

DEUTERONOMY 28 vs 1

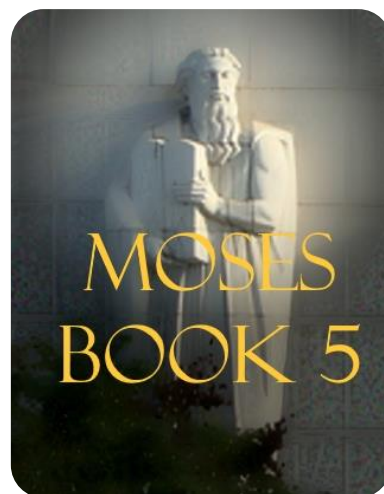
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In 1706, Matthew Henry wrote: This chapter is a very large exposition of two words in the previous chapter, those the Lord would **bless**, marked with His favor; and those He would **curse**, marked with His displeasure.

700 years later, the chosen people of both **Israel** and **Judah** chose not to **keep and do** what God covenanted with them; instead they pursued relations with the strangers in the neighborhood elevating their strange traditions of the elders, over what the Lord God said in His Torah.

They freely add to or diminish from the 10 commands God gave at Mount Sinai in Arabia so long ago; what Jesus, Peter and Paul repeatedly taught throughout the New Testament. We were told NOT to read the OT prophets which are not for us. They say: we are not under law; we are under grace. But what does that mean? Jesus said, till heaven and earth pass away... not one dot will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever relaxes one of the least of these commands, **and teaches men so**, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them will be called great -- **Matthew 5**.



No law = lawlessness. There is nothing wrong with the 10 commandments. They make perfect sense to the people of God; and are perfectly good to do... to live long and prosper **here on earth**. Those who do will be **blessed**; those who don't will be **cursed**. Not confusing is it?!

So, what did Moses tell them?

Promise of blessings,

¹ If you listen diligently to the voice of the LORD your God, to keep and do His whole commandment that I command you this day, the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth / and all this sounds like God who created all things, is the consummate risk-taker in His search for: love freely given... and He is able to multitask better than anybody; as He looks for men and women to display His grace... to the nations from the rising of the sun, to its setting:

² And all these blessings will come on you and overtake you, if you listen and obey the voice of the LORD your God.

³ Blessed / marked with His favor in the city, and blessed in the field.

⁴ Blessed the fruit of your womb, the fruit of your ground, the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the flocks of your sheep.

⁵ Blessed your basket and your kneading bowl.

⁶ Blessed when you come in, and blessed when you go out.

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7 The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you.

They will come out against you one way, and flee before you seven ways.

8 The LORD will command the blessing on you in your barns, and in all that you endeavor; blessing you in the land that the LORD your God gives you.

9 The LORD will establish you as a people holy to Himself, as He pledges to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and walk in His ways.

10 And all nations of the earth / from the rising to the setting of the sun... will see you are called by the name of the LORD; and they will be afraid of you.

11 And the LORD will make you prosper in goods, in the fruit of your womb, and the fruit of your cattle, and the fruit of your ground, on the land the LORD pledged to your fathers to give you.

12 The LORD will open to you His good treasury -- the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, blessing all the work of your hand / and why did He promise to greatly bless? Was it that His people hoard and become the top 1% of greedy freaks and paranoid oddballs of the world? No! Thank God.

But read on...

and you will lend to many nations, and you will not borrow / now, I can imagine the Jewish families such as the Rothschild bankers fancy they are somehow fulfilling these words, but nothing can be farther from the truth; they do not keep the whole law, they pick and choose and ultimately will be destroyed if they don't abandon their way; clearly, they are written about as the day approaches in **Revelation 6:15**.

The Lord said...

and you will lend to many nations, and you will not borrow.

13 And the LORD will make you the head, and not the tail; and you will only increase, and not decrease / the earth mistakenly says the top 1% are the head; God says otherwise;

if that you endeavor to do the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day, to keep and to do them:

14 and if you do not turn aside from any of the words I command you this day, to the right, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them / because there aren't any other gods; oh there is an enemy of our soul who roams about seeking whom he can devour and take with him to hell, but when it comes to God; the Lord is the only One who matters.

