

J.J.

THE FAITHFUL GOD Deuteronomy 7:6-9

Deuteronomy 7: 6 For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. 7 The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

Pray

GOD IS THE FAITHFUL GOD!

He is not like us.

Story : It is said that when you get to heaven, the kind of ride you will have will depend if on how faithful you are to your spouse.

So there was this husband who died and when he was at the pearly gates, Peter said to him, "You have been unfaithful to your wife 28 times and because of that you will only get a beat-up Kia Pride." When he received his Kia Pride, he was driving around heaven and he saw one friend whom he knew only had one minor affair and his ride was a Honda Civic. He saw another friend whom he knew who was faithful to his wife and his ride was a Lamborghini.

He wondered about his wife who died before him and while he was talking with his friend who has a Lamborghini, he began to cry. And his friend asked, "Why are you crying? Do you feel sad that you only have a Kia Pride." "No." the friend replied. "Then why are you crying?", the friend asked again. The friend answered, "It's because I just saw my wife pass by and her ride is a skateboard."

For the past 2 weeks, we have been talking about God's faithfulness and it's good to remember that.

Quick Review :

Background that this was Moses reminders or sermons before the Israelites would cross the Promised Land. Moses himself did not cross the Promised Land as I mentioned the reason last week.

Sometimes, I feel like the Israelite who are in the desert waiting to cross the Promised Land. But at the end of the day, our Promised Land is not here. It is the time when our Lord Jesus comes back again and we'll spend eternity with Him. He is our Promised Land.

John 14 : 1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

In the meantime,
IT'S GOOD TO REMEMBER, THAT GOD IS FAITHFUL.

GOD IS FAITHFUL. WE ARE HIS POSSESSION, HE HAS SET HIS AFFECTION ON US AND WE ARE PROMISED HIS PROVISION.

I. WE ARE GOD'S POSSESSION

6 For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

It's good to remember, that we belong to God. What does that mean?

1. We were set apart for Himself.

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God

Etymology: kawdosh – set apart for a special purpose.

2. We were chosen by our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people

This is the reason why the Bible tell us...

The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

Remember, you are HOLY, CHOSEN AND TREASURED

Last week, we looked at the Word of God again and talked about that we are

II. WE ARE GOD'S AFFECTION

7 The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the Lord loved you

Etymology : hasaq ; KJV mentioned love but the word is not chesed, it's hasaq

It's more of a desire... it's not the earthly or worldly kind of desire...it's a want... it's coming from the deepest part of you.

So why does He desire us and choose us? SIMPLE....

8 But it was because the Lord loved you

The word that was used here is not chesed, but ahab.

Etymology: ahava "female form" ahab "masculine form" ahab – root word

To desire, to breath after – a longing, Remember when you're longing for someone, there's something that happens physiologically...

So remember, we are HOLY, CHOSEN, TREASURED AND DESIRED BY GOD HIMSELF. And it's not because of what we have done...IT IS ALL BY GRACE!

And since we are HIS POSSESSION AND HIS AFFECTION, WE ARE ASSURED OF HIS PROVISION.

III. PROVISION

and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

Now before we can understand and apply this in our lives, we must take this into context.

What is the provision? Remember the context again, this is Moses last sermon before they enter...

THE PROMISED LAND – A LAND FLOWING WITH MILK AND HONEY

Now let us go back to the time when God met with Moses for the first time.

Remember the story of the Burning Bush in Exodus 3

There's this story about President George Bush when he was at the airport. He saw a man who was wearing white clothes and holding a cane and two tablets. So he approached the man, "Are you Moses?" The man ignored him. So he asked him again, "Are you Moses?" Then the man ignored him again. So he asked for the third time, "Are you Moses?" The man said, "Yes." Then George Bush replied back, "Then why are you ignoring me?" Then the man who was pretending to be Moses said, "It's because the last time I talked with a bush, I spent 40 years in the desert."

(By the way, it could only have taken them weeks but it took them 40 years because of their complaining and disobedience.)

Now here's the real story :

- While Moses was in the desert tending the sheep of his father-in-law, he saw a burning bush
- But the bush was on fire from the inside but it wasn't being burnt up
- Moses went closer and then God called from within the Bush, "Moses, Moses"
- Then God introduced Himself to Moses and that He is standing on holy ground.
- He introduced Himself as the God of his father, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

Here's the what the Lord said to Moses.

*Exodus 3: 7 The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and **to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey**—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.*

Note : Land flowing with milk and honey – MEANING

Milk – livestock – it's a sign of abundance (*Genesis 49:12 ; Ezek. 25:4 ; Joel 3:18*)

Honey – means there's vast lands of farmland where the bees can get nectar from : **in the Bible, it's used to represent God's Word.**

Remember, during those times the symbol that you are well-provided is the number of livestock that you have and how big your land is – it's an agricultural country. Even today, present-day Israel is called "The Fertile Crescent"

NOTE: So a land flowing with milk and honey means they will be well provided and well cared for.

Now look again :

to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

Who are they? We can't go into a deep dive into these nations. But here's how Moses described them in verse 1

Deuteronomy 7:1 When the Lord your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you—

It means when God gives them the land...it is already well-established. Everything that you will need is there.

Side note : This is the reason why the Bible says,

Romans 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

The context is that even though we are undergoing through trials and suffering, WE ARE ALREADY WINNERS BECAUSE GOD IS WITH US AND FOR US.

