

PARSHA POINTS

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the Torah portion:

- Monday: Deut. 29:9-29 Exhortation to guard the covenant in order to receive the blessings and avoid the curses
- Tuesday: Deut. 30:1-10 Exhortation to return to Yahweh in order to receive the blessings and reverse any judgments
- Wednesday: Deut. 30:11-20 Exhortation that Yahweh's commandments are not too difficult; therefore choose Life
- Thursday: Deut. 31:1-8 Mosheh reiterates that he is not going into the land of Kena'an, and that Yehoshua will take his place as their leader
- Friday: Deut. 31:9-30 The command for a public reading of the Torah every 7 years; Yahweh predicts future apostasy, and commands Mosheh to write a song of witness for the children of Yisra'el

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will take a look at the covenant which Yahweh is making with this next generation while they are camped in the land of Mo'ab. We will learn about the blessings of obedience to the covenant, and the curses that will result from forgetting and departing from it. The focus is a strong admonition to uphold the covenant, based on the declaration that obedience to Yahweh's Word is not difficult. Now, let's read selected verses from Deuteronomy 29 & 30.

PEARL SEEKING

A call to enter into Yahweh's covenant

- Mosheh reminds all the children of Yisra'el to *guard* the words of Yahweh's covenant and to do them, so that they prosper in all that they do. Their purpose in being gathered together this day is so that they may enter into covenant with Yahweh their Elohim and His oath - 29:9-12
- All those who stand before Yahweh this day are called to covenant with Him (29:10-11):
 - the leaders
 - all the tribes
 - the elders
 - the officers
 - all the men of Yisra'el
 - your little ones
 - your wives
 - your sojourner - from the one who cuts your wood to the one who draws your water

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- However, it is not with you alone, who stand here today, that I am making this covenant and this oath. I also covenant with him who is not here with us today - 29:14-15

Yahweh's Warning

- Mosheh reminds them of the things Yisra'el saw as they passed through the nations: abominations and idols made of wood, stone, silver and gold - 29:16-17
- They are warned against turning away their hearts from Yahweh their Elohim to go and serve the mighty ones of those nations, which can lead to a root bearing bitterness or wormwood - 29:18
- Such bitterness is dangerous to the community; for when they hear the warnings of the curse, they become deceived into thinking that they are blessed and at peace, even though they walk in the stubbornness of their heart, adding drunkenness to thirst - 29:19
- Yahweh says that the one with such a rebellious heart (29:20-21):
 - will not be forgiven by Him
 - will have Yahweh settling upon him every curse that is written in this book
 - will have his name blotted out from under the heavens
 - shall be separated out from all the tribes of Yisra'el, for evil
- When the generation that comes after you, and the foreigner who comes from a far land, shall see the plagues and the sicknesses which Yahweh has sent to you, they shall say (29:22-24):
 - All its land is sulfur (gophrit), salt (melach), and burning (serephah)
 - It is not sown, nor does it bear, nor does any grass (esev) grow there
 - It is like the overthrow of Sedom and Amorah (Sodom and Gomorrah), Admah and Tseboyim (towns near Sedom and Amorah), which Yahweh overthrew in His displeasure and His wrath
 - Why has Yahweh done so to this land?
 - What does the heat of this great displeasure mean?
- It shall be said (29:25-28):
 - *It is because they have forsaken the covenant of Yahweh Elohim of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Mitsrayim*
 - *It is because they went and served other mighty ones and bowed themselves to them - mighty ones that they did not know and that He had not given to them*

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- This is why the displeasure of Yahweh burned against this land, to bring on it every curse that is written in this book
- Therefore Yahweh uprooted them from the land in displeasure, wrath, and in great rage, and cast them into another land, as it is today
- The secret matters belong to Yahweh our Elohim, but what is revealed belongs to us and to our children forever, to do all the Words of this Torah - 29:29

