

SESSION #22 (4 May 10); Deut 7:6-16; Moses on operational doctrine and personal relationship

I. INTRODUCTION & REVIEW

1:1-5	Introduction to God's spokesman, the 1 st Prophet Moses
1:6 - 4:40	1 st Exposition of the Torah = <u>motivation</u> to obey from (1) <u>past gracious actions</u> of Yahweh and (2) sovereign <u>destiny</u> of the nation (<u>future gracious actions</u> of Yahweh)
4:41-49	Editorial comment on context of 2 nd Exposition of the Torah
5:1 - 26:19	2 nd Exposition of the Torah = proper response to Yahweh in heart and soul
5:1 - 11:32	Loving Yahweh with all the heart
5:1-33	The Mt. Sinai event & ramifications
6:1-25	"Living in the Word"
7:1-26	Joining in Yahweh's war—requirements & resources

Review the argument so far:

5:1-7:26 2nd Exposition

This is the ONLY way to attain REAL "social justice" so "foundation" in the heart is the *sine qua non*.

Heart orientation = correct relationship with our Creator, Judge, and Savior

Metaphysics: ("What is existence all about?" "What is the meaning & purpose of my life?")

Either God the Creator Who has designed created existence to reveal Himself and His purposes to us

or idolatry = an eternal, purposeless, unintelligent chaos.

Epistemology: ("Why is what you are telling me true?")

Either God is the Creator Who speaks and acts in history, thereby providing the means to interpret life correctly,

or idolatry = human speculation with language merely a tool of manipulation.

Ethics: ("Who are you to tell me how I ought to live my life?")

Either God the Judge Whose holy integrity progressively revealed in history is the eternal, unchanging standard of right and wrong,

or idolatry of human arbitrary opinion

Moses uses a "sandwich" presentation that balances the [personal relationship] between Yahweh and Israel & specific "how to" procedures or what the military refers to as "[doctrine of operations]."

Means of getting God's Word into the heart so it can function = "Living in the Word."

6:6-9, 20-25 Operating doctrine = family-centered teaching moments

(remind of framework concept & brochure)

6:10-19 Personal relationship = five distractions

1. Forgetting history (“remember”)
2. Losing integrity of language (“swear by Yahweh”)
3. Absorbing pagan notions of cosmology, nature cycles, and knowledge via mysticism (“not going after the gods of the people who are all around you”)
4. Trying to judge God (“you shall not tempt Yahweh [as in] Massah”)
5. Becoming inconsistent & sloppy in living by the Word (“diligently keep the commandments of Yahweh”)

Effectively participating in Yahweh’s war against evil

7:1-5, 17-26 operating doctrine

7:1-2 Finish the job; don’t quit just because you’ve had a few stunning battle victories (“utterly destroy them...make no treaty/covenants with them”)

Canaanites were “exhibit A” in history of what the totally apostate Christ-rejecting culture of the Tribulation’s final hour looks like; similar to Antiochus Epiphanes in Syria during the intertestamental period who is the prime historical example of what the coming Antichrist will look like.

7:3-4 Maintain family integrity; don’t jeopardize the “building bricks” of the society by destroying heart allegiance and living-in-the-Word procedures (“they will turn away your sons from following Me”)

Modern paganism uses every trick in the book to infiltrate and gain control over Christian families, and they’ve been fairly successful, even to the point of attacking the family institution itself via “gay-marriage” legitimizing.

7:5 Destroy every physical monument of paganism; eliminate their art and architecture.

Modern paganism has waged a well-financed campaign to denigrate and eliminate from public display every artistic expression of biblical faith, and evangelical Christians have been very slow to support genuine biblical artistic expression.

7:17-21 Manage fear by correctly utilizing the faith-rest drill procedure; must live in the Word so God’s past historic revelation in words and deeds dominate all distraction and intimidation.

- (1) Recall some absolute truth of the Word of God
- (2) Do a strategic envelopment around the problem area

Moses urges recall of the exodus event (“remember what Yahweh your God did to Pharaoh and all Egypt”)

- (3) Get to the point where you can really trust the Lord to give you the means to cope with the problem (“So shall Yahweh your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid”)

7:22-24 Realize that behind appearances is a greater reality which you may not understand; and that God’s strategy is perfectly managing that reality; the “timing” may be slower than you want, but there are “background reasons” for the timing so maintain determination to finish the job in spite of surface appearances.

We Christians do not understand why it has taken over 20 centuries of time for God to complete His work in this dispensation, but we have to keep thinking and doing according to His stated will.

7:25-26 In Yahweh's war, the booty is His, not Israel's; do not "rip Him off"!!

Summary: effectively participating in Yahweh's war against evil

7:1-5, 17-26 operating doctrine

II. MAINTAINING THE HEART ORIENTATION TO YAHWEH'S CONTRACTUALLY-DEFINED RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL (7:6-16)

Moses' "sandwich" style of presentation as in 6:10-19 when he urged Israel to maintain a focus on the personal relationship with Yahweh so the procedures of Living-in-the-Word don't become some sort of impersonal legalism.

7:6-8 Yahweh's contractual relationship with Israel.

Why contracts? To maintain integrity in a personal relationship. Israel unique in history according to Albright.

Therefore there has been a line of prophets over the centuries, all consistently explaining Israel's historical experiences in light of God's covenant with it.

