

# DEUTERONOMY 27-28

April 15, 2012

## Introduction:

Today we will study **chapters 27 through 28** of the book of Deuteronomy. These chapters contain how God would bless His people if they followed Him and the kinds of problems they would have if they didn't follow Him.

### **27:1-14** Who can explain what we are told in **chapter 27 verses 1 to 14**?

- When Israel crossed over the Jordan River into the Promised Land, they were to do several things: (1) cover stones with lime and write a list of laws upon those lime-covered stones (27:2-4,8); (2) build an altar of uncut stones that they would offer sacrifices upon (27:5-7); (3) Moses and the Levites would repeat these laws to the people. Half of the tribes would be represented by men who would stand upon Mount Gerizim (GUHR-ih-zihm); these would pronounce the blessings listed in the **chapter 28**. The other half of the tribes would be represented by men who would stand upon Mount Ebal (EE-buhl); these would pronounce the blessings listed in **chapter 28**. The Valley of Shechem runs between these two mountains about **40 miles** north of Jerusalem.

### **Did the people ever do what Moses commanded here?**

- Yes they did. See **Joshua 8:30-35**. [30 Then Joshua built an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal. 31 He followed the commands that Moses the Lord's servant had written in the Book of Instruction: "Make me an altar from stones that are uncut and have not been shaped with iron tools." Then on the altar they presented burnt offerings and peace offerings to the Lord. 32 And as the Israelites watched, Joshua copied onto the stones of the altar the instructions Moses had given them. 33 Then all the Israelites—foreigners and native-born alike—along with the elders, officers, and judges, were divided into two groups. One group stood in front of Mount Gerizim, the other in front of Mount Ebal. Each group faced the other, and between them stood the Levitical priests carrying the Ark of the Lord's Covenant. This was all done according to the commands that Moses, the servant of the Lord, had previously given for blessing the people of Israel. 34 Joshua then read to them all the blessings and curses Moses had written in the Book of Instruction. 35 Every word of every command that Moses had ever given was read to the entire assembly of Israel, including the women and children and the foreigners who lived among them **NLT**]. They did this after conquering the land rather than upon entering it.

### **27:15-26** **Verses 15 to 26** gives us a list of sins that would result in the people (or person) being cursed.

#### **What modern term describes each of those sins?**

- **27:15** – Idolatry. **27:16** – disrespect for authority. **27:17** – fraud. **27:18** – abuse. **27:19** – injustice. **27:20** – adultery. **27:21** – bestiality. **27:22** – incest. **27:23** – indecentcy. **27:24** – assault. **27:25** – murder for hire. **27:26** – disobedience.

**28:1-14** In **chapter 28 verses 1 to 14** we are given the blessings that would be theirs *if* they obeyed the Lord. Notice the word "if" in **verses 1,2,&13**. These "blessings" fall into national blessings and financial blessings. Which verses give the national blessings and which give the financial blessings?

- The national blessings are found in **verses 1,7,9-10,&13-14**.
- The financial blessings are found in **verses 3-6,8,&11-12**.

**What were the significant blessings they were promised *if* they obeyed?**

- They would be the greatest people/nation in the world (27:1). They would defeat all of their enemies (27:7). They would lend, not borrow (27:12); they would be above, not beneath (27:13). They would prosper in all they would do (27:3-6,8,11-12).

**28:15-68 In verses 15 to 68 God tells Israel what will become of her if she does not obey Him. Did Israel ultimately end up obeying the Lord or disobeying Him? What happened to them?**

- They disobeyed the Lord. The Babylonians took them into captivity by the Assyrians and. The land spewed them out: see Leviticus 18:24-28. [24 “Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, for the people I am driving out before you have defiled themselves in all these ways. 25 Because the entire land has become defiled, I am punishing the people who live there. I will cause the land to vomit them out. 26 You must obey all my decrees and regulations. You must not commit any of these detestable sins. This applies both to native-born Israelites and to the foreigners living among you. 27 “All these detestable activities are practiced by the people of the land where I am taking you, and this is how the land has become defiled. 28 So do not defile the land and give it a reason to vomit you out, as it will vomit out the people who live there now NLT.]

