



Gracious Summons

Deuteronomy 29:1-29

Deuteronomy 29:1-4

These are the words of the covenant that the LORD commanded Moses to make with the people of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant that He had made with them at Horeb.

And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them:

“You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, and those great wonders. But to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear.

Deuteronomy 29:5-9

I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn

off your feet. You have not eaten bread, and you have not drunk wine or strong drink, that you may know that I am the LORD your God. And when you came to this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon and Og the king of Bashan came out against us to battle, but we defeated them. We took

their land and gave it for an inheritance to the Reubenites,

the Gadites, and the half-tribe of the Manassites.

Therefore keep the words of this covenant and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do

Deuteronomy 29:10-15

You are standing today, all of you, before the LORD your God: the heads of your tribes, your elders, and your officers,
all the men of Israel, your little ones, your wives, and the sojourner who is in your camp, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water, so that you may enter into the sworn covenant of the LORD your God, which the LORD your God is making with you today, that he may establish you today as his people, and that he may be your God, as he promised you, and as he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. It is not with you alone that I am making this sworn covenant, but with whoever

Deuteronomy 29:16-19

You know how we lived in the land of Egypt, and how we came through the midst of the nations through which you passed. And you have seen their detestable things, their idols of wood and stone, of silver and gold, which were among them. Beware lest there be among you a man or

woman

or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the LORD our God to go and serve the gods of those nations.

Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit, one who, when he hears the words of this sworn covenant, blesses himself in his heart, saying, "I shall be safe, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart "

Deuteronomy 29:20-21

The LORD will not be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the LORD and his jealousy will smoke against that man, and the curses written in this book will settle upon him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven.

And the LORD will single him out from all the tribes of Israel

for calamity, in accordance with all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law.

Deuteronomy 29:22-24

And the next generation, your children who rise up after you, and the foreigner who comes from a far land, will

say,

when they see the afflictions of that land and the sicknesses with which the LORD has made it sick—the whole land burned out with brimstone and salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that

of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger and wrath—all the nations will say, “Why has the LORD done thus to this land? What caused the heat of this great anger?”

Deuteronomy 29:25-28

Then people will say, “It is because they abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt, and went and served other gods and worshiped them,

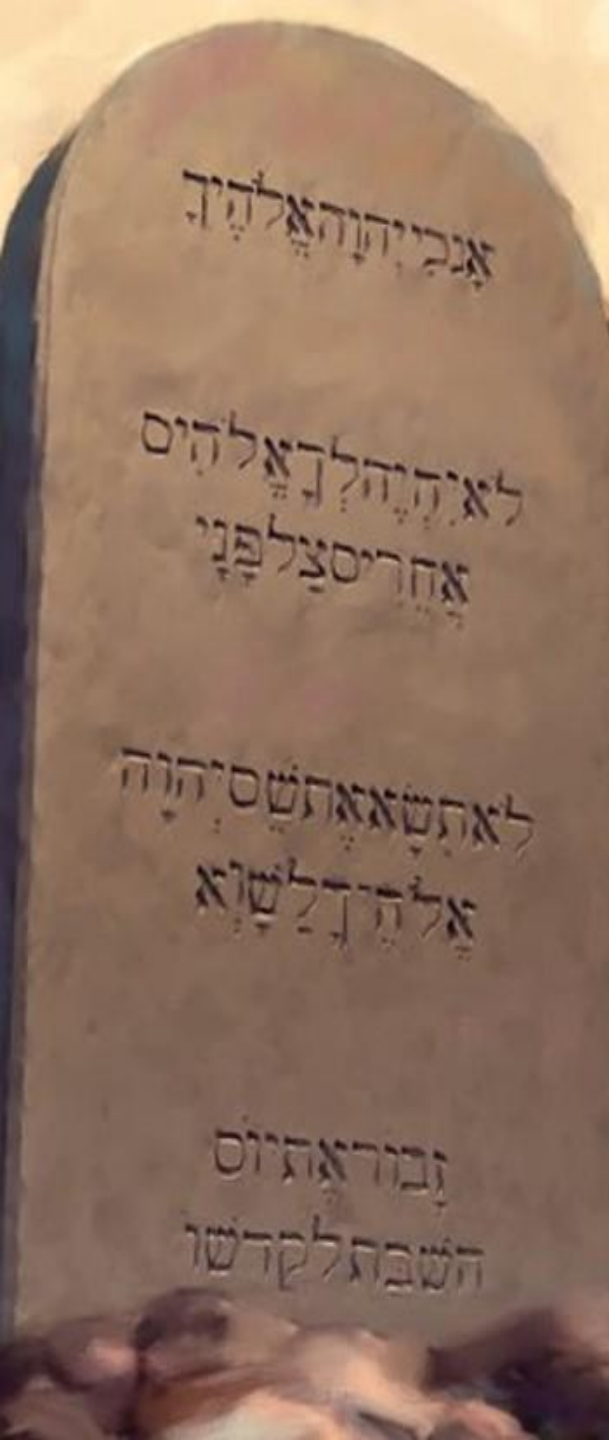
gods whom they had not known and whom he had not allotted to them. Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, bringing upon it all the curses written in this book, and the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger and fury and great wrath, and cast them into another land, as they are this day.

