

KI TAVO - DEUTERONOMY

- When you go in -

Dan Stolebarger - Holy Ground Explorations
Chapters 26 - 29:8

INTRODUCTION



Last week's Torah portion (Ki Teitzei) listed no less than 74 of the Torah's 613 commandments, covering a wide assortment of rules related to social life in Israel. **In this week's portion, Moses concludes the legal section of his discourse by first ordaining that the first fruits of the crops (called "bikkurim") were to be brought to the priests in a prescribed ritual.**

“And it shall be, when you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it, ² that you shall take some of the **first** of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and put *it* in a basket and go to the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide.

He was required to offer a “response” by making a formal declaration of his identity as a redeemed Jew who was brought to the land by the grace and kindness of the LORD. This involved a brief review of the essential history of the Jewish people leading up to the time of the offering of the firstfruits at the sanctuary. The recitation of history described in verses 25:5-11 later formed the basis of the Passover haggadah in Jewish history.

FIRST - not something from what's leftover

The whole idea of firstfruits is so convicting to me! I find it easy to give to others and the Lord my leftovers but first fruits? Thanks to my wife years ago we began to make out our tithe check first because (I know you all probably know this) but if you make your tithe out at the end there usually is not enough! Again, thanks to my wife's devotion and conviction ... God has been so faithful to us!

¹² “When you have finished laying aside **all the tithe** of your increase in the third year—the year of tithing—**and have given it to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow**, so that they may eat within your gates and be filled, ¹³ then you shall say before the Lord your God: ‘I have removed the holy *tithe* from *my* house, and also have given them to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, according to all Your commandments which You have commanded me; I have not transgressed Your commandments, **nor have I forgotten them**. ¹⁴ I have not eaten any of it when in mourning, nor have I removed *any* of it for an unclean *use*, nor given *any* of it for the dead. **I have obeyed the voice of the Lord my God, and have done according to all that You have commanded me**. ¹⁵ Look down from Your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless Your people Israel and the land which You have given us, just as You swore to our fathers, “a land flowing with milk and honey.” ’

Jewish Sages ... FORGETTING leads to exile and REMEMBERING leads to redemption

Hebrews 3: **NEGLECT vs REJECT - Note that vs 3 does NOT say, “how shall sinners escape if they REJECT but how shall we escape if we NEGLECT.”**
Spiritual deterioration begins when Believers start to neglect

¹⁶ "This day the Lord your God commands you to observe these statutes and judgments; therefore you shall be careful to observe them with all your heart and with all your soul. ¹⁷ Today you have proclaimed the Lord to be your God, **and that you will walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments, and His judgments, and that you will obey His voice.** ¹⁸ Also today the Lord has proclaimed you to be His **special people**, just as He promised you, that *you* should keep all His commandments, ¹⁹ and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, in praise, in name, and in honor, and that you may be a holy people to the Lord your God, just as He has spoken."

Judaism vs Christianity

J - Have I done enough

C - He's done it all

Fear of Death

Now Moses, with the elders of Israel, commanded the people, saying: “Keep all the commandments which I command you today. ² **And it shall be, on the day when you cross over the Jordan to the land which the Lord your God is giving you, that you shall set up for yourselves large stones, and whitewash them with lime.** ³ **You shall write on them all the words of this law,** when you have crossed over, that you may enter the land which the Lord your God is giving you, ‘a land flowing with milk and honey,’ just as the Lord God of your fathers promised you. ⁴ Therefore it shall be, when you have crossed over the Jordan, *that* on Mount Ebal you shall set up these stones, which I command you today, and you shall whitewash them with lime.

