

/Let us begin with the sixteenth lecture on Deuteronomy. / We will begin at Deuteronomy 32:28.

/Read 32:28/ They are a nation without sense, there is no discernment in them.

/It is written that the Israelites are without sense and discernment. / They do not know God even though they are taught about him. / God has shown them his mighty powers with signs and miracles.

/Despite that though, they did not know God. / They did not know about his sovereignty, might, and judgment.

/Verse 29. / If only they were wise and would understand this and discern what their end will be!

/They did not realize their end. / We ought to think about our end as well. / We must think about our end as individuals. / We must think about the end of time.

/We must be ready before the end comes. / That is how one can truly become wise. / The five wise virgins prepared lamps and oil to welcome the bridegroom.

/Verse 30. / How could one man chase a thousand, or two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, unless the LORD had given them up?

/God is the Israelites' Rock. / The Rock gave them over to the enemies. / Therefore, the enemies were able to chase after them. /Two men put ten thousand to flight.

/When they were with God, Israel was a mighty nation. / Yet, God gave the nation over to the hands of the enemies.

/Therefore, the foreigners were able to drive them out from the land,/ and they ran in flight. / When we abandon our God, our Rock, we will be chased after like the Israelites.

/Verse 31. / For their rock is not like our Rock, as even our enemies concede.

/The enemies' rock is nothing compared to our Rock/ because our Rock is God. / God is our everlasting Rock. /He has created the universe, and he rules over everything. / Compared to him, a foreign god is nothing.

/Verse 32. / Their vine comes from the vine of Sodom and from the fields of Gomorrah. Their grapes are filled with poison, and their clusters with bitterness.

/This verse means that the enemies drink their wines and live in debauchery. / "Their grapes" refer to the debauchery lifestyle of the foreigners. / They live such lives and eventually, they will drink bitter poison.

/Just as Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed, these foreigners will receive the judgment of God as they live in debauchery.

/Verse 34. / "Have I not kept this in reserve and sealed it in my vaults?

/God keeps the bitter wine in his vaults. / Then he uses them to judge the foreign nations. / When the enemies' sins reach a certain point, God will eventually punish them.

/Verse 35. / It is mine to avenge; I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them."

/The enemies thought they triumphed over the Israelites by their strength. / They persecuted and abused the Israelites. / However, eventually, God avenged the Israelites.

/Verse 36. / The LORD will vindicate his people and relent concerning his servants when he sees their strength is gone and no one is left, slave or free.

/God regrets giving his chosen people over to the enemies as a way of punishment. / He sees them being weak and regrets it. / God strengthens them after he punishes them.

/Verse 37. / He will say: "Now where are their gods, the rock they took refuge in,

/Where are the rocks of the foreigners? / Where are the gods that they worship? / The gods they rely on are senseless and worthless. / They rely on it, but they are not saved by those gods.

/Therefore, all the gods they worship are meaningless. / Those gods do not guarantee protection of the foreigners.

/Verse 39. / “See now that I myself am he! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand.

/God puts people to death and brings them to life. / He wounds us and heals us. / Everything is under God’s control.

/Life and death, fortune and misfortune are under God’s hands. /We must then trust and fear him.

/Verse 40. / I lift my hand to heaven and solemnly swear: As surely as I live forever,

/Verse 41. / when I sharpen my flashing sword and my hand grasps it in judgment, I will take vengeance on my adversaries and repay those who hate me.

/God judges his enemies with his flashing sword. / He saves the Israelites. / He also shows that his judgment is fierce.

/Verse 43. / Rejoice, you nations, with his people, for he will avenge the blood of his servants; he will take vengeance on his enemies and make atonement for his land and people.

/God avenges the believers. / He judges the enemies and saves the believers. / He forgives the believers. / Thus, they give thanks and glory to God.

/Verse 44. / Moses came with Joshua son of Nun and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people.

/Numbers 13:16 / Moses, along with Joshua, taught the Israelites with this song.

/Verse 46. / he said to them, “Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law.

/Moses tells them to keep the words of God. / He also tells them to teach the children about these words. / They are also told to take to heart all the words. / We must also take God’s words into our hearts and strive not to forget it.

