

Nitzavim “You are standing”

Torah Reading: Deuteronomy 29:9 - 30:20

Haftarah Reading: Isaiah 61:10 - 63:9

Study Notes

The Pleas

1. The time of decision had come for Israel.
2. The Plea to “Cross Over” (29:11)
 - 2.1. 29:11 states “to cross over into the covenant of the Lord your God...”. The word “to cross over” holds the verbal picture of one being asked to cross over an imaginary line in order to enter into the covenant. (compare to Gen. 15).
 - 2.2. To enter into covenant with God requires more than “signing on the dotted line.” It involves a crossing over from the kingdom of sin and death to enter the kingdom of God and life.
3. The Plea to Confess Your Sins (29:15-20)
 - 3.1. God was asking them to check their hearts, very carefully. The Holy One requires hearts, not just words.
4. The Plea to Consider the Price (29:21-28)
 - 4.1. In effect Moshe is saying, “When you enter the covenant and then later decide that you will not live by it, remember the consequences which will not only come upon you, but also your children, and future generations.”
5. The Plea to Carry Out the Words (29:29)

The Promise of Return

1. Despite the fact that their unfaithfulness is clearly predicted, God also predicts that He Himself will cause them to return and to follow the covenant.
2. What does God do when Israel proved unfaithful? (Hosea 1-3)
3. Israel Will Return (30:1-10)
 - 3.1. The main theme here is repentance. A turning back to God, not just the land.
 - 3.2. 30:3 predicts the return of the Jewish people to the physical land of Israel. This is sentence number 5708 in the Hebrew Bible. 1948, the year of the return, was year 5708 in the Jewish calendar.
4. God Will Circumcise Your Hearts
 - 4.1. Their change will not be outward but will be a genuine change of heart that the Lord will perform.
5. God Will Avenge Israel’s Enemies (30:7)

5.1.1. What was the end of the Midianites, Edomites, Moabites, Babylonians, and the Assyrians? What about Egypt's glory and the power that was Rome's?

6. Israel Will Follow Torah (30:8)

6.1. It appears from this verse that the people "...will perform all of His commandments that I command you today."