

Deuteronomy 8

Be Careful Not to Forget the Lord

Preventing Prosperity Pride

Don't Forget His GOVERNANCE

1 Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today

6 Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in obedience to him and revering him.

His Commands Lead to Life and Prosperity

1 so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the LORD promised on oath to your ancestors.

Don't Forget His GUIDANCE

2 Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness

Leads us into Humility

2 Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness...to humble...you

Teaches us that we need God's Guidance

2 Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble...you

Teaches us that we need God's Provisions

3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. 4 Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years.

Leads us into Devotion

2 and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

Leads us into Discipline

5 Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you.

Don't Forget His GIFTS

7 For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land

Our Material Blessings and Prosperity are Gifts from God

7 For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land —a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills; 8 a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; 9 a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills.

Be Careful to Prevent Prosperity Pride which can cause you to Forget the Lord

10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. 11 Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day.

12 Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, 13 and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, 14 then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 15 He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. 16 He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you.

17 You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me."

18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

Forgetting God leads to Forfeiting God which leads to Destruction

19 If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. 20 Like the nations the LORD destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the LORD your God.

Background for Deuteronomy 8

- Moses was the author of Deuteronomy. Joshua, Moses' replacement, probably wrote the last chapter (34) of Deuteronomy that records the death of Moses.
- The title "Deuteronomy" comes from the Septuagint, or Greek translation of the OT. It means "Second Law." Deuteronomy is a second statement by Moses of the laws/covenant that he had already shared (Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers).
- Deuteronomy contains Moses' final messages to the Israelites shortly before his death.
- Israel had just finished their 39 years of wandering in the desert. The rebellious "exodus generation" had died off, and now the new generation of Israelites were preparing to enter Canaan—The Promised Land.
- With the new generation of Israelites gathered on the plains of Moab, just east of Jericho and the Jordan River, Moses, shares three sermons that renews God's covenant with Israel and prepares them spiritually as they take possession of The Promised Land.
- In general, Moses tells the Israelites that their future success and livelihood depends on their ability to trust and obey the Lord and being careful to not forget the Lord.
- Tonight's study focuses on Moses' warning the Israelites to not forget the Lord after they go in and take possession of Canaan and begin to enjoy the prosperity of the land.
- Prosperity can lead to personal pride in our possessions which will lead to forgetting that it is the Lord "who gives you the ability to produce wealth" (Dt.8:18).
- This study reminds us that when we experience prosperity and abundance, that we should be consistently quick to "praise the LORD" (Dt.8:10) for the good he has given to us. Amen! Otherwise, we will pridefully take credit for our wealth and forget the Lord.

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