

Deuteronomy II
An Exposition of Blessings and Curses
Deuteronomy 28:1-68

I. INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

A. Theme of the Chapter

- i. Instruction
- ii. Admonition
- iii. Obedience
- iv. Prophecy

B. Usage of Words

i. “*thou*”

1. Used eighty-two (82 x) times in forty-nine (49) verses (Deuteronomy 28:1; Deuteronomy 28:2; Deuteronomy 28:3; Deuteronomy 28:6; Deuteronomy 28:8; Deuteronomy 28:9; Deuteronomy 28:10; Deuteronomy 28:12; Deuteronomy 28:13; Deuteronomy 28:14; Deuteronomy 28:15; Deuteronomy 28:16; Deuteronomy 28:19; Deuteronomy 28:20; Deuteronomy 28:21; Deuteronomy 28:22; Deuteronomy 28:24; Deuteronomy 28:25; Deuteronomy 28:27; Deuteronomy 28:29; Deuteronomy 28:30; Deuteronomy 28:31; Deuteronomy 28:33; Deuteronomy 28:34; Deuteronomy 28:36; Deuteronomy 28:37; Deuteronomy 28:38; Deuteronomy 28:39; Deuteronomy 28:40; Deuteronomy 28:41; Deuteronomy 28:43; Deuteronomy 28:44; Deuteronomy 28:45; Deuteronomy 28:47; Deuteronomy 28:48; Deuteronomy 28:49; Deuteronomy 28:51; Deuteronomy 28:52; Deuteronomy 28:53; Deuteronomy 28:58; Deuteronomy 28:60; Deuteronomy 28:61; Deuteronomy 28:62; Deuteronomy 28:63; Deuteronomy 28:64; Deuteronomy 28:65; Deuteronomy 28:66; Deuteronomy 28:67; Deuteronomy 28:68)
2. Used to refer to Children of Israel and individuals in the chapter.

ii. “*thy*”

1. Used seventy-three (73 x) times in forty (40) verses (Deuteronomy 28:1; Deuteronomy 28:2; Deuteronomy 28:4; Deuteronomy 28:5; Deuteronomy 28:7; Deuteronomy 28:8; Deuteronomy 28:9; Deuteronomy 28:11; Deuteronomy 28:12; Deuteronomy 28:13; Deuteronomy 28:15; Deuteronomy 28:17; Deuteronomy 28:18; Deuteronomy 28:20; Deuteronomy 28:23; Deuteronomy 28:24; Deuteronomy 28:26; Deuteronomy 28:29; Deuteronomy 28:31; Deuteronomy 28:32; Deuteronomy 28:33; Deuteronomy 28:35; Deuteronomy 28:36; Deuteronomy 28:40; Deuteronomy 28:42;

- Deuteronomy 28:45; Deuteronomy 28:46; Deuteronomy 28:47;
Deuteronomy 28:48; Deuteronomy 28:51; Deuteronomy 28:52;
Deuteronomy 28:53; Deuteronomy 28:55; Deuteronomy 28:57;
Deuteronomy 28:58; Deuteronomy 28:59; Deuteronomy 28:62;
Deuteronomy 28:64; Deuteronomy 28:65; Deuteronomy 28:66)
2. Used in the possessive sense, referring to the Children of Israel.
- iii. *“command; commanded; commandments”*
1. Used eleven (11 x) times in seven (7) verses in its various forms (Deuteronomy 28:1; Deuteronomy 28:8; Deuteronomy 28:9; Deuteronomy 28:13; Deuteronomy 28:14; Deuteronomy 28:15; Deuteronomy 28:45)
 2. Used to instruct the Children of Israel.

C. Usage of Phrases

- i. *“This day”*
 1. Used four (4 x) times in four (4) verses (Deuteronomy 28:1; Deuteronomy 28:13; Deuteronomy 28:14; Deuteronomy 28:15)
 2. Used in reference of instructing the Children of Israel.
- ii. *“Thou shalt not”*
 1. Used ten (10 x) times in ten (10) verses (Deuteronomy 28:12; Deuteronomy 28:13; Deuteronomy 28:14; Deuteronomy 28:29; Deuteronomy 28:30; Deuteronomy 28:31; Deuteronomy 28:40; Deuteronomy 28:41; Deuteronomy 28:44; Deuteronomy 28:49)
 2. Used to instruct the Children of Israel.
- iii. *“Thou shalt”*
 1. Used thirty-two (32 x) time in twenty-four (24) verse (Deuteronomy 28:1; Deuteronomy 28:2; Deuteronomy 28:9; Deuteronomy 28:12; Deuteronomy 28:13; Deuteronomy 28:25; Deuteronomy 28:29; Deuteronomy 28:30; Deuteronomy 28:33; Deuteronomy 28:34; Deuteronomy 28:36; Deuteronomy 28:37; Deuteronomy 28:38; Deuteronomy 28:39; Deuteronomy 28:40; Deuteronomy 28:41; Deuteronomy 28:43; Deuteronomy 28:44; Deuteronomy 28:53; Deuteronomy 28:64; Deuteronomy 28:66; Deuteronomy 28:67; Deuteronomy 28:68)
 2. Used to instruct the Children of Israel in what not to do.
- iv. *“LORD thy God”*
 1. Used thirteen (13 x) times in twelve (12) verses (Deuteronomy 28:1; Deuteronomy 28:2; Deuteronomy 28:8; Deuteronomy 28:9; Deuteronomy 28:13; Deuteronomy 28:15; Deuteronomy 28:45; Deuteronomy 28:47; Deuteronomy 28:52; Deuteronomy 28:53; Deuteronomy 28:58; Deuteronomy 28:62)
 2. Used to show the relationship of the congregation and God.

