

The Character of God



Deuteronomy Lesson 3

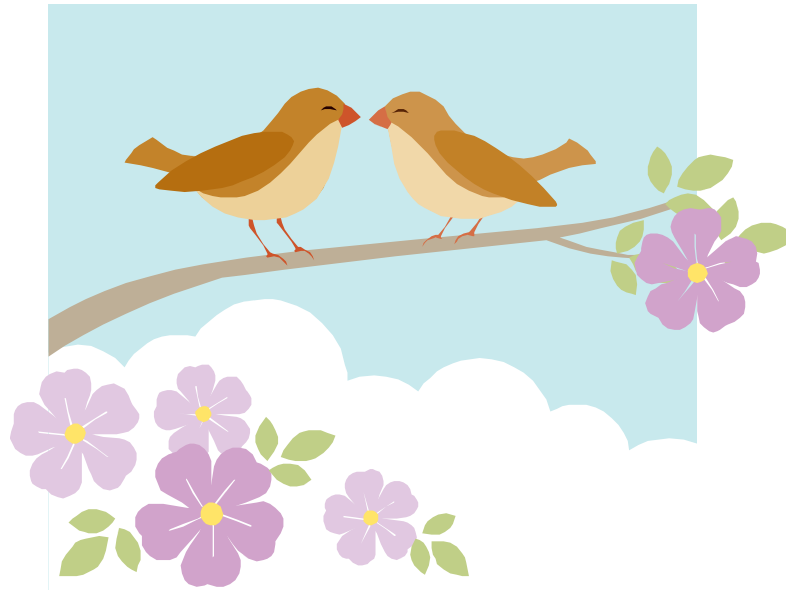
It is important to understand the nature and character of God lest we jump to wrong conclusions

- The first generation of Israelites thought that God hated them
- Deuteronomy 1:27
- What does the word hate mean?
- They got into the wilderness where they ran into problems and misread the circumstances and jumped to the wrong conclusions.



Deuteronomy is intended to show God's love for them

- Problems arise when one thinks God hates them.



Deuteronomy 7:10



- Read verses 7-10
- Moses reminds them that a failure to love God is viewed by God as they hate Him
- Would it surprise you to learn that you hate God?
- When one loves God supremely it leads to full obedience not partial obedience.
- They wanted to go to Canaan but on their terms, they loved God some – they left Egypt



Deuteronomy 1:27-31



- Moses reminds them of God's care
- Psalm 103:13
- Verse 31 God was Captain of their journey
- Hebrews 6:19,20
- Verse 31 "Bare" - notice the comprehensive care of God
- Verse 31 "Bear" – notice the consideration of God's care

Matthew 6:9 “Our Father”



- Matthew 6:9-24 Think of this passage in reference to Deuteronomy
- Matthew 6:25-34 Will God take care of us?
- When I do not put the kingdom first I am living just like the Israelites
- Does the problems of the recession cause me to be anxious? “Our Father”
- Is God insufficient?
- In Matthew 4 - Temptation of Jesus

Deuteronomy shows God's love and care for us

- We might not give the subject a great deal of thought until we see how the Bible describes love and hate.



Deuteronomy 4:37

- If they forgot about the blessings of God then they would disobey and fall into rebellion and would find themselves cast out of the land.
- However, if this happen and if they repented then God would remember them and be merciful to them



Impossibility of Apostasy contrary to Scripture

- There are many who read the scriptures about the mercy of God and think that once God saves them that God's love for them will not allow them to be lost, however the covenant God gave includes faithful and loving obedience
- Psalm 66:16 – the very thing they failed to remember
- Psalm 136:17-26 – didn't deserve a single thing they had but out of God's mercy He gave it to them which should have caused gratitude, verse 26



What about us as Christians?

- Do we tend to forget what God has done for us?
- Do we remember what it was like before we became a Christian?
- When we forget we look at our circumstances and begin to murmur and complain.
- The Lord Supper is intended to cause us never to forget



Deuteronomy 7:7-8

- They were to be a “holy people, special people.”
- When man sinned what did God owe him?
- God loved His creation and brought the plan of redemption
- He “set his love” – it is like the word “cleave”



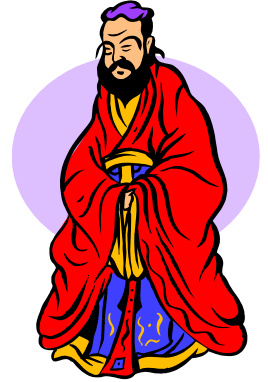


Deuteronomy 10:15

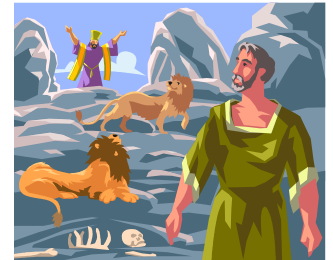
- God reminds them they were the smallest nation.
- Being the smallest nation alone is reason to know they didn't deserve what they had.
- Verse 17 – God doesn't need anything from man
- Verse 19 - They were to be a light to the world



Deuteronomy 23:5



- Remember Balaam wanted to curse Israel for money but God turned it into a blessing
- As long as I am God's faithful and obedient child no one can curse me
- Matthew 5:10-12
- Joseph
- Mordecai in Esther
- Daniel
- Acts 8 the great persecution of the church



Deuteronomy 33:3



- The very foundation of Israel is God’s love for them.
- This is the only time this word for love is used – warm tender love as a parent for child.
- Love is constant with no ups and downs
- As David who said, “he leads me in the paths of righteousness” Jesus leads us as his sheep – John 10