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong to the LORD our God,
but the things that are revealed belong to us
and to our children forever,
that we may do all the words of this law.

Main Point

The LORD graciously summons His people to remind them of covenant commitments, to admonish them to covenant faithfulness, and to counsel them with covenant consequences.



Gracious Summons

The LORD graciously summons His people to remind them of covenant commitments.

Covenant Reminder

Deuteronomy 29:1

These are the words of the covenant that the LORD commanded Moses to make with the people of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant that He had made with them at Horeb.

The LORD made a covenant with Israel mediated by Moses.

The LORD has made a covenant with His Church mediated by Christ.

Gracious Reminders

The LORD summons His people to
gather.

Deuteronomy 29:2

And **Moses summoned all Israel** and said to
them...

God regularly summoned His
people
to gather in His presence in order
to receive instruction from Him.

Who are His people?

Deuteronomy 29:10-11

You are standing today, **all of you**, before the LORD your God: the heads of your tribes, your elders, and your officers,

all the men of Israel, your little ones, your wives, and the sojourner who is in your camp, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water.

All the peoples of Israel, from the greatest of them to the least!

Who are His people?

Deuteronomy 29:14

It is not with you alone that I am making this sworn covenant,
but with whoever is standing here with us today before the LORD our God, and with whoever is not here with us today.

All the peoples of Israel, those
present
on that day and their future
generations.

Deuteronomy 29:14

It is not with you alone that I am making this sworn covenant,
but with whoever is standing here with us today before
the LORD our God, and with whoever is not here with us today.

All the peoples of Israel, those present
on that day and their future generations.

The LORD **still** summons
all His people to gather!

An Important Point

We *are* in a covenant with the
Lord,

and He still summons us to gather
as His covenant people;

but we are not in *this* covenant.

Important Distinctions

The peoples of the Old Covenant came into the family by *physical* birth, and they were marked off by circumcision.

The peoples of the New Covenant come into the family by *Spiritual* birth and are marked off by baptism.

John 3:3 and 6

Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again**
he cannot see the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh,
and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Old Covenant entrance was birth by
flesh;

New Covenant entrance is birth by Spirit.

The LORD still summons His people to come before Him to worship, receive instruction, and remember His covenant. Our corporate gatherings are a response to that summons.

Gracious Reminders

The LORD summons His people to gather.

He reminds them of His power
and faithfulness.

His Power

Deuteronomy 29:2-3

And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them:
“You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes
in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants
and
to all his land, the great trials that your eyes saw, the
signs,
and those great wonders.”

His Faithfulness

Deuteronomy 29:5-8

I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn

off your feet. You have not eaten bread, and you have not drunk wine or strong drink, that you may know that I am

the LORD your God. And when you came to this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon and Og the king of Bashan came out against us to battle, but we defeated them. We took

their land and gave it for an inheritance to the Reubenites

Gracious Reminders

The LORD summons His people to gather.

