

TITLE: KEEP THE COVENANT!

TEXT: DEUT 29:1-9

THESIS: The purpose of this sermon is to exhort one another to obedience by using the example of Moses' exhortation to the Israelites prior to their entry into Canaan.

INTRO: In Josh 9, the Gibeonites deceived Joshua and the Israelites in order to make a covenant with them. Why? Fear – they knew the Israelites were stronger. *The weaker seeks the covenant with the stronger*, otherwise, the stronger will defeat them. However, in the covenants between God & man, who sought the covenant? God! Why? David asked this question in **Psalm 8:3-4** (*When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, The moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?*). God loves us and wants a covenant relationship with us, even though He, as the stronger, doesn't need it.

I. RENEWAL OF THE COVENANT (v. 1):

- A. God commanded this covenant! He has no reason to make this covenant, other than the fact that He loves us!
- B. This verse concludes ch. 28 (blessings & cursings) and in many MSS is the last verse of ch. 28 (28:69).
- C. These words are a part of, an addition to, the covenant given at Sinai (Horeb)
- D. God continuously attempts to be in communion with his people (then and now)
 - 1. Hosea & Gomer (significance of adultery = divorce/remarriage only for adultery)
 - 2. Moses plight – knowing Israel's past and their future apostasy (ch. 31:16)
- E. Not *because* of who we are, but *in spite* of it (Deut 9:4-6; Rom 5:8; Eph 2:1-9)
- F. God seeks a covenant with us today as well...a new covenant in Jesus' blood (**1 Cor 11:25**)

II. REMEMBRANCE OF THE COVENANT (v. 2-8):

- A. Moses makes an appeal – pleading God's case in order to get the Israelites to obey God. **"Remember what God has done for you!"**
 - 1. Works in Egypt (v. 2-4)
 - a. "Ye have seen..." *They* had not seen these things. But they knew of them as assuredly as if they had seen them first hand (being told by a nation of people who *did* see), yet did not take them to heart.
 - b. "I am the God that brought you up out of Egypt!" – statement found numerous times in Scripture, until the captivity.
 - c. (v. 4) *"Yet the Lord hath not given..."* Because they didn't seek and ask (**James 1:5**)! God doesn't make it hard. It's just as easy for us today to learn about God from these great works, even though we never *saw* them. Yet even today there are those who *know* about these events, but will never *perceive* because they don't *want* to!
 - 2. Works in the wilderness (v 5-6)
 - a. Even in *punishment*, I have taken care of you!
 - b. Your clothes/shoes haven't worn out – *not* miraculous - doesn't mean each person wore the same shoes for 40 years (kids would grow out of them)! God provided the ability to make clothes (men were able to make the tents/tabernacle).
 - c. You haven't eaten bread (miraculous – manna); you haven't drunk wine (but water from the rock)!
 - 3. Works in war (v. 7-8)
 - a. I defeated Amalek (Ex 17 – As long as Moses held up his hands, Israel prevailed against Amalek)
 - b. I defeated Sihon & Og for you.Remember these things! God does *not* want us to forget what He's done (**Deut 6** – teach your children!). The Lord's Supper is to remember what Christ did!
- B. Works in your life that need to be remembered
 - 1. Remember that we are sinners (all like sheep have gone astray – **Isa 53:6; 1 Pet 2:25**).
 - 2. Remember Christ's suffering (**Jn 3:16, Acts 20:28; Rom 5:8**)
 - 3. Remember, *"such were some of you, but you are washed, sanctified, justified"* (**1 Cor 6:9-11**)
 - 4. Remember, these things are written for our assurance, that we may **know** we have eternal life (**1 John 5:13; Acts 17:31**)

III. REMINDER TO KEEP THE COVENANT (v. 9):

- A. Requirements (conditions)
 - 1. Therefore (because of what God has done for you), keep the words of this covenant (keep = guard, protect, observe, retain)
 - 2. Do the words of this covenant - obedience
- B. Reward – *"that ye man prosper* (succeed; be wise) *in all that ye do"* – True prosperity/wisdom comes when we are obedient to God
 - 1. Believe that God will take care of you (**Luke 6:38**). You can't outgive God (**Mal 3:10**)
 - 2. John 15:12 – Love one another as I have loved you
 - 3. Heb 5:9 – salvation is only for those who obey Jesus

CONCLUSION: God knew of the Israelites future apostasy (31:16f). He did everything he could to encourage them to obedience (positive and negative reinforcement – blessings & curses). He even had Moses write a song about their future apostasy that would be a testimony against them when they did fall away. We should learn from their attitudes and actions in falling away. We should encourage one another (**Heb 10:24**), recognizing God's good works toward us and his love shown in his desire to be in communion with us.