

## Deuteronomy 11:1-9 An Appeal to the Older Generation

Introduction: Moses is addressing the children of Israel before they go over into Canaan to take the land and to live in it. In this text he appeals to the older generation to take the lead in faithfulness to God.

### To love God and serve Him out of love V.1

- A. Acceptable service to God must come from a heart of love.
  - 1. One who does not love God may obey out of fear or out of a selfish desire for God's blessings.
  - 2. But the best motive for serving God is out of love for Him.
- B. Love for God will motivate one to obey God.
  - 1. To keep the charge that God has given.
    - a. The "charge" speaks of the specific assigned tasks which God has instructed them to do.
    - b. Like keeping the Sabbath.
    - c. Like doing certain work assignments to the priests, Levites, soldiers, leaders, princes and judges.
    - d. In the broader sense, it includes all God has commanded them to do.
  - 2. To keep the statutes.
    - a. "Statute" refers to specific decrees.
    - b. These decrees form the guidelines for the people in doing the work and will of God. (The ten commandments and other decrees of God.)
    - c. Standing laws.
  - 3. To keep the judgments of God.
    - a. The judgments are similar to court judgments.
    - b. They deal with specific questions and issues.
    - c. God's judgment should settle the question.
  - 4. To keep God's commands...anything that God commands no matter what manner the command was given. (God is the Commander-in-Chief.)

### II. The greater knowledge of the older generation gives a greater responsibility V. 2-7

- A. The generation which was older when they left Egypt had children in the wilderness.
  - 1. What was the younger generation when they left Egypt is the older generation at the time Moses made this speech.
  - 2. There was now a younger generation which had not seen and experienced the things which the present older generation had seen and experienced.
- B. While love is the chief motivating factor in rendering acceptable service to God, these other factors; in particular one's actions while motivated by love, should be guided by knowledge.
  - 1. Their actions needed to be guided first of all by a knowledge of God's word.
  - 2. It needed to be guided to a great measure by experience.
- C. The older generation had witnessed the great deliverance of Israel from the land of Egypt, V. 2-4.
- D. They had witnessed what God did in the wilderness, V. 5.
  - 1. What He did to those who rebelled against Him, V. 6.
  - 2. All the other mighty things He did, V. 7.

(Water from the rock, manna from heaven, quail in the wilderness, the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire, the fire and smoke and lightening and thunder and earthquake at Mt. Sinai.)

III. The challenge that lay before the people V. 8-9

- A. They were to keep God's commandments, V. 5.
- B. They were to be strong to go in and possess the land, V. 8.
- C. They were to be aware of God's blessings in giving them such a great land, V. 9.
- D. They were to lead the younger generation in a way that would keep the Israelites in this land for all the generations to come, V. 9.
  - 1. Whether or not Israel would remain in the land depended to a great extent upon the future generations.
  - 2. But it also depended on that older generation to get the nation started off to a good start in the land.

IV. The challenge of our older generation

- A. We are challenged to love God above all things and to put God first in our lives.
- B. We are to recognize our responsibility of leading the younger generation in the right direction.
  - 1. Because of our greater knowledge in the Word of God. (At least our knowledge should be greater.)
  - 2. Because of our greater experience in life.
    - a. We have seen God's blessings.
    - b. We have experienced God's chastisements.
    - c. We have witnessed how God deals with those who rebel against Him.
- C. In the final analysis, the younger generation will have to make its own decisions and be accountable for its own actions.
- D. But if we do not live up to our own responsibilities in seeking to lead them right, we will have to answer to God for our failure.
- E. If we do what we should do, God will bless us and reward us richly.