

Sermon notes Deut. 4. The privilege of grace 24/7/22

1. God takes the initiative to establish a relationship with Israel (20). It is a great privilege to be in relationship with God.

2. God established this relationship in love (37) Rescuing Israel from slavery in Egypt (37, 38). God established this relationship and obedience to the law is **a response** to God's grace (unmerited love). **Grace = an attitude** – expressing motivation (37); **an action** – associated with that attitude – deliverance from Egypt (34, 36-38); **a gift** – gift of the land (38, 40). **Grace in the NT** – Jn. 3:16, Rm. 6:23, Eph 2:8.

3. The law is a gift of grace – goal of the law is life (1 and 40). NT Rm. 7:12. **The Generosity of God is evident in Deut.**

4. The faithfulness of God (20) – 'His very own possession' despite Israel's unfaithfulness (32, 33).

5. God is merciful (31), despite knowing Israel will engage in idolatry (28-31). **God is also 'devouring fire, a jealous God'** (24)- Hosea 2, Jer. 3).

6. God speaks to Israel at Mt. Horeb – the giving of the 10 commandments (11, 12) which revealed the will of God.

Reflection/Response. What is the significance of God speaking but not showing Himself to Israel?

7. God gives the law to reveal His will for how His people are to live. 'Living God's way is the right and proper response to grace' (B. 25). **Life in the land = God's place, life lived under God's care and rule.** Real life with God anticipated in Deut. and brought by Jesus Christ ('I am the way the truth and the life' Jn. 10:10; 14:6; 17:3).

8. Obeying the law as a witness to other peoples (6). God chooses and works through Abraham's descendants to restore all humanity to himself.

9. Living as a faithful Christian is the best way of life there can be (B. 26). **The law calls us to imitate God. The law aims to restore the image distorted by sin- that image is only perfected through Jesus Christ** (2 Cor. 3:12-18).

Reflection/Response. Behind all the laws in the OT are great moral principles. How does being justified by faith in Christ (Gal.2) and the gift of the Spirit enable us to obey God? How does the behaviour of Christians reveal the character and will of God? BB