He reminds them of His power and faithfulness.

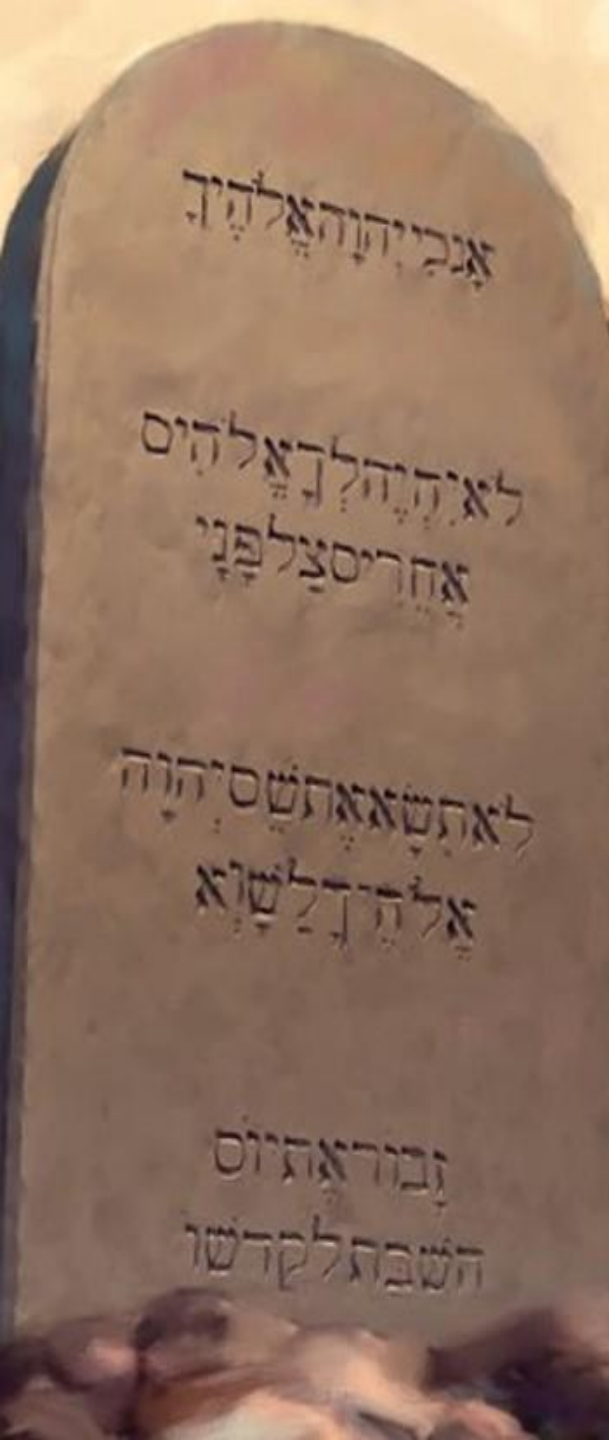
**He reminds them of their duty
to loving obedience.**

Their duty to lovingly obey.

Deuteronomy 29:9

Therefore keep the words of this covenant and **do them,**
that you may prosper in all that you do.

True obedience is a response to who God is and flows out of love for Him.



Gracious Summons

The LORD graciously summons His people to remind them of covenant commitments.

The LORD graciously summons His people to *admonish* them to covenant faithfulness.

Gracious Admonishment

He rebukes their stubborn hearts.

Remember, the LORD is faithful...

Deuteronomy 29:4

But to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear.

The natural condition of the human heart is stubborn resistance.

They would be prone to say,
“I shall be safe though I walk
in the stubbornness of my heart.” (vs 19)

Has this changed?

Romans 11:8-8

What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened; just as it is written,

“God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes to see not and ears to hear not, down to this very day.”

Mark 4:9

And *Jesus* was saying,
“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

What is the solution?

Deuteronomy 30:6

Moreover **the LORD your God** will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.

**The solution is the grace of
God!**

The Promise of Grace!

Ezekiel 36:25-27

“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes,
and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.”

