

# THE NINE SUPREME REQUIREMENTS OF OBEDIENCE: WHAT IS DEMANDED BY GOD DEUTERONOMY 11:01–32

## *Introduction*

Certain things — requirements — are necessary in order to maintain any relationship. Certain kinds of behaviour are required. Requirements are necessary in order to maintain order and build strength of character. For example, what are the requirements established — what kind of behaviour is expected — by your parents, school, employer, wife, husband, neighbour, civic club or government? We become stronger persons when we fulfil those requirements. But before we can fulfil them, we must know what the requirements are.

This was a great concern to Moses as the leader of the Israelites. Certain requirements were demanded by God. Moses was concerned that the Israelites might not understand God's requirements. Yet understanding was absolutely essential, for the requirements would determine their eternal fate. If they fulfilled the requirements of God, they would live victorious lives. But if they failed in the requirements, they would never enter the promised land. They would live defeated lives, becoming engrossed in the world and enslaved by it. They would live immoral, unjust and corrupt lives and be doomed to face the eternal judgment of God. For this reason, Moses had to make sure — absolutely sure — that the people understood the requirements of God. This is the subject of this great passage of Scripture: *The Nine Supreme Requirements of Obedience: What is Demanded by God*, Deuteronomy 10:12-11:32.

- I. Pledge allegiance to the Lord (vv. 12-15).
- II. Circumcise or cut sin out of your heart — do not be stiff-necked, stubborn (vv. 16-19).
- III. Keep close to God: fear, serve, cling (hold fast) to God — take oaths only in His Name (vv. 20-22).
- IV. Remember what you have experienced; love and obey God (ch. 11:1-7).
- V. Be careful — very careful — to keep all the commandments of God (vv. 8-15).
- VI. Guard against false worship and false gods (vv. 16-17).
- VII. Be a strong testimony and witness for the Lord (vv. 18-21).
- VIII. Be victorious over all the enemies of the promised land (vv. 22-25).
- IX. Know the consequence of your choices: a blessing or a curse (vv. 26-32).

## ***I. Deuteronomy 11:01–07 Remember Your Experiences: Love and Obey God***

What does the LORD God require of you? Love and obey God. And remember what you have experienced. Learn from your past and this will help you to love and obey God. Moses exhorted the people to remember the power of God, how God had mightily

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saved them and guided them in the past. If they would stay focused upon the glorious experiences of the past, this would encourage them to love and obey God.

1. Note how Moses exhorted the people. He shouted out, it was not your children who experienced the discipline and the greatness and power of God (vv. 2-4). It was not your children who experienced the salvation of God from Egypt, who saw the signs and terrible plagues that fell upon Egypt (v. 3). It was not your children who witnessed the power of God that kept you from being recaptured and enslaved by the enemy, who witnessed His power in destroying the pursuing army in the Red Sea (v. 4).
2. Note how Moses continued to exhort the people: it was not your children who experienced God's guidance through the wilderness wanderings, nor His judgment upon the sinners and rebels who followed Dathan and Abiram. It was not your children who saw God miraculously cause an earthquake that swallowed them, their families and all their possessions.
3. But remember, it was *you* who personally experienced the great things God did (v. 7). It was *you* who were saved by God from Egypt, from its bondage and enslavement. It was *you* who personally saw the terrible judgment of God against the Egyptians. It was *you* who witnessed His power in destroying their pursuing army in the Red Sea. It was *you* who personally experienced God's guidance through the wilderness wanderings. Moreover, *you* witnessed the power of God's judgment against sinners and rebels when He caused an earthquake to swallow the followers of Dathan and Abiram. *You* have personally experienced the discipline or chastisement of God. *You* have personally witnessed God's majesty, His mighty hand, His outstretched arm, His awesome power. Remember what *you* have experienced; love and obey God. This is what the LORD God requires of *you*.

**Thought 1.** What does the LORD God require of us? That we love and obey Him and that we remember what we have experienced with Him. Remembering the past will stir us to love and obey God. Just think for a moment:

God has saved us from Egypt, that is, from the world with all its enslavements and bondages: saved us from sin, condemnation and hell to come. God has marvellously saved us.