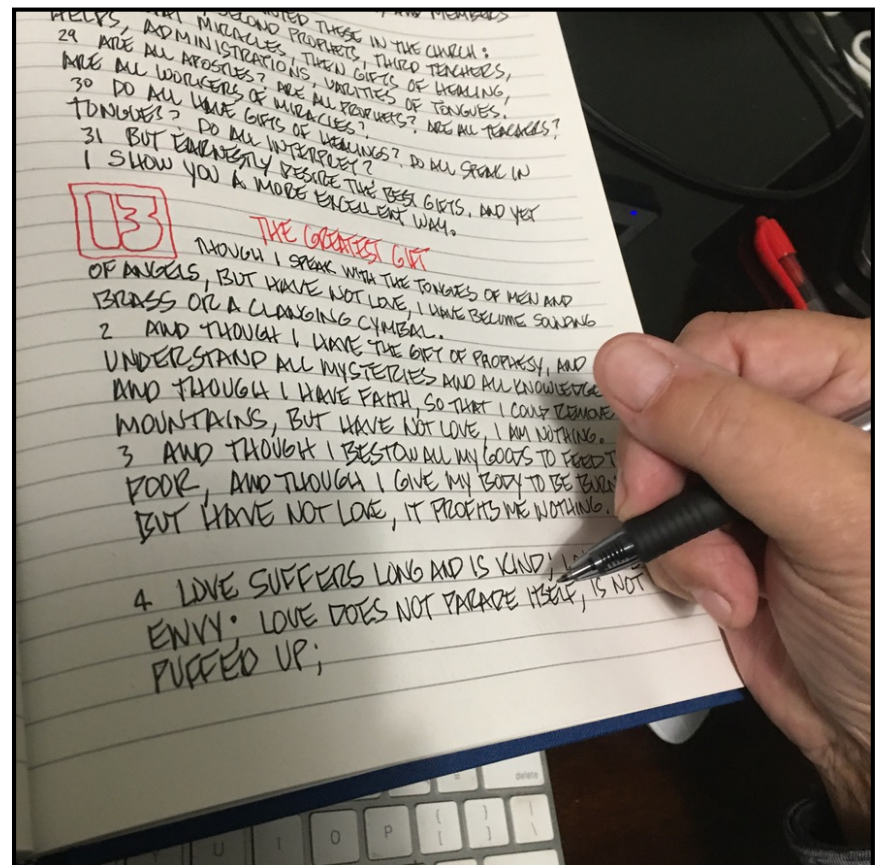
NOTEWORTHY

Mount Gerizim - Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin. Note that these were all descendants of Leah and Rachel

Mount Ebal - Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali. Note that apart from Reuben and Zebulun (of Leah), all these were descendants of the concubines Zilpah and Bilhah).

DAN - Let me encourage you to embark on a mission! Are you ready for the details? I promise that this will be a life-changing assignment!!! Go online and buy an empty journal and start writing out your own copy of the Word of God! That's what the above passage reminded me of! What's cool about this chapter is the setting: picture in your mind's eye two mountains side by side with a valley in the middle. One mountain is lush and green (Mount Gerizim), the valley is Shechem (Nabulus) is (where Joseph's bones are laid to rest) and the other mountain in rocky and barren (Mount Ebal). Now picture the whitewashed limestone with all the blessings and curses written out. No big surprise that the blessings line up with the green of Gerizim and the curses with the rocks of Ebal!

What a picture! (Someday I hope to visit this place and see this picture with my naked eyes! Wanna join me?)



⁹ Then Moses and the priests, the Levites, spoke to all Israel, saying, "Take heed and listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the Lord your God. ¹⁰ Therefore you shall obey the voice of the Lord your God, and observe His commandments and His statutes which I command you today."

Why did Moses and the priests declare, "Today you have become a nation" to the people in the plains of Moab? On this day Moses began preparing for his death and he gave the scroll of the Torah he had written to the Levites for safekeeping (see Deut. 31:9). The sages link the idea of becoming a nation with the study of the Torah, since the phrase *haseket u'shema Yisrael*, "keep silent and hear, O Israel" implied Torah knowledge with their identity as God's chosen nation.

¹⁴ "And the Levites shall speak with a loud voice and say to all the men of Israel:
¹⁵ 'Cursed *is* the one who makes a carved or molded image, an abomination to the Lord, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets *it* up in secret.'
"And all the people shall answer and say, '**Amen!**'

The word "amen" comes from the verb *aman*, meaning to confirm, establish, or uphold. The word for "faith" (i.e., *emunah*) comes from the same root, as does the word for "truth" (i.e., *emet*).

"Amen" is therefore an affirmation and confession of the truth: "Let it be so!" The Jewish sages say that "amen" serves as an declaration of the Kingship of God (often said quietly before the reciting the Shema).

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 [v](#)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."

First prophecy of regathering: stayed tuned for chapter 30

4

Deuteronomy 4:25-31

“When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the LORD your God to provoke Him to anger, I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed. **And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples,** and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. And there you will serve gods, the work of men’s hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. **But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice (for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.**

⁵ And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet. ⁶ You have not eaten bread, nor have you drunk wine or *similar* drink, that you may know that I *am* the Lord your God.

Wonder if the clothes grew with the children?