

Message #12**Deuteronomy 7:1-26**

When God saved me back in 1976, I was steeped in worldliness and sin. I didn't have any Christian friends in my world and rightly so. No Christian who had fellowship with God would be running in my world. But in 1976, that changed. One of the first things that happened, even before I started attending church, was the Holy Spirit convicted me of not running with the same crowd and doing the same things. One of the individuals with whom I used to run stopped by my house one night back in those days and asked me what has happened to you. I told him that I had invited Jesus Christ into my life and I was different. As he was leaving, he said to me, "I wish something like that would happen to me." I responded "It can." As far as I know, for him it didn't and still hasn't.

No one was harping at me to get away from my former cronies, but God's Spirit was nudging me to do that. They weren't going the same direction I was going and therefore, we parted ways.

When we come to Deuteronomy 7, God wanted the nation Israel to realize that if you want My blessings in life, you will need to separate yourself from certain things and certain people. In fact, the thesis is just that:

IF GOD'S PEOPLE OBEY HIM, HE WILL GIVE THEM GREAT VICTORIES AND ABUNDANT BLESSINGS IN LIFE AND ONE OF THE FIRST MATTERS OF OBEDIENCE IS TO GET RID OF GODLESS THINGS AND PEOPLE.

In **verses 1-2**, God says I am going to bring you into the land and defeat all of your enemies. He specifically says I am going to confront and defeat seven nations. Now the number seven is a key number in Scriptures, specifically in the book of Revelation. It is a number that speaks of that which is total and complete.

Specifically I will defeat the Hittites (located throughout Promised Land), the Girgashites (deep southwest toward Egypt), the Amorites (SW coast along Mediterranean), the Canaanites (NW coast of Mediterranean), the Perizzites (Southern area of Promised Land), the Hivites (cities south of Tyre) and the Jebusites (Jerusalem area). These are seven nations greater and stronger than you and if you obey Me, I will defeat them. Now these nations are specifically mentioned to Abraham as being nations God would give them (Gen. 10:16-17; 15:20-21).

All of these nations were trespassing on land God gave to Israel and therefore, He Himself would drive them out of the land.

According to the book of Numbers, Israel had over 600,000 adult fighting men so the numbers of the enemies must have been astronomical if they were bigger and stronger. So what God wanted His people to know is that **winning warfare demands obedience to God's Word**.

Now there are three parts to this chapter:

PART #1 – God’s people have specific responsibilities to obey when God gives them victory.
7:2-5

God says when I bring you into the land and give you this land, you will have six follow up responsibilities:

Responsibility #1 - You are to utterly and completely destroy them. **7:2a**

By the time God brings this to pass, the heathen people have had plenty of opportunity to respond to God’s grace and God’s word. This does not happen overnight. Some of these people were in existence during the time of Abraham.

As Eugene Merrill said, in his commentary, the first responsibility of the people of God “was the systematic and total annihilation of indigenous populations” (*Deuteronomy*, p. 177). These people are not just confused, they are godless idolaters and they need to be destroyed. Their opportunity for grace was gone.

Responsibility #2 - You are not to make any covenant deal with them. **7:2b**

God never wanted His people to make treaty deals with godless people.

Responsibility #3 - You are not to show any favor to them. **7:2c**

God did not want His people to show mercy to them. These people were an abomination to God.

Responsibility #4 - You are not to intermarry with them. **7:3a**

One might ask how could one intermarry with people who are to be completely destroyed? The answer is in **verse 22**, God would not destroy them all at once, but little by little.

Responsibility #5 - You are not to allow your sons or daughters to marry them. **7:3b-4**

Canaanite men were not to be given to Israelite daughters and Canaanite women were not to be given to Israelite sons.

The reason you are not to allow your sons or daughters to intermarry with them is that they will turn your children away from worshipping Me and they will serve other gods and God’s anger will be kindled and He will destroy you.

We have seen this principle time and time again over the years. Some young woman or young man marries an unbeliever and the next thing you know the commitment to God is gone. The unbeliever pulls one away from the Lord and away from a church where they are carefully taught the Scriptures. Nothing has changed.

