# **DEUTERONOMY CHAPTERS 25-27** – Miscellaneous Laws; Marriage Duties of Surviving Brother; Misc. Laws; Destroy the Amalekites; Offering of Firstfruits and Tithes; A Special People of God; The Law Inscribed on Stones; Curses Pronounced from Mt. Ebal

## **OBSERVATION**

## **INTERPRETATION**

#### APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – <u>Phil Twente, cell #714 425</u> <u>9221</u>; email – <u>ptwente@gmail.com</u> For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <u>http://www.missioncalvary.com/</u> Click on "Bible Studies" on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

### **Miscellaneous Laws:**

<u>Deu 25:1</u> "If there is a dispute between men, and they come to court, that the judges may judge them, and they justify the righteous and condemn the wicked,

<u>Deu 25:2</u> then it shall be, if the wicked man deserves to be beaten, that the judge will cause him to lie down and be beaten in his presence, according to his guilt, with a certain number of blows.

<u>Deu 25:3</u> Forty blows he may give him and no more, lest he should exceed this and beat him with many blows above these, and your brother be humiliated in your sight.

<u>Deu 25:4</u> "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.

## Marriage Duties of Surviving Brother;

<u>Deu 25:5</u> ''If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her.

<u>Deu 25:6</u> And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel.

<u>Deu 25:7</u> But if the man does not want to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.'

<u>Deu 25:8</u> Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. But if he stands firm and says, 'I do not want to take her,' <u>Deu 25:9</u> then his brother's wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, 'So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house.'

<u>Deu 25:10</u> And his name shall be called in Israel, 'The house of him who had his sandal removed.'

## Misc. Laws;

<u>Deu 25:11</u> "If two men fight together, and the wife of one draws near to rescue her husband from the hand of the one attacking him, and puts out her hand and seizes him by the genitals,

<u>Deu 25:12</u> then you shall cut off her hand; your eye shall not pity her.

<u>vs. 1-3</u> Although we might initially recoil at the thought of public beatings, we must also admit that our penal system doesn't work—which is why we must continue to build prisons and why it costs more to keep a man in prison for a year than it does to send him to Yale for the same period. God's Law makes no mention of prisons. If a man was found guilty of committing a capital crime, he was to be stoned by the community. If his was a minor infraction, he was to be beaten before the community.

<u>v. 4</u> An ox grinding corn was to be able to eat that which he treaded. In *I Cor.* 9:91 For it is written in the law of Moses, "YOU SHALL NOT MUZZLE AN OX WHILE IT TREADS OUT THE GRAIN." Is it oxen God is concerned about?, Paul used this verse to justify providing for those in ministry.

<u>vs. 5-6</u> If a man died, his brother was to marry his widow. Their firstborn would bear the dead husband's name in order that his lineage would continue. "Am I my brother's keeper?" Cain asked impudently. Here, God answers, "Yes." Cf. Book of *Ruth* – the kinsman redeemer! In Latin, "brother-in-law" is *levir*; hence levirate marriage.

<u>vs. 7-10</u> If a man refused to marry his deceased brother's wife, his brother's widow was to take off his shoe and spit in his facean act of great shame. As do verses 1 through 3 of this chapter, this passage points prophetically to Jesus—for it was by His stripes that we are healed (Isaiah 53:5), and it was He whose shoe was removed, whose face was spit upon as He hung on the Cross of Calvary in our place. Like what happened when the statue of Saddam Hussain came down.

<u>vs. 11-12</u> The scenario here is of two men fighting and a wife unfairly intervening. The same thing happens still. Two guys will be at odds because of a bad business deal. And, although they eventually work it out, their wives remain hostile towards each other because each has heard only her husband's side of the story. Wise, therefore, is the wife who doesn't get involved in her husband's battles, lest she only muddy the waters and get hurt in the process.

## <u>Prov. 14:34</u> Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people. "hear and fear" – so shall you put away the evil from among you"!

## <u>APPLICATION – Chap. 25:</u>

Vs. 1-3 For the nations around, there was no limit for the number of stripes, but God wanted Israel to limit the strips given to 40, lest your brother be humiliated, which would tend cause the criminal to become hardened and was filled with hatred. The Jews later reduced this to 39, just in case somebody miscounted. Do you think Jesus received only 39? Do you believe in corporal punishment?

v. 5 Do you tend to be concerned over the pay received by pastors? Indecent for people giving their life to the ministry to be adequately be compensated by the church?

