

# CHOOSE LIFE!

Moses' Leadership in Deuteronomy Lesson III (Deut 26:16-30:20)

## Key Verses 30:19,20

„This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.“

# Deuteronomy:

- Moses' testamental farewell for the next generation.
  - Consists of 3 sermons of Moses.
- „Deuteronomy“ means „repetition of the law“, or „reemphasis“
  - It is God's earnest appeal through Moses that the future generations love God with all their hearts

## 26:16-19: Setting the Stage

*16: „The LORD your God commands you this day to follow these decrees and laws; carefully observe them with all your heart and with all your soul.“*

- Admonition: Obey God!

*17: „You have declared this day that the LORD is your God and that you will walk in his ways, that you will keep his decrees, commands, and laws, and that you will obey him.“*

- Declaration of the people: We will obey God!

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18: „And the LORD has declared this day that you are his people, his treasured possession as he promised, and that you are to keep all his commands.“

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19: „He has declared that he will set you in praise, fame and honor high above all the nations he has made, and that you will be a people holy to the LORD your God, as he promised.“

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God's declaration: You are my treasured possession

## A ratification of the promise at Mt. Sinai

Ex 19:5-6a	Deut 26:18-19
<p>“Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”</p>	<p>“The LORD has declared this day that you are his people, his treasured possession as he promised, and that you are to keep all his commands. He has declared that he will set you in praise, fame and honour high above all the nations he has made and that you will be a people holy to the LORD your God, as he promised.”</p>

# Future Design:

Now, as God's treasured possession, his kingdom of priests, and his holy nation, what was their future?

This passage is all about the blueprint for the design of their future, as God's people.

# Post-GLEF 2019?

- We have accepted the key verse, Exodus 19:5,6a
- What kind of future lies before us? How may we live?



## 3 Parts to this message:

1. Blessings & Curses in the Promised Land (27:1-28:68)
2. The Renewal of the Covenant at Moab (29:1-30:20)
3. The Offer of life and death (30:11-20)

# 1. Blessings & Curses in the Promised Land

(27:1-28:68)

- Chapter 27: what the next generation should do when they enter the promised land?
- What is most fundamental for the nation, Israel?

27:2-3a: “When you have crossed the Jordan into the land the LORD your God is giving you, set up some large stones and coat them with plaster. Write on them all the words of this law...”





27:9-10: “Be silent, O Israel, and listen! You have now become the people of the LORD your God. Obey the LORD your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today.”

The core message at GLEF 2019...



27:9-10: “Be silent, O UBF next gens, and listen! You have now become the people of the LORD your God. Obey the LORD your God and follow his commands and decrees that I give you today.”

The core message at GLEF 2019...



27:11-13: “On the same day Moses commanded the people: When you have crossed the Jordan, these tribes shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin. And these tribes shall stand on Mount Ebal to pronounce curses: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan and Naphthali.”



	Blessings	Curses
Where	Mount Gerizim	Mount Ebal
Who	Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin	Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphthali

- Every person opened their mouth to speak God's word of blessing and curse.
- Every person became a preacher and teacher of God's word.
- In UBF, every person is encouraged to be a Bible testimony-sharer, teacher, and messenger.
- as a matter of spiritual life and death: We need to proclaim God's word to obey God's word.











## 27:14-26

- Levites were especially to recite a series of 12 curses
- after each of which the Israelites were to answer, “Amen!”
- The curses were violations of God’s Laws that were common among other contemporary nations



# 3 Levites:



Cursed is anyone who trusts money or job!



Cursed is anyone who posts on Instagram for human recognition!

And all the people said...

„Amen!“

Cursed is anyone who practices homosexuality and adultery!



## Chapter 28: Blessings and curses

<b>Blessings (28:2-6)</b>	<b>Curses (28:15-19)</b>
<p>“All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God: You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.”</p>	<p>“However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country. Your basket and your kneading trough will be cursed. The fruit of your womb will be cursed, and the crops of your land, and the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. You will be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out.”</p>

# Are you interested in designing your future?

- God's people have a very unique blueprint for their future
- There are basically two ways: obedience or disobedience, blessing or curse.

# Curses

- curses take up \_\_\_\_% of the verses ?

# Curses

- curses take up 80 % of the verses
- Why? Reveals who the Israelite people were, and who we are.
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“The LORD will afflict you with madness, blindness and confusion of mind. At midday you will grope about like a blind man in the dark. You will be unsuccessful in everything you do; day after day you will be oppressed and robbed, with no one to rescue you.” (28-29)

“You will be pledged to be married to a woman, but another will take her and ravish her. You will build a house, but you will not live in it. You will plant a vineyard, but you will not even begin to enjoy its fruit.” (30)

“Your sons and daughters will be given to another nation, and you will wear out your eyes watching for them day after day, powerless to lift a hand...You will have sons and daughters but you will not keep them, because they will go into captivity.” (32,41)



“The LORD will drive you and the king you set over you to a nation unknown to you or your fathers. There you will worship other gods, gods of wood and stone. You will become a thing of horror and an object of scorn and ridicule to all the nations where the LORD will drive you.” (36-7)

“Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the LORD will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart. You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life.”  
(65-6)

# Why is Moses speaking at such length about blessings, and especially about curses?

- Moses really wants the Israelites to live a blessed life with God, not a cursed life.
- A true shepherd and Bible teacher is clear
- Not relativistic!