=> God guides us day by day through the wilderness wanderings of this world, giving us a victorious life. He empowers us to conquer all the enemies — all the trials and temptations of life — that attempt to destroy us and to keep us out of the promised land of heaven.

=> God disciplines or chastises us, corrects us when we need it in order to keep us from injuring ourselves or damaging our testimony. God has done so much for us that we owe Him our allegiance. We must, therefore, love and obey Him. And we must remember the past, all the wonderful things He has done for us. Remembering the past will encourage us to love and obey Him.

(1) God demands, requires that we love Him.

*Deut 6:5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

*Deut 10:12 And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*

*Psa 31:23 Love the LORD, all his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full.*

*2 Th 3:5 May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.*

*Jude 1:21 Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.*

(2) God demands that we keep His commandments, obey Him.

*Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."*

*John 15:14 "You are my friends, if you do what I command."*

*John 14:21 "Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."*

*Acts 5:29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings!"*

*Deut 26:16 The LORD your God commands you this day to follow these decrees and laws; carefully observe them with all your heart and with all your soul.*

*1 Sam 15:22 But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams."*

## **II. Deuteronomy 11:08–15 Be Very Careful; Obey All the Commandments of God**

What does the LORD God require of you? Be careful — very careful — to keep all the commandments of God. Moses knew that obedience was an absolute essential in order for God's people to live full and victorious lives. Above all else, victory was dependent upon obedience. No believer would ever be allowed to live in the land of God unless he obeyed God. For this reason, Moses exhorted the people to keep all the commandments of God.

1. Moses declared: obey God. If you obey the commandments of God, you will be strong enough to conquer the promised land (v. 8). When you cross the Jordan into the land, God will give you the strength to conquer the enemies who will confront

you. You will march forth as conquerors, living victorious lives in the promised land of God. Obedience will make you strong, assure you of God's very special strength.

2. Moses declared: obey God. If you keep the commandments of God, you will live a long time in the promised land (v. 9). The idea is that the Israelites would continue to possess the promised land and live in it. But if they were unfaithful, disobedient, then other nations would conquer and deport them as slaves. Disobedience would cause the loss of the promised land.
3. Moses declared: obey God. If you keep the commandments of God, the promised land will be blessed and cared for by God and made fruitful (vv. 9-12). God will make sure that the land flows with milk and honey:
  - a. The land will not be a dry desert like Egypt that had to be irrigated (v. 10).
  - b. The land will be a land of beautiful mountains and valleys with plenty of rainfall providing more than sufficient water for the people, livestock and crops (v. 11).
  - c. The land will be a land watched over by God day by day (v. 12). The eyes of God will continually be upon the land from the beginning of the year to the ending of the year.
4. Moses declared: obey God. You must obey God because obedience is the condition for receiving God's blessings upon the promised land. If you faithfully obey God with all your heart and soul...
  - God will send rain in its season (v. 14)
  - God will give abundant crops, plenty of food from the fields and vines for His people and the livestock (vv. 14-15)
  - God will give satisfaction, fulfilment to the human heart (v. 15)

**Thought 1.** The lesson is evident and forceful: we must be careful — very careful — to keep all the commandments of God. The blessings of God are dependent upon obedience. If we obey God, we receive the promised land of heaven and will have God's blessings poured out upon us. We walk through life conquering all the enemies that confront us, that is, all the trials and temptations that seek to defeat and destroy us. If we keep the commandments of God, our bodies are healthier and so is society. There is far less lawlessness and violence within a community when its people keep God's commandments. This is the reason God demands obedience. He wants us living victorious lives upon this earth. He wants us marching to the promised land as conquerors, being victorious over all that ever confronts us. But we must remember: obedience is the essential ingredient. Obedience is that which gives us victory. Obedience causes the power of God to work in our lives and in our environment. Obedience arouses God to bless us, to pour His blessings out upon us. This is the reason we must obey God. keep all His commandments.'

