

HWMR - CRYSTALLIZATION STUDY OF DEUTORONOMY, Week 5**Becoming Qualified to Inherit the Promised Land**

Scripture Reading: Deut. 1:8, 21; 4:1-2, 5-9, 20, 40; 8:6; 10:12-21

Deuteronomy 1:8	See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which Jehovah swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to them and to their seed after them.
Deuteronomy 1:21	See, Jehovah your God has set the land before you; go up, possess it, as Jehovah the God of your fathers has spoken to you. Do not fear, neither be dismayed.
Deuteronomy 4:1	And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the ordinances which I am teaching you to do, in order that you may live and go in and possess the land which Jehovah, the God of your fathers, is giving you.
Deuteronomy 4:2	You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor shall you take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of Jehovah your God, which I am commanding you .
Deuteronomy 4:5	See, I have taught you statutes and ordinances, as Jehovah my God commanded me, so that you would do them within the land which you are going in to possess .
Deuteronomy 4:6	Keep and do them therefore; for this will be your wisdom and prudence in the sight of the peoples who hear all these statutes and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and prudent people.
Deuteronomy 4:7	For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as Jehovah our God is whenever we call upon Him?
Deuteronomy 4:8	And what great nation is there that has statutes and ordinances so righteous as all this law which I am setting before you today?
Deuteronomy 4:9	But be careful and guard your soul diligently , so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; rather, make them known to your children and to your grandchildren.
Deuteronomy 4:20	But Jehovah has taken you and brought you forth from the iron furnace, from Egypt, that you would be to Him a people for His inheritance, as you are this day.
Deuteronomy 4:40	Therefore keep His statutes and His commandments , which I am commanding you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, so that you may extend your days upon the land which Jehovah your God is giving you forever.
Deuteronomy 8:6	Therefore keep the commandments of Jehovah your God, walking in His ways and fearing Him .
Deuteronomy 10:12	And now, O Israel, what does Jehovah your God ask of you except that you fear Jehovah your God so that you would walk in all His ways and love Him and serve Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul ;
Deuteronomy 10:13	So that you would keep the commandments of Jehovah and His statutes, which I am commanding you today, for your good.
Deuteronomy 10:14	Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to Jehovah your God, the earth and all that is in it.
Deuteronomy 10:15	But on your fathers Jehovah set His affection to love them and to choose their seed after them, that is, you above all the peoples, as it is this day.
Deuteronomy 10:16	Circumcise then the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer;
Deuteronomy 10:17	For it is Jehovah your God who is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who does not regard persons and does not take bribes;
Deuteronomy 10:18	He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and He loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.
Deuteronomy 10:19	Therefore love the sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.
Deuteronomy 10:20	You shall fear Jehovah your God; Him shall you serve and to Him shall you hold fast and by His name shall you swear .
Deuteronomy 10:21	He is your praise and He is your God, who has done these great and awesome things for you, which your eyes have seen.

This Book is a Speaking Supplementary to the Book of Numbers, Concerning What Kind of Man One Should be to Inherit The Promised Land as the Good Land

This book is a speaking supplementary to the book of Numbers, concerning what **kind of man one should be** to inherit the promised land as the good land. He should be one who **loves** God, **fears** God, **subjects himself** to God's ruling, **minds the bowels** of God, and lives in the presence of God. The principle of the New Testament is the same: God's salvation is unconditional, whereas the enjoyment of the riches in Christ is conditional, depending on man's loving Christ solely. Hence, the teaching in Deuteronomy is exactly the same as that in the New Testament. The expressions used in the teaching are different, but the essence of the teaching is the same.

When we hear about the kind of persons we must be to inherit the good land, we may feel that we cannot make it. If this is our feeling, we need to be reminded that the book of Deuteronomy is a book full of the word which is Christ. **As the word, Christ is the One who sustains us and makes us those who love God, fear God, subject ourselves to God's ruling, mind the tender feelings of God, and live in God's presence.** As long as we have a morning revival through the holy Word and have daily victory also through the Word, we will become those who are qualified to inherit the good land.

(Life-Study of Deuteronomy, chapter 2, section 4)

Day 1

I. The book of Deuteronomy speaks of the kind of person who is **qualified to inherit the promised land as the good land—1:8, 21:**

- A. God's people need to **match what God is**—4:20, 40; 10:12-21:
 - 1. The **inheritors need to match the Giver of the inheritance** so that He would be with them both in their living and in their fighting—1:8, 21; 4:1-2, 5-9.
 - 2. In order to match the Giver of the inheritance, **we need to be holy as He is holy**—Lev. 11:44; 19:2; 20:7; 1 Pet. 1:16.
- B. Those who are qualified to inherit the good land **know** God's heart and God's government, **love** God, **trust** in God, **fear** God, **subject themselves** to God's ruling, **mind** the tender feelings of God, and **live** in the presence of God—Deut. 10:12; 6:5; 2 Cor. 10:13; Luke 6:36; Phil. 1:8.
- C. **Christ** is the One who supplies us, sustains us, and makes us those who love God, trust in God, fear God, subject ourselves to God's ruling, mind the tender feelings of God, and live in God's presence—Matt. 8:9; Luke 7:13; John 6:57; 14:6; 1 John 3:2.