Responsibility #6 - You are to destroy all idolatrous things that are in the land. **7:5**

There are some things God wants totally and completely destroyed and false religious idols and false religions are number one on the list.

PART #2 – God’s people are given reasons why they have responsibilities to obey when God gives victory. **7:6-11**

Now why did God want such drastic action taken by His people? There are six reasons:

Reason #1 - Because you are holy before God. **7:6a**

The point of this is that Israel is holy and is set apart before God. Israel is a nation God has set apart as His nation and therefore they ought to pursue the kind of obedience that reflects this.

What God is addressing here is not personal holiness, but positional holiness. It is the positional holiness that should lead to the practical obedient holiness.

God says you are a holy people. In other words, I have set you apart as My family. Because of that My family should display the fact that they have been set apart by Me. Whether or not you pursue that which is holy does not negate that in God’s mind His family is set apart as holy.

Certainly God wants His people to display the kind of obedience that says I am the holy property of God. Being holy before God means there will be an elimination of evil, idolatrous things. Now both Paul (Titus 2:14) and Peter (I Peter 2:9) apply this very principle to the New Testament age of Grace.

When you believe on Jesus Christ, you have an imputed righteousness that guarantees you everlasting life. Now that should motivate us to pursue righteousness. But even if you don’t, you are still a saint in the mind of God. That was clearly seen by the Corinthians. They were saints positionally but were carnal practically.

We are holy people set apart by God and for God and that should prompt obedience.

Reason #2 - Because you are chosen by God. **7:6b**

This fact should cause every believer to want to obey God. From all of the people on the earth, God chose them to be in His own family. Again both Paul (Rom. 8:29-30) and Peter (I Peter 2:9) and John (II John 1) and Jude (Jude 1) all state that we too as individuals have been chosen by God. We too have a responsibility to be holy and obey God because we too have been elected.

Reason #3 - Because you are loved by God. **7:7a**

God's people are God's treasured possession on this earth. God loves (ahab) His people. God has set His love upon His people.

(Fact #1) - God did not love you or choose you because you were big in numbers. **7:7b**

Israel was not loved because she was this awesome majestic nation. Size or success has nothing to do with God's love and election.

(Fact #2) - God did love you and choose you because of the covenant promise He made. **7:8a**

Why didn't God choose another nation? Why Israel? Why didn't He choose the United States of America to be His nation? Why didn't He choose China or Russia or United Kingdom or Africa?

The reason why God loved Israel and chose Israel is because He entered into a covenant with Abraham clear back in the book of Genesis (12:1-3; 15:18-21).

God is a faithful, true God to His word. He made a promise to Abraham and He fulfilled that promise because He is the one who made it.

Reason #4 - Because you have been redeemed by God. **7:8b**

God has saved you by His mighty hand. He took a nation that was enslaved to the Egyptians and He brought them out of bondage and saved them.

Reason #5 - Because God will continue to be merciful to those who obey Him. **7:9**

That word loving kindness (hesed) is a wonderful word that means God will be merciful to His people and pity them and help them when they are in trouble and difficulties. Now He promises to do this to the "thousandth generation." God's blessings will be passed down to any generation in time who fears Him and obeys Him.

Reason #6 - Because God will quickly destroy those who do not obey Him. **7:10**

Those who are in a covenant relationship with God and turn to despising God and His word will face an immediate, individual, personal judgment from God. God says I will specifically judge this person to their own face. This judgment will not be a delayed judgment. It will be a swift, personal judgment.

For these six reasons, God says in **verse 11** to His own people, obey My written word. Obey My commandments, My statutes and judgments. Govern your life by My book.

PART #3 – God’s people will be given specific blessings by God as they continue to obey Him.
7:12-26

There are nine specific blessings promised to Israel:

Blessing #1 - God will continue to love you. **7:13a**

God will love His people more and more as they obey Him.

Blessing #2 - God will continue to bless you. **7:13c**

These blessings have to do with physical and tangible blessings.

Blessing #3 - God will continue to multiply you. **7:13b**

Blessing #4 - God will bless your families. **7:13c**

Blessing #5 - God will bless your businesses. **7:13d**

He will increase fruit production, grain production, new wine production, oil production, livestock production.

