

February 17

Deuteronomy 9 – 11

When the last time that just the Bible, God's word was impacted your life? Not via a speaker, a book, a seminar, podcast, website, but just between you, God and His word?

9.3 God Goes before you- we have seen that reoccurring theme in the past few three days

9.5 God will drive them out before you to accomplish what he swore to your fathers

9.6 It is not because of your righteousness that God is giving....
Remember this and never forget how you provoked...

9.14 Moses interceded for you and the Lord listened to me
You also made the Lord angry at...
You did not trust him or obey him, you have been rebellious...

10.12 What does the Lord ask of you but
To fear the Lord you God
To walk in all his ways
To love him
To serve him with all your heart and with all your soul
To observe the Lord's commands and decrees

11.7 It was your own eyes that saw all these great things
(When was the last time you have seen God work?)

11.8 Observe therefore the commands I am givingso that...you may...
So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today – to
love

11.13 the Lord your God and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul
THEN I
will...

11.18 Reference to Deut 6 – teach them to your children, talking about them, tie them as symbols on your hands...

11.19 If you carefully observe all these commands I am giving you to follow...then the
Lord will drive out all these nations before you and you will dispossess
nations
larger and stronger than you.

Remember. That is the theme and focus for Deuteronomy. Moses is challenging the Israelites to never forget who God is, what He has done, how faithful He has

been and how needy they are for God – even when they enter into the Promised Land. This land is where they won't need daily manna from God. They have been wandering in the wilderness as nomads with no place to put down roots with a roof over their head. They have been in the wilderness for 40 years waiting for an untrusting generation to die off.

Moses doesn't want them to ever forget that!

We see in chapter 9 that Moses reminds them again to not forget about God. He is the adult telling someone younger, you have had it tough – and things are going to get better – BUT, don't forget your roots and how God has cared for you over the years.

There are two phrases I want you to remember today from your reading.

First phrase I want you to remember "God goes before you." We see it in 9.3 "be assured today that the Lord your God is the one who goes across ahead of you like a devouring fire....he will subdue them before you.

That reminds me of the only time that that phrase is used. We see it in Deut. 31.8 the Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

I just love a verse that is theological and personal at the same time. Think about that phrase in 9.3 "Goes before you." What a comfort, a reality and like nothing else! This is a phrase unique to only Deuteronomy.

Theologically: In these two verses God is pointing that he is omnipresent. That he is not contained by space and time. That he can be at numerous places at the same time. That is one of his attributes. Omnipresence: so he can go before the Israelites and will subdue the enemy.

Personally: because he is not limited by space and time – he can be right beside the Israelites to encourage them as they prepare to enter into the Promised Land.

Theologically: what do you believe about God? To you, is he distant and aloof? God is holy and big, but he is intimately concerned about you and the battles you are facing in life. Remember, he is omnipresent and is always a step ahead of you, but you won't always see that happening – but it is.

Personally: do you feel that God is too busy or not interested in your life? Well, these verses point out that he does care and will never leave you. He is right beside you, you might just not know it. He is ahead of you every step of the way, yet he is with you every step of the way.

But with this truth comes another truth: you need to recognize that and be humble. Moses is reminding the Israelites that they will not win battles because of themselves and their abilities – it is because of God being all powerful, another attribute that is, and omnipotent. In other words, God is all powerful and does not need any help or assistance. I want to encourage you to remind yourself today that

God is truly out ahead of you and your plans and your life – fighting for you, doing battle for you. YET, he is beside you

The second phrase is: what does the Lord require of you?

If we apply what we learned in 10.12 and 31.8, knowing of God's attributes and how they apply to your daily life I would hope that you will realize that the common response is humility. With humility you then want to see what God wants of us. In 10.12b we see the phrase "What does the Lord require of you?" Then there is the answer, to fear the Lord, walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and to observe (obey) the Lord's commands. That answer is also repeated in 11.13.

Do you fear God? If you are aware of God's presence, you will. Are you walking in his ways or trying to take your own path? Do you love him more than you love food, sports, money, and possessions? If you are truly humble, then you will have a servant heart and willing to humbly serve others. Fearing, loving, serving, obeying is a result of knowing that God goes before us.

Does that phrase sound familiar to what we read in Deut 6? What is Moses trying to get across when he is talking about loving God with all your heart and soul? Why did Jesus say this was the greatest commandment in Mt 22? We see the answer in 4.40 where God says, "Keep his decrees and commands, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the lord your God gives you for all time.

"So that it may go well with you" is stated 8x in Deuteronomy. There is joy in obedience. I point out, even when life isn't going as well as you wish, know that God is asking you to trust him. God can't be put in a box – that he will always work in a particular way. If you love God, fear him, walk in his ways, obey him, serve him, trust him and remember who he is – there will be comfort and peace – even during uncertain times.

Knowing that God goes before and is fighting for us – therefore, God says, do not fear, do not be discouraged – I will NEVER leave you or abandon you.