Vs. 6-10 What do you think of this Levirate marriage law? *Gen.* 38:8-10. How would you respond to this care for your brother in this manner in building up his house? How important is "the family" to you?

Vs. 11-12 Are you this concerned with maintaining the family line of your enemy?

## TRUST & OBEY – John Sammis – Joslin Grove Choral

1 When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word, what a glory he sheds on our way! While we do his good will,

he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey. Refrain: Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

2 Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, but our toil he doth richly repay; not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross, but is blest if we trust and obey. [Refrain]

3 Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do, where he sends we will go; never fear, only trust and obey. [Refrain]

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<u>Deu 25:13</u> "You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a heavy and a light. <u>Deu 25:14</u> You shall not have in your house differing measures, a large and a small.	vs. 13-16 Once again, God tells His people that they are to be people of integrity and honesty.	Vs. 13-16 The Lord wants Jewish shops to be honest so that people would seek them out, When was the last time you got ripped off in unfairness of scales? Are you fair in your business practices?
Deu 25:15       You shall have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure, that your days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.         Deu 25:16       For all who do such things, all who behave unrighteously, are an abomination to the LORD your God.         Destroy the Amalekites;       Deu 25:17         Deu 25:18       how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God.         Deu 25:19       Therefore it shall be, when the LORD your God	<u>vs. 17-19</u> God's people were not to lag behind, but to be front and center in their walk with Him, in their commitment to Him, because it is those at the back who get attacked	<ul> <li>Story of the farmer and the baker and the 10oz of butter.</li> <li>In England, a farmer was brought to court by the baker, who purchased his butter from the farmer. The baker complained to the Judge, that when the farmer first started dealing with him, he gave him a full pound of butter. But it had cut down and cut down, until now, the farmer was only giving him ten ounces of butter, and charging him for a pound. He brought him to court. The farmer, in his defense, said, "Judge, Your Honor, the only scale I have is a balanced scale, and so I take his pound loaf of bread, and put it on one side, and I measure out the butter on the other".</li> <li>Vs. 17-19 God took note of the cowardly act of the Amalekites,</li> </ul>
has given you rest from your enemies all around, in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance, that you will blot out the remembrance of Amalek		who struck and attacked their rear ranks. Notice how God has a long memory in regard to those attacking His own.
from under heaven. You shall not forget. Offering of Firstfruits and Tithes:	<u>vs. 1-3</u> When the children of Israel entered the Promised Land, they were to place the first fruits of the land in a basket and bring them	Vs. 1-10 Do you practice thanking God for everything He has given you? Do you give generously or sparingly of what He has given you?
Deu 26:1 "And it shall be, when you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it, Deu 26:2 that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the LORD your God chooses to make	to the tabernacle—ultimately the temple—where they were to audibly testify of the Lord's goodness in bringing them to the land He had promised to give their fathers. Amazing when God speaks in the past tense of a future event! <b>Here we see a focus on</b> <b>responding to God's gracious gift of the land! A regular</b> <b>offering season by season!</b>	v. 5 It was an expression of humility – not that the Israelites were a special people from a great background, but it's just because of God's love How much do you look at your life and see nothing deserving but that it's just God's grace?
His name abide. <u>Deu 26:3</u> And you shall go to the one who is priest in those days, and say to him, 'I declare today to the LORD your God	<u>v. 5</u> The reference is shown by the context to be to Jacob, as the ancestor in whom particularly the family of Abraham began to develop into a nation (compare Isa_43:22, Isa_43:28, etc.). <b>Jacob is</b>	Vs. 17-19 God took note of the cowardly act of the Amalekites, who struck and attacked their rear ranks. Notice how God has a long memory in regard to those attacking His own.
that I have come to the country which the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.' <u>Deu 26:4</u> "Then the priest shall take the basket out of your have and set in the priest shall take the basket out of your have a star of the LORD wave Code	called a Syrian (literally, Aramaean), not only because of his own long residence in Syria with Laban Gen. 29–31, as our Lord was called a Nazarene because of his residence at Nazareth Mat 2:23, but because he there married and had his children	v. 5 Do you tend to be concerned over the pay received by pastors?
hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God. <u>Deu 26:5</u> And you shall answer and say before the LORD your God: 'My father was a Syrian, about to perish, and he went down to Egypt and dwelt there, few in number; and there he	(compare Hos_12:12); and might be said accordingly to belong to that more than to any other land.	
became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. <u>Deu 26:6</u> But the Egyptians mistreated us, afflicted us, and laid hard bondage on us. <u>Deu 26:7</u> Then we cried out to the LORD God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and looked on our affliction and our labor and our oppression.	<u>vs. 4-9</u> Not only were the children of Israel to confess and profess that the Lord had brought them in to the Promised Land, but also that He had brought them out of Egypt. The Lord wants to do the same thing for us. All of us who are born again have been brought out of Egypt—set free from the sin that once held us captive. But it doesn't end there. He also wants to take us from that point into the Land of Promise—the Spirit-filled, abundant life. In other words,	
	just as He did with the children of Israel, God brought us out in order to bring us in.	