Day 2 & Day 3

II. In His economy God has planned that **we should do everything God requires of us—Matt. 5:18; 7:21; 12:50:**

- A. It is **impossible** for us to do anything for God by ourselves; we need another life—**the divine life, the life of God**—19:26; John 3:15; 1 John 5:13.
- B. God wants us to do all of this not by ourselves but **in** Christ, **by** Christ, **with** Christ, **through** Christ, and by **being one** with Christ—John 6:57; 14:19; Phil. 4:13.
- C. This means that we need to have a **spiritual union, an organic union, with Christ**—John 15:4-5; Rom. 12:5:
 - 1. In order that we may enter into such a union with Christ, **God wants us not only to believe in Christ but also to believe into Christ**—John 3:15-16, 18.
 - 2. To believe into Christ is to have an organic union with Christ, becoming **one spirit with Him**—1 Cor. 6:17.
 - 3. In this **union** we are joined to Christ, **we are one with Him**, and **we are in Him**—John 15:4-5.
 - 4. Now as those who are **one with Him and in Him**, we need to do **all that God requires by Christ and through Christ**—Phil. 4:13.
 - 5. No longer should we live by ourselves and do things by ourselves, but **we should live by Christ and do everything by Christ**—John 6:57; 14:19.
- D. The crucial matter we need to realize is that God wants us to **live, act, behave, work**, and have our being **in Christ, by Christ, with Christ, through Christ**, and **in oneness with Christ**—Gal. 2:20; John 15:4-5, 7.
- E. In fulfilling **God's requirements**, **we should not have any trust in ourselves**; rather, we should learn to **take God's desire as our desire** and **take Him as our life and life supply**—Eph. 4:20-21; John 11:25; 6:57.

LIVING, ACTING, BEHAVING, AND WORKING IN CHRIST AND BY CHRIST

The crucial matter that we need to realize is that **God wants us to live, act, behave, work, and have our being in Christ, by Christ, with Christ, through Christ, and in oneness with Christ**. We all should be able to say, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me."

Every servant of the Lord should match Him. **But in ourselves and by ourselves we can neither match Him nor serve Him**. We are utterly lacking the capacity to do this. We are nothing, we have nothing, and we can do nothing. How can we match God or serve Him? As far as we are concerned, this is impossible, **but it is possible through the Triune God embodied in the Son, who is realized as the Spirit**. This Spirit is everywhere, yet He is **embodied in the Bible for us to inhale that we may do all things in Christ and by Christ**.

We should not try in ourselves to do anything for God. Rather, we should hate and reject our effort to serve God and match Him, for it is actually abominable in the sight of God. Yes, God wants us to fulfill His economy, but **He does not want us to do this by ourselves**. God's desire is that we cast ourselves aside, forget ourselves, and fulfill His economy by the Spirit, that is, by the realization of the Son, who is the embodiment of the Father. We should live, act, behave, work, and have our being by the very Christ who is the life-giving Spirit. Then it will be no longer we who live but Christ who lives within us.

In Romans 10:8 Paul refers to "the word of the faith which we preach." This word of faith includes repentance, returning to God, holding fast to God, and believing into the Triune God **in order to have an organic union with Him and to live together with Him as one**. Are you living? Are you behaving and working? To these questions we should be able to say, "Yes, I am living, behaving, and working, but I am doing this not in myself and by myself but in Christ and by Christ. I am living in the organic union with the Triune God." This is the Christian life, this is the church life, the Body, and, ultimately, **this will be our life for eternity in the New Jerusalem**. In the Christian life and in the church life, it is no longer we who live, but Christ lives in us.

(Life-Study of Deuteronomy, chapter 5, section 4)

Day 4

III. Moses charged the people of Israel to **love God**—Deut. 6:5; 10:12:

- A. The word love implies **affection**, which is something very tender—v. 12:
 - 1. God Himself has set an example of loving by **setting His affection on His people**—v. 15.
 - 2. We should **love** God by **setting our affection on Him**.
- B. The **love of God** in 1 John 2:5 denotes our love toward God, which is **generated by His love within us**; God first loved us in that He infused us with His love and generated within us the love with which we love Him and the brothers—4:19-21.
- C. In Deuteronomy 10:12 Moses spoke of loving God with all our heart and all our soul, and in 6:5 he commanded us to love God with all our heart, soul, and might (our physical strength); **we love the Lord our God with all our being, that is, from our heart, through our soul, our mind, to our body**—Mark 12:30.
- D. To love God (1 Cor. 2:9) means to set our entire being—spirit, soul, and body, with the heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30)—absolutely on Him, that is, to let our **entire being** be occupied by Him and lost in Him, so that He becomes **everything** to us and we are **one with Him practically in our daily life**.

