

**Deuteronomy II**  
*Divers Laws and a Call to Serve*  
**Deuteronomy 26:1-19**

I. INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

A. Theme of the Chapter

- i. Instruction
- ii. Admonition
- iii. Obedience
- iv. Relationship – between God and man.

B. Usage of Words

- i. “*thou*”
  1. Used nineteen (19 x) times in fourteen (14) verses (Deuteronomy 26:1; Deuteronomy 26:2; Deuteronomy 26:3; Deuteronomy 26:5; Deuteronomy 26:10; Deuteronomy 26:11; Deuteronomy 26:12; Deuteronomy 26:13; Deuteronomy 26:14; Deuteronomy 26:15; Deuteronomy 26:16; Deuteronomy 26:17; Deuteronomy 26:18; Deuteronomy 26:19)
  2. Used to refer to Children of Israel and individuals in the chapter.
- ii. “*thy*”
  1. Used twenty (20 x) times in thirteen (13) verses (Deuteronomy 26:1; Deuteronomy 26:2; Deuteronomy 26:3; Deuteronomy 26:4; Deuteronomy 26:5; Deuteronomy 26:10; Deuteronomy 26:11; Deuteronomy 26:12; Deuteronomy 26:13; Deuteronomy 26:15; Deuteronomy 26:16; Deuteronomy 26:17; Deuteronomy 26:19)
  2. Used in the possessive sense, referring to the Children of Israel.
- iii. “*land*”
  1. Used seven (7 x) times in five (5) verses (Deuteronomy 26:1; Deuteronomy 26:2; Deuteronomy 26:9; Deuteronomy 26:10; Deuteronomy 26:15)
  2. Used to refer to the Promised Land.
- iv. “*place*”
  1. Used three (3 x) times in two (2) verses (Deuteronomy 26:2; Deuteronomy 26:9)
  2. Used to refer to a land, city, and ownership.
- v. “*avouched*”
  1. Used two (2 x) times in two (2) verses (Deuteronomy 26:17; Deuteronomy 26:18)
  2. Used in reference to the LORD and the people.

### C. Usage of Phrases

- i. *“Thou shalt”*
  1. Used eight (8 x) times in seven (7) verses (Deuteronomy 26:2; Deuteronomy 26:3; Deuteronomy 26:5; Deuteronomy 26:10; Deuteronomy 26:11; Deuteronomy 26:13; Deuteronomy 26:16)
  2. Used to instruct the Children of Israel.
- ii. *“Thou shalt not”*
  1. Used zero times.
- iii. *“thy God”*
  1. Used thirteen (13 x) times in eleven (11) verses (Deuteronomy 26:1; Deuteronomy 26:2; Deuteronomy 26:3; Deuteronomy 26:4; Deuteronomy 26:5; Deuteronomy 26:10; Deuteronomy 26:11; Deuteronomy 26:13; Deuteronomy 26:16; Deuteronomy 26:17; Deuteronomy 26:19)
  2. Used to show the relationship of the congregation and God.

## II. THE TITHE OF THE FIRSTFRUITS (Deuteronomy 26:1-11)

- A. When the Land Shall Be Possessed (Deuteronomy 26:1-2)
  - i. To take the first-fruit of the land
  - ii. Unto the place (Jerusalem) where his name shall be placed
- B. To Be Brought unto the Priest (Deuteronomy 26:3)
- C. To Make Testimony Before the Priest (Deuteronomy 26:3-10)
  - i. That they had come unto the country that the LORD had sworn unto their fathers
  - ii. The priest was to take the basket and set it before the altar of the LORD
  - iii. The Testimony of God’s faithfulness (Deuteronomy 26:5-10)
    1. A “Syrian” ready to perish?
      - a. What does the Bible mean by this statement?
      - b. Another name for Syria is “Aram”
        - i) Aram was the son of Shem (Genesis 10:22)
        - ii) Rebekah was the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan-aram (Genesis 24:4; Genesis 25:20)
        - iii) Jacob lived and worked in Padan-aram for Laban (Genesis 28:5; Hosea 12:12)
      - c. Israel = Syrian sojourned in Egypt
        - i) He went down into Egypt (Genesis 46:1-7; Psalm 105:23-24)
        - ii) Became a great and mighty nation (Exodus 1:7, 12; Deuteronomy 10:22)
    2. The LORD was faithful when they (Israel) cried unto Him (Deuteronomy 26:7-8; Exodus 2:23-25; Exodus 6:5; Isaiah 66:2; Jeremiah 33:3)

