

Deuteronomic Blessing and Curse (Part One)

Deuteronomy 27:1-26

Deuteronomy 27:1-3

Now Moses and the elders of Israel commanded the people, saying, “Keep the whole commandment that I command you today. And on the day you cross over the Jordan to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall set up large stones and plaster them with plaster. And you shall write on them all the words of this law, when you cross over to enter the land that the LORD your God is giving you, a land flowing with milk and honey, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you.”

Deuteronomy 27:4-8

“And when you have crossed over the Jordan, you shall set up these stones, concerning which I command you today, on Mount Ebal, and you shall plaster them with plaster. And there you shall build an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of stones. You shall wield no iron tool on them; you shall build an altar to the LORD your God of uncut stones. And you shall offer burnt offerings on it to the LORD your God, and you shall sacrifice peace offerings and shall eat there, and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God. And you shall write on the stones all the words of this law very plainly.”

Deuteronomy 27:9-13

Then Moses and the Levitical priests said to all Israel,
“Keep silence and hear, O Israel: this day you have become the
people of the LORD your God. You shall therefore obey the
voice of the LORD your God, keeping his commandments and
his statutes, which I command you today.”

That day Moses charged the people, saying, “When you have
crossed over the Jordan, these shall stand on Mount Gerizim
to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and
Benjamin. And these shall stand on Mount Ebal for the curse:
Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.”

Deuteronomy 27:14-18

And the Levites shall declare to all the men of Israel in a loud voice:

“Cursed be the man who makes a carved or cast metal image,
an abomination to the LORD, a thing made by the hands
of a craftsman, and sets it up in secret.”

And all the people shall answer and say, “Amen.”

“Cursed be anyone who dishonors his father or his mother.”

And all the people shall say, “Amen.”

“Cursed be anyone who moves his neighbor’s landmark.”

And all the people shall say, “Amen.”

“Cursed be anyone who misleads a blind man on the road.”

And all the people shall say, “Amen.”

Deuteronomy 27:19-22

“Cursed be anyone who perverts the justice due to the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.”

And all the people shall say, “Amen.”

“Cursed be anyone who lies with his father’s wife, because he has uncovered his father’s nakedness.”

And all the people shall say, “Amen.”

“Cursed be anyone who lies with any kind of animal.”

And all the people shall say, “Amen.”

“Cursed be anyone who lies with his sister, whether the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.”

And all the people shall say, “Amen.”

Deuteronomy 27:23-26

“Cursed be anyone who lies with his mother-in-law.”

And all the people shall say, “Amen.”

“Cursed be anyone who strikes down his neighbor in secret.”

And all the people shall say, “Amen.”

“Cursed be anyone who takes a bribe to shed innocent blood.”

And all the people shall say, “Amen.”

“Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words
of this law by doing them.”