Note : The Israelites did not enter the land and all these powerful nations just gave the land freely...NO THEY STILL HAD TO FIGHT AND CONQUER EVEN THOUGH THE ODDS ARE AGAINST THEM, BUT THE BIG DIFFERENCE IS GOD IS ON THEIR SIDE.

That's why at the start of their conquest, this is the thing that God said to Joshua.

Joshua 1: 6 Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

7 "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

So whatever you're going through, do not be discouraged. GOD IS WITH US!

NOW, LET'S BOOK AT THE LAND... That's why if you look at the previous chapter, look at how the Lord described it to Moses.

Deuteronomy 6: 10....a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, 11 houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant

What God is saying to the Israelites is that when I bring you to this land, everything is already prepared for you... you've got all kinds of things that you need, FOOD, WATER, SHELTER, CLOTHING AND MORE!

That's why the Psalmist said :

Psalm 23: 1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

That is the promise of God to His people.

That's why Paul says :

Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

And remember because of Jesus Christ, we are not only His people, we are His children.

That's why our Lord Jesus Christ said :

Matthew 6: 25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life ?

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

Illustration : Each morning, a woman walked to her front gate and shouted, "Praise the Lord!" And each time the atheist next door would yell back, "There is no Lord!" One day she prayed, "Lord, I'm hungry. Please send me some food." The following morning, she discovered a big bag of groceries on her front porch. "Praise the Lord," she shouted. Suddenly, her neighbour jumped from behind a bush. "I told you there was no Lord," he said. "I bought those groceries for you." "Praise the Lord!" the woman said. "He not only sent me groceries, He made the devil pay for them."

Now what is the basis of His provision?

*and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 **Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.***

Again, what is the context?

The basis of His provision is based on His promise and covenant with Abraham.

Israel being a slave to the Egyptians was foretold by God to Abraham.

Genesis 15: 12 As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. 13 Then the Lord said to him, "Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. 14 But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions.

Then look at this.

Then God made His promise to Abraham...that's why it's called THE PROMISED LAND

18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— 19 the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, 20 Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, 21 Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites."

Note: This was around 400 years before it actually happened.

GOD WILL ALWAYS FULFILL HIS PROMISE TO HIS PEOPLE

And again, to His children, to those who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, what's His promise again?

John 14 : 1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Now, a reminder when it comes to God's provision :

keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

Etymology : covenant of love – chesed, lovingkindness...this is the faithful kind of love.

Of those who love him – ahab – longing

Again, the promise of provision is for those who long for Him and keep His commandments.

Look at the previous chapter :

Deuteronomy 6: 11 houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, 12 be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

Isn't that what our Lord Jesus Christ said also :

Matthew 6: 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

PRINCIPLE : THE PROVISION WILL ALWAYS BE THERE JUST AS LONG AS WE PUT HIM FIRST IN OUR LIVES.

Illustration : Missionary statesman Hudson Taylor had complete trust in God's faithfulness. In his journal he wrote: Our heavenly Father is a very experienced One. He knows very well that His children wake up with a good appetite every morning... He sustained 3 million Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years. We do not expect He will send 3 million missionaries to China; but if He did, He would have ample means to sustain them all... Depend on it, God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply. (Our Daily Bread, May 16, 1992).

I love what Andrew Murray said :

"God is ready to assume full responsibility for the life wholly yielded to Him."

Illustration: My daughter Rebecca went home during March Break and she said to her mom something like this, "I love being home because I don't have to worry about anything." E.g. food and etc

It's the same with our Lord, when we are with God, we don't have to worry about anything.

GOD WILL ALWAYS PROVIDE FOR US BECAUSE HE IS FAITHFUL.

NOW When the Bible says this :

2 Timothy 2:13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself

This means, even if we are the ones who run far away from Him, He will never abandon us.

Illustration : It's raining outside. But you will not get wet by the rain just as long as you remain inside the house. The house will always be there and even if you decide to run away from God, God will always be there to welcome us with open arms.

Biblical Illustration: The Prodigal Son The Lovesick Father (Luke 15:11-32)

It was the son who wanted to be far from Him. And you know what happened to his life. But the father did not abandon him, in fact, when the son decided to come back, the father saw him and ran to him and then gave him back immediately the best robe, ring on his finger and they even had a feast.

That's why Psalm 23:6 says

*Psalm 23: 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.*

Etymology : follow "radaph" to chase you.

The only problem with some Christians, they are the ones who are running away.

GOD WILL ALWAYS BE THERE CHASING US, WAITING FOR US, NEVER LEAVING, NEVER FORSAKING, WE ARE THE ONES WHO NEED ONLY STAY AND ENJOY HIS LOVE AND PRESENCE.

At the end of the day, we have a love relationship with God, He's always there for us.

Illustration : The story is told about an old farm couple who were driving along in their pickup when the wife said, "We never sit all snuggled up in the truck like we used to." The husband looked at her and said, "I haven't moved."

When we discover as a church or as individual believers that we aren't as close to God as we once were, understand this, He didn't move, we did.

Remember as a church brothers and sisters,

WE ARE HIS POSSESSION, HIS AFFECTION AND WE WILL HAVE HIS PROVISION.

The only thing He asks as I mentioned last week is that we love Him back with all our soul, strength, and mind.

S.G.D.