

HWMR - CRYSTALLIZATION STUDY OF DEUTORONOMY, Week 12

Life and Blessing under the Government of God

Scripture Reading: Deut. 30:15-20; Psa. 36:9a; 133:1, 3; Ezek. 34:26; Eph. 1:3

Deuteronomy 30:15	See, I have put before you today life and good, and death and evil.
Deuteronomy 30:16	If you obey the commandments of Jehovah your God, which I am commanding you today, to love Jehovah your God and walk in His ways and keep His commandments and His statutes and His ordinances, then you will live and multiply, and Jehovah your God will bless you in the land which you are entering to possess.
Deuteronomy 30:17	But if your heart turns and you do not listen, but rather you are drawn away in worship to other gods and serve them,
Deuteronomy 30:18	I declare to you today that you shall surely perish; your days will not be extended upon the land into which you are crossing over the Jordan to go and possess.
Deuteronomy 30:19	I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life that you and your seed may live,
Deuteronomy 30:20	In loving Jehovah your God by listening to His voice and holding fast to Him; for He is your life and the length of your days, that you may dwell upon the land which Jehovah swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.
Psalms 36:9a	For with You is the fountain of life ; / In Your light we see light.
Psalms 133:1	Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!
Psalms 133:3	Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.
Ezekiel 34:26	And I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing, and I will cause the showers to come down in their season; there will be showers of blessing.
Ephesians 1:3	Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,

The Curse of Trusting in Man and the Blessing of Trusting in Jehovah

Jeremiah 17:5-8 is a word about the curse of trusting in man and the blessing of trusting in Jehovah. Concerning the blessing of trusting in Jehovah, verses 7 and 8 say, *"Blessed is the man who trusts in Jehovah / And whose trust Jehovah is. / And he will be like a tree planted by water, / Which sends out its roots by a stream, / And will not be afraid when heat comes; / For its leaves remain flourishing, / And it will not be anxious in the year of drought / And will not cease to bear fruit."*

These verses can be understood in two different ways—according to the natural understanding and according to God's economy. According to the natural understanding, these verses seem to indicate only that if we trust in God, we will be blessed, mainly in a material way. However, the revelation here includes much more than this. According to **God's economy**, the one who trusts in God is like a tree planted by water, signifying **God as the fountain of living waters** (2:13a). The tree grows beside the river by absorbing all the riches of the water into it. This is a picture of **God's dispensing**. **In order to receive the divine dispensing, we as the trees must absorb God as the water.**

The thought here is the same as that in 1 Corinthians 3:6, where Paul says, *"I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth."* The watering is for the tree's absorbing, and the absorbing is the receiving of God's dispensing. The tree grows with God as the Supplier and the supply. The supply is the riches of the supplying God dispensed into us as the plants so that we may grow into God's measure. Eventually, the **plants and God, God and the plants**, are **one**, having the **same element, essence, constitution, and appearance**.

Jeremiah 17:7 and 8 are not concerned merely with such a shallow matter as trusting in God to receive material blessings. Actually these verses refer to **God's economy carried out by His dispensing**. **God is the living water to be dispensed into our being in order to become our very constituent**. We all need to see the crucial significance of absorbing God as the living water that we may be constituted with His element and essence.

(Life-Study of Jeremiah, chapter 16, section 2)

Day 1

I. In order to extend their days in the good land, the children of Israel were required to live under the government of God, doing all that God had commanded them through Moses—Deut. 30:15-20; 3:23-28; 4:1-24.

II. Moses set before the children of Israel life and death and charged them to choose life—30:15, 19-20:

A. With God is the **fountain of life**—Psa. 36:9a:

1. God wants us to take Him as the **fountain**, the **source, of our life and our being**—v. 9a.
2. The **divine life** may be considered the **first** and the **basic attribute of God**—Eph. 4:18; John 5:26; 1 John 5:11-12; Rom. 8:2:
 - a. According to the **divine** and **eternal** nature of the life of God, God's life is the **unique life**; **only the life of God can be counted as life**—John 1:4; 10:10b; 11:25; 14:6.

- b. **Life** is the **content of God** and the **flowing out of God**; God's content is God's being, and God's flowing out is the **impartation of Himself as life to us**—Eph. 4:18; Rev. 22:1.
- c. **Life** is the **Triune God dispensed into us and living in us**—Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11.