IV. Moses commanded the people of Israel to **fear God**—Deut. 14:23; 31:13:

- A. We all should fear God; we must have a **proper fear of God**—Prov. 1:7; 9:10; 1 Pet. 1:17; 2:17; 3:2, 16; 2 Cor. 7:1:
 - 1. This is a **holy fear**, that is, a healthy, serious caution that leads us to behave holily—Phil. 2:12.
 - 2. We should **fear God** and want to be **separated, sanctified**, unto Him as a holy people—Eph. 1:4; 5:27; Col. 1:22; 1 Thes. 5:23; 1 Pet. 1:16.
 - 3. To fear God is to **submit** to His authority—Matt. 28:18.
 - 4. Because God is severe toward those who are rebellious, **we need to fear Him**—Num. 12:1-12; 16:1-35.

Day 5

- B. The **lack of fearing God** is terrible; it is the **source** of all kinds of lawlessness—1 John 3:4, footnote 2.
- C. “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Heb. 10:31), and “our God is also a consuming fire” (12:29):
 - 1. The living God whom we serve is **not mocked**—Gal. 6:7.
 - 2. The history of the church proves that a **Christian who does not fear God** will not have a good ending; such a Christian **will have a miserable ending**.
 - 3. **If a believer is God-fearing, sooner or later he will be manifested by God**; such was the case with Joseph, who was a God-fearing man and was enthroned—Gen. 41:38-44.

V. The children of Israel were not only to keep God’s commandments but also to **walk in His ways**—Deut. 8:6; 10:12-21:

- A. When we **fear** God, we will **walk** in God’s ways—8:6; Exo. 33:13:
 - 1. God’s ways are actually **what God is**—Psa. 103:7.
 - 2. Whatever God is, is a way to us; for instance, God is love, and love is a way in which we walk—Rom. 8:4; Gal. 5:25; 1 John 4:8, 16.
 - 3. To **walk in God’s ways**, therefore, is to **live** God, **express** God, **manifest** God, and **magnify** God—Rom. 2:4; 11:22; Titus 3:4-5; Phil. 1:20-21a.
 - 4. We need to **learn** God’s ways—what God is and how He acts and behaves—Exo. 33:13.

Day 6

- B. The God who is our way is **Christ**; to take Christ as our way is to **live** Him in what He is, and to **live** Him is to express Him, to manifest Him, and even to magnify Him—John 14:6; Phil. 1:20-21a.
- C. In the New Jerusalem the **river of water of life** proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb and flowing in the midst of the street indicates that **God is both our life and our way**—Rev. 22:1-2.
- D. **We take God as our life**, and His life with His nature then becomes the **way on which we walk**—1 John 5:13; 2 Pet. 1:4.

VI. The children of Israel went forth in battle to fight against their enemies; **today we also are in a war**—Deut. 20:1-20:

- A. In this **war** we are **fighting for Christ** and to **remain in Christ**.
- B. If we would **possess** Christ and **live** in Christ as our land, we need to **fight against the spiritual enemies**—Col. 1:12; Eph. 3:8; 6:10-18.
- C. As we are fighting, **we need to realize that we are fighting for what God has given us**; once the enemies have been defeated, the land will be cleared for our inheritance—Col. 1:12.
- D. Actually, **we are not the ones fighting**, for God **goes with us and fights for us**—Deut. 20:3-4:
 - 1. It is our **duty** to fight, but we cannot fulfill this duty by ourselves; we can fulfill our duty to fight only **by faith in the Lord**, that is, only by the Lord Himself as our **life and life supply**.
 - 2. We need to believe that the Lord has **ordained** us to fight and that **He will fight for us**—vv. 1-4.
 - 3. We should **simply take His word and obey Him**, knowing that the outcome depends on Him—1:30.

VII. If we thoroughly study all these matters, we will know God better and also know what kind of person we should be, what kind of being we should have, and in what kind of way we should walk— 4:20, 40:

- A. We should walk before God and with God **according to what God is**—8:6.
- B. Because we have God's life, we should **learn of Him to be the same as He is**; in order to do all the things that God requires, **we need the divine life, the life that works with God for His people**— John 3:15; 1 John 5:11-13; 2 Pet. 1:4; Matt. 5:48.
- C. We can fulfill all of the **Lord's requirements** only by the **divine life**, the **eternal life**, which is the Triune God embodied in Christ (John 14:6; 1 John 5:11), who is realized as the **life-giving Spirit**— John 14:16-20; 1 Cor. 15:45b.

