

Message #49

Leviticus 26:1-13

One of the shortest and yet most important words in the English language and in all of life is the word “if.” Truly the word “if” is a big word in life and it is a big word in the final two chapters of Leviticus—Leviticus 26-27. In fact, the word “if” is used some 32 times.

As we come to Leviticus 26, **verses 1-3** open with three admonitions, all of which contain the “if” element—if Israel would do these things, there would be blessing.

(Admonition #1) - Keep yourself from idolatry and keep focused on the LORD God (**v. 1**).

(Admonition #2) - Keep worshipping and reverencing God on His terms (**v. 2**).

(Admonition #3) - Keep obeying the Word of God (**v. 3**).

In **verse 1**, there are three Hebrew words used for idol: 1) “Idol” which means “nothing” (Gesenius, p. 51); 2) “Image” which means to “carve” or “form by cutting” (Gesenius, p. 684); 3) “figured stone” which literally means an “imagined figure” (Gesenius, p. 513). The point of these three words is God’s people are not to imagine anything as being equivalent to God. They are not to make anything or allow anything to be elevated to any level of God.

In **verse 2**, the emphasis changes to worship and reverence. Both things go hand in hand. There is no true worship of God if there is no reverence of God. But God’s people were to reverence God and worship God by going to the Sanctuary on holy days just as God prescribed.

In **verse 3**, the emphasis is on obeying the written Word of God—God’s statutes and commandments.

GOD WILL GIVE MANY WONDERFUL BLESSINGS TO HIS PEOPLE IF THEY KEEP THEIR PRIMARY FOCUS ON HIM, IF THEY WORSHIP AND REVERENCE HIM AND IF THEY OBEY HIM.

One might ask what blessings God will give if we purpose to focus on Him, worship Him and reverence Him. There are at least seven promised blessings of God to those who will obey these mandates.

Before we look at these blessings, we want to remember that this is the O.T. and it is for Israel. There are ministers today who love to claim these blessings for the Church. Well, if one is going to claim the blessings, then one must also claim the cursings and penalties. There are certainly applications we may make to our lives and to our church, but we must never fall into the trap of thinking that covenant blessings of Israel are covenant blessings of the Church. There are many faithful people of God today who do not appear to be blessed of God. There are faithful people of God who hurt, who suffer, who experience many attacks from their enemies.

PROMISED BLESSING #1 – If God’s people will obey Him, God will see to it that they bear fruit. **26:4**

The ability to bear fruit is a God-given blessing in any dispensation. Jesus talked about this very theme in the N.T. instruction—John 15:1-8.

PROMISED BLESSING #2 – If God’s people will obey Him, God will see to it that they receive His full blessing. **26:5**

When God is working and blessing, there is abundance and security.

PROMISED BLESSING #3 – If God’s people will obey Him, God will give peace to the land. **26:6**

There is a sense of peace and tranquility given by God to those who obey Him. God eliminates any threatening element from the place of His blessing. We must always remember this—additions are blessings of God, but so are subtractions.

PROMISED BLESSING #4 – If God’s people obey Him, God will give victory over enemies. **26:7-8**

When God’s people obey God, they have God’s power for victory. They may be outnumbered by enemies, but they will defeat their enemies.

PROMISED BLESSING #5 – If God’s people will obey Him, God will give multiplication of family members. **26:9**

When we see a population explosion of Jews in the land of Israel, God is at work.

PROMISED BLESSING #6 – If God’s people will obey Him, God will remove the old and replace it with the new. **26:10**

God’s faithful people will always be experiencing new and fresh feedings from God’s Word and new and fresh ministries. People that aren’t faithful always live in the past.

PROMISED BLESSING #7 – If God’s people will obey Him, God will manifest His presence. **26:11-13**

God will not compromise with sin in our life. If we want God’s presence in our life, we must deal with our own sin. God will fellowship with those who obey Him. John said exactly that in I John 1:7. God longs to fellowship with His people.

Of all the blessings one may ever experience, the greatest is God’s presence in one’s life. Whether for Israel, a church or a life, God’s presence in one’s life is the greatest blessing of all.