**We are going to read these verses (15-68) and I will periodically stop us and turn to another passage to see the fulfillment of these consequences to their sin.**

- 15 “But if you refuse to listen to the Lord your God and do not obey all the commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come and overwhelm you: 16 Your towns and your fields will be cursed. 17 Your fruit baskets and breadboards will be cursed. 18 Your children and your crops will be cursed. The offspring of your herds and flocks will be cursed. 19 Wherever you go and whatever you do, you will be cursed. 20 “The Lord himself will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in everything you do, until at last you are completely destroyed for doing evil and abandoning me. 21 The Lord will afflict you with diseases until none of you are left in the land you are about to enter and occupy. 22 The Lord will strike you with wasting diseases, fever, and inflammation, with scorching heat and drought, and with blight and mildew. These disasters will pursue you until you die. 23 The skies above will be as unyielding as bronze, and the earth beneath will be as hard as iron. 24 The Lord will change the rain that falls on your land into powder, and dust will pour down from the sky until you are destroyed. [After verse 24 – see 1 Kings 17:1 [1 Now Elijah, who was from Tishbe in Gilead, told King Ahab, “As surely as the Lord, the God of Israel, lives—the God I serve—there will be no dew or rain during the next few years until I give the word!”] and 18:17-18. [17 When Ahab saw him, he exclaimed, “So, is it really you, you troublemaker of Israel?” 18 “I have made no trouble for Israel,” Elijah replied. “You and your family are the troublemakers, for you have refused to obey the commands of the Lord and have worshiped the images of Baal instead.] 25 “The Lord will cause you to be defeated by your enemies. You will attack your enemies from one direction, but you will scatter from them in seven! You will be an object of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. 26 Your corpses will be food for all the scavenging birds and wild animals, and no one will be there to chase them away. 27 “The Lord will afflict you with the boils of Egypt and with tumors, scurvy, and the itch, from which you cannot be cured. 28 The Lord will strike you with madness, blindness, and panic. 29 You will grope around in broad daylight like a blind person groping in the darkness, but you will not find your way. You will be oppressed and robbed continually, and no one will come to save you. 30 “You will be engaged to a woman, but another man will sleep with her. You will build a house, but someone else will live in it. You will plant a vineyard, but you will never enjoy its fruit. 31 Your ox will be butchered before your eyes, but you will not eat a single bite of the meat. Your donkey will be taken from you, never to be returned. Your sheep and goats will be given to your enemies, and no one will be there to help you. 32 You will watch as your sons and daughters are taken away as slaves. Your heart will break for them, but you won’t be able to help them.

- 33** A foreign nation you have never heard about will eat the crops you worked so hard to grow. You will suffer under constant oppression and harsh treatment. After **verse 33** – The kingdom was later split into Israel (the Northern Kingdom) and Judah (the Southern Kingdom) because of Solomon’s son **Rehoboam** (**1 Kings 12:1-20**). Assyria came in **722 B.C.** and took possession of the northern territory and took its people into captivity (see **2 Kings 17:6**). [**6** Finally, in the ninth year of King Hoshea’s reign, Samaria fell, and the people of Israel were exiled to Assyria. They were settled in colonies in Halah, along the banks of the Habor River in Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.] **34** You will go mad because of all the tragedy you see around you. **35** The Lord will cover your knees and legs with incurable boils. In fact, you will be covered from head to foot. **36** “The Lord will exile you and your king to a nation unknown to you and your ancestors. There in exile you will worship gods of wood and stone! **37** You will become an object of horror, ridicule, and mockery among all the nations to which the Lord sends you. [After **verse 37** – In **586 B.C.** the **Babylonians** conquered the southern territory and took **Judah** into captivity (see **2 Kings 25:8-12**). This captivity included **Daniel** and his friends.] **38** “You will plant much but harvest little, for locusts will eat your crops. [After **verse 38** – see **Haggai 1:3-11**.
- [3** Then the Lord sent this message through the prophet Haggai: **4** “Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins? **5** This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: Look at what’s happening to you! **6** You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes! **7** “This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: Look at what’s happening to you! **8** Now go up into the hills, bring down timber, and rebuild my house. Then I will take pleasure in it and be honored, says the Lord. **9** You hoped for rich harvests, but they were poor. And when you brought your harvest home, I blew it away. Why? Because my house lies in ruins, says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, while all of you are busy building your own fine houses. **10** It’s because of you that the heavens withhold the dew and the earth produces no crops. **11** I have called for a drought on your fields and hills—a drought to wither the grain and grapes and olive trees and all your other crops, a drought to starve you and your livestock and to ruin everything you have worked so hard to get.”] **39** You will plant vineyards and care for them, but you will not drink the wine or eat the grapes, for worms will destroy the vines. **40** You will grow olive trees throughout your land, but you will never use the olive oil, for the fruit will drop before it ripens. **41** You will have sons and daughters, but you will lose them, for they will be led away into captivity. **42** Swarms of insects will destroy your trees and crops. **43** “The foreigners living among you will become stronger and stronger, while you become weaker and weaker. **44** They will lend money to you, but you will not lend to them. They will be the head, and you will be the tail! **45** “If you refuse to listen to the Lord your God and to obey the commands and decrees he has given you, all these curses will pursue and overtake you until you are destroyed. **46** These horrors will serve as a sign and warning among you and your descendants forever. **47** If you do not serve the Lord your God with joy and enthusiasm for the abundant benefits you have received, **48** you will serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you. You will be left hungry, thirsty, naked, and lacking in everything. The Lord will put an iron yoke on your neck, oppressing you harshly until he has destroyed you. **49** “The Lord will bring a distant nation against you from the end of the earth, and it will swoop down on you like a vulture. It is a nation whose language you do not understand, **50** a fierce and heartless nation that shows no respect for the old and no pity for the young. **51** Its armies will devour your livestock and crops, and you will be destroyed. They will leave you no grain, new wine, olive oil, calves, or lambs, and you will starve to death. **52** They will attack your cities until all the fortified walls in your land—the walls you trusted to protect you—are knocked down. They will attack all the towns in the land the Lord your God has given you. **53** “The siege and terrible distress of the enemy’s attack will be so severe that you will eat the flesh of your own sons and daughters, whom the Lord your God has given you. **54** The most tenderhearted man among you will have no compassion for his own brother, his beloved wife, and his surviving children.

