



7/7/26

*VBS is only 13 days away. I just love VBS week. It's all hands on deck. Everyone coming together to share the love of Jesus and the truth of the gospel... seeing kids give their lives to Jesus. If you haven't signed up to serve yet, I highly recommend that you don't wait another minute. It will be so worth your time and energy. It's a good exhaustion. 😊 Just in case, here's the link to register... <https://summitpoint.org/vbs/>*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Deuteronomy 8:11-20*

*The book of Deuteronomy is pretty much everything Moses wanted to say to the Israelites before God took him home. He knew he wasn't going to be able to lead them the final way into the Promised Land, and he wanted to make sure to say everything that needed to be said, inspired by the Holy Spirit. This was close to the end of the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. The Israelites wandered because of their lack of faith, and now Moses was warning them to not drift back to that lack of faith. What is the greatest danger to our faith? Pride. Pride causes faith to have amnesia.*

*Vs. 11-16 ~ This is all one sentence in the ESV. It is all centered on one warning... "Take care lest you forget the LORD (Yahweh) your God (Elohim) by not keeping His commandments and His rules and His statutes, which I command you today..."*

*Moses was not speaking his own opinions or commands. He was speaking the words of God. What would cause them to forget what God had done for them? Prosperity.*

*In the wilderness, they ate manna from heaven... a constant reminder of their need for God's provision. In the Promised Land, they would be in a land flowing with milk and honey by the goodness of God, and they would eat and be satisfied.*

*In the wilderness, they lived in tents and constantly moved from place to place. In the Promised Land they would live in houses that they built with the provisions God supplied.*

*In the wilderness, they had flocks and herds and silver and gold, but there was no way for them to multiply their belongings. In the Promised Land, they would prosper by the hand of God.*

*God Himself led them out of slavery in Egypt. He led them safely through the terrors of the wilderness for their 40 years of wandering. The only ones who died during that time were the ones who He said would die because of their lack of faith. He could have destroyed ALL of them for their lack of faith. But He was merciful and gracious. When there was no water, God brought water from a rock. When there was no food, God brought manna from heaven.*

*Why did God do all this? He did it to humble them and test them SO THAT He could do them good in the end. Proverbs 15:33 says, "Humility comes BEFORE honor." And Proverbs 16:5 says, "Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord. Be assured. He will not go unpunished." And 1 Peter 5:5 says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." God WANTS to pour out His blessings on His people. It's our pride that keeps us from experiencing them.*

*How do I know it's pride that keeps us from experiencing God's blessings? Vs. 17 says, "Beware lest you say in your heart, 'MY power and the might of MY hand have gotten me this wealth.'" Give credit where credit is due. It belongs to the Lord. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 4:7, "What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?" O Lord, let me never think I am self-sufficient!!! If I don't understand the magnitude of Your goodness and blessings, I will never give You the glory and praise You deserve. It's not You who suffers for my foolishness. It's me.*

*Let me not miss this... Moses is giving these warnings, not because God is an angry God. He's not. He's slow to anger and He doesn't stay angry. He's giving these warnings because He WANTS to bless His people!!!*

*For the Israelites, God gave power and wealth in order to confirm the covenant He had made with their forefathers, like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I did not realize that their wealth was a confirmation of the covenant they had with God. Their covenant with Him was a conditional covenant. If they went after false gods and served them and worshiped them... AS THEY EVENTUALLY DID a very short time after God delivered them... God said they would face the consequences of their actions. They would become like the nations they were about to conquer (because of THEIR horrific abominations in the sight of God). God was saying, "Don't conquer them and then become like them. Remember Me. Obey Me."*

*To remember God IS to obey Him. The Apostle John said in 1 John 1:6, "If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth."*

*Here's where the command to the Israelites differs from the commands for me. I am not under the Old Covenant. I'm under the New Covenant. The New Covenant is UNCONDITIONAL*

*because it is ratified by the perfect, holy, unblemished blood of Jesus. The prosperity I have is not a temporary, earthly wealth. It's eternal. The inheritance I'm waiting for while I live in the wilderness of this broken world is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. There is no enemy to be conquered in my Promised Land because Jesus has already conquered the power of sin and death. Praise His name!*

*However, like the Israelites in the wilderness, my faith will be tested while I remain here. Only, the testing of my faith will never cause death. The testing of my faith is to help me share in His holiness, to experience a greater understanding of His grace, and to have a deeper, more abiding fellowship with Him. He is growing my faith, my hope, and most importantly, my love.*

*The incredible unbreakable covenant I have with the Lord should not give me permission to trample on His grace. Paul said in Romans 6:1-2, "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?" I have the Holy Spirit dwelling in me and leading me to truth and transforming me. I pray that the fact that I'm under the New Covenant will give me MORE gratitude, make me MORE humble, and keep me MORE aware of God's deliverance and blessings. O Lord, I praise You for what You've done for me. Let me remember that this time on earth is my wilderness, and someday You will bring me home. Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen!!!*