

The Resolve to Remember

General Topic: Liberating Passover

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Lesson Text: Deuteronomy 8:1-11

Background Scripture: Deuteronomy 8

Deuteronomy 8:1 All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord swore unto your fathers.

2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.

4 Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.

5 Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee.

6 Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.

7 For the Lord thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water; of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills.

8 A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey.

9 A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.

10 When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

11 Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:

Lesson Objective(s):

This lesson will reveal that God keeps his covenants and his provisioning power is always prevalent.

Teaching Tools:

Word puzzles may be developed from the following site: www.puzzlemaker.com. Also, www.dtlk.com has several visual aids that may be beneficial, as well as www.kidssundayschool.com which provide other helps for teaching.

Bible Journaling may be an interesting way to involve older teens in self-expression of the lessons they are

taught. Visit www.lifeway.com/Articles/how-to-start-bible-journaling-in-six-easy-steps to find ways to use this valuable tool to learn and reinforce Scripture.

The Lesson:

The word Deuteronomy literally means second law. It was not actually a second law, but instead it was a repetition of the law God had already given to Moses on Mount Sinai. Because of their disobedience and rebellion, by God's command, everyone 20 years old and older with the exception of Joshua and Caleb, would not survive the forty years of desert wandering and therefore would not enter the Promised Land. So, Moses repeated God's commandments to this new generation of Israelites.

Except for Moses, Caleb, and Joshua, the first generation of Israelites who left Egypt were gone. Many of the people had been small children when they left Egypt with their parents. Others had been born during the forty years of desert wanderings. It's true that every new generation needs to discover spiritual reality for itself. However, it is incumbent on each current generation to pass on its values to the upcoming generation so that its descendants can profit from them.

Our lesson this week finds a new generation of Israelites getting ready to enter the land that God had promised their ancestors so many years before. But before they could enter God's great blessing, Moses reminded them that obedience to God's commands was necessary in order to enjoy the blessings of the Promised Land.

Background

Deuteronomy is the second telling of God's Law to Moses and the Children of Israel. The people of Israel are about to enter the Promised Land after wandering in the wilderness for 40 years as a result of their

disobedience. A new generation of Israelites is present to hear the Law who do not remember being delivered from slavery in Egypt or being called to worship God. Many of the people present do not remember being disobedient to the Lord and committing idolatry when they received the Covenant. Yet they have had their own experiences with temptation and sin as well as witnessing God's deliverance and provision.

Moses is retelling the Law and reminding the Israelites of the Covenant to encourage them to keep God's commandments and prepare them to begin their new lives in the Promised Land with the Lord. If the Israelites humble themselves and follow God's Law, they will prosper in the land God is giving them.

God had led His people out of Egypt and across the great Sinai desert. After wandering for forty years on a journey that should have taken 11 days (Deuteronomy 1:1-6), the Israelites now stood ready to enter the promised land. But before they continued on into Canaan, while camped in Moab east of the Jordan River, Moses had some important words for them to prepare them for entering the Promise Land. He delivered his message in three parts.

In his first message, Moses reviewed for the people what God had done for them through His mighty acts (Deuteronomy 1:1-4:43). In his second message, Moses gave the people principles for godly living and the results of obeying and disobeying God (Deuteronomy 4:44-28:68). Moses' third message was a call for Israel to be committed to God (Deuteronomy 29:1-30:20). Our lesson takes place during Moses' second message to God's chosen people in chapter 8.

A Promise Met (Deuteronomy 8:1-2)

Moses is relaying the responsibilities of the Covenant the Lord made with the Children of Israel on Mount Horeb before they enter into the Promised Land. The

Lord told the Children of Israel that they were to keep His commandments, including the Ten Commandments and many others found in Exodus and repeated in Deuteronomy. If the Israelites keep the commandments, then they will multiply and prosper in the Promised Land as a result of God's glorious presence.

Moses also notes that God is keeping His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob by delivering the people into the Promised Land and allowing them to multiply and prosper there. But as a result of God's sovereign knowledge and the Israelites' disobedience when they received the covenant, the Lord tested them in the wilderness. They were shown the power and provision of God, as well as the result of their disobedience, for 40 years as they wandered.

A Memory of Provision (Deuteronomy 8:3–6)

Moses shares two examples of how the Lord miraculously provided for the Children of Israel during their time in the wilderness. The Lord supplied manna when they were hungry and preserved their clothes and shoes for decades. This was done not only to test their character, but to show the character of God. God is a provider, but also a parent to them.

God will not leave them but does want them to demonstrate obedience and faithfulness to Him. If they fear God, they will obey Him. If they do not obey the Lord, they will face discipline through trials that are ultimately for their good and will develop them into the people of God they are called to be.

A Magnificent Promised land (Deuteronomy 8:7–11)

Moses closes this portion of his address by describing the greatness of the Promised Land. The land God is giving the Children of Israel is plentiful. For the people of Israel who are living in a world of farmers, shepherds,

and traders, this land will be paradise. The soil is fertile, there is natural fruit, there are abundant water sources, and there is mineral wealth for building and trading.

God is giving this tiny soon-to-be nation all of the resources it needs to flourish. Moses warns that the response to this abundance should be humility and thanksgiving. If the Israelites inherit all of these blessings and forget the Lord who gave it to them, they will face judgment. If they do not keep the commands, laws, decrees, and regulations of the Lord, they will not prosper as they are supposed to in the place of God's promise.

Final Thoughts

Israel's national heritage was based on a covenant with Almighty God. The people needed to remember the covenant made at Mount Sinai again and again if they were going to preserve it for future generations. For Israel, keeping obedient faith alive in the next generation was no easy task, and unfortunately, at some point the communications broke down.

As believers in Jesus Christ, we cannot let that happen to us. In this week's lesson, Moses outlined a plan by which God's people can bring the past and the future together. God's past acts are the basis for a present obedient faith, which in turn can be communicated to keep future generations strong. Our faith will release God's power in us, and our children will be able to see obedient faith in us.

Be Salt! Be Light! Be Blessed!