



Deuteronomy 26:16-19
A Holy People

16 " 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.

17 "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.

18 "Also today the LORD has proclaimed you to be His special people, just as He promised you, that you should keep all His commandments,

19 "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."

With this section, Moses exposition and application of the Moral law to Israel is concluded. There are two parts to this section

- 1) **16-17 Israel declares her commitment, and pledges to serve the Lord according to His Commands**
- 2) **18-19 God declares his special love for his people and pledges his blessings to them**

Today and this day the oath is taken, they are covenanting that they will love and obey the Lord not tomorrow, but now, TODAY, just as their fathers pledged to obey his commandments earlier at Sinai:

But there are actually two oaths of allegiance, one from Israel to Yahweh, and one from Yahweh to Israel which He is also taking TODAY:

'You shall be My people, And I will be your God.' " Jer. 30:22

Moses wants them and you to know these are not merely his words but the commands of a Holy and they are to keep them because of who HE is

Also they are not to do them carelessly and hypocritically, but with thy heart and soul, thy whole heart and thy whole soul.

This phraseology occurs again and again in Deuteronomy (12 times) and indeed throughout the Old Testament:

Deut 6:5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

6 " And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

Christianity has always been a heart religion – Matthew 22:37 Jesus said to him, " **'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'**

38 "This is the first and great commandment.

In fact, it is only if their hearts are given to Him that they will be able to, and this is the work that He must do -

Deut 30:6 "And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

They are in covenant with Him because HE chose them, HE elected and set them apart
He established it, he consecrated them.

Deut. 7:6 " For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

7 "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;

8 "but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Yahweh calls them his segullah – His treasured people, Israel are his elect people
He then proclaims he will exalt them over all other peoples on earth

Most importantly HE says that they will be HOLY
To be Holy is the true Honor, because it is an ETERNAL Honor

Imagine the honor that they have been given –
They went from being nothing, the sons of a wandering Syrian
And Slaves in the house of Bondage
To SONS OF THE LIVING GOD and INHERITORS OF THE KINGDOM

Another wanderer - Rodney Smith – The son of a Gypsy. Will you be merely a Gypsy boy and then a Gypsy Man? Became Gipsy Smith the famous Evangelist

APPLICATIONS: 1) This electing grace and these promises were made Not Just to Israel but the Church as well:

Romans 9:25 As He says also in Hosea: "I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved."

26 "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God."

1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special 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.

WE TOO HAVE BEEN ELECT TO BE HIS PEOPLE, AND GIVEN THE GIFT OF HOLINESS!

2 Cor. 6:16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

18 "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

2) Note the urgency of this - The Emphasis is on covenanting with Lord not TOMORROW but TODAY - *2 Corinthians 6:1 We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.*

2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

For those of you who are in danger of Apostasy:

Heb. 3:12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

15 while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

When should we serve the Lord, when should we repent? TODAY. I'll get serious about my religion tomorrow, not tomorrow but TODAY while there is still time. The Prodigal in the far country, if he had kept saying tomorrow, I'll get up and go to my father he would have died of hunger before he ever returned –

Luke 15:18 'I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,"