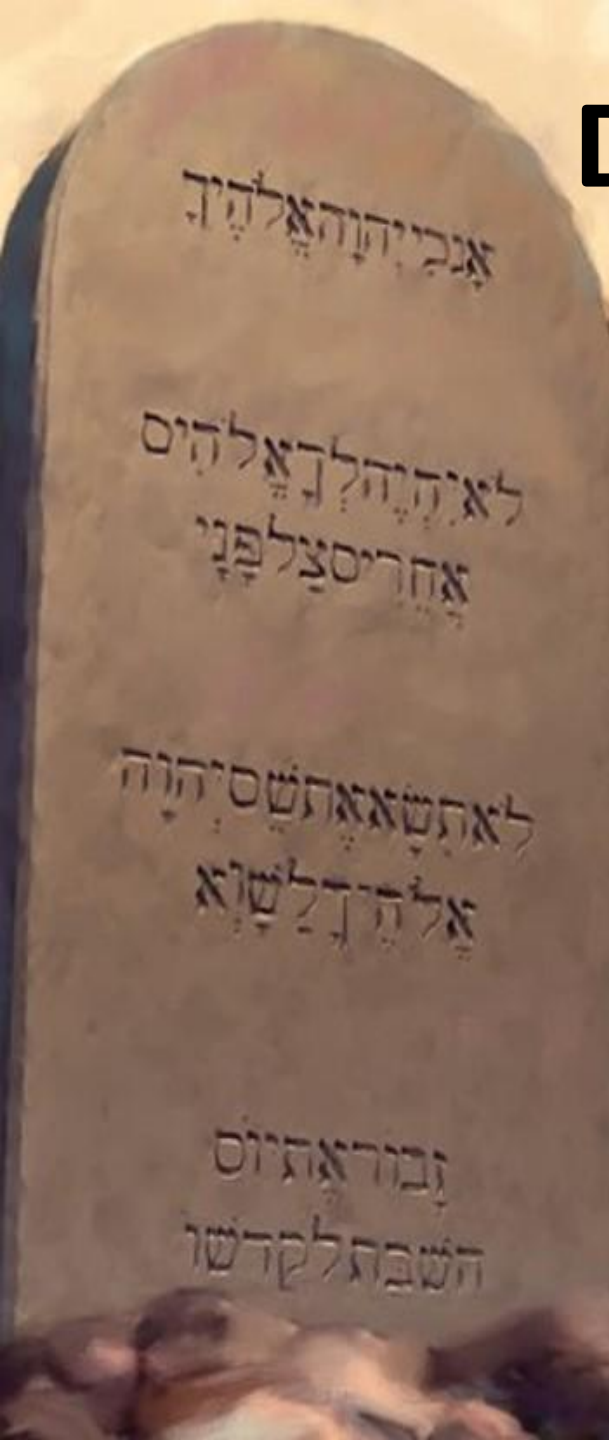
And all the people shall say, “Amen.”

Main Point

Yahweh *is* Lord; and He richly blesses His people, who love and obey Him, and curses His enemies, who hate and resist Him.

Deuteronomic Blessing and Curse

What is the
Deuteronomic Command?



The Deuteronomic Command?

What was it then?

Deuteronomy 27:1 and 10

Now Moses and the elders of Israel
commanded the people, saying,
“Keep the whole commandment that I command you today.”

Obedience

Deuteronomy 27:1 and 10

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that I command you today.”

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Obedience

Deuteronomy 27:1 and 10

Now Moses and the elders of Israel
commanded the people, saying,
“Keep the whole commandment that I command you today.”

“You shall therefore **obey the voice of the LORD** your God,
keeping his commandments and his statutes,
which I command you today.”

But what is THE command?

Deuteronomy 6:5

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your might.

The Deuteronomic command is love!

Why large stones and plaster?

Deuteronomy 27:2-3

And on the day you cross over the Jordan
to the land that the LORD your God is giving you,
you shall set up large stones and plaster them with plaster.
And you shall write on them all the words of this law

Deuteronomy 27:4 and 8

And when you have crossed over the Jordan, you shall set up
these stones, concerning which I command you today,
on Mount Ebal, and you shall plaster them with plaster...
and you shall write on the stones all the words
of this law very plainly.

Why large stones and plaster?

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on Mount Ebal, and you shall plaster them with plaster...
and you shall write on the stones all the words
of this law very plainly.

Gracious accommodation to their weakness!

Why build and altar and sacrifice?

Deuteronomy 27:5-7

And there you shall build an altar to the LORD your God,
an altar of stones. You shall wield no iron tool on them;
you shall build an altar to the LORD your God of uncut stones.
And you shall offer burnt offerings on it to the LORD your God,
and you shall sacrifice peace offerings and shall eat there,
and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God.

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and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God.

Gracious provision for their weakness!

You shall believe the Gospel!

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you shall build an altar to the LORD your God of uncut stones.
And you shall offer burnt offerings on it to the LORD your God,
and you shall sacrifice peace offerings and shall eat there,

and **you shall rejoice before the LORD
your God.**

The Deuteronomic Command?

What was it then?

What is it **now**?

Has this changed?

Deuteronomy 27:1

Now Moses and the elders of Israel
commanded the people, saying,

“Keep the whole commandment that I command you today.