/Not only must we obey the words of God, but we must lead our children to obey God’s words. / The Bible tells that then their life will be long.

/Verse 48-49. /On that same day the LORD told Moses, “Go up into the Abarim Range to Mount Nebo in Moab, across from Jericho, and view Canaan, the land I am giving the Israelites as their own possession

/God commands Moses to go up to Mount Nebo and view Canaan. / Here Abarim Range and Mount Nebo are the same, / as well as Mount Pisgah.

/This mountain is located in the eastern part of the Jordan and the northeastern part of the Dead Sea. / God commands Moses to go up to that mountain and view Canaan.

/Verse 51. / This is because both of you broke faith with me in the presence of the Israelites at the waters of Meribah Kadesh in the Desert of Zin and because you did not uphold my holiness among the Israelites.

/What was the reason why Moses was not able to enter into Canaan? / Numbers 20:8-12 / It was because he committed a sin at the waters of Meribah Kadesh. / He disobeyed God at the waters of Meribah.

/God commanded Moses to speak to the rock. / However, Moses struck the rock twice with his staff instead. / God was the source of the water in the area. / Yet, Moses said, “must we bring you water out of this rock?”

/Moses acknowledged himself. / This is pride. / Moses disobeyed God in this way and he was not able to enter Canaan. / God led the Israelites into Canaan through Joshua.

/Verse 52. / Therefore, you will see the land only from a distance; you will not enter the land I am giving to the people of Israel.”

/Just like this, Moses only saw Canaan from afar. / When he died, his soul went to heaven. / The body does not have its grave. / We will discuss this further in the lecture on chapter 34.

/Let us proceed to chapter 33.

/The title for this chapter is “Blessings of Moses.” / First, laws are God’s blessings to Israel. / Verses 1-5. / Second, Moses blesses each of the tribes. / Verses 6-25. / Third, blessings of Moses pronounced on Israel. / Verses 26-29.

/This chapter is about Moses’s blessings on the twelve tribes according to the will of God.

/Read verse 1. / This is the blessing that Moses the man of God pronounced on the Israelites before his death.

/This is the blessing Moses pronounced before his death.

/Verse 2. / He said: “The LORD came from Sinai and dawned over them from Seir; he shone forth from Mount Paran. He came with myriads of holy ones from the south, from his mountain slopes.

/He testified the love and grace of God who stayed with the Israelites. / Mount Sinai is Mount Horeb. / There the Israelites received the laws. / Mount Seir is the area where the Edomites lived. / 1:2 / Mount Paran is the Paran wilderness. / Numbers 10:12

/At God's right hand is the laws that burn like fire. /This represents God's words burning and working in our hearts. / The laws lead us to repentance. /It leads us to Christ. / It causes us to obey His words.

/The verse mentions the "myriad of holy ones." / This refers to the angels. / God appeared along with the angels and gave the laws.

/Verse 3. / Surely it is you who love the people; all the holy ones are in your hand. At your feet they all bow down, and from you receive instruction,

/God loves the Israelites. / As a result, he gave his words to them. / It is written that the holy ones are all in his hands. / Isaiah 49:16

/This means that God will protect us. /He protects us from evil. / 1 John 5:18

/Verse 4. / the law that Moses gave us, the possession of the assembly of Jacob.

/Moses gave God's laws to the Israelites. / The "assembly of Jacob" refers to the church of the Old Testament. / It also symbolizes the entire chosen people.

/Verse 5. /He was king over Jeshurun when the leaders of the people assembled, along with the tribes of Israel.

/“Jeshurun” means “the beloved”, or “the righteous”. / This refers to Israel. / The Israelites are God's beloved and his righteous people. / In today's sense, we believers are his beloveds.

/The verse tells us that there was a king in Jeshurun. / This means that God will be the king of Israel. / Judges 8:23 / From verse 6 onwards, Moses pronounces the blessings one by one.

/Verse 6. / “Let Reuben live and not die, nor his people be few.”

/First are the blessings on Reuben. / Reuben is the firstborn of Israel. / Moses pronounced a blessing where Reuben's tribe would not be few and grow in number.

