

Sermon Notes Deut. 9-11 God's amazing grace 14/8/22

9:1-6. As they are about to cross the Jordan to go in and possess the land the Lord will give them they are to trust the Lord that He will enable them to defeat their enemies. Israel was chosen as a people and created as a nation under the covenant with God. The Lord will provide them with the land because of His promise to their ancestors. The Israelites were not chosen because they were morally superior to the other nations. Rather they are described as *'a stiff necked people'*, - Vv. 7-29.

10:1-5. The new 10 commandment tablets are the same as the first tablets which Moses smashed. The smashing of the first tablets signified a breach of the Covenant by the people because of their idolatry (Vv. 7-29). The new 10 commandment tablets signified the renewal of the covenant by a merciful and gracious Lord.

10:12-22. God's care and provision is not only focused on Israel, for He *'loves the foreigner residing among you'*. Israel is to follow the example of the Lord and also care for the foreigner among them by *'giving them food and clothing'*. They are to remember that they were once foreigners in Egypt so they are to again follow the example of the Lord and *'love those who are foreigners'* living among you. God's care, mercy and love and the provision of land demands the response of complete commitment to God (12). God is faithful to His promises (10:11, 15).

Reflection/Response. As with Israel in the OT under the old covenant so with the church in the NT under the new covenant there is a similar pattern of Divine response. This response of God showing His care, mercy and love is now expressed supremely in Jesus Christ who rescues us from death and gives us new eternal life. **Jn. 3:16, Eph. 2: 4-5.** God's love demands our Love and obedience.

11:1-21. The Israelites were reminded of God's faithfulness in the past which should form the basis of their trust in Him now and for the future. Observing the commandments would enable them to possess the land that the Lord has promised them. The core of obeying the commandments was to *'love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul'*(13, 8). In response God would provide abundantly for them to live in the land (16-17). Failure to love and obey the Lord will result in hardship and famine (18-21). They are to teach their children to love and obey the Lord and to keep the Lord's words ever before them.

Reflection/Response. In response to God's grace, His underserved love, we are called to respond in love and obedience to God (Eph. 2:1-22). What does it mean to *'love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul'*? How has God shown His faithfulness to us in Jesus Christ which can give us confidence to continue to trust Him? How has God shown His faithfulness to us as a Church and as individual members which can give us confidence that He will continue to be gracious to us in the future?