

Deuteronomy 7:1-26 What the First Commandment Had to Do with the Conquest of Canaan

Introduction: Moses not only informed the younger generation of Israelites of what the Ten Commandments say but he also points out how they are to affect their lives. In an earlier text he began to teach them how the first commandment would apply to their lives. The first commandment is “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”, (that is “besides me.”) In this text he continues that line of thought. He points out what the first commandment has to do with the conquest of Canaan.

I. The land to be taken from idolatrous nations and given to a nation which had covenanted to worship Jehovah God

- A. It was to be taken from idolatrous nations and given to one nation which would worship God, V. 1.
 - 1. This would make one nation against seven in battle.
 - 2. Each of those seven nations was greater in number than Israel.
 - 3. This points out the importance of keeping this first commandment.
- B. The Israelites were to utterly destroy those seven nations, V. 2.
 - 1. They were to show them no mercy. (God would use the Israelites to punish those nations for worshiping in idolatry.)
 - 2. They were to make no peace treaty with them.
- C. They were not to intermarry with them, V. 3. (Intermarriage would lead to the worship of other gods, V. 4.)
- D. They were not only to utterly destroy the people, but they were to utterly destroy their idol gods and their places of worship, V. 5. (Their existence in the land would be a temptation to the people.)
- E. Israel was to remain true to their covenant with Jehovah God and to the first commandment, V. 6.
- F. The Israelites were not to be afraid of the Canaanite nations because of their greater numbers, V. 7.
 - 1. The Lord did not promise this land to the Israelites because of their superior numbers; they were not superior in number but fewer in number.
 - 2. He promised them the land because of His love for them, V. 8.
 - 3. The Lord would be faithful to keep His promise that He had made, V. 9.
 - 4. The utter destruction which would come upon the Canaanite nations would be just punishment to them for their hatred of God, V. 10.
- G. Therefore, the Israelites were to keep the first commandment and all ten of the commandments, V. 11. (Keeping the first commandment would actually require the keeping of the other nine.)

II. God's promise of blessings upon Israel in payment for their obedience

- A. The blessings which God promised were physical and material blessings. (He never promised salvation as a result of keeping the law covenant.) V. 12-13
- B. God would bless them with physical and material blessings greater than that of any other nation, V. 14a. (He would make them healthy physically, V. 14b-15).
- C. He warned them once again to utterly consume all the idolatrous people out of the land, V. 16.
- D. He also warned them again not to fear to take the land from those nations, V. 17.

III. Reasons why they should not fear the more powerful nations

- A. They were to remember what God did to the Pharaoh of Egypt and his army, V. 18.

- B. They were to remember the plagues that came on Egypt and forced Pharaoh to let the people go, V. 19.
- C. The Lord had some unusual ways of dealing with an enemy army, V. 20.
- D. They were to remember that the Lord was with them – great and mighty, V. 21. (Like David ...”I will fear no evil for thou art with me...”.)
- E. They were not to become discouraged because progress was slow; God had a purpose in going slow, V. 22.
- F. Even though God would progress slowly yet He would remain committed to the task of eliminating all of the Canaanite people, V. 23-24.
- G. The Israelites were not only to destroy all of the idols, but also all of their valuables, V. 25-26.

IV. Some lessons for us

- A. We are to learn to depend on the Lord for help – even in the face of overwhelming obstacles.
- B. We are to learn to be faithful to the Lord at all times.
- C. We are to learn to be obedient to the Lord in all things.
- D. We are to learn not to follow after the ways of the world.
- E. We are to learn not to compromise with false religions; we are not to take part in their activities or show approval of them in any way.