

## **211208-4 Deu 11, The Land Is not as the Land of Egypt–CThurman**

In chapter 10, at the prospect of Moses ascending Mount Sinai again in order to receive God's Law a second time, the LORD commanded Moses to hew out two other tables of stone. Remember that after Moses had received the Law of God the first time, when he descended the mount he saw Israel worshipping the golden calf. Then Moses, as representative of the nation of Israel, who had those tables in his hands threw them upon the ground and broke them both.

*Jas 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*

Also, in preparation for coming up into the mount Moses was to build an ark of shittim wood. It is very likely that both the tables of stone and the ark of shittim wood were constructed under the supervision of Bezaleel, a man that God had filled with His Spirit to know how to accomplish the construction of all of the things related to the tabernacle.

*Ex.31.3 And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,  
4 To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass,  
5 And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship.*

The tables and the ark were to be made immediately because the LORD would have Moses to come back up into mount *in the morning*. (cf. Ex.34.1, 2) This time, when Moses descended the mount the tables will immediately be entered into the ark of shittim wood and kept there forever.

That the LORD had determined not to destroy unbelieving, stiff-necked Israel there is not only this second giving of the Law, but also the continuance of the office of the high priest (though Aaron had died his son Eleazar was appointed to serve in his stead [cf. Nu.20.24-28; 26.3]), and the continuance of the service of the tribe of Levi to the priesthood. In addition to these evidences Moses tells them to consider how the LORD had increased them in only of 250 years (210 in Egypt and the 40 yrs. in the wilderness) to become a nation multiplied *the stars of*

*heaven for multitude.* In light of all that the LORD did for Israel Moses asked them one question: 'What doth the LORD require of thee?'

*De 10:12 And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require (שָׁאַל, shah-al, to ask, to charge) of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,*

*13 To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good? (in Micah the idea is 'seek,' דָּרַשׁ, dah-rash, tss. to seek, enquire)*

This was not a part of our lesson the last time, but it was at this time that the skin of Moses' face shined. And because his face shined they feared to come close to him. So, in order to talk to them Moses put a veil over his face. This symbolized their spiritual blindness. Their hearts were blinded so that they could not see that the Messiah was the end of that law.

*2Co.3.13 And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished (that is, they could not understand how the law lead them to Jesus Christ [Gal.3.24, 25]):*

*14 But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ.*

*15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.*

*16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.*

## **Chapter 11**

1-7 – Israel shall love the LORD their God and always keep His charge, statutes, judgments and commandments because He has done these great and terrible things for them, which their eyes have seen.

### **1 ¶ Therefore**

*De 10:20 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.*

21 He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

**thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his**

watch                      customs  
ordinance

*keep his charge*, an Hebrew fem. noun מִשְׁמֶרֶת, mish-me-reth, tss. as a verb, *to be kept, a charge, an ordinance, a ward, a watch.*

מִצְוָה

**judgments, and his commandments, alway.**

discernments

decisions

If Israel will be on the LORD's land then they must act like they are the LORD's holy, peculiar, special people. This is a lot like a church relationship. If we will be in the Lord's church then we must act like we are the Lord's holy, peculiar, special people. Otherwise, like Israel, when they became an offense to the LORD He began to trouble them until eventually they were cast out of the land, except they repented; so we experience much the same. Of all of the people in the earth, the members of the Lord's church should act like they are the Lord's people. That is the charge.

**2 And know ye this day: for I speak not with your children which have not known, and which have not seen the chastisement of the LORD your God,**

*chastisement*, מוֹסָר, mu-sar, a masc. noun, tss. *correction, discipline, instruction.*

**his greatness, his mighty hand, and his stretched out arm,**

**3 And his miracles, and his acts, which he did in the midst of Egypt unto Pharaoh the king of Egypt, and unto all his land;**

**4 And what he did unto the army of Egypt, unto their horses, and to their chariots; how he made the water of the Red sea to overflow them as they pursued after you, and how the LORD hath destroyed them unto this day;**

**5 And what he did unto you in the wilderness, until ye came into this place;  
6 And what he did unto Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their households, and their tents, and all the substance that was in their possession, in the midst of all Israel:**

The Scriptures do not reveal why Korah's name is not included with the names of Dathan and Abiram. We do know that Moses especially became angry with these two men, Dathan and Abiram. They made some inflammatory remarks and set themselves sharply against anything that Moses bid them do. (cf. Nu.16.12-14)

*Nu 16:12 And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab: which said, We will not come up:*

*13 Is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that floweth with milk and honey,*

This is the only time that this clause *a land that floweth with milk and honey* is applied to any other land than the land of Canaan. Dathan and Abiram applied the very words of the LORD, which He used described Canaan, and they wrested it to refer to the land of Egypt. Dathan and Abiram were very likely absolutely persuaded that they were right. They probably felt justified to say what they did. But they were dead-wrong. How do we know they were wrong? Because what they said contradicted the word of God.