Matthew 5:17-19

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets;
I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away,
not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law
until all is accomplished.

Whoever then annuls one of the least of these
commandments, and teaches others to do the same,
shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven;
but whoever keeps and teaches them,
he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

We must learn to mark well
the difference between
justification and *sanctification*!

Justification

Galatians 3:10-11

For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse;
for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not abide
by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them.”
Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident;
for, “The righteous man shall live by faith.”

The standard for justification!

Galatians 3:10-11

For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse;

for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not **abide**

**by all things written in the book
of the law, to perform them."**

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But you can't do this!

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for, "The righteous man shall live by faith."

Justification is by faith *not* by works

Galatians 3:10-11

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**for, "The righteous man shall
live by faith."**

Believe the Gospel!

Galatians 3:10-11

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for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not abide
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Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident;

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What about sanctification?

Hebrews 10:14

For by one offering He has perfected for all time
those who are being sanctified.

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How and by what standard?

How?

John 17:17

Sanctify them in the truth;
Your word is truth.

By faith in the power of the Holy
Spirit through the word of Christ.

By what standard?

John 14:15

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”

Deuteronomy 5:10

...showing lovingkindness to thousands,
to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

The standard hasn't changed!

John 14:15

"If you **love Me**, you will **keep My commandments**."

Deuteronomy 5:10

...showing lovingkindness to thousands,

to those who **love Me** and **keep My commandments**.

The standard hasn't changed!

Romans 13:8-10

Owe nothing to anyone except to **love** one another;
for he who **loves** his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

For this, "You shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal,
you shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment,
it is summed up in this saying,

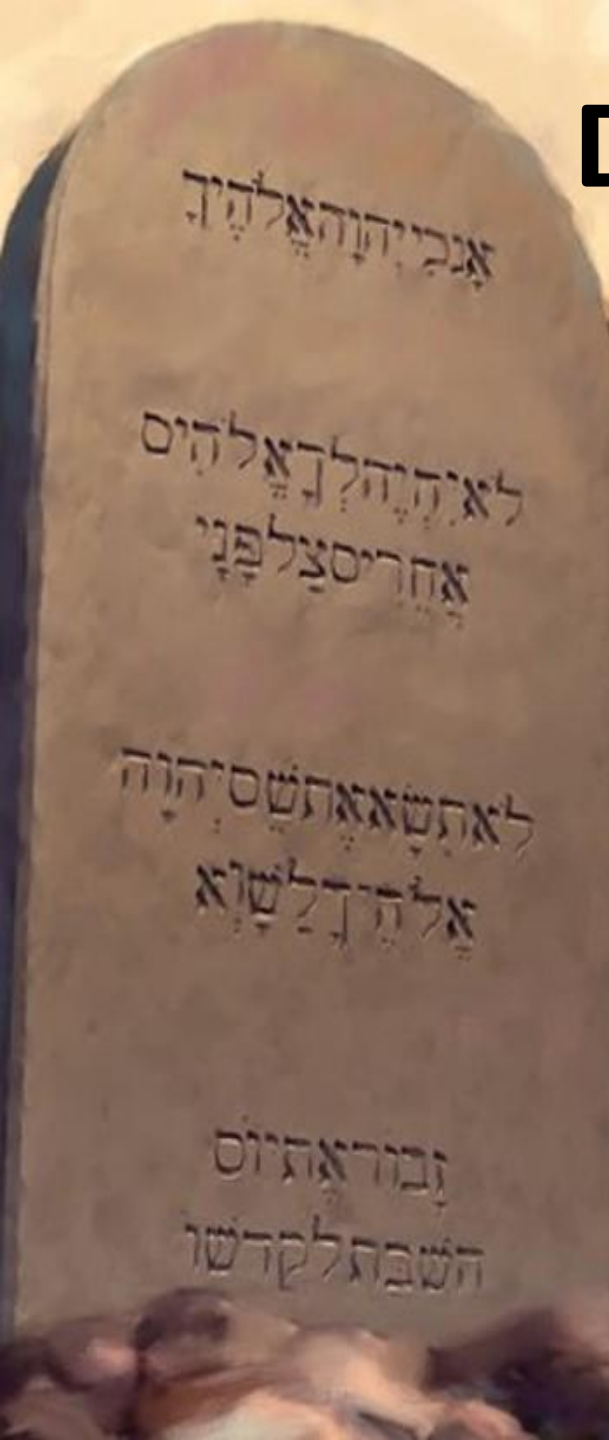
"You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself."

Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
therefore **love** is the fulfillment of the law.

Deuteronomic Blessing and Curse

What is the Deuteronomic Command?

What is the basis for obedience?



What is the basis for obedience?

What was it then?

Their basis for obedience?

Deuteronomy 27:9-13

Then Moses and the Levitical priests said to all Israel,
“Keep silence and hear, O Israel:
this day you have become the people of the LORD your God.

They belonged to the LORD!

Deuteronomy 27:9-13

Then Moses and the Levitical priests said to all Israel,
“Keep silence and hear, O Israel:

this day you have become the people of the LORD your God.

He was their Sovereign!

Deuteronomy 27:9-13

Then Moses and the Levitical priests said to all Israel,
“Keep silence and hear, O Israel:
this day you have become the people of the LORD your God.

You shall **therefore obey the voice of the LORD**
your God,
keeping his commandments and his statutes,
which I command you today.”

What is the basis for obedience?

What was it then?

What is it now?

Remember, we belong to Him!

Deuteronomy 27:9-13

**“Keep silence and hear, O *Church*:
this day you have become the
people of the LORD your God.**

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you have been bought with a price:

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you have been bought with a price:

therefore glorify God in your body.

We have been purchased by Him!

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you have been bought with a price:
therefore glorify God in your body.

Titus 2:13-14

...our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus...
gave Himself for us **to redeem us**

He purchased us to purify us!

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you have been bought with a price:
therefore glorify God in your body.

Titus 2:13-14

...our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus...

gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed,

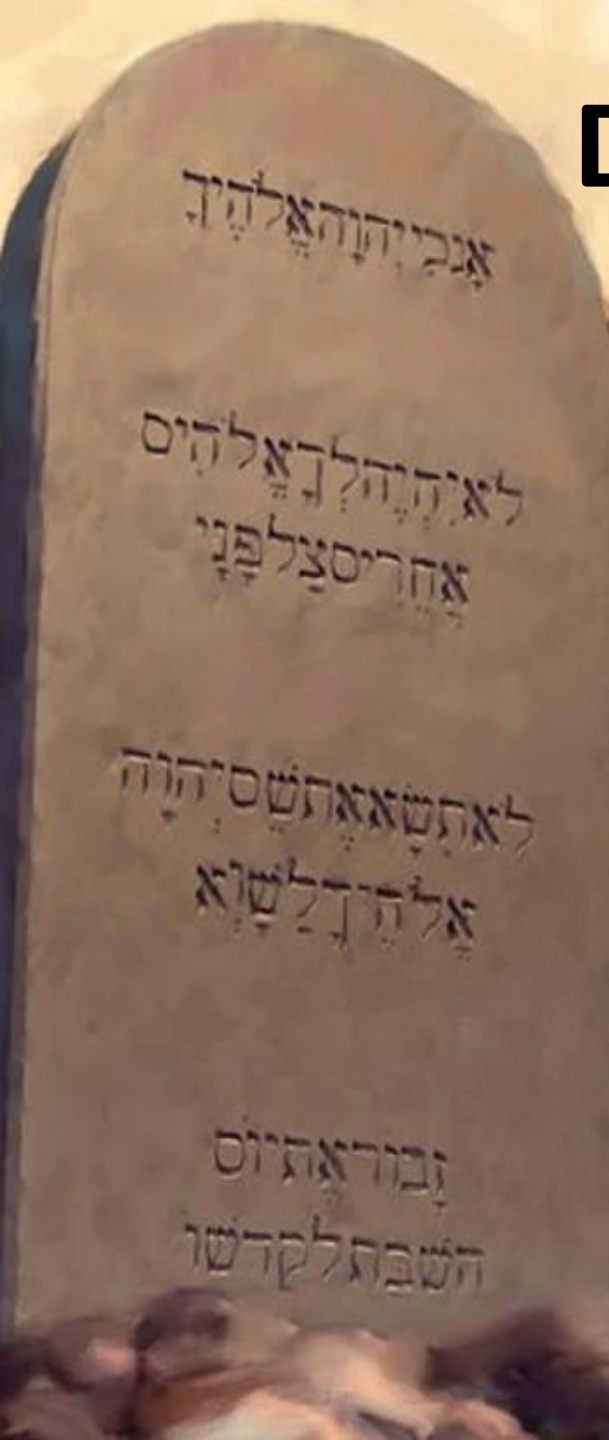
and **to purify for Himself a people**
for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