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Promise of curses,

¹⁵ But if you will **not** listen to the voice of the LORD your God, to **keep** and **do** His whole commandment and His statutes which I command you this day; then all these **curses** will come upon you, and overtake you:

¹⁶ **Cursed** / marked with His displeasure in the city, and **cursed** in the field.

¹⁷ **Cursed** your basket and your kneading bowl.

¹⁸ **Cursed** the fruit of your womb, the fruit of your ground, the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the flocks of your sheep.

¹⁹ **Cursed** when you come in, and **cursed** when you go out.

²⁰ The LORD will send on you **curses**, confusion and rebuke in all you endeavor to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly; because of your evil doings, because you have forsaken Me.

²¹ The LORD will make pestilence cling to you until He has consumed you off the land that you enter to possess.

²² The LORD will strike you with disease and with a fever, with inflammation and fiery heat, and with drought, and with blight, and with mildew. They will pursue you until you perish.

²³ And the heavens over your head will be bronze,

and the **earth** that is under you will be iron.

²⁴ The LORD will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust will come down on you, until you are destroyed.

²⁵ The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You will go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them. And will be a horror to all the kingdoms of the **earth**.

²⁶ And your carcass will be food for all the birds of the air, and for the beasts of the **earth**, with no one to frighten them away.

²⁷ The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, and with tumors, and scabs, and itch, of which you cannot be healed.

²⁸ The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of heart:

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²⁹ and you will grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness, and you will **not** prosper in your ways. You will only be oppressed and robbed continually, with no one to help you.

³⁰ You will betroth a wife, and another man will ravish her. You will build a house, but you will **not** dwell in it. You will plant a vineyard, but you will **not** enjoy its fruit.

³¹ Your ox will be slaughtered before your eyes, but you will **not** eat any of it. Your ass will be seized before your face, but will **not** be restored to you. Your sheep will be given to your enemies, but you will have no one to help you.

³² Your sons and your daughters will be given to another people, while your eyes look on and fail with longing for them all day long; but you will be powerless to help.

³³ A nation you have not known will consume the fruit of your land and of all your labors; and you will be only oppressed and crushed continually,

³⁴ so that you are driven mad by the sights that your eyes see.

³⁵ The LORD will strike you on the knees and on the legs with painful boils that cannot be healed, from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head.

³⁶ The LORD will bring you and your king whom you set over you, to a nation that neither you nor your fathers have known.

And there you will serve other **gods of wood and stone.**

³⁷ And you will become a horror, a proverb, and a byword among all nations where the LORD will lead you.

³⁸ You will carry much seed to the field and will gather little; for the locust will consume it.

³⁹ You will plant vineyards and dress them, but you will **not** drink of the wine nor gather the grapes; for the worms will eat them.

⁴⁰ You will have olive trees throughout your region, but you will **not** anoint yourself with the oil; for your olives will drop off.

⁴¹ You will father sons and daughters, but you will **not** enjoy them; for they will go to captivity.

⁴² The locust will consume all your trees and fruit of your land.

⁴³ The foreigner who is among you will rise higher and higher above you; and you will come down very low.

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⁴⁴ He will lend to you, and you will **not** lend to him. He will be the head, and you will be the tail.

⁴⁵ All these **curses** will come upon you, and pursue you and overtake you till you are destroyed; because you did **not** listen to the voice of the LORD your God, to **keep** His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you.

⁴⁶ They will be a sign and a wonder against you and your offspring forever.

⁴⁷ Because you did **not** serve the Lord your God with **joyfulness** and **gladness** of heart, for the abundance of all things;

⁴⁸ therefore will you serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and lacking everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you. / Ezekiel said, those He sends will be **the worst of the nations.**

⁴⁹ The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle; a nation whose language you do **not** understand;

⁵⁰ A nation of fierce countenance / a hard-faced nation; 1000 years later, Daniel uses these same 2 words describing a political leader who will come when the time of the Gentiles comes to a close. Somehow, in this verse both this nation and its ruler are in focus; and if I were to take bets, they both can be seen in the NEWS today.