*to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us?*

*14 Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land that floweth with milk and honey, or given us inheritance of fields and vineyards: wilt thou put out the eyes of these men? we will not come up.*

*15 And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the LORD, Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one ass (not so much as a single unclean animal) from them, neither have I hurt one of them.*

*hurt, Hiphil (causative act.) pret. of רָעַע, rah-gag, to deal ill, to displease, to be evil, to break.,*

But the LORD's judgment fell upon these rebels *in the midst of all Israel*. The public crimes of these men required a public judgment from the LORD.

**7 But your eyes have seen all the great acts of the LORD which he did.**

***But your eyes have seen*** – Those of you that have followed along in these lessons might have a question at this point. You know that since Israel came out of Egypt the entire first generation of people from 20 years of age and upward had died along the way, but for Moses, Joshua and Caleb. If you recall, the LORD condemned that entire generation to wandering in the wilderness for forty years until all of them died.

*Nu.14.29 Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,*

*30 Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.*

*31 But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.*

*32 But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness.*

*33 And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.*

*34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.*

*35 I the LORD have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.*

BUT them that were younger than twenty years of age are here today. They saw what the Lord had done. Moses, Joshua and Caleb are the oldest men in the nation. Otherwise the ages of this generation are fifty-nine and

younger. Undoubtedly the things that the LORD did to bring Israel out of Egypt and to this place where they are presently encamped in the plains of Moab made indelible impressions upon the minds of children as young as 3-5 years of age.

8-12 – Israel is to keep all the commandments to be strong, and to take possession of the land, and to prolong their days on it, because it is not a land like Egypt, but a land which the LORD cares for.

### **8 ¶ Therefore**

Because they were eyewitness of all that the LORD had done for them and experienced the direct instruction and discipline of the LORD

***shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it;***

***9 And that ye may prolong your days in the land, which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give unto them and to their seed, a land that floweth with milk and honey.***

It was not possible for Israel to be strong, to possess the land or to continue in it if they didn't know what the LORD *required* of them. The LORD charged them with keeping His word, with keeping every part of it. It isn't possible for the child of God to be strong in the Lord and to live as he should and continue so if he fails to remember or becomes ignorant of the word of God. Ignorance of the word of God is to be ignorant of the will of God for us and of all that He does.

*2Pe.3.17 Ye therefore,*

In light of the fact that there are some things hard to be understood in the word of God which the unlearned and unstable wrest to their own destruction, condemnation and waste.

*beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.*

*18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour (subjectively and objectively) Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

*Mt 22:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.*

*2Ti 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

***10 For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs:***

***11 But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven:***

***12 A land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year.***

13-17 – For diligently obeying the LORD’s commandments He will send rain and the land will produce. For disobedience He will withhold the rain and they will perish quickly from off the good land.

***13 And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,***

***14 That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.***

***15 And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full.***

***16 Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;***

***17 And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.***

Verses 10-12 give some insight into the land where the Israelites settled in Egypt, in a place called Goshen. Though it was the best of the land of Egypt it still required a lot of work. If I understand this correctly Moses was saying that maintaining the land of Goshen in Egypt was comparable to the tedious labor required to tend an herb garden. The land of Egypt was hard to maintain. So, in this way Egypt is not like Canaan. Egypt's ground required the works of men. Canaan's, the work of God.

*1Pe 4:3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:  
5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.*

*6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.*

In Egypt Israel lived for the most part like Egyptians, doing what Egyptians did, looking like Egyptians look and probably talking like Egyptians talk. But not so for them that will live on the land that the LORD cares for. The LORD would have a people prepared for living on His land.

*Jn.14.2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

*3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

In the beginning God had a special garden that He planted eastward in Eden. Here He put Adam and his wife Eve to dress and to keep this garden. (cf. Ge.2.8, 15) But as soon as they sinned He removed them from it. (cf. Gen.3.24) They would have defiled His beautiful garden.

Canaan was a land like the garden of Eden because the LORD cared for it. The Gentiles that presently lived there were to be dispossessed of it because they had defiled the land through their wicked and abominable practices. (cf. Le.18.24, 28; Deu.8.20) As Israel took possession of it the Gentiles would be expelled. But as the history of Israel goes, because they disobeyed the LORD and acted very much in the same way as the Gentiles before the LORD would raise up their enemies to trouble them on every side and finally remove them completely from the land, even as it is to this day. But all of us know that one day Israel shall have this land because they shall be saved. Then Israel shall have a renewed mind, a renewed heart and a renewed spirit. (cf. Jer.31.31, 33, 34; Ez.1.18; 36.26) Then Israel shall never be removed from the land.

The NT Christian cannot expect to taste of the good things of Jesus Christ as long as his heart is in the world.

*1Jo 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

But for them that have a heart for Christ, to be conformed to His glorious image, to be loving, joyful, faithful, kind, merciful, gentle, patient, forgiving, longsuffering, forbearing, etc., these, even though tried and persecuted shall be blessed to continue in the land in the presence of God. No soul could be more blessed.

*Joh 15:6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*

*7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

18-21 – Israel was to lay up, bind, teach, and write the LORD’s words that they might continue in the land.

**18 ¶ Therefore**

As a preventative to perishing quickly from off the good land which the LORD gives to Israel.