- 55** He will refuse to share with them the flesh he is devouring—the flesh of one of his own children—because he has nothing else to eat during the siege and terrible distress that your enemy will inflict on all your towns. **56** The most tender and delicate woman among you—so delicate she would not so much as touch the ground with her foot—will be selfish toward the husband she loves and toward her own son or daughter. **57** She will hide from them the afterbirth and the new baby she has borne, so that she herself can secretly eat them. She will have nothing else to eat during the siege and terrible distress that your enemy will inflict on all your towns. [After verse 57 – see **2 Kings 6:24-30**. **24** Some time later, however, King Ben-hadad of Aram mustered his entire army and besieged Samaria. **25** As a result, there was a great famine in the city. The siege lasted so long that a donkey’s head sold for eighty pieces of silver, and a cup of dove’s dung sold for five pieces of silver. **26** One day as the king of Israel was walking along the wall of the city, a woman called to him, “Please help me, my lord the king!” **27** He answered, “If the Lord doesn’t help you, what can I do? I have neither food from the threshing floor nor wine from the press to give you.” **28** But then the king asked, “What is the matter?” She replied, “This woman said to me: ‘Come on, let’s eat your son today, then we will eat my son tomorrow.’ **29** So we cooked my son and ate him. Then the next day I said to her, ‘Kill your son so we can eat him,’ but she has hidden her son.” **30** When the king heard this, he tore his clothes in despair. And as the king walked along the wall, the people could see that he was wearing burlap under his robe next to his skin.] **58** “If you refuse to obey all the words of instruction that are written in this book, and if you do not fear the glorious and awesome name of the Lord your God, **59** then the Lord will overwhelm you and your children with indescribable plagues. These plagues will be intense and without relief, making you miserable and unbearably sick. **60** He will afflict you with all the diseases of Egypt that you feared so much, and you will have no relief. **61** The Lord will afflict you with every sickness and plague there is, even those not mentioned in this Book of Instruction, until you are destroyed. **62** Though you become as numerous as the stars in the sky, few of you will be left because you would not listen to the Lord your God. **63** “Just as the Lord has found great pleasure in causing you to prosper and multiply, the Lord will find pleasure in destroying you. You will be torn from the land you are about to enter and occupy. **64** For the Lord will scatter you among all the nations from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship foreign gods that neither you nor your ancestors have known, gods made of wood and stone! [After verse 64 – The Jews were “scattered” by Assyria in **722 B.C.** and by Babylon in **586 B.C.** The “Promised Land” was not theirs again until after **World War II in 1948**. The land was possessed and controlled by Greece, Rome, and eventually Muslims. As you recall, during the time of Jesus the Romans controlled the land, not the Jews.] **65** There among those nations you will find no peace or place to rest. And the Lord will cause your heart to tremble, your eyesight to fail, and your soul to despair. **66** Your life will constantly hang in the balance. You will live night and day in fear, unsure if you will survive. **67** In the morning you will say, ‘If only it were night!’ And in the evening you will say, ‘If only it were morning!’ For you will be terrified by the awful horrors you see around you. **68** Then the Lord will send you back to Egypt in ships, to a destination I promised you would never see again. There you will offer to sell yourselves to your enemies as slaves, but no one will buy you.”

**What would you say to someone who said, “I am a Christian; therefore, God will bless me no matter what I do”?**

- See **verse 63** here. [**63** “Just as the Lord has found great pleasure in causing you to prosper and multiply, the Lord will find pleasure in destroying you. You will be torn from the land you are about to enter and occupy.] The Old and New Testaments are filled with examples of choices and consequences. See **Galatians 6:7-8**; [**7** Don’t be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. **8** Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.] **2 Corinthians 5:10**; [**10** For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.] And **Hebrews 10:26-27**. [**26** Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no

longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins. <sup>27</sup> There is only the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies.]