Deuteronomic Blessing and Curse

What is the Deuteronomic Command?

What is the basis for obedience?

What are the Deuteronomic consequences?



What are the consequences?

What were they then?

Blessing or Curse

Deuteronomy 27:11-13

That day Moses charged the people, saying,
“When you have crossed over the Jordan,
these shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people:
Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin.
And these shall stand on Mount Ebal for the curse:
Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.”

Blessing or Curse

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Blessing or **Curse**

Deuteronomy 27:11-13

That day Moses charged the people, saying,
“When you have crossed over the Jordan,
these shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people:
Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin.

And these shall stand on Mount Ebal **for the curse:**
Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.”

Remember Moses' Admonition?

Deuteronomy 11:26-28

“See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse:
the blessing, if you listen to the commandments
of the LORD your God, which I am commanding you today;
and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments
of the LORD your God”

The curses listed were specific applications meant to remind the people that God sees all, even what is done in secret.

Deuteronomy 27:15

“Cursed be the man who makes a carved or cast metal image,
an abomination to the LORD, a thing made by the hands
of a craftsman, and **sets it up in secret.**”

And all the people shall answer and say, “Amen.”

Remember the LORD's promises?

Deuteronomy 7:9-10

Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God,
the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His
lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those
who love Him and keep His commandments;
but repays those who hate Him to their faces,
to destroy them; He will not delay with him who hates Him,
He will repay him to his face.

To those who love and obey Him

Deuteronomy 7:9-10

Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God,

the **faithful** God, who keeps His covenant and His

lovingkindness **to** a thousandth generation with **those**

who love Him and keep His commandments;

but repays those who hate Him to their faces,
to destroy them; He will not delay with him who hates Him,
He will repay him to his face.

To those who hate and resist Him

Deuteronomy 7:9-10

Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God,
the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His
lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those
who love Him and keep His commandments;

but **repays those who hate Him** to their faces,
to destroy them;

He will not delay with him who hates Him,
He will repay him to his face.

It is important to recognize that both the blessing and curse that God ties to His Law are twofold in nature and consequence.

Twofold Nature:

Material/Temporal

Because God's Law reveals His design and purpose for humanity, obedience is required if things are to "work" in this world.

Spiritual/Eternal

Because God's Law reveals His holy nature, obedience is required for spiritual union and eternal communion.

What are the consequences?

What were they then?

What are they now?

If God's design and purpose for humanity have not changed, the material/temporal consequences have not changed.

Matthew 7:26-27

Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell — and great was its fall.

If God's holy nature has not changed,
the spiritual/eternal consequences
have not changed.

Does the curse still apply?

Galatians 3:10

For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them.”

The curse of the Law is still in effect for those seeking righteousness through it.

But...

Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law,
having become a curse for us — for it is written,
“Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”

What are you counting on?

Galatians 3:13

**Christ redeemed us from the
curse of the Law,**

having become a curse for us — for it is written,
“Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”

Conclusion

God's people love and obey Him,
and He blesses them **in this life**.

Christ has fulfilled the Law on behalf of
His people and has richly blessed them
with eternal communion with God.