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New Year's Lesson - January 6, 2008

God's Requirements and Provisions For a Successful New Year Deuteronomy 11:10-12

Introduction

The name Deuteronomy from the Septuagint means "second law." The heart of the book is the restatement of the Ten Commandments and the Law. There were several important reasons why Moses felt it necessary to restate the Commandments and the Law. **First**, remember there was a new generation since the events of Mt. Sinai and all the old generation was gone, Num 14:33-36. **Second**, all those born in the wilderness knew nothing of sedentary life. In the wilderness God fed, clothed and cared for them, Deut 29:5-6. **Third**, Moses would not go with them into the Land of Promise. Joshua would be God's new leader for them. **Fourth**, their new life would bring success and affluence. It would be a dangerous time that could breed self-sufficiency and complacency, Deut 8:1-20. Facing these challenges God gave them five requirements:

God's Five Requirements

1. **Fear the Lord your God, 10:12, 13, 20; cf. 11:25.**

Fear is the Hebrew יָרֵא (*yare*) found in Proverbs 1:7, 29; 2:5; 3:7; 8:13; 9:10. Fear is the basis for faith and it involves reverence, awe, worship, respect, and gratitude to God.

2. **Walk in all His ways, 8:6; 10:12; 11:19, 22.**

Walk is the Hebrew הָלַךְ (*halak*) or יָלַךְ (*yalak*). It can refer to the physical exercise of walking but in its spiritual sense it refers to our conduct, Eph 4:1, 17.

3. **Love the Lord your God, 11:1, 13, 22; 19:9.**

Love is the Hebrew אָהַב (*'ahab*) meaning "devotion" or "love" as the highest form of devotion and חֶסֶד (*chesed*) is "covenant love" based on commitment between two.

4. **Serve the Lord your God, 10:12, 20, 11:13.**

Serve is the Hebrew עָבַד (*'abad*) meaning "work," "labor," or "accomplishment."

5. **Keep the Commandments of the Lord your God, 10:13; 11:1, 8, 13, 22; 13:4, 18:19:9.**

Keep is the Hebrew שָׁמַר (*shamar*) meaning "guard," "protect," or "obey."

God's Three Provisions

When we do these five required things, this is what God promises to do for us as we move through the land of 2008, see Deut 11:10-12.

1. **God Will Guide Us - note that God sees the land, knows the land, describes the land.**

- God knows the past, present, and future, "our sitting down and rising up," Ps 139:2.

Proverbs 15:3 says, "the eyes of the Lord are in every place" seeing good and evil. He

is omniscient and sees our previous journey, our present condition, and our future needs. The seven churches of Revelation represent the church of every age. A ringing phrase in the letters to the churches is "I know," Rev 2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15.

- God knows all there is to know about us, nothing is hidden. Hebrews 4:13 says, "...all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.
- God already knows every circumstance you will face in 2008. How foolish it would be to enter the new year without seeking His will, guidance, and protection. See Ps 32:8-11; Prov 3:5-6.

2. **God will Provide for Us - He knows just what we need to get us through the land.**

- God cares about us. Not only does He know about our circumstances, He cares about us. He cares for you! 1 Pet 5:6-7 says, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your cares on Him, for He cares for you."
- God's care goes beyond knowledge. His care includes **His protection**, Ps 33:18, "Behold the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear Him and hope in His mercy. His care includes **His provision**. Jeremiah 24:6 says, "I will set my eyes on them for good; I will bring them again to this land, I will build them up . . ." and establish.
- God's care includes His grace. His care includes **His redeeming grace** restoration and renewal. Isaiah 40:29-31 says, ". . . those that wait on the Lord will renew their strength . . ." Because of Christ, salvation is available to all who receive it in 2008.

3. **God will Hold Us Accountable - He is just and merciful and requires us to be faithful.**

- God is watching us. He will be evaluating our performance in the new year of 2008. His judgments are true, righteous, just, and fair. Jeremiah 32:19 says, ". . . thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men, to give every one according to his or her ways and according to the fruit of his or her doings."
- God is holding us responsible. It will be an exciting year - a presidential election year. We should be prayerfully seeking His leadership this year. Amos 9:8 says, "Behold the eyes of the Lord are on the sinful kingdom (nation), and I will destroy it from the face of the earth . . ." The nation who does not regard the law of the Lord will not survive. The people of the former Soviet Union know this - we need to hear this! "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord," Ps 33:12. But the antithesis also is true, "Cursed is the nation who does regard the Lord as their God." This includes America!!
- God is offering us His Arm of Salvation. There is a way to right the wrong God sees in us as a nation, as a community, as a church, as a person -- it is the way of the cross. At the Passover the blood of the lamb was placed over the door of each home that received deliverance. The blood of Christ applied to each life, each family, each community, each nation opens the way to His redemption. "Though your sins be as scarlet, they may be as white as snow, though they be red like crimson, they may be as wool. Jesus is the answer for the world today, for You and Me.

Conclusion

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus! We need Him now more than ever. Our church, community, nation, and world need Jesus, Who is the only hope for 2008 and beyond.