

Ki Tavo
“When you come”

Torah Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1 - 29:8

Haftarah Reading: Isaiah 60:1 - 22

Study Notes

The Rituals of the Covenant

1. The First Fruit of Declaration (26:1-11)

- 1.1. When the farmer gathered in his first-fruits he was to take them before the Lord. The purpose seems to be to give the farmer an opportunity to express his thankfulness to God for the produce He gave him.
- 1.2. One feature of this was a short historical sketch that started with Jacob, continued in Egypt, and ended with the arrival into the Promised Land.
- 1.3. It is very common in Jewish life to include ones self with the previous generations.
- 1.4. The Ratification and Renewal of the Covenant (26:16-27:16)
- 1.5. Moses had finished all the teaching for the children of Israel that he had been given by the Lord. The result was up to the Israelites. (26:16-19)

2. Mount Ebal

- 2.1. The Lord singles out Mount Ebal as the place where the covenant was to be finally ratified/renewed. Why Mount Ebal?
- 2.2. Physically it was in the heart of Israel. The ancient town of Shechem was there. It was in Shechem, at the foot of Ebal and Gerizim that Abraham built an altar and received the promises of the Land. Moreover, Joseph's bones would also be buried there.

3. The Stones and the Sacrifices

- 3.1. They were to plaster stones and write the Torah on them.
- 3.2. There were to also build an altar and offer a sacrifice on it. This most likely reflects upon and connects with the covenant that God cut with Abraham in Genesis 15.

4. The Ceremony

- 4.1. One half of the nation, the descendants of Rachel and Leah were to shout out the blessings from Mount Gerizim.
- 4.2. The children of their handmaids and the other half of the nation were to shout the curses from Mount Ebal.

5. Again, we can see how this is all about God. He is binding Himself to a covenant and will completely fulfill His promises.

The Results of the Covenant

1. Israel - God's Fish Bowl

- 1.1. The Holy One was making Israel into somewhat of an international fish bowl so that people from every nation could look and see what kind of people they were. Then they would also see what kind of God Israel had.
- 1.2. Israel hosted some of the most important ancient trade routes. God planned every detail so the world could see Him.

2. Chapter 28 - A History of the Jewish People

- 2.1. These warnings give us a glimpse of Jewish history. They are not necessarily in chronological order but are an ascending order from sickness and plague to expulsion.
- 2.2. The people of Israel were exiled by the Assyrians, Babylonians, and the Romans. In the First Jewish Revolt in 66-73 Titus sent 17,000 Jewish rebels to Egypt as slaves. (28:49,52).
- 2.3. Also, during the Roman siege led by Titus the famine was so severe that Josephus reports that people started eating their own children. (28:53)
- 2.4. The dispersion began in 722 BC with the Assyrians. By the time of the Second Temple Period and Yeshua every major city in the Roman Empire, and beyond, had a significant Jewish population.
- 2.5. The Jewish people also experienced a good portion of all the warnings listed here during the Nazi persecutions.

3. For These Three Things

- 3.1. There are three main reasons that Israel experienced such suffering.
- 3.2. First, they did not heed or listen to God's Word. (28:45 and 28:62)
- 3.3. Second, they did not serve Him with gladness. (28:46-47)
- 3.4. Third, they did not honor God's Name, or irreverence. (28:58)

The Importance of Knowing Israel's History

1. It is important to know Israel's history for in many ways it is a picture of the life of the believer.
 - 1.1. Both Israel and the individual believer in Messiah were chosen by grace.
 - 1.2. Both are kept by the eternal promises of God.
 - 1.3. Israel is promised an eternal existence as a nation (Jeremiah 31). The believer in Yeshua is promised eternal life in the Son.
 - 1.4. Both are kept by the power and promises of God, which have absolutely no bearing on the performance of the participant.