

# DEUTERONOMY 8-9

February 12, 2012

Today we will study chapters eight and nine of the book of Deuteronomy.

## **8:1 There is a clear Biblical principle that chapter 8 verse 1 teaches us: what is it?**

- Almost all of God's promises are conditional. IF we will do something for Him THEN He will do something for us. *Be careful to do...that you may live, multiply, and possess.*

## **8:2 The children of Israel lived in the wilderness (wandering in a desert land) for 40 years. Sometimes we live in various kinds of wildernesses. Give an example of a wilderness that we might live in today.**

- We might be in a spiritual wilderness where we are seeking the Lord but not hearing His voice or seeing His hand. We might be serving Him the best we can but seeing no results. We could be in a situation where we are praying for God to do something but He is not moving. We might be in a relational wilderness where we feel all alone or where someone we love is breaking our hearts. We could be in a financial wilderness where we are "behind" or just surviving financially.

## **What does this verse teach us about such times as these?**

- God leads us...even in times of drought and wilderness. He can be leading us when we think He is nowhere around.
- God humbles us in our wildernesses. We realize that we are powerless and begin to seek and rely upon His power.
- He tests us, not that He would discover what was in our hearts, but that we would discover what was in our hearts. Hard times reveal who we really are; they shake the bad stuff out of us.
- God wants to see if we will keep obeying Him when we are not getting the results or life that we want.

## **8:3 What do we learn from verse 3?**

- God is completely interested in humbling us. He opposes the proud but gives His grace to the humble - **1 Peter 5:5.**
- God will allow us to wait, struggle, and be hungry. It is in times of greatest need that we seek Him most.
- God can provide for us in ways that we could never anticipate (manna, quail from the sky, water from a rock). When we struggle, seek His face, and trust in His promises (words out of the mouth of God), then we know that it is Him providing when our answer comes.

## **8:6 More often than not, we think of discipline as punishment. Is that how God uses that word?**

- **No.**

To discipline means to train, it may include rewards and consequences, but the goal is the maturing of the person being disciplined. *See Hebrews 12:5-11. [5 And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. 6 For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." 7 As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? 8 If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. 9 Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? 10 For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness.*

*11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it’s painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. Notice the goal of discipline in verse 11. Those who disobeyed God by refusing to go into the Promised Land were punished in the wilderness (they died). Their children were trained for maturity in the wilderness.] [NLT](#)*

### **8:7-14 Look at verses 7 to 14. What do we learn from what we are told here?**

- God is the source of our blessings.
- When we first enjoy these blessings, we are grateful to the Lord for them.
- It is easy, though, over time...to begin to feel entitled to those blessings, to become less grateful for them, and eventually to forget that the source of those blessings was Him. Again, we are more likely to seek the Lord when we are needy than it is to seek him when we are full and satisfied.

### **Is God for us or against us?**

- God is “for” His people. [See Romans 8:31-32.](#) [*31 What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? 32 Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won’t he also give us everything else?*] [NLT](#)

### **8:16 What do we learn about how God deals with us in verse 16?**

- God’s goal is to *do good to us in the end*, but that does not mean that He will not humble and test us. As a wise Father, God will sacrifice short-term comfort for long-term character. God will sacrifice our present happiness to teach us how to permanently walk in joy. The good that God intends for us is not an easy, pain free journey.

### **8:17-18 What do we learn from verses 17 and 18?**

- When a person prospers, it is easy for him to assume that he is the source of his prosperity. He may be grateful, humble, and feel blessed at the beginning, but may eventually think that his prosperity is his own doing.
- It is God who gives us the power to earn and have wealth. He is the source of our prosperity. He gives us skills, positions, and opportunities. If we understand this, then the more blessed we are the more humble we become and the more we obey the Lord. If we don’t understand this, then the more blessed we are the more proud we become. People are quick to ask “Why me?” when things go wrong in their lives. They seldom ask “Why me?” when they are blessed: they assume that they deserve it (entitled) and that it’s about time they got their due.

### **8:19-20 What do we learn about how God relates to His people in verses 19 and 20?**

God will be “for” us if we obey Him. He can be “against” us if we do not. Here God tells them that He is removing the sinful people from the Promised Land and He promises to do the same to them if they don’t obey Him. God can be “against” His people. He is *opposed to the proud* – [1 Peter 5:5](#).

[See Haggai 1:2-11.](#) [*2 “This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies says: The people are saying, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.’” 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.”]*

**NLT** The people have failed to put God first in their lives and have put their wishes over His wants. The people lived in nice homes while God's house was in ruins. As a result of this, God was *causing* their financial problems.

**9:1-3 What do we learn about walking with the Lord in chapter 9 verses 1 to 3?**

- When God is on our side, we can win battles that no one would expect us to win. David's can kill Goliaths.
  - The Lord is the source of our victories (*He will destroy and subdue.*).
  - Even though God gives the victory, we are required to do battle (*that you may drive out and destroy*).
- See 1 Corinthians 15:10.** [*10 But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.*] **NLT** Notice both God's part and ours. We cannot do it without Him; He will not do it without us.

**9:4-5 What unusual principle does we learn in verses 4 and 5?**

- We don't always "win" because we deserve it; sometimes we may win when we don't deserve it because someone else deserves it less. It was not Israel's righteousness but the people of the land's wickedness that resulted in Israel's victory and occupation of the land.

**9:10 Deuteronomy 4:13** told us that God "wrote" the Ten Commandments on the two tablets. **In verse ten we discover that He wrote them with His "finger". Specifically, who actually wrote on those tablets?**

- Moses met with the preincarnate Jesus. Jesus is the person of God that we always "see". **John 1:18** and **1 John 4:12** tell us that no one has ever seen God (the Father). In God's appearance to Moses in **Exodus 33:18-23** Moses learns that no one can see God the Father (*His face*) and live. **John 14:9** Jesus said that anyone who has seen Him has seen the Father.

**9:6-29 In verses 6 to 29, Moses reminds the people of Israel's stubbornness and rebellion and how he had interceded for them to God.**

**In John 8:44, the devil is called the Father of lies. What are some of the lies that he tells us?**

- "Sin is better than righteousness." "God didn't mean what He said when He said what He did." "If you're going to have the best life, then you can't do it God's way." "There will not be any consequences to *your* sin." "If you give your life fully to God, you will lose." "You can't really trust God; you'd better take matters into your own hands." "How could God let this happen?" "How could God love you?" "How could God use you?" "God doesn't love or care about you." Etc.

**9:28 What lies are mentioned in verse 28?**

- God doesn't keep His promises. {You can't trust Him, you'd better trust yourself.}
- He hates us rather than loves us.