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<u>Deu 26:8</u> So the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders.

<u>Deu 26:9</u> He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, ''a land flowing with milk and honey'';

<u>Deu 26:10</u> and now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land which you, O LORD, have given me.' "Then you shall set it before the LORD your God, and worship before the LORD your God.

A Special People of God;

<u>Deu 26:11</u> So you <u>shall rejoice in every good thing</u> which the LORD your God has given to you and your house, you and the Levite and the stranger who is among you.

<u>Deu 26:12</u> "When you have finished laying aside all the tithe of your increase in the third year—the year of tithing—and have given it to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, so that they may eat within your gates and be filled,

<u>Deu 26:13</u> then you shall say before the LORD your God: 'I have removed the holy tithe from my house, and also have given them to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, according to all Your commandments which You have commanded me; I have not transgressed Your commandments, nor have I forgotten them. <u>Deu 26:14</u> I have not eaten any of it when in mourning, nor have I removed any of it for an unclean use, nor given any of it for the dead. I have obeyed the voice of the LORD my God, and have done according to all that You have commanded me.

<u>Deu 26:15</u> Look down from Your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless Your people Israel and the land which You have given us, just as You swore to our fathers, "a land flowing with milk and honey."

<u>Deu 26:16</u> "This day the LORD your God commands you to observe these statutes and judgments; therefore you shall be careful to observe them with all your heart and with all your soul. <u>Deu 26:17</u> Today you have proclaimed the LORD to be your God, and that you will walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments, and His judgments, and that you will obey His voice.

<u>Deu 26:18</u> Also today the LORD has proclaimed you to be His special people, just as He promised you, that you should keep all His commandments,

<u>Deu 26:19</u> and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, in praise, in name, and in honor, and that you may be a holy people to the LORD your God, just as He has spoken." <u>**rs. 10-11</u>** For you and me, the firstfruits are the tithe. We're to say, "Lord, You've blessed us. You've done so much for us. You've been so patient with us. You've been so good to us. And now we bring You the firstfruit of what You gave us." **Notice that this is to be done with rejoicing. Tithing is not a time of tears, but a time for cheers** (2 Corinthians 9:7). I recognize Your goodness – I get it!</u>

<u>vs. 12-13</u> The year of tithing seen in verse 12 was addressed previously in chapter 14. Every third year **an extra tithe was given for the purpose of helping those in need**—the widow, the fatherless, the stranger.

<u>v. 14</u> The children of Israel were to say, "Lord, we've done what You told us to do. We've brought You the firstfruits. We've given You the tithe. We've honored You in this way. Now, Lord, we ask that You bless our land."

<u>vs. 16-19</u> Special people... It means blessed. Peter would use this same term to describe the church (1 Peter 2:9). Of Jesus, Scripture says He did not cry in the streets (Matthew 12:19). And when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, so ordinary looking was He that Judas had to identify Him with a kiss (Luke 22:47). Jesus was not One to make a public spectacle. Therefore, neither should His church. That which makes us identifiable is not to be bizarre behavior but love (John 13:35). And in these days, it's peculiar indeed for people to love each other, to enjoy being together, to be kind and merciful towards each other. *an holy people unto the LORD*... Those who keep the Lord's commands will be holy. The word "holy" essentially means "whole"—not eroded by sin, not fragmented, not missing something. That is the way God wants to bless His people.