/Yet, Reuben lost his right as the firstborn. / That is because he defiled his father's bed. / Genesis 35:22. / Thus, the right was transferred to Joseph. / 1 Chronicles 5:1

/Verse 7. / And this he said about Judah: "Hear, LORD, the cry of Judah; bring him to his people. With his own hands he defends his cause. Oh, be his help against his foes!"

/This is the blessing pronounced to the tribe of Judah. / Jesus Christ came from this tribe. / This is the tribe Christ would be born into. / Thus, the verse says, "Hear, Lord, the cry of Judah."

/It means that Jesus Christ will be born in the tribe of Judah, that God will hear the cries of Christ, / and that He will save the people./ The verse says, "bring him to his people."/It means that God will lead the chosen people through Christ.

/It means that Jesus will teach the gospel and redeem us. / The verse also says, "be his help against his foes." / God fights against our foes. / God helps us today when we are fighting the good fight.

/Verse 8. / About Levi he said: "Your Thummim and Urim belong to your faithful servant. You tested him at Massah; you contended with him at the waters of Meribah.

/This is the blessing on the Levites. / The Levites are a tribe of priests. / They have Thummim and Urim. / These are the instruments used to determine God's will.

/They placed it inside their breastpieces. / They discerned God's will with the instruments. / Exodus 28:30 / How they did so, we do not know. / Yet, what is sure is that they discerned God's will with Thummim and Urim.

/The verses say that God tested them at Massah and Meribah. / This refers to the incident in Meribah, where Moses and Aaron failed the test. / Numbers 20:2-13

/Verse 9. / He said of his father and mother, 'I have no regard for them.' He did not recognize his brothers or acknowledge his own children, but he watched over your word and guarded your covenant.

/It is written, "He said of his father and mother, 'I have no regard for them.'" / It also is written, "He did not recognize his brothers or acknowledge his own children." / This means that the Levites did not resort to sentimentalities. / They firmly kept the Word of God. / Exodus 32:25-29

/The Israelites built an idol, the golden calf. / Moses went down and rebuked them. /Moses rebuked the Israelites after he went down from Mount Sinai. / At that incident, the Levites killed his brothers who committed the sin of idolatry.

/They prioritized and kept God's words, going beyond the blood and sentiments. / They refused to be defiled. / Mark 10:29-30

/Verse 10. / He teaches your precepts to Jacob and your law to Israel. He offers incense before you and whole burnt offerings on your altar.

/The Levites taught the laws to the Israelites. / They also represented the Israelites and offered sacrifices before God. / They also prayed for the Israelites.

/In today's time, we all are priests. / 1 Peter 2:9/ We must teach God's words to others. / We must pray for others. / We must lead other people to the right path.

/Verse 11. / Bless all his skills, LORD, and be pleased with the work of his hands. Strike down those who rise against him, his foes till they rise no more."

/God will bless the Levites. / Yet, this may be the blessing given to the tribe of Simeon / because it is not mentioned in the blessings of Moses.

/In Genesis 49:5, when Jacob blesses his sons, he mentions Simeon and Levi at the same time. / 49:5 / Simeon and Levi received the blessings together when Jacob blessed them. / Genesis 34:25-30

/Thus, it is plausible for the blessings mentioned in verse 11 to have been for the tribe of Simeon. / The blessing was that God would bless their skills and strike those who rise against them.

/Verse 12. / About Benjamin he said: “Let the beloved of the Lord rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long, and the one the Lord loves rests between his shoulders.”

/This is a blessing for the tribe of Benjamin. / Benjamin is the eleventh son of Jacob. / The Jerusalem temple was in his land. / Joshua 18:28 / The tribe of Benjamin is the tribe that served the temple.

/Therefore, the verse says that they may rest secure in God. / We must always stay and live near the temple. / Then God will protect us and keep us safe.

/It is also said, “the one the Lord loves rests between his shoulders.”/ This means that God will raise the tribe. / Then the tribe will receive the glory because the temple lies in its land.

