

The Book of Deuteronomy

Lessons from the Third Address of Moses

Text: Deuteronomy 27 – 30

Introduction:

1. The first address of Moses (1:1 – 4:43) dealt with Israel's past – *Recollection of History*.
2. The second address (4:44 – 26:19) dealt with their present – *Remembrance of the Law*.
3. The third address (27 – 30) deals with their future in the land – *Renewal of the Covenant*.

I. Monument of the Law

(27:1-8)

- A. This passage has been referred to as the “continuity of the covenant.”
- B. Moses associated himself with the elders of Israel to command the keeping and remembering of the Law. {*The elders would be responsible for carrying out these instructions and guiding the people after Moses' death.*}
- C. When they came into the land of Canaan, they were to make a memorial of the Law.
 1. Large stones were to be covered with plaster (likely a whitewash made from lime).
 2. On these stones were to be written the words of the law given by Moses.
 3. They were to be written very plainly – clearly or distinctly – for God wants man to understand His will.
- D. They were to do this in Mount Ebal and also erect an altar where sacrifices could be made (cf. Joshua 8:30-32).
- E. Mt. Ebal was the Mount of Cursing and a fitting place for the establishing of this monument.
- F. This would serve as a symbolic renewing of the covenant between God and Israel; yet, it was a covenant that emphasized condemnation and death (cf. 2 Cor. 3:7-9; Gal. 3:10).

II. Motive of the Law

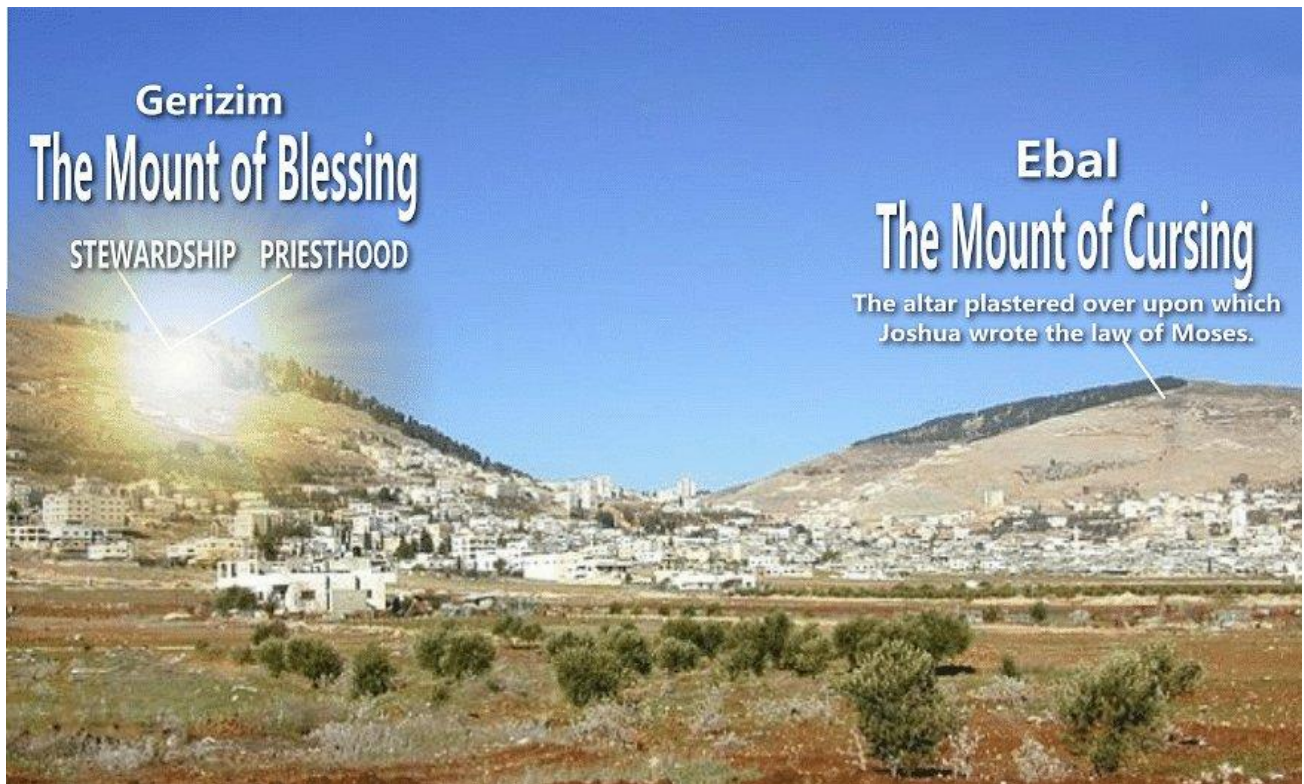
(27:9-10)

