

Rejoicing in a Revelatory God

August 13, 2023 ▪ Brad Manley

God is not _____.

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Deuteronomy 29:1-4

¹ These are the words of the covenant that the LORD commanded Moses to make with the people of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant that he had made with them at Horeb. ² And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: “You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, ³ the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, and those great wonders. ⁴ But to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear...

Deuteronomy 29:18-29

¹⁸ Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the LORD our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit, ¹⁹ one who, when he hears the words of this sworn covenant, blesses himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall be safe, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart.’ This will lead to the sweeping away of moist and dry alike. ²⁰ The LORD will not be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the LORD and his jealousy will smoke against that man, and the curses written in this book will settle upon him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven. ²¹ And the LORD will single him out from all the tribes of Israel for calamity, in accordance with all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law. ²² And the next generation, your children who rise up after you, and the foreigner who comes from a far land, will say, when they see the afflictions of that land and the sicknesses with which the LORD has made it sick— ²³ the whole land burned out with brimstone and salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, an overthrow like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger and wrath— ²⁴ all the nations will say, ‘Why has the LORD done thus to this land? What caused the heat of this great anger?’ ²⁵ Then people will say, ‘It is because they abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt, ²⁶ and went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they had not known and whom he had not allotted to them. ²⁷ Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, bringing upon it all the curses written in this book, ²⁸ and the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger and fury and great wrath, and cast them into another land, as they are this day.’

²⁹“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Deuteronomy 30:11-20

¹¹“For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. ¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹³Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹⁴But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.” (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What are some things about God that we’ll probably never understand this side of heaven?

Read: Deuteronomy 29:1-4

1. Though the people of Israel had seen great works of God in their deliverance from Egypt, they were not spiritually perceptive. Why do you think God had not given them this kind of understanding (29:4)? **Read Hebrews 5:11-14.** How might this passage add to our insight regarding Moses’s words? How should this impact how we approach helping others understand truths about God?

Read: Deuteronomy 29:18-29

2. In Deuteronomy 29:18-21, Moses warns Israel about the corporate danger of an individual who has a spirit of disobedience. What appears to be at the heart of this kind of person’s self-deception (v. 19)? In your own words, how would you describe the effects such a person could have on the rest of the nation? How have you seen the negative spiritual attitude of an individual affect others? What is a healthy response to such a person?
3. Given the context of chapter 29, what do you think Moses is referring to with the phrase, “the things that are revealed” (29:29)? What spiritual lesson could we legitimately derive from this verse?

Read: Deuteronomy 30:11-20

4. In Deuteronomy 30:11, Moses encourages Israel to obey God’s commands by assuring them that the commandment he has given them from God is not too hard for them. Are there times you have felt God’s commands were too difficult? Explain. What truths might help us have confidence in our capacity to obey God?
5. Moses assures Israel that God has so clearly revealed His will to them that they can obey it and thus experience God’s blessing (30:14). Why should this truth be a source of joy both for them and us in our relationship with God?
6. Throughout Deuteronomy, Moses’ intent has been to motivate Israel to choose a life of blessing from God by choosing obedience (30:19-20). What motivations would you offer a new believer to emphasize the importance of living in obedience to God? How well do those serve to motivate your obedience?
7. In his exhortation to God’s people to choose life, Moses says of God, “He is your life” (30:20). How would you explain the meaning of this expression? What New Testament verses echo or complement this expression?

Apply: How would you summarize what God wants His people to know through these verses? How do you believe God is calling you to apply these truths?