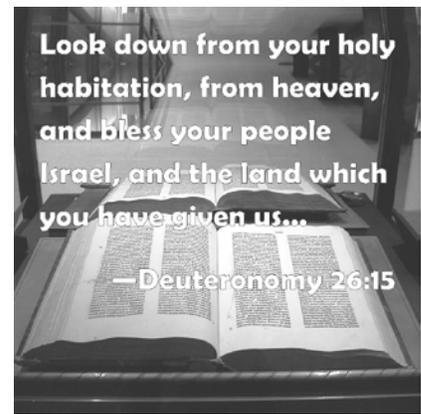


“God’s Treasured Possession!”

The Book of Deuteronomy - Old Israel and New Israel = The Church

Date: 4-9-17 Study: #23 Text: Chapter 26

Note: Chapters 24 and 25 are a further listing of civil laws for Israel as a theocracy, which with a study Bible, you could examine each one and find out the context for these legal codes from 3400 years ago.



Lesson 23 for us: “Look down from your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless”

(Deuteronomy 26:1-19) "When you come into the land that **the Lord your God** is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, (2) you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that **the Lord your God** is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that **the Lord your God** will choose, to make **his name** to dwell there. (3) And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'I declare today to the **Lord your God** that I have come into the land that **the Lord** swore to our fathers to give us.'

(4) Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before **the altar of the Lord your God**. (5) "And you shall make response before **the Lord your God**, 'A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. (6) And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. (7) Then we cried to **the Lord, the God of our fathers, and the Lord** heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. (8) And **the Lord** brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. (9) And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. (10) And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, **O Lord**, have given me.' And you shall set it down before **the Lord your God** and worship before **the Lord your God**. (11) And you shall rejoice in all the good that **the Lord your God** has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.

(12) "When you have finished paying all the tithe of your produce in the third year, which is the year of tithing, giving it to the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, so that they may eat within your towns and be filled, (13) then you shall say before **the Lord your God**, 'I have removed the sacred portion out of my house, and moreover, I have given it to the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, according to all your commandment that you have commanded me. I have not transgressed any of your commandments, nor have I forgotten them. (14) I have not eaten of the tithe while I was mourning, or removed any of it while I was unclean, or offered any of it to the dead. I have obeyed **the voice of the Lord my God**. I have done according to all that you have commanded me. (15) Look down **from your holy habitation, from heaven**, and bless your people Israel and the ground that you have given us, as you swore to our fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey.'

(16) "This day **the Lord your God** commands you to do these statutes and rules. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul. (17) You have declared today that **the Lord is your God**, and that you will walk in his ways, and keep his statutes and his commandments and his rules, and will obey **his voice**. (18) And **the Lord** has declared today that you are a people for his treasured possession, as he has promised you, and that you are to keep all his commandments, (19) and that he will set you in praise and in fame and in honor high above all nations that he has made, and that you shall be a people holy to the **Lord your God**, as he promised."

B. Study Notes:

1. This third year first-fruit offering is not to be confused with the annual presentation of the first-fruits.
(Dt. 14:22-29)

2. Jacob, who was renamed Israel, was the patriarch of all the Jews through his 12 sons. He was a wandering Aramean who travelled from south Canaan up to Haran and back, living in tents with his family. (Gen. ch. 27-35). He lived in Aram, working for his uncle Laban for 20 years. Jacob married two Aramean women (Gen 28:5; 29:16-28). Later his family migrated to Egypt (Gen 46:3-7), after his son Joseph had become second under Pharaoh. They started out being small in number (72) and became a great people (600,000) over 430 years in Egypt (Ex 1:5-7; 12:40).

3. (Vv. 5-11) are a re-telling of the history of Israel and the exodus out of Egypt. It is like a “creed.”

4. (Vv. 12-15) When in their prosperity in a land flowing with milk and honey, a good and fruitful land, they were to use their tithes to support the Levite (priests who owned no land), the alien (people among them with no land), the fatherless (orphans) and the widows, so they could eat and be satisfied in their towns. The tithe was considered a “sacred portion” and they were under no circumstances (while mourning or unclean) to withhold it, since it was the only means of support for the truly needy.

5. “Look down from your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless your people Israel and the ground that you have given us, as you swore to our fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey.” (v. 15)
(Ps 68:5; 80:14; 102:19; Is 63:15; Zech 2:13)

6. In (vv. 16,17) it is declared that if the Lord is your God, the proof of this will be that you follow his decrees commands and laws, obey him and carefully observe them with your all your heart and soul. (Ps 48:9-14)

7. The setting aside of Israel alone, out of all the nations on earth (vv. 18,19), was for the purpose of bringing the one Savior/Messiah for all the world, from them:

ABRAHAM – ISAAC – JACOB – JUDAH – DAVID – SOLOMON – MARY/JOSEPH – JESUS.

Thus there has always been only one way that God has chosen to become his covenant people, who have the promise of “the eternal land flowing with milk and honey” in heaven/paradise. The words God uses: you are his people, his treasured possession, upon whom he has placed his praise, fame, honor, and placed them above all other peoples to be holy – this has now been fulfilled in the CHURCH – the NEW ISRAEL - made up of Jews and Gentiles. This is the mystery that has been revealed in the New Testament.

(Romans ch. 10,11; Gal 6:14-18; Eph 2:11-21; 3:1-9; Col 1:24-28)

C. LIFE APPLICATION:

1. If the Lord is your God, the proof of this will be that you follow his decrees commands and laws, obey him and carefully observe them with your all your heart and soul.

How does this truth demonstrate the connection between:

The tree - Justification (salvation by grace through faith)

The fruit - Sanctification (a life of good works)