/Verse 13. / About Joseph he said: “May the Lord bless his land with the precious dew from heaven above and with the deep waters that lie below;

/This is the blessing on Joseph. / Moses blessed him saying God would bless his “land with the precious dew from heaven above and with the deep waters that lie below.” / Water is rare in Canaan. / Therefore, the blessing of water and dew are great blessings.

/The blessing promises that rain will be abundant for the tribe of Joseph. / In today’s sense, it means that the sweet rain of grace will be abundant. / It means that God will rain down his grace upon us abundantly.

/Verse 14. / with the best the sun brings forth and the finest the moon can yield;

/God will give them the rewards of the sun and moon. / This means that God will grant them good climates day and night/ and that he would give them an environment where plants and crops grow well. / Thus, God will give them the finest and the best of many things.

/Verse 16. / with the best gifts of the earth and its fullness and the favor of him who dwelt in the burning bush. Let all these rest on the head of Joseph, on the brow of the prince among his brothers.

/“The best gifts of the earth” refer to minerals. / God will give them many jewels.

/It is also written, “the favor of him who dwelt in the burning bush.” / This means that God will deliver the Israelites from hardships. / God will deliver the tribe of Joseph from hardships.

/Verse 17. / In majesty he is like a firstborn bull; his horns are the horns of a wild ox. With them he will gore the nations, even those at the ends of the earth. Such are the ten thousands of Ephraim; such are the thousands of Manasseh.”

/It is written, “In majesty he is like a firstborn bull”. / 1 Chronicles 5:2/ The promise of majesty and power will be given to the tribe of Joseph.

/It is also written, “his horns are the horns of a wild ox”. The tribe will receive mighty power. / It will also become prosperous.

/Ten thousands are of Ephraim, / while the thousands are of Menasseh. / Genesis 48:14-19 / These are the blessings given to Ephraim and Menasseh by God.

/Verse 18. / About Zebulun he said: “Rejoice, Zebulun, in your going out, and you, Issachar, in your tents.

/These are the blessings of Zebulun and Issachar. / Zebulun is to rejoice in going out. / This refers to their living by the sea, just like the blessing of Jacob. / Genesis 49:13/ This refers to their lifestyle by the sea and their life in doing trade.

/They will be prosperous. / Next, Isaachar is to rejoice in his tents. / They will quietly live as farmers. / Like such, we each have our own gifts.

/Some live in foreign countries as missionaries. / Some stay in their countries as leaders in ministries. / Some evangelize in nearby places, / and some do so in faraway places.

/Verse 19. / They will summon peoples to the mountain and there offer the sacrifices of the righteous;
they will feast on the abundance of the seas, on the treasures hidden in the sand.”

/People will be gathered. / This means that the tribes of Zebulun and Issachar will share the Word of God to the people. / Many will return to God.

/Then they will offer sacrifices before God. / They will be prosperous. / Like such, many lives will gain life as the gospel is preached.

/Verse 20. / About Gad he said: “Blessed is he who enlarges Gad’s domain! Gad lives there like a lion, tearing at arm or head.

/This is the blessing on Gad. / Gad will be enlarged. / Moses prophesied that the tribe would praise the one who enlarges them. / The tribe will praise God.

/It is written that Gad is “like a lion, tearing at arm or head.” / It means that God will take care of Gad’s enemies. / God will give courage and strength to the tribe of Gad. / Therefore, it will be able to tear at the arms and heads of the enemies.

/Verse 21. / He chose the best land for himself; the leader’s portion was kept for him. When the heads of the people assembled, he carried out the LORD’s righteous will, and his judgments concerning Israel.”

/The tribe first received their inheritance, which was the eastern part of the Jordan. / Yet, they did not stay put after they received the inheritance. / They helped their brothers conquer the western area of the Jordan.

/We, who first received the grace of God, must be loyal first. / We must cooperate in winning the souls of others. / We who received much, should give much to others.

/Verse 22. / About Dan he said: “Dan is a lion’s cub, springing out of Bashan.”

/This is the blessing of Dan. / The tribe of Dan was referred to in Genesis 49:17 as snakes and vipers. / 49:17 / Yet here, it is “a lion’s cub.” / This shows how much God is renewing his blessing on the tribe.

