

Heavy Duty

Preparation for Sunday, May 26, 2013 “The Blessings of Holiness”

Monday - Tuesday

1. Fruitfulness – Read Leviticus 26:3-10

- What specific blessings did God promise to provide obedient people in this passage?
- How important is “rain at the right time” for a farmer? What was this meant to teach about God?
- What picture is presented in verse 5?
- Israel knew that it was not a large nation. How would verses 7-8 have comforted them?
- Describe a time in your life when you were really growing deeper in your faith? What did that produce in you?

SCRIPTURE	IF YOU	I WILL
Leviticus 26:3-10	Obey God’s commands	Rain, harvest, safety
Deuteronomy 7:12	Listen and obey	Be loyal to you
1 Kings 6:11-13	Walk in my statutes	Fulfill my promise to you
Proverbs 2:1-6	Accept, listen, ask, seek	Grant understanding and wisdom
2 Chronicles 7:12-14	Humble yourself and pray	Hear and heal

- Which of these if you/I will statements is most important to you?
- Which is most difficult for you to accept and live daily? Why? How so?

Summarize: This law God gave His people changed everything. It was a pivotal moment in Jewish history in which God defined their relationship. That’s what the covenant was...a relationship. The reciprocal nature of this passage indicates partnership between God and Israel. It was definitely God that provided peace and provision, but Israel had a role to play too. God would grant favor in the harvest, but Israel would still have to plant and work the land. God would grant victory with their enemies, but Israel still had to drive the people out and pursue them. Obedience was not an invitation to enjoy blessings without effort. It was a promise of God to bless the effort of obedient people.

Wednesday – Thursday

2. Presence – Read Leviticus 26:11-13

- Describe the ideal new neighbors. What kind of person or family would you most like to see buy a house on your street?
- When God “places His residence among us,” what does He bring to the neighborhood?
- How do you sense and feel the presence of God walking with you on a daily basis?
- When was God’s presence most evident in your life?
- How do you sense God’s presence most? When? Where?

Friday - Saturday

3. Restoration – Read Lev. 26:40-42, 45

- This will be a familiar concept. According to verse 40, what is the first step in returning to God?
- To what extent are we to take responsibility for the sins of our fathers? What does that mean?
- What, specifically, does God ask of those who seek restoration in verses 40-42?
- According to verse 41, does forgiveness and restoration mean you don't have to pay the penalty for your sin?
- Looking back through our lessons this month, how has the phrase "I am Yahweh" been used in Leviticus?

Summarize: The verses prior to this section explain the consequences of living an unholy life. In this passage, God offers restoration to those who return to Him. The first step in that process is confession. The second is the development of a humble heart. Coming to God to confess our sin without an attitude of remorse does not indicate that we are truly sorry for what we did; only that we did not like getting caught. For confession to be legitimate, it must come from a broken heart.

Additional Reading for this Week:

1. Egypt Before the Exodus
2. The Agriculture of Israel
3. The Covenant with Abraham