# Only God's people have a way of complete blessing

- Millennials seem to have a lot, but have no blessed life! Rather, young people are stuck in a cursed life.
- My 2 beautiful, highly accomplished, and wealthy friends suffer under a cursed life
- Thanks be to God who made a way of blessing for all his people to be blessed in him!



- Mt 6:33
  - “Are you sho?”
  - Who can be sho about anything?
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- Yes, we can be sho of God’s perfect blessing by obeying 1 word of God.
  - Thank God who sets us on the pathway of his blessing!
  - May God help each of us to experience God’s great blessing through obeying one word of God.
  - May God help us to grow as shepherds and clear Bible teachers for the young people who are deceived by relativism.

## 2. The Renewal of the Covenant at Moab

(29:1-30:20)

“These are the terms of the covenant the LORD commanded Moses to make with the Israelites in Moab, in addition to the covenant he had made with them at Horeb.” (29:1-2)

- In chapter 29-30, Moses tells all the Israelites additional terms to the covenant God made with them at Sinai.

29:2-8: Reminder of:

- God's miraculous signs against Pharaoh and Egypt
- God's Providence throughout the 40 years in the desert
- God's victory for them against Sihon and Og



29:4: “But to this day the LORD has not given you a mind that understands or eyes that see or ears that hear.”

- stiff-necked Israel
- What does God do with his stiff-necked people?

29:9-10a: „Carefully follow the terms of this covenant, so that you may prosper in everything you do. All of you are standing today in the presence of the LORD your God...”

God renewed his covenant with them!

“Who” of the covenant

“what” of the covenant

# Covenant with whom?

- Look at 29:9-15

# Covenant with whom?

- Leaders
- Chief men
- elders
- officials
- all the other men of Israel
- children
- Wives
- aliens who chop wood and carry water
- **and...also with those who are not here today!**
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“I am making this covenant with its oath, not only with you who are standing here with us today in the presence of the LORD our God but also with those who are not here today.” (29:14-15)

Gentiles

Israelites not born yet

You and me.

„what covenant“?

“You are standing here in order to enter into a covenant with the LORD your God, a covenant the LORD is making with you this day and sealing with an oath, to confirm you this day as his people, that he may be your God as he promised you and as he swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.” (29:12-13)

## 29:16-30:20

- God knew they would turn away from him again.
- God knew that among them would be men and women who would hear his words and think in his heart, “I will be safe, even though I persist in going my own way.”
- But God sees our hearts.
- Consequence: God’s wrath and anger

“All the nations will ask: ‘Why has the LORD done this to this land? Why this fierce, burning anger?’” And the answer will be: ‘It is because this people abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, the covenant he made with them when he brought them out of Egypt.’” (29:24-25)



How could God renew his covenant with his stiff-necked people, who would abandon his covenant, at Moab?

30:2-3, “and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.”

# God's new covenant

Repentance

Circumcised and new hearts

“The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.” (30:6)

# God's new covenant

The new covenant is the covenant of our hearts in Jesus' blood and the Holy Spirit. (Jer 31:31-34; Ezek 36:26,27; Lk 22:20; Heb 8:10-12; 10:15-15)

“The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: ‘This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.’ Then he adds: ‘Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.’ And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.” (Heb 10:15-18)

- Marriage covenant in Jesus' grace
- God's covenant in Jesus' full forgiving grace

# Moses: a leader with God's heart

- Forgiving, patient, graceful
- In Num 11, Moses was so burdened he wanted more to die than to have to continue to bear with the Israelites
- But he experienced God's forgiveness and God molded him into a forgiving and patient leader who made God's covenant with Israel

# Leaders after God's heart

- Making covenants with sinners
- Extending God's covenant to sinners
- What this generation really needs: faithful shepherds who can forgive sheep and bear with them in God's hope and grace.
  - Building 1:1 Bible Study teams, extending God's covenant one person at a time

Third, the offer of life or death  
(30:11-20)

- So far in the book of Deuteronomy, God has laid before the Israelites his history, his law, and his promise very clearly.
- The word was not far away, but very near them.
- God's map for their future in God's words.
- So what next?
- Moses set the choice very clearly before the Israelites and challenged them to make a decision.



- “See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” (Num 30:15-20)

- **“See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.** For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.  
**...Now choose life,** so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” (Num 30:15-20)
- What about you?

# What about you?

Post-GLEF life

- School (college, grad school)
- Work
- Marriage

Life and prosperity, death and destruction. Which way will you choose to walk going forward?

**CHOOSE LIFE!**

# Choose life!

- Make a decision about your university selection, graduate school direction, job search, and marriage based on one word of God.
- GLEF Follow-Up 2019
- Pray for and teach the Bible to at least one friend

# As leaders...

- May each 1:1 and group BS we serve help one person to “choose life”.

“This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.” (Deut 30:19-20)