**Mat 7:24-27** "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down,

*the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”*

**Mat 7:21** *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”*

**John 14:21** *“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”*

**John 15:10** *If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.*

**John 14:23** *23 Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”*

**James 1:25** *But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it — he will be blessed in what he does.*

**2 Pet 3:13-14** *But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.*

**Rev 22:14** *Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.*

**Exo 19:5** *“Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine.”*

**Deut 5:29** *“Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!”*

**1 Kng 3:14** *“And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.”*

**Josh 1:8** *Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*

### **III. Deuteronomy 11:16–17 Guard Against False Worship and False Gods**

What does the LORD God require of you? Guard against false worship and false gods. Many of the people surrounding the Israelites were false worshippers who followed false gods, gods of their own imaginations and gods of idols. It was necessary that Moses warn the people against idolatry and false worship. There was the danger that

they might be enticed by their neighbours, influenced to join in their false worship (v. 16). Being seduced by their neighbours was a real live possibility. For this reason, they must be warned. If they turned to false worship and idolatry, the judgment of God would fall upon them. The LORD's anger would burn against them, and they would suffer loss and scarcity. The LORD would shut the heavens so that it would not rain and the ground would yield no produce. There would be drought and few crops and insufficient water for livestock. The people and the livestock would soon perish or be forced to move out of the land, seeking water. The result would be most tragic: they would perish, lose the promised land (v. 17).

**Thought 1.** The one demand of God above all other demands is this: we must guard against false worship and false gods. This is exactly what the first two commandments demand.

**Deut 5:7** *“You shall have no other gods before me.”*

**Deut 5:8** *“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.”*

If we commit the sins of idolatry and false worship, the judgment of God will fall upon us. We will not inherit the promised land of heaven. Neither will we have the presence of God as we walk day by day throughout life. To worship an idol or a god created by our own imaginations is tragic. To worship an idea of what we think God is instead of who God reveals Himself to be in the Holy Scripture is the depth of folly. Totally unreasonable! To worship some imagination or some idea that we have in our minds or some idol means that we are worshipping nothing. Only the LORD God is reality. He alone is the true and living God who can actually help us in time of need. If we do not worship Him, then we have no help outside of ourselves. We have nothing to help us beyond man himself. And the help of man is limited. Man cannot guarantee the shining of the sun nor the fall of the rain to produce crops. Man cannot even guarantee the air he breathes. And man certainly cannot guarantee life beyond this world. At most, medicine can extend our lives just a few years. As stated, if all we worship is some idol or some idea of God that we imagine in our minds, then we will have nothing to help us in time of need. We must — absolutely must — guard against idolatry and false worship. We must not allow the false worship of our neighbours to influence us. We must not be enticed, seduced to idolatry and false worship.

**Rom 1:18, 21-23** *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.... For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity*

*for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator — who is forever praised. Amen.*

**1 Cor 6:9-10** *Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*

**Gal 5:19-21** *The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

**1 Jn 5:21.** *Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.*

**Rev 21:8** *But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars — their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death.*

**Lev 26:1** *“Do not make idols or set up an image or a sacred stone for yourselves, and do not place a carved stone in your land to bow down before it. I am the LORD your God.”*

**Deut 7:25** *The images of their gods you are to burn in the fire. Do not covet the silver and gold on them, and do not take it for yourselves, or you will be ensnared by it, for it is detestable to the LORD your God.*

**Deut 11:16** *Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them.*

**Isa 42:8** *“I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.”*

#### **IV. Deuteronomy 11:18–21 Be a Strong Testimony and Witness for the LORD**

What does the LORD God require of you? Be a strong testimony and witness for the LORD. This was an absolute essential for the Israelites when they entered and settled down in the promised land. Because of this, Moses drove the point home to the hearts of the people. This is the second time he has covered the utter necessity to be a strong witness for the LORD (see note, Deut 6:6-9).

1. Moses told the people how to be a strong witness for the LORD (vv. 18-20). Three basic steps were essential:
  - a. The believer must lock God’s commandments into his heart and mind (v. 18). He must study and live in the Word of God, learning the commandments of God, even memorizing them. Then above all else, he must be quick to do the Word of God, quick to keep the commandments of God.