Turning back to Yahweh with all your heart and with all your being

- WHEN all these words come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you shall bring them back to your heart while among the nations where Yahweh your Elohim drives you, and shall turn back to Yahweh your Elohim, and obey His voice, as you are commanded, to do it *with all your heart and with all your being*, you and your children, THEN Yahweh your Elohim shall (30:1-3):
 - turn back your captivity
 - have compassion on you
 - turn back and gather you from all the peoples where Yahweh your Elohim has scattered you
- IF any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under the heavens, THEN Yahweh your Elohim shall (30:4-6):
 - gather you and from there He does take you
 - bring you to the land which your fathers possessed and you shall possess it
 - do good to you, and increase you more than your fathers
 - circumcise your heart and the heart of your seed, to love Yahweh your Elohim *with all your heart and with all your being*, so that you might live
 - put all these curses on your enemies, on those who hate you and those who persecute you
- IF you turn back and obey the voice of Yahweh, and do all His commands which He commands, and IF you obey the voice of Yahweh your Elohim to guard His commands and His laws which are written in this Book of the Torah, and IF you turn back to Yahweh your Elohim *with all your heart and with all your being*, THEN Yahweh shall (30:8-10):
 - make you have excess in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your ground for good
 - turn back to rejoice over you for good, as He rejoiced over your fathers



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You can do it!

- This command which I am commanding you today (30:11-13):
 - It is not too hard for you, nor is it far off
 - It is not in the heavens for you to say, "Who shall ascend into the heavens for us, and to bring it to us, and cause us to hear it, so that we do it?"
 - It is not beyond the sea, to say, "Who shall go over the sea for us, and to bring it to us, and cause us to hear it, so that we do it?"
- The Word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart - to do it - 30:14

Choices to make

- I have set before you today life and good, death and evil in that I am commanding you today to (30:15-16):
 - love Yahweh your Elohim
 - walk in His ways
 - guard His commands, His laws, and His right-rulings
- IF you do these things, THEN you shall live and increase, and Yahweh your Elohim shall bless you in the land which you go to possess - 30:16
- But IF your heart turns away and you do not obey, and shall be drawn away, and shall bow down to other mighty ones and serve them, THEN you shall certainly perish and shall not prolong your days in the land which you are passing over the Yarden (Jordan) to enter and possess - 30:17-18
- Yahweh calls the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you as He sets before you life and death, the blessing and the curse - 30:19
- Therefore you shall (30:19-20):
 - choose life, so that you live, both you and your seed
 - love Yahweh your Elohim
 - obey His voice
 - cling to Him
- Yahweh is your life and the length of your days, that you dwell in the land which He swore to Abraham, to Yitshaq, and to Ya'aqob - 30:20

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DIETING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion. This section would be ideal for the Katan B and Gadol students for deeper study.

- Notice that Yahweh is asking this next generation to personally enter into covenant with Him, as they were either under 20 or not yet born when Yahweh made the covenant with the first generation. Discuss Yahweh's reason for wanting each person to personally declare their allegiance to enter into covenant with Him, as opposed to automatically entering in just because your parents were in covenant.
- At what age does Scripture indicate a person is accountable? Discuss entering into covenant even if your parents may not be submitted to it. Notice who may enter into covenant with Yahweh. He does not leave anyone out, from the leaders to the one who draws your water.
- Discuss how the people would have understood entering into covenant with Yahweh, specifically 'berit ve'alah' (covenant with curses) and the results of taking the covenant lightly and breaking it. Do we as modern-day believers take it as seriously as if we were standing there before Mosheh?
- Deut. 29:19 says that Yahweh will not forgive the one who walks in the stubbornness of their heart to follow or worship other mighty ones. Discuss how this is very different from Christian theology, which teaches that Yahweh will forgive anything you do. Yahweh furthermore declares that He will blot out that person's name from under the heavens (Deut. 29:20). Do you think Yahweh is referring to being rejected from entering the kingdom?
- Notice that Yahweh does not only punish the people who break Torah, but He curses the land itself. Find verses that support this. Do you believe there is a link between Yisra'el the land and Yisra'el the people?
- Deut. 29:29 says that some things are revealed to us and that some things are not. In other words, the secret things are not for us to know. Are there any things that Yeshua told us are not for us to know? What about end-time events and date-naming?
- Discuss the path that leads to the blessings (life) and the path that leads to the curses (death). (Lev. 26; Deut. 11:26-28)
- Deuteronomy 30 talks about returning (teshuvah) to Yahweh. When we get off the path, how do we get back on the path and reposition ourselves under Yahweh's covering (canopy of protection)?
- Yahweh says that His Torah is not too difficult to do. How does this compare to what mainstream teachers say?

