

Message #38**Deuteronomy 30:1-20**

Dr. Warren Wiersbe made an interesting observation back in 1999. He said, “No nation in history has suffered as much as the nation of Israel, and yet no nation has given so much spiritual wealth to the world” (*Be Equipped*, p. 205).

Think about this. Israel has given us the covenants of God; Israel has given us the Law of God; Israel has given us the worship of God; Israel has given us the promises of God; Israel has given us the written word of God and Israel has given us Jesus Christ. He was born Jewish. Everything that has to do with spirituality and a relationship with God has come from Israel. Israel has given us all of these blessings. Israel is a very special nation of God.

Yet, she is a nation that has been persecuted the most. Why? The reason she is not in a right relationship with God is because she will not obey God. Time and time again God admonished her to love Him and worship Him and obey His word, and time and time again Israel refused.

God is not going to let this story of Israel end like that. He is going to eventually bring this story to a happy conclusion. He will bring Israel to a happy finale and that finale is described in Deuteronomy 30.

We come to one of the great chapters in the book of Deuteronomy.

GOD PROMISES ISRAEL THAT IN SPITE OF HER SINS AND FAILURES, HE WILL RESTORE HER TO THE PROMISED LAND AND GIVE HER A NEW HEART AND GIVE HER ALL THE BLESSINGS OF GOD.

Now there are two general themes that dominate this chapter:

- 1) God will eventually bring Israel into her land and give her all the blessings of God.
- 2) In view of what God will do, she needs to make choices right now that are good life choices.

We who know the Lord may make a great application of this. First, we are heading to heaven to be with the Lord forever. Second, we need to pursue righteousness here and now and make good life choices in view of that.

REALITY #1 – The potential to return to the Lord and experience His blessings exists right now. **30:1-2**

The potential for any erring believer is to return to the Lord right now and experience His blessings. No matter how far one has wandered from God and His word, the invitation is return to the Lord again and receive His blessings. Moses reveals four prophetic facts to God’s people in **verses 1-2**:

Fact #1 - You will experience every one of the blessings and cursings. **30:1a**

God says when you get into the Promised Land, I know exactly how this is going to go.

Fact #2 - You will recall these things when you have been scattered all over the world. **30:1b**

As you are scattered all over the world, you will begin to think about these things and you will begin to meditate on the fact that we are scattered because we did not obey God's word. You will find yourself in a miserable rut and you will begin to think about where things went wrong in the relationship. This will happen nationally in the Tribulation.

Fact #3 - You will return to the LORD. **30:2a**

At some point, you will admit your failures and you will return to Me. Jesus predicted they would cry out to Him (Matt. 23:29).

Fact #4 - You will have a passion to know My word and obey it. **30:2b**

You will have a passion to know and obey My word with all your heart and soul, both you and your sons. Now the passion to know and obey God's word will be way beyond a legal O.T. law obedience. It will be a passion to obey with all your heart, soul and mind.

REALITY #2 – When you return to Me and take My word seriously, then God promises to do amazing things with you and for you in the future.

Now when these things happen, God makes the following promises to Israel:

Promise #1 - God will restore Israel to the land from captivity. **30:3a**

The possibility of full restoration exists even when people have been far away from God.

Promise #2 - God will have compassion on Israel. **30:3b**

When God sees His people coming to Him and turning to Him, it prompts God to be merciful and compassionate.

Promise #3 - God will regather Israel from all the nations that He scattered her. **30:3c-4**

This includes even remote areas. This regathering of Israel was clearly predicted by Jesus Christ and it will gather all Israel from all four corners of the world (Matt. 24:31; Mark 13:27). This event will occur at the second coming of Jesus Christ, which has not yet occurred.

Promise #4 - God will bring Israel into the Promised Land. **30:5a**

Notice God is identified as “the LORD your God.” God is Israel's God and God has given Israel a specific Promised Land, and He is promising to put her in that Land.