Vs. 8-10 The Lord not only brought them out of a terrible situation, of which they would be so, so grateful, but that He also brought them to the place that has been given to them - al flowing with milk and honey.

APPLICATION: How well can you relate your own personal experience to these two things – what He brought you out of and what He has brought you into? This greatest life! Can you believe what He has done with so insignificant person as I am?

v. 11 Note well that we are to rejoice in every good thing He has given us! Do you ever feel that although things are going so good, that God is going to drop "the other shoe" on you?

Vs. 12-15 How does the Lord keep His children reminded of His continuing blessings? By requiring them to tithe every years and to give a special to the poor, down and out and the Levites, every third year.

APPLICATION: How frequently do we remind ourselves of His great goodness to us by our offerings?

vs. 16-19 Moses is now coming to the end of his second sermon! You second generation, you've heard the law! Now you are being commanded to keep those commandments! They are being told they are His special people!

APPLICATION: Do you really see yourself to be special to the Lord?

*IPe 2:9-10* But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, *His own <u>special</u> people*, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; [10] who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

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## The Law Inscribed on Stones; Moses' Third Sermon!

"<u>Deu 27:1</u> Now Moses, with the elders of Israel, commanded the people, saying: "Keep all the commandments which I command you today.

<u>Deu 27:2</u> And it shall be, on the day when you cross over the Jordan to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, that you shall set up for yourselves large stones, and whitewash them with lime.

<u>Deu 27:3</u> You shall write on them all the words of this law, when you have crossed over, that you may enter the land which the LORD your God is giving you, 'a land flowing with milk and honey,' just as the LORD God of your fathers promised you. <u>Deu 27:4</u> Therefore it shall be, when you have crossed over the Jordan, that on Mount Ebal you shall set up these stones, which I command you today, and you shall whitewash them with lime. <u>Deu 27:5</u> And there you shall build an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of stones; you shall not use an iron tool on them. <u>Deu 27:6</u> You shall build with whole stones the altar of the LORD your God, and offer burnt offerings on it to the LORD your God.

<u>Deu 27:7</u> You shall offer peace offerings, and shall eat there, and rejoice before the LORD your God.

Deu 27:8 And you shall write very plainly on the stones all the words of this law."

Curses from Mount Ebal

<u>Deu 27:9</u> Then Moses and the priests, the Levites, spoke to all Israel, saying, "Take heed and listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the LORD your God. <u>Deu 27:10</u> Therefore you shall obey the voice of the LORD your God, and observe His commandments and His statutes which I command you today."

## Curses Pronounced from Mt. Ebal

**Dew 27:11** And Moses commanded the people on the same day, saying,

<u>Deu 27:12</u> "These shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people, when you have crossed over the Jordan: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin;

Deu 27:13 and these shall stand on Mount Ebal to curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali. Deu 27:14 "And the Levites shall speak with a loud voice and

say to all the men of Israel:

Deu 27:15 'Cursed is the one who makes a carved or molded image, an abomination to the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret.' "And all the people shall answer and say, <u>'Amen!'</u> <u>vs. 1-2</u> When the children of Israel crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land, they were to construct a monument of stones which they were to cover with plaster, and upon which they would write the Law.

<u>vs. 3-5</u> At Mount Ebal, the children of Israel were to build a simple altar of stones. Throughout His Law, God declares that when an altar was made, it was to be made only of stone or earth. It was to be common and uncarved because otherwise the tendency would be for people to focus on the altar rather than on the sacrifice. <u>Heb\_9:4</u> which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and **the tablets of the covenant;** 

<u>vs. 6-7</u> As outlined in Leviticus 1, the burnt offering spoke of sober dedication. As seen in Leviticus 3, the peace offering spoke of joyful celebration, as the one bringing it celebrated his peace with God through a "barbeque" with the Lord. Both offerings were necessary, and both dedication and celebration are still vital to the life of faith.

 $\underline{v.8}$  When do we get to the place of soberly dedicating our lives to the Lord and joyfully celebrating what He's done for us? When we read the Word and see therein the rightness of God's ways, the Sacrifice He made.

