

April 14: Deut. 26:1-19

- I. Presentation of the first fruits offerings (verses 1-11)
 - a. This the last chapter concerning Moses' second speech.
 - b. Moses talks to them about entering the land.
 - c. Once again this is the land the Lord gives them.
 - d. Remember that we are in Moses' second speech about them entering the promised land.
 - e. In verse 1, Moses talks to them about occupying it and possessing it.
 - f. In verse 2, they are to take some of the first fruits... this means some of the first and the best of the harvest.
 - g. They are acknowledging the Lord as the giver of all good gifts.
 - h. This is cross referenced throughout the Pentateuch. Ex 22:29; 23:16, 19; Num 18:13; Prov 3:9¹
 - i. They are to take these offerings to the place the Lord chooses to establish His name. That will be Shiloh and then Jerusalem.
 - j. Verse 3: they go to the priest... notice the great detail... "they go to the priest who is in office at the time." Of course this anticipates the future when who knows what priest will be in office. Verse 3 begins a quote.
 - k. These statements in verse 3 and verses 5- 10 is the first time the worshipper speaks in Deuteronomy (the Moody Bible Commentary shares this.)
 - l. Verse 4: the priest takes the basket and sits it down by the alter of the Lord your God.
 - m. Verse 5: verses 5-10 give quite a quote. The worshiper says this before the Lord his/her God.
 - n. My father was a wandering Aramean... this is referring to Jacob. He went down to Egypt and "sojourned" there or "lived as a foreigner there." They were few in number but became great and a populous nation. Genesis 46:27 tells us that they had 70 people who went down to Egypt. Genesis 43 records the famine leading them to Egypt.
 - o. See Deut 1:10; 10:22 about them growing as a populous nation.
 - p. The Net Bible records: *A wandering Aramean*: This is a reference to Jacob whose mother Rebekah was an Aramean (Gen 24:10; 25:20, 26) and who himself lived in Aram for at least twenty years (Gen 31:41-42).²
 - q. The ESV Study Bible records: *These verses are often regarded as an early Israelite creed, liturgically recounting God's faithfulness to his promises as the grounds of thanksgiving.*
 - r. Verse 6 continues: we know the story, the Egyptians enslave them. See Ex 1:8-11
 - s. Verse 7: they cry out to the Lord and the Lord hears them: Ex 2:23-25; 3:9
 - t. Verse 8: they are brought out of Egypt with "a 'mighty hand' and an 'outstretched arm' and with 'great terror' and with 'signs and wonders...'" **Notice the modifiers.**
 - u. Verse 9 brings them to the present. Verse 9 really wraps up 38-40 years of time. God brought them to this place, a place "flowing with milk and honey."
 - v. Verse 10: the worshiper tells the priest he has brought the first of the produce which the Lord has given him. Notice that he recognizes the Lord provided this. Verse 10 says he must worship the Lord.
 - w. Verse 11: They (the worshiper and the Levite and alien) should rejoice in all the good which the Lord your God has given you and your household. The Levite and the sojourner are the landless, they are included in the celebrations.
 - x. As I read and study that section, I see a strong emphasis on the Lord's provision. I see a strong emphasis on the people recognizing everything they have is from the Lord.
- II. Presentation of the third-year tithe (verses 12-15)
 - a. This next section is about the 3rd year tithe.
 - b. A tithe means literally 10%, but they had more than one tithe, actually they ended up giving somewhere around 30% each year.

¹ [New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update](#) (La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

² Biblical Studies Press, [The NET Bible First Edition Notes](#) (Biblical Studies Press, 2006), Dt 26:5.

- c. Verse 12 is saying that the third year tithe would be given to the Levite, the orphan and the widow. The Moody Bible Commentary seems to make the case that this 3rd year tithe goes directly to these people. Remember, God cares about those in need. He cares about those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable.
- d. The IVP Bible Backgrounds Commentary shares: the 4 categories of needy people are: Levites (landless), orphans, widows and aliens.
- e. The Moody Bible Commentary: *This special tithe offering, like the one before it (vv. 1-11), was to be presented in the third full year after the nation entered the land. It was not to be presented at the central sanctuary but was to be distributed to the Levites, strangers, orphans, and widows in their towns so that they may eat and be satisfied. Each individual worshiper was to share God's blessings with the wider community. This tithe was to be accompanied by a public statement that this tithe was being presented in direct obedience to God's specific guidelines. The worshiper also entreated the Lord to bless both the people of Israel, and the land given to them as a bountiful gift.*³
- f. Verse 13 begins the statement which goes through verse 15.
- g. The worshiper asks for blessings.
- h. In verse 13 the worshiper says that they have done what the commandments expect and they have not sinned.
- i. Verse 14 lists certain sins which would have likely been done by the pagans in the area.
- j. The NET Bible shares: *These practices suggest overtones of pagan ritual, all of which the confessor denies having undertaken. In Canaan they were connected with fertility practices associated with harvest time.*⁴
- k. Verse 15: Heaven is declared for the first time as the Lord's special dwelling place.

III. Interlude: verses 16-19

- a. These next several verses seem like a perfect summary and conclusion to this sermon.
- b. That are to do these statutes and ordinances.
- c. They are to be careful to do them with their heart and soul.
- d. Verse 17: they have declared the Lord to be their God. They are to walk in His ways, statutes and ordinances. They are to listen to His voice.
- e. Verse 17 is what they declare and verse 18 is that the Lord declared them to be His people. They are His treasured possession. They should keep His commandments. Verse 19: God will set them high above all nations. This is for "praise, fame, honor..."
- f. They should be consecrated... this means set apart.

³ The Moody Bible Commentary (Kindle Locations 11651-11656). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

⁴ Biblical Studies Press, [The NET Bible First Edition Notes](#) (Biblical Studies Press, 2006), Dt 26:14.