

DEUTERONOMY 26:5-11 -- OFFERINGS OF FIRSTFRUITS & TITHES – HOW THANKFUL ARE WE? ARE WE REJOICING?

2/3/2018 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART! – Maranatha Singers

*Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.
And now, let the weak say, "I am strong". Let the poor say, "I am rich". Because of what, the Lord has done for us.
And now, let the weak say, "I am strong". Let the poor say, "I am rich" Because of what, the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks; Give thanks.*

DT. 26:5-11 -- OFFERINGS OF FIRSTFRUITS AND TITHES; ARE YOU REALLY THANKFUL?

Deu 26:5-11 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 became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. [6] But the Egyptians mistreated us, afflicted us, and laid hard bondage on us. [7] 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. [8] 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. [9] He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, "a land flowing with milk and honey"; [10] 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. [11] So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the LORD your God has given to you and your house, you and the Levite and the stranger who is among you.

The Biblical Setting: - In chapter 24-26, God is reminding Israel of His heart for His rules, His law that would serve and keep them in good stead. Several areas are given in chapter 24-26:

- Law concerning divorce; Miscellaneous Laws; Marriage Duty of the Surviving Brother; Miscellaneous Laws; Destroy the Amalekites; Offerings of Firstfruits and Tithes – ***Lev. 23:9-14***

THE FEAST OF FIRSTFRUITS IS FULFILLED IN THE NEW COVENANT.

CHRIST IS RESURRECTED FROM THE DEAD, RIGHT ON FIRSTFRUITS.

- The Feast of Firstfruits was fulfilled by Jesus in His overcoming of death seen at His resurrection. He was indeed the "*Firstfruits from the dead*". ***1 Corinthians 15:20-23*** Three days and nights after His crucifixion and early in the morning Jesus rose again from the grave. The Resurrection of Jesus came on the first day of the week. That day happened to be the 17th of Nisan, **right on the Feast of Firstfruits.**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

I. A good work ordered to be done, and that is the presenting of a basket of their first-fruits to God every year,

- **To acknowledge God as the giver** of all those good things which are the support and comfort of our natural life, and therefore to serve and honor him with them.
- **To deny ourselves.** What is first ripe we are most fond of; those that are nice and curious expect to be served with each fruit at its first coming in. My soul desired the first ripe fruits, *Mic_7:1*. When therefore God appointed them to lay those by for Him, He taught them to prefer the glorifying of His name before the gratifying of their own appetites and desires.
- **To give to God the first and best we have, as those that believe Him to be the first and best of beings.** Those that consecrate the days of their youth, and the prime of their time, to the service and honor of God, bring Him their first-fruits, and with such offerings He is well pleased. I remember the kindness of Thy youth.

II. Good words put into their mouths to be said in the doing of this good work, as an explanation of the meaning of this ceremony, that it might be a reasonable service. The offerer (giver) must begin his acknowledgment before he delivered his basket to the priest, and then must go on with it, when the priest had set down the basket before the altar, as a present to God their great landlord, *Deu_26:3, Deu_26:4*.

- ***I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come to the country which the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.*** (*Deu_26:3*): When God has made good His promises to us He expects that we should own it, to the honor of His faithfulness. There has not failed one word of all His good promise. And our creature-comforts are doubly sweet to us when we see them flowing from the fountain of the promise.
- **He must remember and own the small beginnings of that nation of which he was a member.** How great they were now, and He himself with them, their beginning was very small, which ought thus to be kept in mind

throughout all the ages of their church by this public confession, **that they might not be proud of their privileges and advantages, but might forever be thankful to God and His grace toward them.**

Deu 26:5 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 became a nation, great, mighty, and populous.

- **The meanness of their common ancestor:** A Syrian about to perish was my father, *Deu_26:5*. Jacob is here called an Aramite, or Syrian, because he lived twenty years in Padan-Aram. Both father and sons were more than once ready to perish, by Laban's severity, Esau's cruelty, and the famine in the land, which was the occasion of their going down into Egypt. Laban the Syrian sought to destroy my father and had almost destroyed him.

Deu 26:6 But the Egyptians mistreated us, afflicted us, and laid hard bondage on us.

- **The miserable condition of their nation in its infancy.** They sojourned in Egypt as strangers, they served there as slaves (*Deu_26:6*), for over 300 years., as their father was called a Syrian, they might be called Egyptians; so that their possession of Canaan being so long forsaken they could not pretend any tenant-right to it. A poor, despised, oppressed people they were in Egypt, and therefore, **though now rich and great, had no reason to be proud, or secure, or forgetful of God.**

Deu 26:7-8 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. [8] 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.

- **In bringing them out of Egypt, *Deu_26:7, Deu_26:8*.** It is spoken of here as an act of pity - He looked on our affliction; and an act of power - He brought us forth with a mighty hand and outstretched arm. This was a great salvation, fit to be remembered upon all occasions, and particularly upon this; they were to bring a basket of first-fruits to God, for to Him they owed it that they were not now bringing in bricks to their cruel task-masters.

Deu 26:9 He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, "a land flowing with milk and honey";

- In settling them in Canaan: He has given us this land, *Deu_26:9*. He must not only give thanks for his own lot, but for the land in general which was given to Israel; not only for this year's profits, but for the ground itself which produced them, which God had graciously granted to His ancestors and entailed upon His posterity.

Deu 26:10 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.

- **He must offer to God his basket of first-fruits (*Deu_26:10*):** "I have brought the firstfruits of the land which you, O LORD, have given me." Whatever we give to God, it is but of His own that we give Him, *1Ch_29:14*. And it so good for us, who receive so much from Him, to consider what we shall render to Him.

III. The offerer or giver is here appointed, when he has finished the service,

- **To give glory to God:** You shall worship the Lord your God. His first-fruits were not accepted without further acts of adoration. **A humble, reverent, thankful heart is that which God looks at and requires, and, without this, all we can put in a basket will be of benefit.** If a man would give all the substance of his house without the giving of thanks, it would utterly count for nothing.

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

- **To take the comfort of it to himself and family:** You **shall rejoice** in every good thing. Whatever good thing God gives us, it is His will that we should make the most use we can of it, yet still tracing the streams to Christ, the Fountain of all comfort and consolation.

SUMMARY:

- Like the Israelites,
- He brought us out to bring us in!
- Do you have a humble, thankful heart toward God?
- Do you rejoice in every good thing the LORD your God has given to you and your house?
- When the LORD looks at us, does He see truly thankful people?
- Do you regularly give the LORD your "first-fruits"?
- All that I am and that I have is Yours, Lord! I am thankful!

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct.

Please Note: You may see/download any of the past notes/audio of the Bible Prayer Devotionals by going to: www.ptwente.com .