*vs. 9-13* Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal are each about 2,000 feet high. Between them is a valley that served as a natural "amphitheater." With six tribes on each mountain and the priests and leaders in between, the stage was set for an illustrated sermon the children of Israel would not soon forget...

#### Renewal of the Covenant!

- 1<sup>st</sup> Time Moses in Chapters 27-30 of Deuteronomy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Time or Stage Joshua Renews Covenant Joshua 8:30-35 Now Joshua built an altar to the LORD God of Israel in Mount Ebal, [31] as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses: "an altar of whole stones over which no man has wielded an iron tool." And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings.[32] And there, in the presence of the children of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written. [33] Then all Israel, with their elders and officers and judges, stood on either side of the ark before the priests, the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, the stranger as well as he who was born among them. Half of them were in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel. [34] And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. [35] There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them.

## A NATURAL AMPHITHEATER

This Valley formed a Natural Amphitheater. A speaker's voice could be heard on both hillsides. Likewise, the shouts of a crowd on Gerizim could be heard on Ebal, and vice versa.



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Deu 27:16 'Cursed is the one who treats his father or his mother with contempt.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!" Deu 27:17 'Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's landmark.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!" Deu 27:18 'Cursed is the one who makes the blind to wander off the road.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!" Deu 27:19 'Cursed is the one who perverts the justice due the stranger, the fatherless, and widow.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' Deu 27:20 'Cursed is the one who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's bed.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' Deu 27:21 'Cursed is the one who lies with any kind of animal.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!" Deu 27:22 'Cursed is the one who lies with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' Deu 27:23 'Cursed is the one who lies with his mother-in-law.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!" Deu 27:24 'Cursed is the one who attacks his neighbor secretly.' "And all the people shall say, <u>'Amen!</u>" Deu 27:25 'Cursed is the one who takes a bribe to slay an innocent person.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!" Deu 27:26 'Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!" "

<u>vs. 14-26</u> As the Law was read, the tribes on Mount Ebal would say, "Amen" to the curses, while those on Mount Gerizim would affirm the blessings. And lest you think you would rather be on Mount Gerizim affirming the blessings, don't forget that the altar—the place where blood is shed, where forgiveness is made—was on Mount Ebal. You might be aware of failings and shortcomings in your life—of times you've dropped the ball and cursed yourself or others because of stupidity and sin. But where sin abounds, grace abounds more (Romans 5:20). Therefore, the greater awareness I have of my sin, the more thankful I am for the grace of God. It is not surprising that the one who is forgiven much loves much (Luke 7:47), making Mount Ebal—the place where blood is shed—the place where there is, ultimately, peace and joy.

<u>Cf. 2Co 1:20</u> For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him <u>Amen</u>, to the glory of God through us.

And in Him amen - In <u>Rev 3:14</u>, the Lord Jesus is called the "Amen." The word means true, faithful, certain. And the expression here means that all the promises which are made to people through a Redeemer shall be certainly fulfilled. They are promises which are confirmed and established, and which shall by no means fail. (Barnes) <u>v. 18</u> Nothing in life is insignificant or trivial when weighed in the balance of eternal justice. We can only rejoice when we realize that we are accepted in the Beloved, and that He has stood for us, <u>Rom 3:20; Rom 5:1-3; Rom 5:9</u>.

Moreover, these promises are "in Him yes", and in Him amen; they are like the Gospel which exhibits them, consistent, and all of a piece; like the covenant which contains them, and is ordered in all things, and sure; and like the author of them, whose faithfulness and lovingkindness to His in Christ shall never fail; and like Christ Himself, in whom they are, who is "the amen, the true and faithful witness, the same today, yesterday, and forever"; by whose blood, the covenant, and all the promises of it, are ratified and confirmed, and in whom, who is the truth of them, they are all fulfilled. And these are unto the glory of God by us; these serve to illustrate and advance the glory of God, when they are preached by us, and held forth by us in the Gospel, just as they are in Christ, free, absolute, and unconditional; and when they are received "by us" as believers in Christ; for the stronger we are in the faith of the promises, the more glory we give to God; faith by laving hold on, and embracing the promises, glorifies the veracity, faithfulness, power, and grace of God. The Syriac version puts the "Amen" into this last clause, and reads it thus, "therefore by Him we give Amen to the glory of God". (Gill)