- A. By renewing their covenant with the Lord as they came into the land of Canaan, they truly became the people of Jehovah.
- B. They had agreed to this previously (cf. 26:16-19; Exodus 24:7).
- C. Thus, because they were the people of God, they were to obey His commandments.



Looking west into the pass at Shechem
Mount Gerizim (left) and Mount Ebal (right)

The Book of Deuteronomy



The Book of Deuteronomy

- III. Mountains of the Law (27:11 – 28:68)
- A. Blessings were to be pronounced from Mount Gerizim, where 6 tribes would be assembled – Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin.
 - B. Cursings were to be announced from Mount Ebal, where the other 6 tribes would be assembled – Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.
 - C. Twelve curses are recorded at the end of chapter 27:
 - 1. The first 11 have to do with secret or hidden sins.
 - 2. The last is general, covering disobedience to any of God's laws (cf. Gal. 3:10-12; Rom. 3:19-20; 10:5).
 - 3. To each of these, the people were to give their approval and consent.
 - D. 28:1-14 – These are the blessings that would come upon them if they obeyed God.
 - 1. Obedience was necessary to receive the blessings (vs. 1).
 - 2. The goal was for them to be a light to the Gentiles and to glorify God (vs. 9-10).
 - E. 28:15-44 – These are the curses that would come upon them if they disobeyed God.
 - F. 28:45-68 – The assurance of captivity and destruction if they disobeyed God.



The Book of Deuteronomy

- IV. Renewal of the Covenant (29 – 30)
- A. 29:1-8 – The Faithfulness of God
1. Moses reminded them of all that God had done for them from Egypt onwards.
 2. Yet, in spite of that, they still failed to recognize what God was trying to teach them.
 3. God had provided for their necessities (not their wants) in order to show them that He was their God.
 4. Furthermore, He proved His ability to deliver the land of Canaan to them by the victories they had on the east side of the Jordan River.
- B. 29:9 – The Charge to Israel
- C. 29:10-20 – The Covenant to All Israel
1. The entire nation was gathered for the renewing of the covenant.
 2. However, it did not apply to them alone, but also to the generations of Israelites that would follow.
- D. 29:21-29 – The Curses for Disobedience
1. This description is not as elaborate as what was given in chapter 28.
 2. Yet, it emphasizes the promise of removal from the land into captivity.
- E. 30:1-10 – The Repentance and Return of Israel
1. Notice the order: Remember, Repent, Return
 2. Their return would result in God's blessings; yet, it required their obedience.
- F. 30:11-14 – The Attainability of God's Word
1. God has revealed His will so that man may know, comprehend, and obey it.
 2. God wants man to know Him and His Word (cf. Psa. 147:19-20; Isa. 45:19; Rom. 16:25-26; 1 Cor. 2:9-10; Col. 1:26-27).
 3. Note the quotation of this passage in Romans 10.
- G. 30:15-20 – The Choice of Man
1. The choice offered by God is simple: life or death.
 2. To choose life, one must hear and obey the commands of God.
 3. By not hearing and obeying God's Word, one chooses death.