

SESSION #27 (8 Jun 10); Deut 11:1-32; Moses' Concluding Appeal to the Heart: Conditionality of Blessing

*****Last session until sometime in August or September, depending upon how my preparation goes for the second part of Moses' 2nd exposition—see outline below

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 <i>fallen</i> creature-hood in need of God's grace
10:12 - 11:32	Concluding appeal

CONCLUDING APPEAL OF MOSES (10:12 - 11:32)

A. Big ideas to take away:

1. Beginning and end of the Decalogue concerns the [heart] relationship with God
2. God's design of society:
 - True social prosperity and happiness is inseparable from relationship with God
 - Pagan attempts to separate morality from God *always collapse into arbitrary subjectivism*—either everyone doing their own "feeling" resulting in social chaos or a strong group of people seizing power and imposing their personal subjective moral feelings upon those who are weaker.
 - Ruptured relationship with God always results in life lived against the design of reality, which raises the costs economically and socially.
3. The battle between good and evil
 - Kingdom of God will not come until evil is dealt with.
 - The "heart" is the first area to be conquered.
 - The "land" is next—IN THAT ORDER!!

Applications:

Marxism fails to take into account the priority of the heart and resulted in massive [corruption] and lack of [productivity] in the USSR.

Islamic Shariah fails to take into account the priority of the heart and results in a tyrannical [enforcement] against [corrupt] hearts by leaders with [corrupt] hearts.

Socialism fails to take into account the priority of the heart and results in corrupt [bureaucracy], inefficient [economy], and [lazy] citizens.

Our heart is the battleground for our "holy war" against [cosmic thinking].

B. Loving God (Yahweh) and Man (10:12-22)

10:12-13 to fear. . .to walk. . .to love. . .to serve. . .to keep. . . .

- *Fear* = God is the final [authority], not man, the government, or the priesthood.
- *Walk* = Be aware of His directions and deliberately choose to do them in every area.
- *Love* = Want to please Him.
- *Serve* = Accomplish works that are truly what He wants in your life.
- *Keep* = Be concerned to remember, to study, to teach, and to evaluate by means of His Word.

10:14-22 the character of the God Whom Israel is to love

- *Creator* of ALL universe—material and immaterial.
- *Final Chooser* of history—election of Israel as His conduit of revelation and salvation of all mankind.
- *Uncompromising integrity*—not like a human judge who through intimidation or self-aggrandizement takes bribes that alter his judgment; concerned for those who can “offer” him nothing—the widows and orphans.
- *Gracious* toward those having no claim on His love.
- *Covenant Keeper* who accomplishes in history what He has promised He would.

The heart involves a relationship—a relationship with a Person of specific revealed character.

II. God has proved and will further prove His side of the Abrahamic Covenant in a dramatic way if you obey Him (11:1-12)

God’s covenant includes stipulations about the total environment; they are public & dramatic.

A. Past proof (11:1-7)

11:1 love Yahweh your God

Emphasis upon the choice—response to 10:14-22. 11:2-7 is one very long sentence.

11:2 not with your children who have not known. . .seen. . .the musar of Yahweh your God

11:7 but your eyes have seen all the act of Yahweh the great one which he did

Emphasis upon adult responsibility including the implication that future blessing is contingent upon them raising godly children by passing on the memory of God’s act

The singular “act” includes at least 4 separate actions:

11:3 – the plagues upon Egypt, the “superpower” of ANE

11:4 – the destruction of the Egyptian army in the Red Sea, a destruction that lasted at least until the time of Moses’ address

11:5 – all the logistical supply and military aid during the wilderness wanderings

11:6 – surgical discipline against sin in their midst

B. Future proof (11:8-12)

11:8-9 keep every commandment

Section begins with an imperative like 11:1-7.

11:10 not like the land of Egypt. . .watered by foot. . .

Irrigation pumps were foot-driven from Nile

11:12 Yahweh your God cares. . .eyes on it from the beginning to the end. . .

Climate control is part of the Mosaic Covenant → nature under this covenant, too.

God of the Bible is the Lord of history—clearly revealed Himself in public history that is documented, BUT His rule is in response to our response to Him.

Application: If He could have controlled the natural environment over Egypt and Palestine, can't He control our circumstances today?

III. Closing emphasis upon Israel's responsibility under the Mosaic Covenant: blessing for obedience, cursing for disobedience. (11:13-32)

Principle: We have true freedom of choice (which includes “opportunity for blessing”), but can't dictate the consequences; there is [rational] structure in the ethical realm that implies [rational] structure in every other realm.

This lesson went out into all the world through Israel especially under Solomon and the “golden era” and also through the exile and diaspora.

A. Summary scheme of blessing and cursing (11:13-17)

11:13 if you hearing hear to my commandments [Heb: Infinitive absolute] serve with all your soul . . .

That's the test if the Word has taken root in the heart.

11:14-15 I will . . .

Blessing upon their labor, their business, their economy

11:16 guard. . .lest your heart be deceived. . .

Battleground in the heart:

Metaphysical question: What is the purpose of my life—do I make it up, or do I find it in God's plan?

Epistemological question: What is my source and standard of truth—do I demand things fit my criteria, or do I submit to the framework of God's revelation?

Moral question: What is my moral authority—my feelings and standards, or the Word of God?

11:17 anger of Yahweh

Like it or not, Israel is locked into a relationship with God.

B. Opportunity to perpetuate a godly culture (11:18-21)

11:18 put these words upon your heart and nephesh

Picture of “gluing” them onto the inner heart → control center of our mind and body—including the thoughts we think and the words we speak. “Nephesh” refers to our daily living (“hand. . .eyes”).

11:19 children

Repeated emphasis upon education under parental authority for the goal of a godly culture (not just “a better job”).

11:21 like the days of heavens upon the earth

Eternal dwelling in the land was a possibility—i.e., the Kingdom of God could have come had they been obedient.

C. Opportunity to have total victory in the coming conquest (11:22-25)

11:22 if you guarding guard all this commandment [Heb: infinitive absolute as in 11:13]

Need to pay attention in order to actually do all the details.

Biblical faith is a cognitive faith that demands focus, attention to detail, and review.

11:24 from Euphrates to the ‘behind’ Sea (Mediterranean)

Tell it to the UN!!

11:25 dread. . .fear. . .as He has said

Spiritual force upon the enemies that result in weakened will. God can throw fear into the demons of darkness in response to our submission to Him.

D. Warning of continued responsibility for blessing or cursing (11:26-32)

11:26-28 blessing. . .cursing. . .today

Suzerainty-vassal treaties had a blessing/cursing provision; they were “conditional” treaties.

11:29-32 when Yahweh your God has brought you into the land. . .Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal. . .

Covenant renewal under Joshua.

IV. CONCLUSION

End of a major section 5:1-11:32—all on the mental preparation of the heart.

Chiastic Structure (X)

5:6-10 God alone is worthy of worship and service
 5:11 Accuracy in language about God
 5:12-15 Management of labor and property
 5:16 Society depends upon functional marriage & family
 5:17 Life is to be respected & preserved
 5:18 Marriage is to be protected
 5:19 Property is to be protected
 5:20 Accuracy in language of judicial proceedings
 5:21 Self is not worthy of worship and service

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)

Who Has the REAL "Evil Problem"?

Christian: Good/Evil Mix is "Abnormal" & Temporary
 Creator: ∞ ← Good → ∞

creation: | → | — Good —> | —> Good
 Cr F Evil J Evil

Pagan: Good/Evil Mix is Forever "Normal"
 ∞ ← Good — (Yin-Yang) — Evil → ∞