v. *“thy land”*

1. Used eight (8 x) times in seven (7) verses (Deuteronomy 28:12; Deuteronomy 28:18; Deuteronomy 28:24; Deuteronomy 28:33; Deuteronomy 28:42; Deuteronomy 28:51; Deuteronomy 28:52)
2. Used to show the connection of the people to the land of their inheritance.

II. THE BLESSINGS PROCLAIMED (Deuteronomy 28:1-14)

A. To Do All That the Lord Commands (Deuteronomy 28:1; Exodus 15:26)

- i. To hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD
- ii. To Observe and to do **all** of His commandments (James 2:10-11; Galatians 3:10)
- iii. They shall be blessed (Luke 11:28; James 1:25)
 1. The Lord had promised to bless the Jews in physical, material things if they would keep His law.
 2. The Lord promises to bless us (the NT Christian) in spiritual matters if we obey Him and keep His commandments.
 - a. This is not to say that God does not bless us with material things as well.
 - b. However, we are not the physical children of God like the Jews were/are. We (the Church) are the spiritual children of God, and we have an inheritance unlike the Jews. (Romans 14:17; 1 Peter 2:5)

B. An Overview of the Blessings (Deuteronomy 28:1-6)

- i. To be set on high (Deuteronomy 28:1; Deuteronomy 26:19)
 1. Above all other nations
 2. To be a holy nation (an example to all others)
- ii. All these blessings would follow (if they obeyed the Lord):
 1. Blessed shalt thou be in the city
 2. Blessed shalt thou be in the field
 3. Blessed shalt thou be the fruit of thy body
 4. Blessed shalt thou be fruit of thy ground
 5. Blessed shalt thou be fruit of thy cattle, increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep
 6. Blessed shalt thou be thy basket and thy store
 7. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in
 8. Blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out

C. A Detail of the Blessings (Deuteronomy 28:7-14)

- i. The Lord would bless them in battle (Deuteronomy 28:7, 10, 12b-13)
 1. Hence they would be blessed above all other nations
 2. No one would be able to stand against them in battle (Joshua 8:22; Joshua 10:10-11, 42)

- ii. The Lord would bless them with the fruit of the land (Deuteronomy 28:8, 11-12a)
- iii. The Lord would bless all that they laboured to do (Deuteronomy 28:8)
 - 1. The Lord would increase their fruit of the land (Leviticus 26:3-5, 10; Proverbs 3:9-10)
 - 2. The Lord would bless all that their hand would go to do (Deuteronomy 15:10)
- iv. The Lord would establish an holy people (Deuteronomy 28:9, 14; Deuteronomy 7:8; Deuteronomy 26:18-19; Deuteronomy 29:13)
 - 1. If they would keep His commandments
 - 2. Walk in His ways
 - 3. The Lord would *establish* them as an holy people unto himself
 - a. *Establish* = a verb (action); late 14c., from Old French *establiiss*, “stipulate, set up, erect, build”
 - b. The Lord would set them up, build them up if you will to be His peculiar treasure in front of all other nations (Exodus 19:5-6; Deuteronomy 14:2)
 - c. The Lord wants the same from the NT Christian today (Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 2:9-12; 1 Peter 5:10)
 - i) He wants us to be a different kind of people
 - ii) He want us to be his saints
 - iii) He wants us to live for him
 - iv) The flesh (Galatians 5:17-18, 22-24, 25)
 - a) Wars on our spiritual man
 - b) Keeps us from becoming what God wants us to become
 - c) Keeps us from doing the bidding of our LORD
 - v) Let us walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16, 25; Romans 8:4-5)

III. THE CURSES PROCLAIMED (Deuteronomy 28:15-68)

- A. If They Harkened Not Unto the LORD (Deuteronomy 28:15)
 - i. Unto the voice of the LORD God
 - ii. To observe all His commandments and statutes
 - 1. The same variety of expression is used in these terrible curses, as in the preceding blessings.
 - 2. The same things that the Lord would bless them with He will now curse them with (e.g. The blessing of the abundance of the fruit of the field would now not give its increase. Where the Lord had promised to prosper their hand in whatever they did, He now promised to curse.)

