

## Deuteronomy 8:1-20 A Call to Remembrance and to Faithfulness

Introduction: In chapter 6 Moses began to point out the need of keeping the first commandment. (“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”) This commands two things: (1) Do not worship any other god; (2) Do worship the true God. God was about to take the land of Canaan away from seven nations and give it to Israel. He did not want them to worship idol gods as the other nations had done. In our text Moses calls upon the people to remember their experiences in the wilderness and to be faithful to God in the land of Canaan.

### I. An introductory statement V. 1

- A. In this chapter Moses is still talking about the first commandment.
- B. But in this verse He calls upon the people to keep all of God's commandments.
- C. If one keeps the first commandment he will seek to keep them all.
- D. It was especially important for the people of Israel to be committed to faithful worship and obedience to God. (They had made a covenant to God and God was about to give them the land of Canaan.)

### II. A reminder of blessings and testings in the wilderness V. 2-6

- A. Moses called upon the people to remember the forty years that their nation had spent in the wilderness, V. 2.
  1. God had delivered this nation from bondage in Egypt.
  2. Those who had spent the entire forty years in the wilderness had been but children when they left Egypt
  3. Their stay in the wilderness had been filled with both great blessings and great hardships.
  4. The hardships had been for the purpose of testing and humbling the people.
  5. They were to teach the people that they could not make it on their own; they must depend on God.
  6. The hardships would show whether the people would be faithful to God. (Some were not and they died in the wilderness.)
- B. God had allowed them to get hungry in order to teach them that they must depend on God, V. 3.
  1. There was no way they could provide food for themselves.
  2. They were to learn that man does not live by bread alone, but by the word of God. (His promises and His teachings)
- C. They were to remember that their clothes and shoes never wore out, V. 4.
- D. They were to remember the chastisements which God had put upon them in the wilderness for their disobedience, V. 5.
- E. All of these things which they could remember should encourage them to keep all of God's commandments – starting with the first, V. 6.

### III. New blessings and testings ahead in Canaan V. 7-17

- A. In contrast to the great hardships they had experienced in the wilderness, they would experience an abundance of good things in Canaan, V. 7-9.
- B. The greatest danger in Canaan would be that they would not feel their dependence of God and that they would become negligent in their worship and obedience to Him, V. 10.
- C. The danger was that they would forget the good things that God had done for them and would neglect to keep His commandments made to them, V. 11.
- D. When one is full and in need of nothing there is a greater danger of being unfaithful to God,

V. 12-15, Rev. 3:17-18.

E. When one does not feel dependent on God for his daily needs, it is easy to forget his past blessings from God, V. 14-16.

F. It is easy for one to think that he has what he has because of his own work and skill, V. 17.

IV. A challenge and a warning V. 18-20

A. They were challenged to remember that all of their blessings were from God and to be faithful and true to Him, V. 18.

B. They were warned not to neglect to keep His commandments – particularly the first commandment, V. 19-20.

Conclusion:

We, too, are to remember how that the Lord has delivered us from bondage. (At the cost of sending Jesus to the cross.)

We are to remember that every good thing which we have is from God. Without His help we could do nothing to provide for ourselves.

We are to be careful lest we neglect to worship and serve Him as we should.

We are to remember that we not only need Him to save our souls, but we need Him to help us with the many hardships that we encounter during our own wilderness journey.