Gracious Admonishment

He rebukes their stubborn hearts.

He warns them of idolatry.

Deuteronomy 29:16-18

You know how we lived in the land of Egypt,
and how we came through the midst of the nations
through
which you passed. And you have seen their detestable
things,
their idols of wood and stone, of silver and gold,
which were among them.

Beware lest there be among you a man or woman
or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from
the LORD our God to go and serve the gods of those
nations.

It is crucial that we do not read our current cultural circumstances into their experiences.

The idols of their day would not have appeared nearly as absurd to them as they do to us now.

What about us?

1 Corinthians 10:6-7 and 11-12

Now **these things happened as examples for us**, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.

Do not be idolaters, as some of them were...

Now **these things happened to them as an example**, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

What about us?

1 Corinthians 10:6-7 and 11-12

Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.

Do not be idolaters, as some of them were...

Now these things happened to them as an example, and **they were written for our instruction**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

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What about us?

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Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.

Do not be idolaters, as some of them were...

Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Therefore let him who thinks he stands
take heed that he does not fall.

The idols of our culture fit our culture;
in other words, they will not appear
nearly as absurd to us as we might
think.

**We must be as aware as
they were to be aware.**

Gracious Admonishment

He rebukes their stubborn hearts.

He warns them of idolatry.

He urges them to trust and obey.

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong to the LORD our God,
but the things that are revealed belong to us
and to our children forever,
that we may do all the words of this law.

Trust!

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong to the

LORD our God,

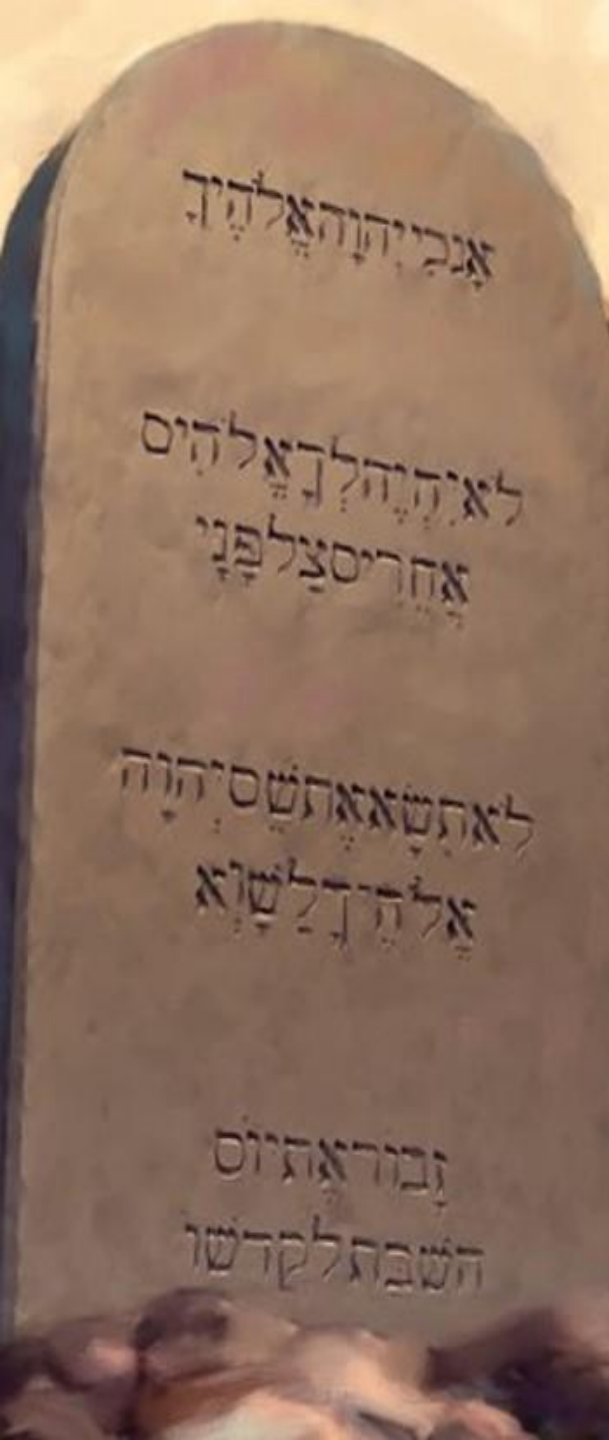
but the things that are revealed belong to us
and to our children forever,
that we may do all the words of this law.