שִׁים

**shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them**  
to make, put, set

קָשַׁר

& conspire

**for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.**

In other words, the heart and life of the Israelite was to be so ingrained and so entwined with the word of God that whatever they did reflected the word of God.

**19 And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.**

**20 And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates:**

**21 That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.**

The LORD stresses the parents' duty to teach their children His way. By so doing each generation becomes accountable to the LORD so that by personal obedience they may continue in the land as their parents before them did.

Today parents should be living examples of Jesus Christ to their children. It is good for children to see their parents praying, trusting and speaking of the Lord. It is good for children to hear their parents' expressions of thankfulness to the LORD for providing the things they need day by day. It is good for children to watch their parents glorify God for all of the great things He has done. It is important that children understand that their parents purposely prioritized their lives around the Lord and His church. It is reasonable to conclude that if children do not see these things in their parents, even if the Lord is pleased to save them, very likely these children will not grow to have high regard for the things of God as they could have.

*Pr 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

22-25 – If Israel diligently keeps these commandments then the LORD will drive out these great and mighty nations and no man shall be able to stand against them.

**22 For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to**

דָּבַק

**cleave unto him;**

abide fast, to follow hard

**23 Then will the LORD drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves.**

**24 Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon,**

[in the south]

[in the north]

**from the river, the river Euphrates,**

[perhaps marking an eastern most boundary]

**even unto the uttermost sea**

**shall your coast be.**

[the Mediterranean Sea marking the westernmost boundary]

And it should be noted that the nation of Israel has NEVER in their history possessed this land, as promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to this extent. The fulfillment of this promise is still ahead of them.

יָצַב

**25 There shall no man be able to stand before you:**

almost always this verb is in Hithpael (reflexive)  
to set themselves up

**for the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you**  
give awesomeness  
(called the fear of Isaac, Ge.31.42, 53)

**and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon,**  
terribleness, terror

**as he hath said unto you.**

26-28 – There is a blessing for Israel’s obedience, and cursing for his disobedience.

**26 ¶ Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;**

**27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:**

**28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.**

What nation has the LORD ever treated like this? None, but Israel. What nation did the LORD make this covenant with? None, but Israel.

That Israel could not do the will of God is proof of their continued unregenerate state. For this reason Israel never possessed the land to the extent that the LORD had promised them. But one day they will possess that land because they shall be saved. But to this day they have never had a heart for the LORD.

*De 5:29 O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!*

As stated in the introductory remarks of this lesson, to this very day the LORD has blinded Israel to know that Jesus Christ is the Messiah and Savior. But one day, when it shall turn to the LORD they shall see Jesus as He is. (cf. 2Co.3.16)

29-32 – The covenant of blessing and cursing shall be put upon the mountains of Gerizim and Ebal.

**29 And it shall come to pass, when the LORD thy God hath brought thee in unto the land whither thou goest to possess it, that thou shalt put the blessing upon mount Gerizim, and the curse upon mount Ebal.**

*Gerizim*, גֵּרִיזִים, G<sup>e</sup>-ri-zeem; the verb גִּרַז, ga-rahz, tss. *to be cut off*; Robert Young's Concordance, *waste places*.

*Ebal*, עֵיבָל, [g]eyh-val; the verb, not used in the OT is עָבַל, [g]ah-vahl, tss. *to be leafless, stripped of leaves*; H.W.F. Gesenius' Lexicon, *void of leaves*; Robert Young's Concordance, *bare*.

**30 Are they not on the other side Jordan, by the way where the sun goeth down, in the land of the Canaanites, which dwell in the champaign  
plains**

*champaign* (pronounced, sham-pane), tss. from the Hebrew fem. noun עֵרְבָה, [g]a-rah-vah, tss. *plains (oft)*, *champaign* (1), *Arabah* (2, Jos.18.18), *wilderness, desert, heavens* (Ps.68.4), *evenings* (Jer.5.6).

Dict. – an expanse of level, open country; *archaic*, battlefield. (In light of this, and with reference to Ps.68.4, perhaps refer to Eph.6.2.)

The ASV, ESV, NASB, NEB, NIV, RSV, NRSV, and Tanakh OT tss. *Arabah*; Berkley Version, Geneva Bible and Young's Literal Version have *plain*; Tyndale, Rodgers, Coverdale Bible has *fields*.

***over against Gilgal, beside the plains of Moreh?***

Yes, these mountains were on the other side of the Jordan River, but lay about 60 miles north of Jericho. The city of Shechem appears to be fixed between these two, Ebal to the north and Gerizim to the south.

***31 For ye shall pass over Jordan to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God giveth you, and ye shall possess it, and dwell therein.***

***32 And ye shall observe to do all the statutes and judgments which I set before you this day.***

The covenant of blessing and cursing to be placed upon these two mountains appears to be the sum total of the law of Moses, with certain blessings and curses written upon plastered stones. These witness before all of God's word to them. (cf. Deu.27.1-4, 8-11; 28.1, 2 [all the blessings], 15, 23-25, 45-47, 63, 64 [all the curses]). If Israel lives according to the Law of God they are blessed. If Israel lives in disobedience to the Law of God they are cursed.