**Rom 10:8-10** *But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming. That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.*

**Col 3:16** *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.*

**Deut 6:6** *These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.*

**Deut 11:18** *Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.*

**Job 23:12** *I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.*

**Psa 119:11** *I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

**Psa 119:47** *For I delight in your command because I love them.*

**Psa 119:72** *The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.*

**Psa 119:97** *Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.*

- b. The believer must teach the commandments to his children (v. 19). No matter what he does throughout the day, he is to talk about the commandments of God. Educating his children is an absolute essential. The Word of God must be passed down from generation to generation. Therefore, the parents are to make the Word of God, His commandments, a part of their lives. They are to live out the truth before the children so that the children will see the importance of obeying God. For this reason, Moses preaches that the believer must constantly talk about the commandments when he sits at home, when he walks along the road throughout the day, when he lies down, and when he gets up. The believer is to experience the commandments himself, make them a dynamic part of his life. As he obeys them, he will set the living example of obedience before his children.

**John 5:39** *“You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me.”*

**John 20:31** *But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

**1 Cor 10:11** *These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfilment of the ages has come.*

**Eph 6:4** *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*2 Tim 1:5* I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

*2 Tim 3:15* And how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

*Titus 2:4* Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children.

*1 John 5:13* I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

*Deut 6:6-7* These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

*Prov 22:6* Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

- c. The believer must make his home a strong testimony for the LORD (v. 20). He must write the commandments on the door frames of his house and on his gates. The thrust of this exhortation is strong: the believer must make his home a living, dynamic witness for the LORD. When the neighbours think or speak of his home, the dominant thought is to be their testimony for the LORD, that they live for the LORD. The neighbours are to know that the believer and his family follow the commandments of God.

*Acts 4:20* For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.

*2 Tim 1: 8* So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.

*1 Pet 3:15* But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

*Psa 66:16* Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.

*Psa 145:11* They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might.

*Mal 3:16* Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honoured his name.

2. Note the result, what happens when the believer has a strong testimony and witness for the LORD: God promises that the believer will live in the promised land permanently, as long as the heavens are above the earth (v. 21). What a wonderful promise from God! What assurance! What security!

*Mat 25:23* "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

**Mat 6:20** *“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”*

**John 14:2-3** *“In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”*

**2 Cor 5:1** *Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.*

**Heb 11:8-10** *By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*

**Heb 11:13-16** *All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country — a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.*

**2 Pet 3:10-13** *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.*

**Rev 22:14** *Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.*

## **V. Deuteronomy 11:22–25 Be Victorious Over All the Enemies of the Promised Land**

What does the LORD God require of you? Conquer, be victorious over all the enemies of the promised land. God has promised the inheritance of the land to you, promised to give you victory over all the enemies who oppose you. But you must know this one fact: the promise is conditional. You must pledge your allegiance to the LORD and to Him alone. You must...

- obey and love God
- walk in His ways
- cling to Him

If you obey God, you will conquer and drive out all enemies no matter how large or strong they are. The power of God will enable you to conquer them all. But not only this: you will conquer a large territory. Every place your foot steps, that territory will become yours. Note the boundaries of the territory promised to Israel: the boundaries extended from the desert to Lebanon, and from the Euphrates River to the western sea (Mediterranean Sea) (v. 24).

God promised that the Israelites would be unstoppable and feared by all (v. 25).

**Thought 1.** God promises us victory over all the enemies of life. But the promise is conditional. To conquer the enemies of this life, we must pledge our allegiance to God. If we obey and love God and walk in His ways — clinging to Him — He promises to give us the power to conquer throughout life. As we walk throughout life, a barrage of enemies attack us, enemies such as...

- abuse
- irritability
- suffering
- ridicule
- sorrow
- accident
- hostility
- grief
- disease
- anger
- violence
- loneliness
- wrath
- persecution
- emptiness
- bitterness
- malice
- death
- disturbance
- a reactionary spirit

The enemies that attack us throughout life are innumerable. But victory is assured. God promises to give us the power to conquer all the enemies that confront and attack us so that we can walk triumphantly as conquerors throughout life. There is just one condition: obedience to God. By keeping His commandments, a victorious life is possible, because we become more than conquerors through Him who has loved us.

