

SESSION #25 (25 May 10); Deut 9:1-29; The Heart, the Military Victory Test, & Self-righteousness

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
8:1-20	Surviving success by maintaining the mental attitude of creature-hood
9:1-10:11	Surviving success by maintaining the mental attitude of fallen creature-hood in need of God's grace

Chaps 5-11 deal with the heart and mind.

5:29 "Oh, that they had ***such a heart*** in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments that it might be well with them and with their children forever."

6:5 "You shall love the LORD your God with ***all your heart***. . . these words which I command you today shall be ***in your heart***. . ."

7:17 "If you shall say in your heart, 'These nations are greater than I. . . .'"

8:2 "God led you. . . in the wilderness to humble you and test you, to know what was ***in your heart***, whether you would keep His commandments or not."

Physical heart: more than a pump; more like a "conductor" for the entire system

"The heart is in continuous connection with the brain and other bodily organs and systems through multiple pathways: *neurologically* (through the transmission of neural impulses), *biochemically* (through hormones and neurotransmitters), *biophysically* (through pressure and sound waves), and *energetically* (through electromagnetic field interactions)."

The Coherent Heart, p. 44

The brain operates efficiently when its various parts are stable and coordinated which condition is supplied by the heart; the "system" has an absolute standard = a fixed frequency which when established throughout the system promotes maximum efficiency (0.1 Hz).

Conclusion: the physical heart has a field of influence throughout [our whole body] & "radiates" its rhythms outward so our [total inner state] can be measured against a known standard → its physical design reveals how we are built "spiritually" (man is body + spirit = soul)

Spiritual heart:

“As in water face reflects face, so a man’s **heart** reveals the man” **Prov 27:19**

“I the LORD search the **heart**. . .to give every man according to his ways” **Jer. 17:10**

“Keep thy **heart** with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life” **Prov 4:23**

“A good man out of the good treasure of his **heart** brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasures brings forth evil things” **Matt 12:35**

“And by this we. . .shall assure our **hearts** before Him that if our **heart** condemns us, God is greater than our **heart**, and knows all things. . .if our **heart** does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God” **1 John 3:19-21**

“The law written in their **hearts**” **Rom 2:15**

From infancy our spiritual heart is functioning (Yale University research).
Our spiritual heart has [_fixed standards_]_ built into it.

Conclusions:

(1) Just as the physical heart reveals the bodily systems’ state, so the spiritual heart reveals our true spiritual state compared to God’s designed standard.

(2) We are responsible to subdue our heart and bring it into conformity with God’s holiness → it’s our “promised land” that must be conquered .

Deut 8: Heart performance under various test scenarios “*to know what was in your heart*”

Adversity test scenario: wilderness deprivation of the [_necessities of life_]_ to show how man does not live by “normal processes” alone, but by the underlying logistical supply from his Creator. Satan sought to get Jesus to use his omnipotence to make bread (which would violate Operation Kenosis), but Jesus chose to trust the Father to supply bread [_however_]_ and [_whenever_]_ He chose to do so.

Prosperity test scenario: when “normal procedures” seem to be sufficient, does the heart retain [_creature awareness_]_?

II. IMPROPERLY RESPONDING TO MILITARY VICTORY (9:1-6)

In chapter 8, it was the prosperity test of economic blessing.

In chapter 9, it is the prosperity test of military victory over enemies.

9:1-6 Gives the teaching, the principle point, the operational doctrine

9:7-29 Gives the historical refutation of Israel’s self-righteous response

10:1-11 Gives the real historical basis of every success

9:1-2 nations greater. . .cities fortified up to heaven. . .descendants of Anak

Emphasis on the lack of parity between the two armies; the military challenge

History of the Anakim:

1. Started with a man called Arba in Hebron where Abraham & Jacob lived—though he probably was born later since they don't report his presence (Jos 15:13)
2. Joshua and Caleb eliminated all his descendants except those who fled to the coast area (Jos 11:22). Egyptian texts report their existence.
3. Centuries later in David's time, one of their descendants gave birth to 5 giant sons (Goliath was 9.75' tall with armor weighing about 125lbs): Goliath, Ishbibenob, Saph, Lahmi, and Mr. X (6 fingers and toes) (2 Sam 21:16-21; 1 Chron 20:4-7)

9:3 he is the one going over before you [Heb: pctl]

Yahweh's battle; not Israel's.

destroy. . .subdue. . .so you will dispossess and destroy them quickly as He has said.