NO OTHER NATION EVER HAD SUCH A CONTRACT → paganism in its idolatry doesn't have a basis for [stable personal] relationships.

a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

because Yahweh loves you and keeps the oath which he swore to your fathers

Abraham Covenant (contract) in progress of fulfillment (cf. Gen 15:13-14) → Yahweh's historically consistent behavior over 600 years to the contract language.

7:9-10 therefore know. . .

Moses shows proper heart-reasoning about the personal relationship with God.

Not some mystical hocus-pocus, smoking candle, spooky, feeling-centered group meditation. "7-11" chants.

Principles in Knowing God:

1. You know God (emotions follow—not the reverse!) [*and you know that Yahweh your God—He is God*] . . . know that the God of the Bible is the True God—not Allah, not some Mormon deity, not Buddha, of one of the thousand gods of Hinduism. This is an absolute claim → very offensive to a relativist generation who have hypocritically transferred absolute claims to themselves

2. El the Confirmed One Who keeps contract (BERITH) and CHESED to the ones who choose Him and keep His commandments

Knowledge of God comes from observing fulfillment of contractual stipulations—in this case 600 year period of history culminating in the exodus & Transjordanian conquests. "Living in the Word" as a way of life.

3. You have to KNOW His contracts and INTERPRET history in their light—not come up with some incompetent human replacement like the famous Will Durant's history of Christianity, where he interprets Christian origins as grounded in pagan mystery religions (like Da Vinci Code, etc.). These authors haven't got a clue to OT history and theology!

7:11 therefore. . . which I command you. .

Completion of step #2 of the Faith Rest Drill

Truth of Inspiration of Scripture = Moses' words are God's words.

Completion of this inside of the “sandwich” passage (7:12-16)

7:12 come to pass

Moral cause-effect in history—“lagging” with unbelievers, but “more promptly acting” with believers. This ethical pattern of cause-effect reveals the underlying rationality to existence. The Sinaitic Covenant was conditional; the Abrahamic Covenant unconditional. Picture of sovereignty over all that simultaneously insists upon human responsibility.

7:13-14 bless

Economic blessing → family → life (children a blessing, not a curse like they are considered today by certain leaders of the environmental movement)

7:15 sickness. . diseases. . .

Ethical cause-effect is active in health care and treatment—not always “neutral” like modern medical profession tends to impress upon us. Abuse of the body through promiscuous sex--including homosexuality---creates a society sick and burdened with std’s.

7:16 destroy whom Yahweh your God delivers.

Transition to the next section dealing with the operating doctrine of holy war.

III. CONCLUSION

Moses is careful to keep a balance between operating doctrine (specific “how to’s”) and reminding Israel of the personal dimension of their faith.

Regarding Yahweh’s Holy War against evil, he provides 6 points of operating doctrine in **7:1-5, 17-26**

1. Finish the job.
2. Maintain family integrity.
3. Destroy every physical monument of paganism.
4. Manage fear by correctly utilizing the faith-rest drill procedure.
5. Realize that behind appearances is a greater reality which you may not understand, and that God’s strategy is perfectly managing that reality.
6. In Yahweh’s war, the booty is His, not Israel’s.

These define Yahweh’s “will”—this is what pleases Him.

Regarding the personal relationship between Yahweh and the nation Israel, Moses points to the shape of that relationship—structure, stability—not some pagan, unstable, mystical cult 7:6-16.

1. Can’t have a personal relationship without a stable measure of behavior; the Bible uniquely provides such a measure in the contracts between God and man.
2. Once stability of character is shown, there can be confidence in the future of that relationship: certainty of blessing for obedience and of cursing for disobedience.

God's Design of Society	
LIFE (<i>protected</i>)	LIFE (<i>jeopardized</i>)
MARRIAGE & FAMILY (strong & functioning)	MARRIAGE & FAMILY (weak & dysfunctional)
LABOR & PROPERTY (respected & productive)	LABOR & PROPERTY (demeaned & wasted)
INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION (consistently states truth)	INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION (deceitfully professes truth for agendas)
HEART ALLEGIANCE (to God)	HEART ALLEGIANCE (to self)

GOD of the Bible	IDOLATRY
<i>Designer</i> of created existence to reveal Himself to us	Eternal, <i>purposeless, unintelligent chaos</i>
<i>Speaker & Actor</i> of history provides the means to interpret life correctly	Human <i>speculation</i> with language serving only as a <i>tool of manipulation</i>
<i>Judge</i> who reveals His integrity that is the eternally unchanging standard of right & wrong	Human <i>arbitrary opinion</i>

THE FAITH-REST DRILL

1. *Grab a portion of Scripture*
2. *“Unpack” its truths to surround the circumstance*
3. *Receive an inner rest and stability*

UNBELIEF SWALLOWING UP A BIT OF THE WORD OF GOD

“Unbelief controls my interpretation of the situation”

UNBELIEF FORCED INTO A CONTRAST IN MANY AREAS SIMULTANEOUSLY

“Word of God controls my interpretation of the situation”

Uniqueness of Israel

“What makes the history of Israelite prophecy sui generis is the succession of apostles of God that came to the people through the ages. Such a line of apostle-prophets is unknown in paganism. . . . [The pagan prophet] incorporated a unique, self-contained divine power; therefore his “mission” ended with him.”

Yehezkel Kaufmann, The Religion of Israel, 116,120.