/The tribe is brave. / Samson was a part of this tribe. / Samson overcame the Philistines. / We must also use our God-given gifts to fight the good fight.

/Verse 23. / About Naphtali he said: “Naphtali is abounding with the favor of the Lord and is full of his blessing; he will inherit southward to the lake.”

/Moses blessed the tribe of Naphtali. / This tribe “is abounding with the favor of the Lord and is full of his blessing.” / Genesis 49:21/ Thus, it will inherit land that is southward to the lake. / This means that they will conquer much land.

/“Southward” refers to the Sea of Galilee. / Just like the blessing, the tribe received the northwest part of the Galilee. / Joshua 19:32-39. / Capernaum, where the house of Jesus was, is located at the northwest part of the Sea of Galilee.

/Jesus moved from Nazareth to Capernaum. / This land of Naphtali was later blessed through Jesus.

/Verse 24. / About Asher he said: “Most blessed of sons is Asher; let him be favored by his brothers, and let him bathe his feet in oil.

/This is the blessing on Asher. / Asher will receive many blessings. /This tribe will be prosperous. / In today’s sense, this verse spiritually means that churches will grow. / The tribe will be also favored by their brothers.

/It is a tribe that will bring joy to others. / We must become those who bring joy in our churches, families, and work. / We must be those who bring good to others.

/The verse says, “let him bathe his feet in oil.”/ The tribe will live in blessings from head to toe.

/Verse 25. / The bolts of your gates will be iron and bronze, and your strength will equal your days.

/The bolts of its gates will be iron and bronze. / His house will be firm. / No matter how much their enemies may attempt to invade them, the house will not fall down. / This means that God will fight against the enemies with his power/ and grant the tribe victory.

/Verse 26. / “There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides across the heavens to help you and on the clouds in his majesty.

/”Jeshurun” means the beloved, the righteous. / This refers to the Israelites. / In today’s sense, it refers to us believers. / There is no one like God.

/There are many gods in the world, but our God is the only true God. / He is the Creator. / He saves us. / He judges sin.

/He “rides across the heavens to help you and on the clouds in his majesty.” / This shows God’s power and majesty.

/Verse 27. / The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemies before you, saying, ‘Destroy them!’

/Our God is the everlasting God. / He gives eternal life. / Our God helped the Israelites with his “everlasting arms.”

/God fights against our enemies/ and saves the hopeless. / He becomes our refuge/ and comfort, / and he grants us everlasting life.

/Verse 28. / So Israel will live in safety; Jacob will dwell secure in a land of grain and new wine, where the heavens drop dew.

/God will become Israel's place of safety. / He helps us with his mighty arms. / The "grain" symbolizes the truth, / while the "new wine" symbolizes grace.

/God gives abundant grace and truth to the believers. / The verse speaks of dwelling in security. / This means that God will give the Israelites special grace.

/Just like the dew falls every night, God will grant us his grace when we lean on him. / He gives grace to those who love his grace.

/Verse 29. / Blessed are you, Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD? He is your shield and helper and your glorious sword. Your enemies will cower before you, and you will tread on their heights."

/Blessed is Israel. / Why? / Today, we believers are the blessed.

/First, there is no one who saves us like God does. / He saved us when we were in sin. / He freed us from the enslaving grasp of the devil. / He called us to become his children.

/Second, God is our helping shield and glorious sword. / Ephesians 6:17 / God protects our enemies/ and leads us into victory. / He allows us to receive glory.

/Third, God conquers the enemies. / No matter how strong an enemy may be, God will help us. / He leads us into victory with his mighty arms. / Romans 16:20

/Fourth, God lets us tramp the horns of our enemies. / He leads us to conquer all our enemies. / He raises and lifts us.

/Long ago, the Israelites were weak people. / They were slaves in Egypt. / Yet, God delivered them with his power. / They were saved after 400 years of slavery.

/No nation was ever saved like that. / We have received much grace and blessings today. / God saved us, / and he leads and protects us as we live our daily lives.

/God lifts us up. / We must think about the blessings he has poured out to us. / We must give thanks for the grace of God. / With this we will conclude the sixteenth lecture on Deuteronomy. / Thank you.