4 verbs with 2 subjects → divine action undergirds human action (as in Chap 8)

9:4 don't speak in your heart after

Looking forward to military victory as a judgment upon evil → tendency to become self-righteous.

wickedness of these nations. . .

Judgment upon evil terminates evil's [dominion], an essential for the completion of mortal history.

9:5 straightness of your heart

Idea of operating in the way it was designed to operate; Israel in denial of the universal fall of man.

in order that

How do we *identify the purpose* of an historical event? Or *how do we know there is a purpose* to consider?

He might fulfill the word which He swore. . .

Answer:

(1) We know there is a purpose because we know God *acts* that way *according to His revelation*;

(2) We know what the *purpose* is if He has put it into one of his *contracts*.

Application to our personal experiences.discuss

9:6 stiff necked

Idiom from their farm "tractors" (work animals who would not bow their heads to pull hardware). . . .an idiom from the heart of every man's business.

Operation "Fat Head" = self-righteousness

Because somebody "got what they deserve," I feel superior. I interpret the situation in the wrong way because of the ever-present power of sin **in my heart**.

- Happens in court cases
- Happens in political elections and crucial votes
- Happens in international relations of military or economic conquest
- Happens in business' cornering of a market

I flunk the prosperity test of personal victory over an opponent when I may have just been a tool in God's hand to deal with a specific evil = denial of my fallenness.

III. REFUTATION OF ISRAEL'S SELF-RIGHTEOUS RESPONSE (9:7-29)

9:7 remember. . .don't forget [Heb: emphatic construction]

Corollary to historical revelation (key events!—why I teach the framework) cf. **6:20; 7:18; 8:2**

from. . .Egypt. . .until. . .this place. . .you have been rebelling with Him

Universal statement about the 1st generation: time, location, plus emphasis upon the personal relationship

Temporal sequence: **22, 9, 11, 10, 12-17, 21, 18-20, 25-29, 23-24**

We think chronologically; Moses writes more like a news reporter putting matters in a sequence that fits his emphasis

9: 9-11	40 day wait for 1 st 2 tablets; relationship emphasized in v10	The Yahweh-Israel contractual relationship established, broken, restored 9:9-20
9:12-17	ruptured relationship ending in destruction of the 2 tablets	
9:18-20	40 day wait for 2 nd 2 tablets; relationship restored announced in v19	
9:21	destruction of the idol	Actual locations where rebellion occurred
9:22-24	other historical incidents before and after Sinai confirming 9:7	
9:25-29	Intercessory logic in the “negotiation”	Basis of restored relationship is glory of God, not Israel's righteousness

Idolatry

Wrong metaphysical answer: The purpose & meaning of life is unknowable; all we have are the capricious gods/goddesses of nature whom we must somehow appease.

Wrong epistemological answer: We will conceive what gods and goddesses we will worship; truth is determined by us.

Wrong ethical answer: The god-making priests determine what is right and wrong.

Idolatry is the central sin = personal animosity toward God.

IV. CONCLUSION

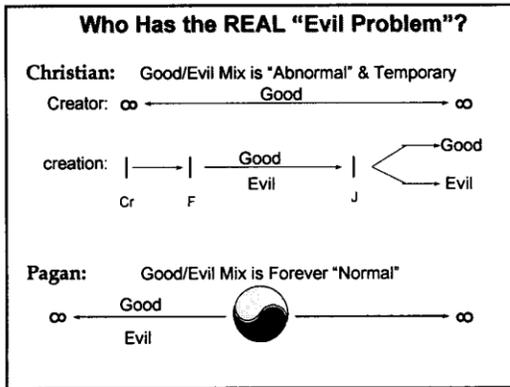
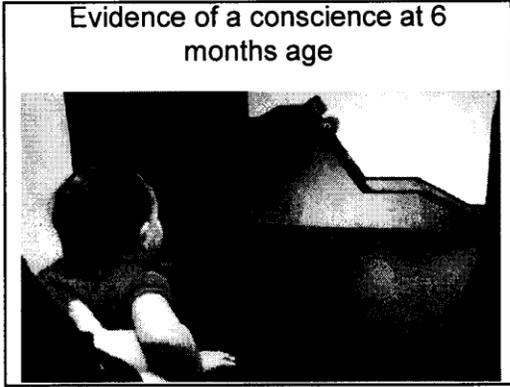
Success particularly involving triumph of good over evil sets one up for another type of Prosperity Test: whether to deny or affirm my fallen creaturehood.

Cure: just remember your own sins and defiance of God's will in your life.

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Actual Temporal Sequence:
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