### D. The Meaning of the Offering

- i. The Israelites were to bring the first of what God had supplied (Deuteronomy 26:10). This was a testimony of what God had provided.
  1. It was the LORD that had taken them (Israel = Syrian) down into Egypt to preserve life (Deuteronomy 26:5; Genesis 45:5)
  2. It was the LORD that had brought them up out of Egypt (Deuteronomy 26:6-8)
  3. It was the LORD that had brought them into a land that flowed with milk and honey (Deuteronomy 26:9)
  4. It was the LORD that had watered the crops to provide them with the firstfruits of their harvest (Deuteronomy 26:10; Proverbs 3:9)
- ii. The application of the offering: a testimony of what God had done.
  1. It is the LORD that has made us (Psalm 100:3; Acts 7:48-50)
  2. It is the LORD that has saved us and preserved us (Ephesians 1:6; Colossians 1:12)
  3. It is the LORD that has brought us into this marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9)
  4. It is the LORD that keeps us on a daily basis (John 10:28, 29; Romans 8:15-17; Romans 8:38-39)
    - a. We have the earnest of the Spirit
    - b. Christ indwelling us
    - c. No one, thing, or spiritual being can pluck us out of the Father's hand.
  5. Because of the above mentioned items we should want to give our first and best to our Lord and Saviour. (Romans 11:33-36; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 6:16-18; 2 Corinthians 7:1)

### E. To Worship Before the LORD God (Deuteronomy 26:10-11)

## III. THE TITHE OF THE INCREASE AND PRAYER OF THE GIVER (Deuteronomy 26:12-15)

### A. The Year of Tithing (Deuteronomy 26:12-13)

- i. Every third year was a special tithe to the Lord (Deuteronomy 14:28-29; Deuteronomy 26:12-14)
  1. A tithe of the increase
    - a. Made for the Levite, the stranger, fatherless, and the widow.
    - b. That the LORD might bless them.
    - c. Some Bible students have disagreed as to the full application of the tithe of the third year.
    - d. Jewish tradition states that it was in addition to the basic tithe and created a double tithe every third year.
    - e. What we can definitely say about the third year tithe from scripture is that it appears it was used to maintain the Levites, but also the stranger, fatherless, and the widow.

- 2. To be given unto the Levites, strangers, fatherless, and widows.
- ii. To be used for those in need (Deuteronomy 26:12b-13)
- B. To Pray and Promise Before the LORD (Deuteronomy 26:13-15)
  - i. To promise that all had been given to the LORD (Deuteronomy 26:12-14)
  - ii. To verify all had been done as God had asked (Deuteronomy 26:14)
  - iii. To ask God's blessing upon the people and the land (Deuteronomy 26:15)

#### IV. A CALL TO SERVE THE LORD (Deuteronomy 26:16-19)

- A. To Keep the Statutes and Judgments (Deuteronomy 26:16)
  - i. With all of their hearts
  - ii. And all of their souls
- B. They Had Avouched (Affirmed) that the LORD was Their God (Deuteronomy 26:17)
  - i. That they would walk before Him
  - ii. To keep His statutes and judgments
  - iii. To perform all His words
  - iv. Note: The word "avouched" is only found twice in scripture (Deuteronomy 26:17, 18). The word means to affirm positively; to declare the truth of; to acknowledge openly. It's related to the idea of vouching for someone.
- C. The LORD had Affirmed the Israelites as His People (Deuteronomy 26:18-19)
  - i. To be His peculiar people
  - ii. As He had promised
  - iii. That they should keep His commandments
  - iv. To make them high above all other nations
  - v. To be a holy people unto the LORD
- D. The LORD has Affirmed that the NT Christian Should be a Special People
  - i. We are called to be a peculiar people (Titus 2:14)
  - ii. Zealous of good works (Titus 2:14b)
  - iii. A royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9)
  - iv. We are to "*avouch*" the things of God
    - 1. To affirm positively the things of Him
    - 2. To declare the truth of Him
    - 3. To acknowledge Him openly