A nation of fierce countenance which will **not** respect the old, or show mercy to the young:

⁵¹ And they will consume the offspring of your cattle and the fruit of your land, until you are destroyed; they will not leave you grain, wine, or oil; the increase of your herds or flocks of your sheep, until they have destroyed you.

⁵² And they will besiege you in all your towns, until your high and fortified walls in which you trusted, come down throughout all your land. And they will besiege you in all your towns throughout all your land, which the LORD your God gave you.

And if this section on the being cursed by God isn't horrifying, the next verses are downright disgusting:

⁵³ And you will eat the fruit of your womb, the flesh of your sons and daughters whom the Lord your God gave you, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemies will distress you / I'm sure this disgusting scenario happened many times over during the world wars; when destruction comes, it is often rapid and complete. Most people in America can't grasp the fact that the local grocery store is completely restocked every 3 days; should a sudden, violent event occur in any area, the devastation would be felt immediately.

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54 The person / man or woman... who is tender and very delicate among you / what is Moses talking about? Like those snowflakes now days?

will begrudge food to his brother, to the wife he embraces, and to the last of his children who are left,

55 so that he will **not** give to any of them any of the flesh of his children whom he is eating: because he has nothing else left, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemy will distress you in all your towns.

56 The most tender and delicate woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because she is so delicate and tender, will begrudge to the husband she embraces, to her son and to her daughter,

57 her afterbirth that comes out from between her feet, and her children whom she bears: because lacking everything she will eat them secretly, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemy will distress you in your towns.

58 If you will **not** keep and **do** all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may **fear** this glorious and awesome Name, the LORD your God / circle that word: there is nothing wrong with fearing God; stopping dead in our tracks when considering the Almighty God is powerful – He could destroy this world by speaking a word; thankfully He is merciful too – ponder **Isaiah 8:13-14**;

59 Then the LORD will bring on you and your offspring extraordinary plagues, afflictions great and lasting, and sicknesses severe and lasting.

60 He will bring upon you again all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid; and they will cling to you.

61 Every sickness and every plague that is **not** recorded in the book of this law, the LORD will bring upon you, until you are destroyed.

62 And whereas you were as numerous as the stars of heaven, you will be left few in number; because you did **not** obey the voice of the LORD your God.

63 And as the LORD rejoiced over you in doing you good and multiplying you; so, the LORD will rejoice over you to bring ruin upon you and destroy you. And you will be plucked off the land that you are entering to possess.

64 And the LORD will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the **earth** to the other; and there you will serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.

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65 And among these nations you will find no rest, there will be no place for the sole of your foot to rest; but there, the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes and a sorrowful soul.

66 Your life will hang in doubt before you; day and night you will fear and have no assurance of your life:

67 In the morning you will say, If only it was evening! And at evening you will say, If only it was morning! Because of the dread that your heart will feel, and the sights that your eyes will see.

68 And the LORD will bring back in ships to Egypt, by the way I promised that you would never make again: and there you will be sold to your enemies for male and female slaves, but no one will buy you.

And that's what has been happening; for 2500 years, clearly seen in the history of the **House of Judah** – less understood in the **House of Israel**... we have seen these gruesome details repeated time and again. It sure suggests what lawlessness toward the Lord God is all about; as well as the tragic, unintended consequences of those hardheads who chose to be cursed. So 2 things I find amazing:

1. God never said His children had to do something miraculous like walk on water; or change water to wine.
2. He never mentioned in the Book of Deuteronomy we had to keep and do those 10 commands perfectly; as if in doing so we somehow earn our way to heaven. Although He did say, do them with all your heart and soul – He wants us to at least try to do them... with the same effort we give to our teacher at school; or our boss at work; or the team we play for. It makes you also wonder, if God did not spare those chosen people, what will He do to the rest of the world who stubbornly refuse His compassionate longsuffering? since He already declared He shows mercy to the thousands who love Him and keep His commands.