- B. An Overview of the Curses (Deuteronomy 28:16-19)
 - i. Cursed shalt thou be in the city
 - ii. Cursed shalt thou be in the field
 - iii. Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store
 - iv. Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body
 - v. Cursed shall be the fruit of thy land
 - vi. Cursed shall be the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep
 - vii. Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in
 - viii. Cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out
- C. A Detail of the Curses (Deuteronomy 28:20-68)
 - i. The sending of the curses (Deuteronomy 28:20-29)
 - 1. Their blessings would be turned into curses (Deuteronomy 28:20; Malachi 2:2)
 - 2. The land would not yield her increase and would turn against them (Deuteronomy 28:21-24; Deuteronomy 4:26; Joshua 23:16)
 - 3. They would be smitten before their enemies and they would flee (Deuteronomy 28:25-26; compare with Deuteronomy 28:7; Leviticus 26:17)
 - 4. The Lord would smite them with disease and madness (Deuteronomy 28:27-29)
 - a. The botch of Egypt (Deuteronomy 28:35; Exodus 9:9, 11; Exodus 15:26)
 - b. Emerods (1 Samuel 5:6, 9, 12; Psalm 78:66)
 - c. Scab
 - d. Madness and faintness of heart (Deuteronomy 28:28-29; Lamentations 4:12-14)
 - ii. The inability to enjoy the blessings of God (Deuteronomy 28:30-47)
 - 1. The loss of life and love (Deuteronomy 28:30-32, 41)
 - 2. The loss of land, labour, and health (Deuteronomy 28:33-35, 38-40, 42)
 - 3. The enemies victory (Deuteronomy 28:36-37, 43-44)
 - 4. Because they harkened not unto the LORD their God (Deuteronomy 28:45-47)
 - a. They harkened not (because they loved not)
 - b. They served not (because they loved not)
 - c. They loved not (Psalm 100:1-5; esp. verse 2; Acts 2:46-47)
 - iii. Israel's enemies advantage over them (Deuteronomy 28:48-52)
 - 1. They would go into captivity
 - 2. They would serve their enemies (since they saw fit not to serve the LORD their God) (Deuteronomy 28:48; Psalm 107:21-22)
 - a. Notice the continuation of verse 47 into verse 48
 - b. It is because of their ways and their lack of love God let their enemies take them.

- c. Since they didn't want to serve their LORD, God let them serve their enemies and their enemies gods.
- d. The nation from afar (Deuteronomy 28:49-52)
 - i) The Assyrians (2 Kings 17:1-23)
 - ii) The Babylonians (2 Chronicles 36)
 - iii) The Romans
- iv. Israel's loss of life and their seed (Deuteronomy 28:53-58)
 - 1. The consumption of one's own flesh and blood (Deuteronomy 28:53-57; 2 Kings 6:24-30)
 - a. Because of the enemy
 - b. Because of famine
 - 2. An unnatural love in the midst of troubles (Deuteronomy 28:54-57; Lamentations 4:3-6)
 - 3. That they might fear the glorious and fearful name of THE LORD THY GOD (Deuteronomy 28:58)
 - a. LORD THY GOD
 - i) Appears thirteen times in twelve verses in Deuteronomy 28.
 - ii) Appears twenty-three times in twenty verses in Deuteronomy 27 through 29.
 - b. To fear His glorious name (Deuteronomy 6:12-15; Exodus 3:14-15)
 - i) They were not to go after other gods
 - ii) They were to serve and fear the one true God that brought them out of the Egypt
- v. From a rejoicing of blessing to a rejoicing of curses (Deuteronomy 28:59-68)
 - 1. The Lord would rejoice over their calamity (Deuteronomy 28:63)
 - a. Wisdom laughs at the calamity of the wicked (Proverbs 1:20, 26)
 - b. The LORD laughs at the wicked (Psalm 37:12-13)
 - c. The LORD will laugh at those that have set themselves against Him (Psalm 2:2-6)
 - d. The LORD hath no pleasure in their death (Ezekiel 33:10-13)
 - i) The Lord would have all men to repent and turn from their wickedness (Jeremiah 26:3)
 - ii) The NT reveals that the LORD would have all men to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4)
 - 2. Their life would hang in doubt (Deuteronomy 28:66-67)
 - a. Their enemies would rise up against them
 - b. Their lives would hang in doubt
 - i) Esther (Esther 4)
 - ii) The Nazis
 - 3. They would be sold in bondage again (Deuteronomy 28:68)