

A DEEPER DIVE

May 10, 2026
Deuteronomy 27, 28

Prayer Focus– Each day this week as you meet with your savior, lift up in prayer the places in the world where there is war, destruction, and little hope. Also pray for the missionaries that you know of and support. Pray for our nation and our leaders, and also your local church and community. Pray daily for our Pastors and Elders. Finally, follow the instruction in Philippians 4:4-7 make your prayer personal. Remember 1 Peter 5:7.

Monday: Reading– Deuteronomy 27

Consider this– What keeps you grounded in your life and your faith?

As we look at these chapters from Deuteronomy, first read Ephesians 4:14. How can we avoid being deceived? Once you have an idea of what Paul is talking about, go back and read Deuteronomy 27 in one sitting. Why did the elders join Moses to make, as the NKJV says, a “joint declaration”? What was so vital that they all got together to make a joint statement to the people?

Read verses 1-10 and paraphrase what the text says about the commandments of the Lord.

Tuesday: Reading– Deuteronomy 27

Consider this– A list of curses.

Note the way these curses are enumerated. The first curse is reminiscent of the first two commandments. The third curse is reminiscent of the fifth commandment. The NKJV says this about the remainder of the curses. “The third curse pertained to justice and greed...The fourth curse required the humane treatment of disabled people...The fifth curse had to do with compassion to those who were defenseless...The sixth through the ninth curses covered sexual immorality...The tenth and eleventh curses addressed justice...The twelfth curse is all-encompassing.” What do these curses tell you about what God cares about? Do you think he still cares about these things and how we act?

Wednesday: Reading– Deuteronomy 27, 28

Consider this– Amen!

Interesting that in chapter 27 after each of the curses is articulated the phrase “And all the people shall say Amen!” is repeated. What does Amen mean? Why is it important that this phrase is repeated?

Chapter 28 opens with conditional blessings. Note the adverbs used in verse 1. How are the people of Israel to obey the voice of the Lord? How are they to observe His commandments? Do these two conditions still apply to us today? Read Proverbs 4:23 and 2 Peter 1:5-7. How closely do you follow these admonitions?

Thursday: Reading– Deuteronomy 28

Consider this– Blessings, not salvation.

The NKJV notes make this point. “Israel could never earn salvation through obedience. God had already chosen to save them from slavery and make them His people. He had already promised to be their God and give them the Promised Land. Yet God demanded diligent obedience from Israel in order for them to receive all of God’s rich blessings in the land.” Do you see a parallel between what is happening in chapter 28, and with modern-day Christianity? It seems, at times, that the Christian faith today sets a pretty low bar by emphasizing salvation, but not obedience. If you say the right prayer, attend church (at

times), and use the correct doctrinal jargon then you are OK and can pretty much live how you want. The late-great Dallas Willard, in his book, *The Divine Conspiracy*, called this “bar-code” Christianity. Basically, he equates getting into heaven with scanning a bar code on something you buy from the store. “Some ritual, some belief, or some association affects God the way the bar code affects the scanner. Perhaps there has occurred a moment of mental assent to a creed, or an association entered into with a church. God ‘scans’ it, and forgiveness floods forth. An appropriate amount of righteousness is shifted from Christ’s account to our account in the bank of heaven, and all our debts are paid. We are, accordingly, ‘saved.’ Our guilt is erased.” Have you experienced the type of messaging that Willard is talking about here? How do you draw the line between the ideas of salvation and blessings?

Friday: Reading– Deuteronomy 28

Consider this– All the nations

Read through the blessings that are enumerated in verses 3-9. What is the purpose of these blessings? Verse 10 is the verse where the reason for the blessings, listed before and after that verse, is given. What will be the result of the obedience and blessing of Israel? Why is it so important to God that Israel is seen by all the nations to be people who are “called by the name of the Lord”?

What blessings do you enjoy today? Do you attribute your blessings to your obedience to the word of God, or to something else? It is not surprising that in our society the idea of blessing is tied with material gain. A whole arm of the Christian church has risen from this idea–the “health and wealth” gospel. What do you think of this sort of teaching? If you are diligently following Christ, do you look for blessings to come your way? If so, what do those blessings look like? If not, why not?

Saturday: Reading– Deuteronomy 27, 28

Consider this– Which do you want?

Read the blessings in 28:1-14, and the curses in 15-68. Wiersbe comments that the “curses in 28:15-19 parallel the blessings in 28:3-6.”

These two chapters show what is called a “suzerainty treaty” (Fee, *How to read the Bible Book by Book*). If you look that up, your AI companion will tell you this– Suzerainty vs. Sovereignty: Unlike full sovereignty, suzerainty is not absolute. The vassal retains limited autonomy, whereas a sovereign state has complete control over both foreign and domestic affairs. So, the Lord reserves the sovereign right to bestow blessings and curses on Israel. You can definitely see the similarities between then and now. Wiersbe warns us, though, that we should not “spiritualize” these blessings and curses, and apply them to the church [because that] is to twist the Scriptures... These are literal curses, and they later fell upon Israel because she broke her covenant.”

So, what can we get from these chapters? What lessons can we draw? Or is this section of the Bible merely a history lesson?

From the Henri Nouwen Society–

We who live in the illusion of control and self-sufficiency must learn true joy, peace, forgiveness, and love from our poor brothers and sisters... It is as important for the rich to be converted by the poor as it is to share their wealth with the poor. As long as we only want to give and resist becoming receivers, we betray our desire to stay in control at all costs. Thus, we remain in the house of fear.

Sunday- Go to church with the anticipation of hearing from the Lord.

Questions? Comments? Email me, Steve Callaway, at stvc13@gmail.com.