

Deuteronomy 7:6-9 (ESV)

⁶ For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the Lord loves you and is

keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,

I greet you with, grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Risen Lord and the Holy Spirit who lives within us as believers, and empowering us.

We have in our lesson from Deuteronomy, promises that were spoken to the descendants of those that were delivered from Egypt, that had wandered for 40 years in the wilderness and are now entering into the Promised Land. These are promises are also for us, for here is the true God, who has chosen and delivered us, and who calls us to live for Him. We are going to see three realities identified here that make the difference in our lives and those of our families. First, the Lord your God is God. He and He alone is God, the faithful God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love. That answers the identity question about God. It answers who is God? Secondly, the true God has redeemed you, brought you out of the slavery of sin, chosen you for his treasured procession. That answers the character question about God. It answers what does God do? Finally He calls you to love him, to keep his commandments, living as a people holy to the Lord your God. You belong as believers to the one true God and you have a calling from Him. That answers the desire question about God. It answers what is God’s will for your life. We are looking at those three, God is God, He is faithful, redeems and has chosen you. Finally He call you to holy living.

THE LORD YOUR GOD ... IS GOD...IS FAITHFUL...KEEPS COVENANT & STEADFAST LOVE

First, The Lord your God is God, faithful, keeping covenants and steadfast love. The true God has reveled himself in the Bible as opposed to all the other concepts of who God is in the various cultures of the world. Romans 1 explains how the religions of the world came about, saying, “²¹ **For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God...²³...exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images²⁵ ... exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature...**” (Romans 1:21-25 ESV). The truth about God is in the Bible and that is where you can discover the true God. God told Jeremiah, “¹³ **You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart,**” (Jeremiah 29:13 ESV) God revels granting faith through the Bible, “¹⁷ **faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God**” (Romans

10:17 NKJV) God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, three persons. It says of Jesus in Colossians “¹⁶ ...all things were created through him and for him...⁹ **For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,**” (Colossians 2:9 ESV) Jesus is God and He is Lord and Savior. He is faithful, bringing to pass what He has promised. God said to Malachi, “**For I the Lord do not change...**” (Malachi 3:6 ESV) and in Titus we read, “²**in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began**” (Titus 1:2 ESV) This is the true God, who does not lie, does not change, is faithful, and keeps His promises.

THE LORD YOUR GOD ... HAS CHOSEN YOU - FOR HIS TREASURED POSSESSION...

LOVES YOUBROUGHT YOU OUT OF SLAVERY...REDEEMED YOU

Secondly, The Lord your God has chosen you, for His treasured possession, He loves you, and has brought you out of the slavery of sin, redeeming you, granting the free gift salvation, costing the death and suffering of Jesus on a cross. If you are redeemed, you were chosen by God. However, the Bible does not teach that because some were chosen, others were not. God wants everyone to be saved. In Timothy, “³ ... **God our Savior,** ⁴ **who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.**” (1 Tim. 2:4 ESV) In 2nd Peter, “⁹ **The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.**” (2 Peter 3:9 ESV) God is not predetermining anyone to an existence without Him, but loving and calling everyone to repentance. He chooses out of grace. His choose is not based on His foreknowledge of who will believe, that defeats grace and is not taught in the Bible either. It is not out of merit on our part, we are totally sinful, without merit. He grants redemption out of His grace and His love. Do not reject that love and grace, but fully embrace the gift of eternal life, to be forgiven, and start new, given a new life, another chance. By the law we are condemned having not keep the law of God perfectly. (Mat 5:48) Jesus grants eternal life to all who receiving Him, saying in John 6, “⁶ **All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.**” (John 6:37 ESV) Do not wait, come to Christ for the forgiveness He freely grants.

THE LORD YOUR GOD ... CALLS YOU TO BE... HOLY TO THE LORD...TO LOVE HIM...

TO KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS

Finally, The Lord your God is calling you to be holy, to love Him, and to keep His commandments. What does this mean? We know that perfection waits till heaven, so how can we be holy and keep His commandments now, loving Him. Yes, as believers we are a new creation (2 Cor 5:17) yet there is the flesh, the sinful nature.(Gal 5:13,16-17,24) The keeping is of faith through Jesus. Jesus in His prayer in John 17, spoke of the disciples knowing Him and keeping His word, saying, “³ **And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.** ⁶ **I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they**

have kept your word. ¹⁷ **Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.**” (John 17:3,6,17 ESV) These disciples had little and weak faith, made mistakes, but had faith, and Jesus continued their change. They made faith choices in life, choices that involved how they lived. It says of Moses in Hebrews 11, “²⁴ **By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,** ²⁵ **choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.** ²⁶ **He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.**” (Hebrews 11:24-26 ESV) Right living! Those fleeting moments of sin brings consequences and destruction eternally and right now as the sin itself brings suffering. Moses choose what was right, even though it brought miss treatment, there are greater riches in Christ both now and eternally. May you live for the Lord Jesus even though it brings mistreatment by the world, doing what is right by Him and through Him.

HIS WAY

Our lesson heralds the wonderful blessings of receiving from God. However, simply view the verses surrounding this lesson and see the consequence of abandoning God. This chapter opens with the instruction from God to the Israelites, probably about 2 million people, to utterly destroy 7 nations in the promised land that were stronger then they. These people, first mentioned in Genesis 9:18, are descendants of Canaan, son of Ham, who was a son of Noah. The people are identified as the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. There is the command to burn their cities, their possessions, their false gods, killing all the people and all the animals, taking and leaving nothing. At first glance this seems so harsh and cruel, where is the love of God? Yes, we know they were exceeding morally and spiritually corrupt, but what about another chance? The Amorites, are mentioned in Genesis 15, as God converses with Abraham, He says, “... **the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.**” (Gen 15:16 ESV) All those years the call to repent was there and repeatedly ignored. The time for grace for nations and individuals has a limit. Eventually there is judgment. It is a picture of final judgment, and the judgment on each individual and nation that refuses God's way, refuses to repent and receive the redemption that cost Jesus the suffering and death on a cross. May you heed His call, trust Him, in this time of grace, and live as He has called you, forsaking sin and living in the Spirit. Jesus is calling to you, heed the call, receive His blessing.

In His name we pray, AMEN May the peace of God that passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. AMEN.