Promise #5 - God will cause Israel to possess the Promised Land. **30:5b**

Israel has not had the totality of her land ever. God will cause it to happen.

Promise #6 - God will cause Israel to prosper in the Promised Land. **30:5c**

Promise #7 - God will cause Israel to multiply in the Promised Land. **30:5d**

Promise #8 - God will circumcise the hearts of everyone in Israel. **30:6**

Everyone will love God with all their heart and soul. All will live. Now circumcision takes a surgeon. The great Sovereign Surgeon is God and He is the only One who can perform this heart surgery.

This obviously has not happened yet. Israel is a very secular nation and she is not a nation in which everyone has a heart that is right with God. Jeremiah the prophet spoke of the time when God would make a new covenant with Israel, and would write His word in their hearts and would forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more (Jer. 31:31-34).

Promise #9 - God will inflict punishment on all of Israel's enemies. **30:7**

Those who hated Israel and persecuted Israel will experience all of the curses of God. All of the curses of God will one day be leveled against the enemies of Israel.

Promise #10 - God will cause Israel to completely obey all of His word. **30:8**

Not only will Israel return to the Lord, she will have a desire to obey all the word of God.

Promise #11 - God will abundantly prosper everything for Israel. **30:9**

(Area #1) - He will prosper their work - God will bless every business.

(Area #2) - He will prosper their family - God will bless every family.

Promise #12 - God will rejoice over Israel for good. **30:9**

He will bless them and be joyful in blessing them. The prerequisites for all of these blessings occur in **verse 10**.

Now **verse 10** makes it clear that this kind of thing was in reach of God's people right now. All they needed to do to begin the process was to obey God and His written word. This is amazing grace. The possibility for full restoration and full forgiveness and full blessings exists even when we have been far away from God. If they would purpose to obey God's written commandments and statutes with all their heart and soul, God would shower them with His blessings.

Now some people would say what a dream come true that would be, if only it were possible or attainable. God says it is. He gives six very practical instructions concerning experiencing these blessings:

Practical Instruction #1 - The things in the word of God are not too difficult. **30:11a**

You can understand them and you can apply them. God does not make His truth so difficult that we cannot know it.

Practical Instruction #2 - The things in the word of God are not beyond reach. **30:11b**

God does not make His word impossible for us to grasp.

Practical Instruction #3 - No one has to ascend to heaven to get God's word. **30:12**

God does not make His word way above us up in heaven. You don't have to go to heaven to get God's word so you can observe it.

Practical Instruction #4 - No one has to cross an ocean to get God's word. **30:13**

You don't have to cross an ocean to get God's word to observe it.

Practical Instruction #5 - You have the word of God in writing, in speaking and in your heart.
30:14

Moses was standing before the people and preaching the word of God and it was in writing. They were to put copies before the two mountains on the stones for people to see.

This verse is used by the Apostle Paul in **Romans 10:6-8** to show that Jesus Christ is the only Person who has kept the law perfectly and therefore the key to a relationship with God is to believe in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the end of the law for righteousness that saves. The word of God is very near and it is the word of faith. However, if God's people want to have God's blessings, they must be serious about the Scriptures.

Practical Instruction #6 - You must choose as God's people to walk in the ways of prosperity or blessing or the way of adversity and cursing. **30:15-20**

This comes down to choices. God offers Israel and He offers individuals a choice in regard to Him.

1) God's people have a choice of the way of prosperity or adversity. **30:15**

2) God's people have a choice to Walk in the ways of God and they will have blessings. **30:16**

3) God's people have a choice to turn away from God and His word and they will perish.
30:17-18

4) Make your personal choice now today. **30:19-20**

If you make the right choice there will be personal blessings:

1) You will live. **30:19a**

2) You and your descendants will be blessed. **30:19b**

3) You will have length of life. **30:20a**

4) You will live in the land. **30:20b**