagues -- and serious and prolonged sicknesses.

60 "Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you.

61 "Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in this Book of the Law, will the LORD bring upon you until you are destroyed.

62 "You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.

63 "And it shall be, that just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.

64 " Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known -- wood and stone.

65 "And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.

66 "Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life.

67 "In the morning you shall say, 'Oh, that it were evening!' And at evening you shall say, 'Oh, that it were morning!' because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see.

68 "And the LORD will take you back to Egypt in ships, by the way of which I said to you, 'You shall never see it again.' And there you shall be offered for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you."

I watched again as pictures appeared in the UK papers of the horrific binge drinking.

Unemployment in the UK has skyrocketed in 2009, every single negative index you could think of has been going through the roof. Unwed pregnancies, abortion rates, binge drinking rates. Britain leads in all of them. And she is gradually being taken over from within.

There are more practicing Muslims in Britain today than practicing Anglicans. "Muhammad" is now the most popular boys name in Britain.

When I heard that Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the man who tried to blow up the plane on Christmas, lived in London, I was not at all surprised. Reports indicate that British universities have become centers of jihad recruitment and England is rapidly becoming the world's largest Jihadi training and sending center

What a terrible contrast with the way things once were! For instance Wales which has some of the worst statistics – the pictures of revelers from Cardiff are nothing less than awful - was the subject of a great revival in 1859 and then again in 1904-1905 It is believed that at least 100,000 people made Christian commitments during the movement during the revival, but despite this it did not put a stop to the gradual decline of Christianity in Wales, only holding it back slightly.

[It has been argued by some conservative Christian historians that the 1904–1905 revival lacked the depth of previous revivals in terms of nurturing the newly converted Christians in biblical teaching.]

But instead of turning back to God and His Word, Britons are convinced that we'll stop these problems with new vaccines, new laws, more contraception, more police, more diversity training. As if all these things could stop the societal rot!

Men trust in vain in material things that cannot protect them, as we discussed last week they are determined that spiritual problems can be dealt with materially. There's no societal problem that laws, armies, money, alliances, medicine, etc. can't fix, they think.

But they aren't the first people to think that, that is precisely what Moses was warning the people. He warns them that it is the Lord who has brought them into the promised land, not they themselves, and he can carry them out again if they break the covenant, and reject Him. Just as He planted them, he can as he puts in verse 63 – Plucked them off the land again.

This idea that Israel was like a vine or a fruit tree that God had transplanted is seen again and again in the Bible, as are the warnings that if they failed to produce the "good fruit" of faith and obedience that God was looking for they would be uprooted again:

***Psalm 80:8 You have brought a vine out of Egypt; You have cast out the nations, and planted it.
9 You prepared room for it, And caused it to take deep root, And it filled the land.***

Luke 13:6 He also spoke this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none.

7 "Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?'

8 "But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it.

9 'And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.' "

They had been miraculously brought together, made into a nation, been delivered from the Egyptians and brought into the land, but God could just as easily bring them back. Their deliverance had been a byword to the nations, now their return would also become a byword.

Some no doubt would say, well perhaps formal religious duties will help us. We'll have a religion of forms, rather like Perfunctory and Joyless religion like that of the C of E in the early 20th century. Smell, Bells, Forms, Vespers, Days, Collects, and DUST. But the Lord warns that he doesn't just want empty sacrifices and obedience, again and again he has said again and again in Deuteronomy that they must serve him from the HEART:

Deut. 10:12 " And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

13 "and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?

And he warns them that not serving him from the heart with love and joy and genuine obedience would also be a cause of their being sent into exile again: ***47 " Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything,***

We need to learn that as well, empty moralism, and religious duties devoid of love to God are useless:

"That Christianity is worthless which makes us make up for the neglect of heart religion and practical holiness, by an extravagant zeal for man-made ceremonies or outward forms." - JC Ryle

And to be ungrateful to God is a terrible thing, and usually seen unfortunately in the very places that have been most blessed: "it is the fault of a corrupt and malignant nature, that it should not be possible to bring it to serve God joyfully, when He invites us by His liberality" - Calvin

God warns that he will bring foreign countries far away from them now to invade them (Assyria, Babylon) and that they should not be lulled into a false sense of security because of their distance: He says that they should be like eagles in swiftness, so as suddenly to overwhelm them, just as God often compares the ministers of His wrath to the whirlwind and the storm

He adds, that in vain they trust in their high and fortified walls, They need only think back to what had happened to Jericho, to realize how useless walls were before Yahweh's curse. They would be besieged and the walls they trusted in would become their prisons behind which they would gradually starve until they resorted to horrific cannibalism. It's interesting how he says their "sensitive and very refined men" and "The tender and delicate women" their dignitaries their most highborn and genteel citizens shall become like snarling dogs and descend to the lowest kind of savagery. The veneer of civilization shall be stripped from them. Unfortunately, the word tells us that in the siege of Samaria and the sieges of Jerusalem, these terrible things actually came to pass.

They will go from being as numerous as the stars of heaven to being a few in number. And again, in the modern era one only has to think of how our own birth rates have dropped to 1.8 – less than replacement. IT's much worse in many other European nations. Some are down near 1.1. In fact, if it weren't for foreign immigration, primarily by Muslims, the population would be dropping.

You would think that with promises like this they wouldn't even dream of breaking the covenant and going after foreign Gods, especially when they had seen what God had done to the Egyptians and the Canaanites. They had seen would blessings look like, and what curses look like too. But we need only look at our own land to see how that isn't true. In the early 20th century the idea that schools would have to have law enforcement officers posted on duty and regularly search their students for weapons etc, or have to deal with a rash of teen-age pregnancies was unheard of, and yet as a society even as these curses accelerate we never stop to consider *what did they know (or more correctly WHO did they know) that we don't?*

In fact we have become some obstinate and perverse, that while statistically homeschooled kids do better in every regard, instead of promoting homeschooling, nations like America, Canada, Britain, and Germany wage a relentless war on homeschooling, gradually legislating it out of existence.

All the things that *men trust in* that their enemies will give up before they are done, etc. They won't happen. God's plans will be carried out.

The Exodus will be reversed

The peace and the rest that God promised will go away.

We see so little real peace, real calm, How often men rob themselves of peace.

But if we would see the peace and the calm that come from knowing God we have GOT to stop trusting in the methods and the weapons of this world.

APPLICATION 1 – That won't happen to us! (1.) The accomplishment of these predictions upon the Jewish nation shows that Moses spoke by the Spirit of God, who certainly foresees the ruin of sinners, and gives them warning of it, that they may prevent it by a true and timely repentance, or else be left inexcusable.

It happened to them

(2.) Let us all hence learn to stand in awe and not to sin. I have heard of a wicked man, who, upon reading the threatenings of this chapter, was so enraged that he tore the leaf out of the Bible, as Jehoiakim cut Jeremiah's roll; but to what purpose is it to deface a copy, while the original remains upon record in the divine counsels, by which it is unalterably determined that *the wages of sin is death*, whether men will hear or whether they will forbear?

We, as members of the church, have been delivered from the surrounding nations:

Eph. 2:17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*,

21 in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Let us LEARN from these things and not forsake the blessings we have obtained from Christ!