

"God's Treasured Possession!"

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

Date: 5-28-17 Study: #29 Text: Chapter 31 - Theme:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you"

TEXT: (1) So Moses continued to speak these words to all Israel. (2) And he said to them, "I am 120 years old today. I am no longer able to go out and come in. **The Lord** has said to me, 'You shall not go over this Jordan.' (3) **The Lord your God himself** will go over before you. He will destroy these nations before you, so that you shall dispossess them, and Joshua will go over at your head, as **the Lord** has spoken. (4) And **the Lord** will do to them as he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when he destroyed them. (5) And **the Lord** will give them over to you, and you shall do to them according to the whole commandment that I have commanded you. (6) Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is **the Lord your God** who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

(7) Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that **the Lord** has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. (8) It is **the Lord** who goes before you. **He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you.** Do not fear or be dismayed."

(9) Then Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried **the ark of the covenant of the Lord**, and to all the elders of Israel. (10) And Moses commanded them, "At the end of every seven years, at the set time in the year of release, at the Feast of Booths, (11) when all Israel comes to appear before **the Lord your God** at the place that he will choose, you shall read **this law** before all Israel in their hearing. (12) Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the **Lord your God**, and be careful to do all **the words of this law**, (13) and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear **the Lord your God**, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess."

(14) And **the Lord** said to Moses, "Behold, the days approach when you must die. Call Joshua and present yourselves in the tent of meeting, that I may commission him." And Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves in the tent of meeting. (15) And **the Lord** appeared in the tent in a pillar of cloud. And the pillar of cloud stood over the entrance of the tent. (16) And **the Lord** said to Moses, "Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers. Then this people will rise and whore after the foreign gods among them in the land that they are entering, and they will forsake me and break my covenant that I have made with them. (17) Then my anger will be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide my face from them, and they will be devoured. And many evils and troubles will come upon them, so that they will say in that day, 'Have not these evils come upon us because **our God** is not among us?' (18) And I will surely hide my face in that day because of all the evil that they have done, because they have turned to other gods.

(19) "Now therefore write this song and teach it to the people of Israel. Put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the people of Israel. (20) For when I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, which I swore to give to their fathers, and they have eaten and are full and grown fat, they will turn to other gods and serve them, and despise me and break **my covenant**. (21) And when many evils and troubles have come upon them, this song shall confront them as a witness (for it will live unforgotten in the mouths of their offspring). For I know what they are inclined to do even today, before I have brought them into the land that I swore to give."

(22) So Moses wrote **this song** the same day and taught it to the people of Israel. (23) And **the Lord** commissioned Joshua the son of Nun and said, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the people of Israel into the land that I swore to give them. I will be with you." (24) When Moses had finished **writing the words of this law in a book** to the very end, (25) Moses commanded the Levites who carried **the ark of the covenant of the Lord**, (26) "Take **this Book of the Law** and put it by the side of **the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God**, that it may be there for a witness against you. (27) For I know how rebellious and stubborn you are. Behold, even today while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against **the Lord**. How much more after my death! (28) Assemble to me all the elders of your tribes and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears and call **heaven** and earth to witness against them. (29) For I know that after my death you will surely act corruptly and turn aside from the way that I have commanded you. And in the days to come evil will befall you, because you will do what is evil in **the sight of the Lord**, provoking him to anger through the work of your hands."

(30) Then Moses spoke the words of this song until they were finished, in the ears of all the assembly of Israel:

B. Study Notes:

Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid or terrified
because of them, for the
LORD your God goes with
you; he will never leave you
nor forsake you.
-Deuteronomy 31:6

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1. Moses would not be allowed to enter the Promised Land because of his sin. **(Num 20:2-13)**
2. Be strong and courageous –
**(Gen 28:15; Josh 1:5-18; 10:25; 1 Ki 8:57; 1 Chr 22:13; 28:20; 2 Chr 32:7;
Mt 28:19,20; John 14:18; 1 Cor 16:13; 2 Cor 12:10; Eph 6:10; Heb 6:18; 13:5; 1 John 2:14)**
3. The Book of the Law was written down for future generations **(Ex 16:34; 25:22; 31:18; Prov 1:8)**
and placed in the Ark of the Covenant for safe keeping and holiness.
4. To be read every seven years by the priests – the year of release – the Feast of Booths.
(Ex 23:10,11; Lev 10:11; 23:42,43; 25:1-7,17-34; Josh ch. 23,24; Mal 2:4-9)
5. Joshua was commissioned to take Moses' place. **(Num 27:18-23)**
Note: Joshua is a type of Christ. Joshua = Yeshua = Jesus (meaning: "The Lord saves")
Joshua led them into the promised land of Canaan
Jesus leads us into the promised land of heaven
6. The people will become stiff-necked and rebellious and follow other gods **(Ex 32:9; John 2:24,25)**
7. The pillar of cloud upon the tabernacle **(vv. 14-15) (Ex 40:32-38; Jn 1:14; Rev 15:8)**
The **SHEKINAH**: God's holy presence in the bright cloud
The **TRANSFIGURATION**: **(Mt 17:1-8; Mk 9:2-13; Lk 9:28-36)**
8. THE LAW – I will forsake them **(v. 17)** disobedience – wrath – judgment – rejection - hell
(Ps 30:7; 104:29; Is 8:17; 59:2; 64:7; Hos 9:12; Jdg 6:13; Num 14:42)

Luther's Works, Vol. 10, Page 212 – The external written Word of God

“And in that word is a wonderful way He instructs us how the Word of God must be heard or read, namely, so that we do not approach it with our own powers, nor are content with the letter and the openly heard word, but that we seek to hear the Spirit Himself...For just as a man uses the tongue as a tool with which he produces and forms words, so God uses our words, whether Gospels or prophetic books, as tools with which He Himself writes living words in our hearts. When one has put another's word and the sense of the words into the heart, this is not yet writing, but only the stylus poised over the tablet, which is then reduced to living letters, when God gives the increase and grants it to be efficacious and wise...

...but He who writes, namely, the writer writing swiftly is the Holy Spirit. Therefore, O prophet, it is for you to utter and be the pen. You can openly proclaim out of the fullness of your heart and spirit, but you cannot openly pour out the Spirit Himself, nor can you infuse Him and so make others feel the feeling you have. Therefore he rightly says, after he has said, “My heart utters a good word,” as if to say, “I can do no more, because my tongue has no further ability, for it is ‘the pen of a writer,’ but I am not the writer.”

...Therefore the prophet utters, but the evangelist and apostle pours out. And so his tongue is the pen of a writer...whereas among the Christians the writer wielded this stylus and wrote.”

C. LIFE APPLICATION:

How can we be strong and courageous, and not fear or be in dread of others,
since the Lord our God goes with us?