

**SESSION #59 (18 Oct 11)**

**I. INTRODUCTION & REVIEW**

1:1-5	Introduction to God’s spokesman, the 1 <sup>st</sup> Prophet Moses
<b>1:6-4:40</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Exposition of the Torah</b> = <i>motivation</i> 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 <sup>nd</sup> Exposition of the Torah
<b>5:1-26:19</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Exposition of the Torah</b> = <i>proper response</i> to Yahweh in heart and soul
5:1-11:32	Loving Yahweh with <i>all the heart</i>
12:1-25:19	Loving Yahweh with <i>all the soul</i> ( <i>nephesh</i> =life)
26:1-19	Conclusion of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Exhortation

**II. THE FIRST CELEBRATION OF “FIRST FRUITS” (26:1-11)**

A culture’s view of money and wealth sets it off from other cultures. Yahweh “primed the pump” for His nation by providing Egyptian money and farmland—capital assets.

**26:1-2 when you come into the land. . . .take some of the first of all the produce. . .**

Precedent-setting act at the first growing season after taking over the land that reveals what their attitude ought to be.

Cycle	Celebration by Israel	Fulfillment for Israel
Spring Cycle	Passover to remember the exodus judgment/salvation	Crucifixion—availability of complete redemption from Satan’s rule
	Unleavened bread (7 days) to dramatize the cultural break from Egypt	Availability of a cultural break with the world
	First-Fruits to rejoice over the 1 <sup>st</sup> spring harvest--barley	Resurrection of Christ is the first fruit of the resurrection process
	Pentecost to rejoice over the last of the spring harvest now laid up for use--bread	Pentecost
Fall Cycle	Feast of Trumpets	to be revealed
	Day of Atonement	to be revealed
	Feast of Tabernacles (8 days)	to be revealed

“First fruit” idea in the New Testament:

**Rom. 8:23 firstfruits of the Spirit. . .redemption of our body**

**1 Cor 15:20,23 Christ is risen and has become the firstfruits**

We have what no other religion or political program (Marxism) has: a really [existing piece]\_ of the future.

**go where Yahweh has chooses to make His Name abide**

This is the [sacred space]\_ of meeting between God and man (Eden, Bethel, Mt. Sinai, Tabernacle, Temple, Jesus, Church) –each has boundaries and an approach protocol.

**26:3 I have come to the country which Yahweh swore to our fathers to give us**

Personal, public confession of a fulfilled contract promise, indicating reception of God’s grace.

## 26:5-9 recitation of Israel's history = definition of the Israelite's identity

PRINCIPLE: We gain our identity from what we believe is our personal history—it is our “context” in time. Battle in the cosmos over the creature's experience of time, i.e., the temporal providence of the eternal God. Thus Satan has tried to destroy our identity through “revising” [natural history] history and our [American] history so true temporal experience revealing the eternal God is altered to suppress that revelation.

No resident alien could make this confession nor can we; our “participation” in God's redemption only comes through our [union with Christ as the Son of Man], otherwise we share the history of the fallen Adamic race.

**Aramean. . .perish/wander** (HEB *'avad*)

Probably better to take it as “wander” in sense of nomadic existence although Jacob was 130 years old when he went down to Egypt in failing health with a total family of 70 (**Gen. 46:27**).

**Yahweh brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. . .signs and wonders.**

**He has brought us to this place. . . .**

**26:10 I have brought the firstfruits which you O Yahweh have given me.**

Personal relationship heavily emphasized here.

**26:11 rejoice. . .you, your family, and the Levite and the resident alien who is among you.**

Analogous to the NT principle to give thanks in everything = contentment.

### III. REVIEW OF THE TITHES (Recall Lesson 34)

#### 1. Israel had 3 tithes:

All were based upon production (“income tax”); no sales tax or property tax.

Production of wealth is exercise of dominion [review dominion]

- Government cannot produce wealth—only businesses do that—government can only consume wealth and/or re-distribute it (fallacy of the “slices of the pie” or zero-sum view of economy).
- To tax property, per se, whether productive or not, punishes ownership by those disabled—especially by those such as the elderly or infirm who cannot make it productive; it is a tax on capital, not on production. Maintain integrity of language to require ‘user fees’ for basic services (fire, police).

#### 2. The tithe-structure expresses the creature-dependency principle of Deut 8: “Surviving success by maintaining the mental attitude of creature-hood”

Titling was what *creature-hood dependency looked like in the financial part of life*. Finances, diet, attitude toward death are areas where one's values come out into the open (“loving God with all our soul”).