**Rom 8:37-39** *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**John 16:33** *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

**1 Cor 10:13** *No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.*

**James 1:12** *Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.*

**James 1:2-5** *Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.*

*Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.*

**James 4:7** *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

**2 Pet 2:9** *If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.*

**1 John 5:4** *For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

**Rev 3:21** *To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.*

**Psa 44:5** *Through you we push back our enemies; through your name we trample our foes.*

## **VI. Deuteronomy 11:26–32 The Consequences of Their Choices: That of Being Blessed or Cursed**

What does the LORD God require of you? Know the consequences of your choices, that of being blessed or cursed. The Israelites were at the crossroads of life. They had to make the most important decision of their lives. What they decided would determine their eternal fate in the promised land of God. Moses knew this. Therefore he challenged them: know the consequences of your choices. From this point on you will be blessed or cursed.

1. Note the facts and the choice declared by Moses (vv. 26-28). A blessing and a curse are being set before you. You are standing at the crossroads of life, being forced to choose which road to take. There is the road of a blessing, but there is also the road of a curse. You will be blessed if you obey God's commandments. But rest assured, you will be cursed if you disobey God's commandments.
  - a. If you allow your friends and neighbours to become a stumbling block to you, you will be cursed.
  - b. If you allow yourself to break the commandments by being enticed or seduced into sin, you will be cursed.
  - c. If you turn from the way of the LORD, you will be cursed.
  - d. If you follow false gods or false worship, you will be cursed.

No commandment of God is to be broken. No turning away from God will be tolerated. You must face the fact: you are at the crossroads of life. You must make the most important decision of your life: whether you will be blessed or cursed.

2. Moses charged the Israelites to hold a ceremony to proclaim the blessings and curses (vv. 29-30). Note when the ceremony was to be held: after they entered the promised land. This is significant, for it means that Moses would not be present for the

ceremony. Thus his charge was to be carried out under the leadership of Joshua, his replacement, after they had entered the promised land. Note that the ceremony was to take place on two mountains, Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal. The blessings were to be proclaimed from the top of Mt. Gerizim and the cursings from Mt. Ebal (vv. 29-30). (See notes, Deut 27:1-26; 28:1-14; 28:15-68.)

3. Moses gave the people strong encouragement and assurance (v. 31). He declared: you are about to enter the promised land. You will cross the Jordan and take possession of the land. The LORD your God is going to give you the inheritance He has promised.
4. Moses then gave the final charge to the people: after conquering the promised land, be sure to escape the curses of disobedience. The way to escape the curses is to obey all the laws and commandments of God (v. 32). Obedience is the requirement of God. God demands this one act on your part: obedience. Pledge your allegiance, your obedience to God.

**Thought 1.** The unbeliever and the disobedient stand at the crossroads of life. A major decision has to be made, the most important decision of a person's life. He must face the fact and make the choice. The choice has to be made; it is inevitable. The unbeliever and disobedient must choose between the road of blessing or the road of cursing. He must choose between obeying or disobeying God's holy commandments. If he chooses to obey, he will be blessed. But note this tragic, terrible fact: if he chooses to disobey, he will be cursed.

(1) A person who obeys God will be blessed.

**1 John 3:23** *And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.*

**Mark 9:23** *"If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."*

**John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

**John 6:35** *Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."*

**John 12:46** *"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness."*

**John 13:34-35** *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

**James 1:25** *But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it — he will be blessed in what he does.*

**Rom 10:13** *For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

**Rev 22:14** *Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.*

**Exo 19:5** *Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine.*

**Deut 5:29** *Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!*

(2) The person who disobeys God will be cursed.

**Eph 5:6** *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.*

**2 Th 1:7-9** *And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.*

**Heb 2:2-3** *For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.*

**Deut 11:28** *“The curse if you disobey the commandments of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.”*

**1 Sam 12:15** *“But if you do not obey the LORD, and if you rebel against his commands, his hand will be against you, as it was against your ancestors.” ■*