

# HEROES OF THE FAITH

## MOSES: Warnings Against Apostasy

Leviticus 26

12 April 2023

A P O S T A S Y

### ➤ God spoke. (vv. 1-2)

- ❖ No gods. No idols. (v. 1; Exodus 20:3-5; Deuteronomy 5:7-8)
- ❖ Do not worship gods/idols you have created. (Deuteronomy 7:9)
- ❖ God is a jealous God. (Exodus 20:5)
- ❖ LORD: *Jehovah* (יְהוָה) - Self existent, eternal God.
- ❖ God: *Eloheem* (אֱלֹהִים) – Divine, true God.
- ❖ “...keep...” – guard; observe; give heed to (v. 2)
- ❖ “...reverence...” – stand in awe of; honor; respect

### ➤ Condition (vv. 3-4)

- ❖ “If...” (condition) - lived in obedience – *worship & follow God*. (v. 3)
- ❖ “...then...” (causative) obedience – walk in, observe - led to God’s blessing. (v. 4)
  1. Rain.
  2. Land would produce an abundant crop.
  3. Trees would bear fruit.

### ➤ God’s abundant harvest would last from June to September. (v. 5)

- ❖ Israel would always have both food and physical security.

### ➤ God would bring more blessings. (vv. 6-9)

- ❖ Peace from all surrounding enemies. (v. 6)
- ❖ He would remove all harmful beasts – lions, bears, etc. – from the land.
- ❖ God would allow Israel to defeat their enemies. (v. 7)
- ❖ Israel would be mighty in battle. Small forces would conquer & destroy superior forces. (v. 8)
- ❖ God would allow Israel to multiply numerically from physical birth. (v. 9)

### ➤ They would exhaust their old food supplies & replenish them with the new. (v. 10)

### ➤ God would tabernacle spiritually with His people. (v. 11)

### ➤ God would have fellowship with His people as they lived in obedience to Him. (v. 12; Genesis 3:8-10)

### ➤ God’s identity. (v. 13)

- ❖ The one who provided Israel’s salvation from Egypt.
- ❖ He broke their bonds of slavery.
- ❖ He allowed them to stand tall in freedom.



➤ Punishment & Disobedience (vv. 14-46)

❖ “But...” (v. 14)

- ☐ “...if...” = (condition) = *will not listen; will not do*
- ☐ God moves from blessings for obedience to punishment for disobedience.

❖ “...if...” (v. 15)

- ☐ ...you spurn my statutes...
- ☐ ...your soul abhors my rules...
- ☐ ...will not do my commandments...
- ☐ ...but break my covenant...

❖ Then God will bring His righteous judgment... (v. 16)

- ☐ He will visit Israel with panic.
- ☐ He will bring disease and fever, which would bring devastation.
- ☐ They would farm the land, & their enemies would eat the crops.

❖ God would turn away from Israel and deliver them to their enemies. (v. 17)

❖ Those who hate them would rule over them. Israel would live in constant fear.

❖ After all of this, if Israel still would not repent, confess, & return to God, He would... (v. 18)

- ☐ ...discipline them sevenfold for their sins.

❖ God would break their pride and humble them. (v. 19)

❖ God would stop the rain and completely harden the land.

❖ God's judgment would be complete. (v. 20)

- ☐ God would make the land barren to them.

❖ If they continued to rebel, God would punish them sevenfold for their sins. (v. 21)

❖ God would unleash the wild beasts upon them. (v. 22)

- ☐ They would lose their children and livestock.
- ☐ Their population would be greatly diminished. Their strength in numbers gone.

❖ If Israel still would not repent, and continued to live in rebellion before God... (v. 23)

❖ ... then, God would forsake them. His judgment would become stronger. (v. 24)

❖ God's judgment would become more severe for them breaking their covenant with God. (v. 25)

- ☐ A covenant consists of two parties – one superior & one inferior.
- ☐ Only the superior party can break the covenant promise.
- ☐ The inferior party is powerless to break the covenant.

- ☐ God would send pestilence upon Israel. He would deliver them to their

❖ Food would not satisfy their hunger. (v. 26)

❖ “But...” if they still would not repent of their sin, ... (v. 27)



- ❖ “...then...” = God’s fury would discipline them sevenfold for their sins. (v. 28)
- ❖ In starvation, because of God’s judgment, they would become cannibals. (v. 29)
- ❖ God would destroy their cultic temples, idols. God would abhor them. (v. 30)
- ❖ The human devastation would be undeniable.
- ❖ God would destroy their cities, & temples. Their sacrifices to God would be meaningless. (v. 31)
- ❖ God would destroy their land. So that, even their enemies would be disgusted by it. (v. 32)
- ❖ God would scatter Israel to the four winds. People would die by the sword. (v. 33)
  - ☐ 722 B.C = God would send the Assyrian empire to conquer the northern kingdom.
  - ☐ 586 B.C. = God would send the Babylonian empire to conquer the southern kingdom.
- ❖ God would make their land unfruitful. Their cities would become uninhabited wastelands.
- ❖ God would bless the land (Sabbath), while Israel struggled in captivity. (v. 34)
- ❖ God would give the land rest from cultivation, so it could enjoy true Sabbaths. (v. 35)
- ❖ Those left behind in Israel would be faint of heart. They would live in fear. (v. 36)
- ❖ Israel’s remnants would be defenseless before its enemies. (v. 37)
- ❖ Israel would perish in captivity under its enemies. (v. 38)
- ❖ Those taken into captivity would die in captivity because of unrepented sin before God. (v. 39)
- ❖ “But...” (vv. 40-43)
  - ☐ ...if Israel confessed its sin, its treachery against God, & its rebellion before God... (v. 40)
  - ☐ ...God walked contrary to them & delivered them to their enemies... (v. 41)
  - ☐ ...if they humbled themselves & repented to God...
  - ☐ ...God would remember His covenantal promise to their forefathers, & to their land. (v. 42)
  - ☐ Their abandoned land would enjoy its Sabbaths. (v. 43)
  - ☐ They shall make amends for their sin as they abhorred God’s statutes.
- ❖ If they repented, God would not destroy them. He would not break His promise. (v. 44)
  - ☐ God is a *promise maker*.
  - ☐ God is a *promise keeper*.
  - ☐ God will not break *His covenant* with Israel.
- ❖ Only God could break the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob. (v. 45)
- ❖ He would show grace and mercy, because He is God.
- ❖ These are the laws God made ‘tween Himself and Israel via Moses on Mount Sinai. (v. 46)



## Group Questions

1) Read Matthew 22:34-40. Apply the Bible study method below to help you understand what God commands His followers to do, and how He expects them to live. This passage will shed more light on what God was communicating in verses one and two.

- Observation: “What do you see?”
- Interpretation: “What does it mean?”
- Application: “How do I apply it to my life?”

2) Read verses 14-16, 27-28. Now, read 1 John 2:3-6. God demands obedience from His followers. Use the Bible study steps given to dig into what a Christ-follower’s life should look like. Whether OT or NT, God’s biblical standard is the same. Explain what that means.

- Observation: “What do you see?”
- Interpretation: “What does it mean?”
- Application: “How do I apply it to my life?”

3) Reflect on one other truth you gleaned from this text.