#### 3. 1<sup>st</sup> tithe (Num. 18:21,24) for the Levites' function: protection of their family “inheritance” right to 10% produce of all land (Levites “waited on the King”--worship rituals and facilities, public health and education)—NOT Marxist “wealth-redistribution”

#### 4. 2<sup>nd</sup> tithe (Deut 14:22-47) for national celebration of God's blessing at Feast of Weeks (Pentecost): “holy wastefulness” at a massive ‘Yahweh party’; enforced application of the Faith-Rest Drill (vs Baalism—buying off Nature to get income from crops “grain”=Dagan; “wine”=Terosh):

- a. fragment of Scripture = history of Yahweh's working
- b. develop a biblical rationale = attributes of Yahweh > weather, insects, soil fertility
- c. rest in lowering this year's profits by 10%

5. 3<sup>rd</sup> tithe (**Deut 14:28-29**) for sharing production with all non-landed covenant-keepers (Levites in rural areas, widows, resident-alien (ger) who were not recipients of 2<sup>nd</sup> tithe)

Class	Relationship to the tithes
Israelite citizens	1,2,3 required (Levites exempted & receive all 3)
Ger	1, 2? Required (exempted from 3 & recipient of 3)
Nokree	Exempted from all 3

**Tobit 1:5-8** *“But I alone went often to Jerusalem for the feasts, as it is ordained for all Israel by an everlasting decree. Taking the first fruits and the tithes of my produce and the first shearings, I would give these to the priests, the sons of Aaron, at the altar. Of all my produce I would give a tenth to the sons of Levi who ministered at Jerusalem; the second tenth I would sell, and I would go and spend the proceeds each year at Jerusalem; the third tenth I would give to those to whom it was my duty, as Deborah my father’s mother had commanded me, for I was left an orphan by my father.”*

#### IV. THE FIRST OF THE “THIRD TITHES” (26:12-15)

This would have been a test because it meant 30% loss of income in this 3<sup>rd</sup> year (unless he had planned ahead financially with set-asides).

**26:12 finished. . .all the tithes. . .in your gates**

This is a local tithe so the confession was heard by locales and could have been challenged if untrue.

**26:13-14 say before Yahweh. . .**

No central sanctuary here so this must mean a liturgy-like confession in various homes.

**eat in mourning, removed for unclean use, given for the dead. . .**

Pagan practices??

**done all you commanded me. . .**

Is this a perfection claim?? Must have included atonement protocols to make this claim.

**26:15 look down. . .and bless Your people. . .**

Corporate blessing asked by individuals since sanctification in the theocracy was inter-linked with the nation.

#### V. CONCLUSION (26:16-19)

Conclusion to Moses 2<sup>nd</sup> exhortation contains the [responsibilities] of both parties to the Mt. Sinai contract. Note that “relationships” between God and man are contract-based, not casual free-wheeling relationships.

**26:16 This day Yahweh your God commands you**

How?? Through Moses the prophet!

**be careful to observe. . .heart and soul (nephesh)**

Summary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> exhortation—responsibility of Israel

**26:17 today you have proclaimed**

This is *solemn contractual language*.

**26:18 also today Yahweh has proclaimed you to be His special people just as He promised**

Mosaic-Sinaitic contract built upon the Abrahamic contract. Israel is God’s “disruptor” of paganized Noahic civilization.

**that you should keep His commandments**

This contract is conditional—choice will bring blessings or cursings → first clear and “tight” cause –effect between ethics and economic and political prosperity.

**26:19 set you high above all the nations. . .in praise, in name, and in honor. . .a holy people**  
 Cf **7:6; 14:2; 28:1**. Eventually, under the New Contract Israel’s condition will qualify for these blessings (cf. **Isa 60:1-4**); this is the dynamic behind historical progress toward the Millennial Kingdom and Eternal State!!

Pagans would recognize through the clear prosperity of Israel that that Israel’s standards “work” better than their own (i.e., the “wisdom” principle in actual practice cf **4:4-8**)

This is the “testimony of the godly lifestyle” that God’s grace can open unbelieving eyes to see and believe.

**Baal -- idol of Nature's Climate Cycle**

*Cultic prostitution – to trigger fertility*



*“blessings” of rain, fertility of grain and herds*

Rain, Fertility: needs of an agrarian economy  
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### Faith Rest Drill

1	<i>Fragment of Scripture, Event-Picture, Doctrine</i>
2	<i>Develop a dominating rationale (“encircle the amoeba of cosmic unbelief”)</i>
3	<i>Experience the peace of God that goes beyond human comprehension</i>