

DUETERONOMY 4:6-8 -- PRAYER TO GOD WHO IS NEAR!

12/30/2017 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

NEARER MY GOD TO THEE! – Sarah Adams – Londonderry Choir

1 *Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee; E'en though it be a cross That raiseth me, Still all my song shall be Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.*

2 *Though, like a wanderer, The sun gone down, Darkness comes over me, My rest a stone; Yet in my dreams I'd be Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.*

3 *There let me see the sight, An open heaven; All that Thou sendest me, In mercy given; Angels to beckon me Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.*

4 *Or if, on joyful wing Cleaving the sky, Sun, moon, and stars forgot, Upward I fly, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee.*

The Biblical Setting: Moses continues his sermon to the present generation, as he is giving them full preparation prior to going into the Promised Land. What other nation had been blessed with God's Word? God's Word was Israel's wisdom and their power. If they obeyed His Word, He would bless them and they would possess the land. If they changed His Word (*Deu_4:2*) or disobeyed it, He would chasten them and they would lose the enjoyment of their land. When God's Word becomes commonplace to the children of God in any time, and they no longer respect it, then they are heading for serious trouble.

Deu. 4:1 O Israel, listen. - Moses called the people to hear and obey the rules of conduct that God had given them to observe. Successful conquest and full enjoyment of life in the Land was based on submission to God's law. **the statutes and the judgments.** - The first are permanent rules for conduct fixed by the reigning authority, while the second deal with judicial decisions which served as precedents for future guidance.

Deu. 4:2 You shall not add . . . nor take away from. - The Word that God had given to Israel through Moses was complete and sufficient to direct the people. Thus, this law, the gift of God at Horeb, could not be supplemented or reduced. Anything that adulterated or contradicted God's law would not be tolerated (*cf. 12:32; Pr 30:6; Rev 22:18; Rev 22:19*).

Deu. 4:3,4 - Moses used the incident at **Baal-peor (Nu 25:1-9)** to illustrate from the Israelites' own history that their very lives depended on obeying God's law. Only those who had held fast to the Lord by obeying His commands were alive that day to hear Moses.

Deu 4:6 Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'

the peoples. - Israel's obedience to God's law would provide a testimony to the world that God was near to His people and that His laws were righteous. **One purpose of the law was to make Israel morally and spiritually unique** among all the nations and, therefore, draw those nations to the true and living God. They were from their beginnings **to be a witness nation**. Though they failed and have been temporarily set aside, the prophets revealed that in the future kingdom of Messiah they will be a nation of faithful witnesses (*cf. :14; Zec 8:23* "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, **for we have heard that God is with you.**"') **a wise and understanding people**. The nations would see three things in Israel (vv. 6-8). **First**, the Israelites would know how to apply God's knowledge so as to have discernment and to be able to judge matters accurately.

Deu 4:7 "For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him?"

God so near to it. - **Second**, faithfulness to the Lord **would allow the nations to see that the Lord had established intimacy with Israel**. This mighty and attractive force of the wisdom of Israel consisted in the fact, that **in Jehovah they possessed a God who was at hand with His help when they called upon Him, as none of the gods of the other nations had ever been;** and that in the law of God they possessed such

statutes and rights as the heathen never had. True right has its roots in God; and with the obscuration of the knowledge of God, law and right, with their divinely established foundations, are also shaken and obscured.
Deu 4:12 *And the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice.*

Deu 4:31 *(for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.*

Deu 4:35 *To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD Himself is God; there is none other besides Him.*

Deu 4:39 *Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.*

Deu 6:2 *that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.*

Deu 6:3 *Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you a land flowing with milk and honey.'*

Deu 10:21 *He is your praise, and He is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things which your eyes have seen.*

Deu 33:29 *Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD, The shield of your help And the sword of your majesty! Your enemies shall submit to you, And you shall tread down their high places."*

Psa 34:19 *Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.*

Psa 139:5 *You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.*

Psa 145:18 *The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.*

Deu 30:14 *But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.*

Rom 10:8 *But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):*

Deu 4:8 *And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?*

statutes and righteous judgments. Third, the nations would see that Israel's law was distinctive, for its source was the Lord, indicating that its character was righteous.

SUMMARY:

- Obedience to God always leads to blessing and cursing your enemies. Conversely, disobedience always leads to your cursing and the blessings to your enemies!
- Three things the nation is being shown. First, the Israelites would know how to apply God's knowledge so as to have discernment and to be able to judge matters accurately.
- Second, faithfulness to the Lord would allow the nations to see that the Lord had established intimacy with Israel. Moses will be allowed to see the Land but not to enter it with the people.
- Third, the nations would see that Israel's law was distinctive, for its source was the Lord, indicating that its character was righteous.
- How near is God to us? How near to God are we?
- **Joh 14:23** *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.*
- **Rom 10:8** *But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART" (that is, the word of faith which we preach):*

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch; President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. General James Kelly. The Cabinet and all advisors. Christopher Wray, F.B.I.

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