Obey!

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong to the LORD our God,
but the things that are revealed belong to us
and to our children forever,

that we may **do all the words of this law.**



Gracious Summons

The LORD graciously summons His people to remind them of covenant commitments.

The LORD graciously summons His people to admonish them to covenant faithfulness.

**The LORD graciously
counsels His people with
covenant consequences.**

Gracious Counsel

He exhorts with covenant curse.

Remember the promise of **curse?**

Deuteronomy 28:15

But it shall come about, **if you do not obey** the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that **all these curses will come upon you** and overtake you.

There will be Covenant Consequence!

Deuteronomy 29:22-24

And the next generation, your children who rise up after you,

and the foreigner who comes from a far land, will say, when they see the afflictions of that land and the sicknesses

with which the LORD has made it sick—the whole land burned

out with brimstone and salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that

of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger and wrath—all the

The crucial question!

Deuteronomy 29:22-24

And the next generation, your children who rise up after you, and the foreigner who comes from a far land, will say, when they see the afflictions of that land and the sicknesses with which the LORD has made it sick— the whole land burned out with brimstone and salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger and wrath— all the

nations will say, “**Why has the LORD done thus to this land?**”

What caused the heat of this great anger?”

The Answer?

Deuteronomy 29:25-26

Then people will say, “It is because they abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt, and went and served other gods and worshiped them.”

Even the pagan nations understood the concept of covenant faithfulness.

Remember that God's warnings of judgment are a mercy; they are means of grace meant to counsel rebellious sinners to turn to Him for salvation.

He uses the curse of the Law to exhort us to run to the cross of Christ!

Gracious Counsel

He exhorts with covenant curse.

He encourages with covenant
promise.

They were a people of promise!

Deuteronomy 29:10 and 12-13

You are standing today, all of you...so that you may
enter into

the sworn covenant of the LORD your God, which the
LORD

your God is making with you today, that he may establish
you today as his people, and that he may be your God,
as he promised you, and as he swore to your fathers,
to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

They were a people of promise!

Deuteronomy 29:10 and 12-13

You are standing today, all of you...so that you may enter into the sworn covenant of the LORD your God, which the LORD your God is making with you today, that he may establish you today as his people, and that he may be your God,

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They were a people of promise!

Deuteronomy 29:10 and 12-13

You are standing today, all of you...so that you may enter into the sworn covenant of the LORD your God, which the LORD your God is making with you today, that he may establish you today as his people, and that he may be your God, as he promised you, and as he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

The LORD repeatedly used the promise of blessing to encourage His people to obedience.

Remember that God's promises
of prosperity are a mercy;
they are means of grace meant to
counsel weak sinners to trust in the
LORD.

We, too, are a people of promise!

Ephesians 3:6

This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs,
members of the same body, and partakers of the
promise

in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

The Lord frequently uses the promises
of our union with Christ and our share in
His inheritance to encourage us to
endure!

There is potential for material prosperity now; but in its absence, we must not turn away from the LORD and miss the presence of the spiritual prosperity found in the gospel now.

Jeremiah 17:5-6

Thus says the LORD,
“Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind
and makes flesh his strength,
and whose heart turns away from the LORD.
For he will be like a bush in the desert
and will not see when prosperity comes.”

Jeremiah 17:5-6

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“Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind
and makes flesh his strength,
and whose heart turns away from the LORD.

For he will be like a bush in the desert
**and will not see when prosperity
comes.”**

Conclusions

The Lord still summons us to gather for instruction, correction, and counsel.

Idolatry is real and is still a threat to our covenant faithfulness.

The promises of curse and blessing are still means of God's grace that exhort and encourage us to come and endure