I cannot gloss over this verse because one commentator says that the “new wine” just refers to grape juice and not a fermented wine that can get you drunk. This is the reason people don’t know what to believe. But the very word used here “new wine” (tirosh) is the same word used in Hosea 4:11 that says, “Harlotry, wine and **new wine** take away the understanding.”

What we are after if we want the blessings of God is an accurate understanding of God’s written word and not someone’s personal convictions. We are not promoting that you drink wine; we are promoting an accurate handling of God’s word.

Blessing #6 - God will bless you more than all other people. **7:14**

God does have favorites. He favors people who love Him and obey Him above those who do not.

Blessing #7 - God will remove from you all sicknesses (chalah). **7:15a**

This word has to do with a very painful sickness that takes away your strength (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 279). These sicknesses are in the context of chastising and judgment sicknesses.

Blessing #8 - God will not send judgment diseases (madveh). **7:15b**

God does send horrible diseases and sicknesses as a judgment. The Hebrew word “disease” refers to various diseases that attack the body. The Hebrew root word means to have a languishing sickness that attacks body and mind (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 192, 450).

God does have an arsenal of diseases that He can send to attack various parts of the body. God says if you will purpose to obey Me, you never need worry about some judgment like this against you.

Blessing #9 - God will cause you to have great victory over everyone. **7:16-26**

There are eleven specific admonitions, God gives to His people:

(Admonition #1) - Do not pity people God destroys nor serve their gods. **7:16**

God does not want His people being merciful to godless idolaters and He does not want His people serving them or their gods.

(Admonition #2) - Do not be afraid of any enemy. **7:17-18a**

God does not want His people afraid of enemies. When faced with enemies, people can become afraid in their hearts and minds. God says if you are faithful to Me, you have nothing to fear.

(Admonition #3) - Remember what I did to Pharaoh. **7:18b**

God said don't forget about the book of Exodus and what I did to Pharaoh. Remembering what God does is a key to winning warfare.

(Admonition #4) - Remember what you actually saw. **7:19**

This very generation saw God deliver them from Sihon the Amorite and Og the king of Bashan. They had actually seen God drop giants in the land and give them the land.

(Admonition #5) - Know that the LORD your God will destroy your enemies. **7:20**

God says I will send the hornet to rout out the enemies to the point that they are hiding. Now we think this may be interpreted both literally and metaphorically. God can literally send insects to attack people and make life miserable for them. He can also send hornet type agents to destroy enemies.

(Admonition #6) - Know that the LORD your God is a great and awesome God in your midst.
7:21

This refutes deism that says God created the world and then just stays far removed from people. He wants His people to know that He is their Personal God. God says My people need to remember that I am a great, powerful and awesome God and I look out for My faithful people. God wants His people knowing He is for them and with them.

(Admonition #7) - Know God will clear away enemies little by little. **7:22**

God does things little by little, day by day. He does not just immediately annihilate every enemy. If God were to annihilate every enemy in the world instantly, then the wild beasts would take over the world and His people could not have a safe, happy, peaceful life. God will sanctify us little by little. The moment you believe in Jesus Christ, you receive all of the Spirit of God you will ever receive. As you go through life you will not receive any more of the Spirit, but the Spirit will get more and more of you.

(Admonition #8) - Know that God will deliver you and confuse enemies. **7:23**

God is a warrior for His people. One of the things God does is to cause God mocking enemies to be in such confusion so that they are destroyed and make decisions that will destroy them.

(Admonition #9) - Know that God will deliver His people from godless leaders. **7:24**

God says I will deliver the key leaders of the world into the hands of My people and their memories will be completely forgotten.

(Admonition #10) - Know that you are to destroy their false gods. **7:25**

God does not want His people ever prospering by accumulating evil things that are an abomination to God.

(Admonition #11) - Know that you are never to bring their gods into your house. **7:26**

Do not bring any abomination into your house. God does not want detestable things brought into the houses of His people. God views a house as contaminated for one who does that.

God says you follow this and you will always have victories and blessings.