Moses Charging the Children of Israel concerning Nine Matters

In 10:12-22 Moses charged the children of Israel concerning nine matters: **fearing** Jehovah their God, **walking** in all His ways, **loving** Him, **serving** Him with all their heart and all their soul, **keeping** His commandments and statutes for their good, **circumcising** the foreskin of their heart, **not being stiff-necked** any longer, **holding fast** to Him, and **swearing by His name**, who is their praise and their God. Let us consider these matters one by one.

Verse 12 says, "Now, O Israel, what does Jehovah your God ask of you except that you fear Jehovah your God so that you would walk in all His ways and love Him and serve Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul." First, Moses speaks here of **fearing God**. We all must have a **proper fear of God**. However, it seems that today many people, claiming that they are free, do not fear anything or anyone, including God. This lack of fear is terrible; it is the source of all kinds of lawlessness. The young people should recognize that, according to God's ordination, there is authority in the family, in society, and in the church. **In whatever we do, say, and think, we all need to fear God. He is observing us and knows where we are and what we are doing.** Eventually, we will reap a harvest from what we sow, and we will eat the fruit of this harvest.

When we fear God, **we will walk in His ways**. God's ways are actually what God is. **This means that whatever God is, is a way to us. God is love, and this love is a way in which we should walk.** God "loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Therefore, love the sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt" (vv. 18b-19). One of God's ways is to love sojourners, and we should walk in this way of God. Many sojourners are poor, lacking food and clothing. We need to love them and give them what they need. God is also holy, and His holiness is another way for our walk. Furthermore, God "does not regard persons and does not take bribes" (v. 17b), and we should take this as a way, not regarding persons and not receiving bribes. God also "executes justice for the orphan and the widow" (v. 18a), and we should walk in the way of His justice.

The Lord Jesus said, "I am the way" (John 14:6). Since the Lord Jesus is the very God, this word indicates that God Himself is the way. To take what God is as our ways and to walk in these ways is to live God. When we take Christ as our way, we live Him in what He is. He is humble, and we should live in the way of humility. He is the One who always takes the cross, and we should walk in the way of the cross. **To take Christ as our way is to live Him, and to live Him is to express Him, to manifest Him, and even to magnify Him.** Hence, to walk in God's ways is to live God, express God, manifest God, and magnify God. We should take God as our way and thus act as He acts.

The vision of the New Jerusalem reveals that we should take God as our unique way. In the New Jerusalem there is just one street, which is of pure gold (Rev. 21:21), signifying that **the nature of God is our way**. The river of water of life proceeds out of the throne of God and of the Lamb and flows in the midst of the street (Rev. 22:1). This indicates that **God is both our life and our way**. We take God as our life, and His life with His nature then becomes the way in which we walk. Today we all should fear God and walk in His ways.

In Deuteronomy 10:12 Moses also charged the people to **love God**. This word love implies a great deal. For instance, it implies the matter of affection, which is something **very tender**. God Himself has set an example of loving by setting His affection on His people. Moses refers to this in verses 14 and 15. "*Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to Jehovah your God, the earth and all that is in it. But on your fathers Jehovah set His affection to love them and to choose their seed after them, that is, you above all the peoples, as it is this day.*" Now we should love God by setting our affection on Him.

In verse 12 Moses speaks of loving and serving God with all our heart and with all our soul. Our heart is linked to our spirit, for our conscience, which is of our spirit, is also a part of our heart. Thus, to love and serve God with all our heart and soul indicates that we love and serve Him also with our spirit. Furthermore, according to 6:5, we are to love Him also with all our might, that is, with our physical strength. **Today, if we would serve God by practicing the new way, we need to serve with our spirit and with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our strength.** To visit people in order to get them saved and baptized and then to care for them afterward requires all our heart, soul, and strength.

In 10:13 Moses went on to say, "So that you would keep the commandments of Jehovah and His statutes, which I am commanding you today, for your good." Instead of "for your good," we could also say "that you may be blessed." Today we need to keep Christ and the riches of Christ which have been ministered to us so that we may be blessed.

In verse 20 Moses says, "You shall fear Jehovah your God; Him shall you serve and to Him shall you hold fast and by His name shall you swear." Today we must hold fast to the Lord Jesus. In holding fast to Him, we may say, "Lord, I will not let You go. You must live for me." In this verse Moses speaks not only of holding fast to God but also of swearing by His name. I believe that for the children of **Israel to swear by the Lord's name was to call on His name**. This was the ancient way of calling on the name of the Lord. **Today we all need to hold fast to the Lord Jesus and call on His name.**

(Life-Study of Deuteronomy, chapter 8, section 2,3)