Day 2

B. In Genesis 2:9, 16-17 we see two choices before man—the **tree of life** and the **tree of the knowledge of good and evil**:

1. The **tree of life** signifies the **Triune God embodied in Christ as life to man in the form of food**—v. 9; Rev. 2:7; John 1:4; 14:6a; 10:10b; 6:35, 57, 63.
2. The **tree of the knowledge of good and evil** signifies **Satan as the source of death**—Heb. 2:14.
3. The tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil represent **two principles of living**—the **principle of life** (dependence on God) and the **principle of right and wrong** (independence from God)—Gen. 2:9, 16-17; 4:3-4; Jer. 17:5; John 15:5.
4. These two trees are working within us as two principles of living.
5. The Gospel of John reveals that the **tree of life is versus the tree of the knowledge of good and evil**—4:10-14, 20-21, 23-24; 9:1-3; 11:20-27.
6. In our Christian life and church life, we should discern matters not according to right and wrong but **according to life and death**—2 Cor. 11:3; Gen. 2:9, 16-17.

Day 3

- C. By the **resurrection life** of Christ **in our spirit**, we can be victorious over the attack of death upon the church—Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:24; 2 Tim. 1:10:
1. **Death** is the **characteristic of Satan's work**; the ultimate goal of his work is to saturate man with death—Heb. 2:14-15.
 2. Matthew 16:18 shows us from what source the attack upon the church will come—"the gates of Hades," that is, **death**:
 - a. **Satan's special object is to spread death within the church**, and his greatest fear with regard to the church is her resistance to his power of death—Rev. 2:8, 10-11.
 - b. The **church** that is built upon "this rock" **can discern between death and life**, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against the church—Matt. 16:18.
 3. If we would **overcome** the attack of death, **we need to know Christ as the First and the Last and the living One**—the One who became dead and lived again **and the One who has the keys of death and of Hades**—Rev. 1:17-18; 2:8.

Day 4**III. Moses set before the children of Israel blessing and curse— Deut. 30:19:**

- A. In Genesis 1:26-28 God blessed man to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it, because **God saw on earth a living creature bearing His image and having His dominion**.
- B. In order to be a blessing to His chosen people, God must have a **kingdom**, a **realm**, a **sphere**, on earth to exercise His administration under His full, divine authority—Matt. 6:10; Col. 1:13:
1. Without such a kingdom, God does not have a realm in which **to accomplish His purpose**.
 2. Once there is a kingdom, the **kingdom becomes the realm**, the **sphere**, **for God to exercise Himself to bless us**—Rev. 11:15.
 3. We all want to receive blessing, but we may not realize that the **blessing requires a sphere of God's authority**, a sphere under God's administration.

WHO HAS BLESSED US

The God whom we bless has blessed us. God's well-speaking concerning us encompasses the entire New Testament. In the New Testament God speaks well regarding us. The twenty-seven books of the New Testament are filled with God's beautiful speech concerning us. Revelation 22:14 is an example of God's well-speaking: "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city." The words, "Grace to you and peace" (1:2), are also part of God's well-speaking. If you want to hear God's well-speaking, you need to read the New Testament and say amen to every aspect of it. He chose us before the foundation of the world. Amen. He chose us to be holy and without blemish. Amen.

We bless God, because God has blessed us. Because He has spoken so well concerning us, we return the well-speaking to Him. For example, when we read about the redemption of our body, we should say, "God, how I thank You that You have come into me, that You are saturating me with Yourself, and that one day this saturation will be expressed through my body. That will be the day of the redemption of my body. God, how I thank You for this!" To speak like this is to return the well-speaking to Him. Thus, He blesses you, and you bless Him. Learn to speak well concerning God according to His New Testament economy. After listening to God's well-speaking concerning us, we are qualified to speak well of Him.

We are qualified because we are His **creatures**, His **redeemed ones**, and His **regenerated ones**. **All the blessings, benefits, and bounties in the universe are of three categories.** The first category is God's creation, the second is God's redemption, and the third is God's regeneration. In God's creation we enjoy so many good things: air, sunshine, minerals, animal life, vegetable life. All these are good things of God's creation, and we are qualified to partake of them because we are God's creatures. Furthermore, as the redeemed ones, we enjoy forgiveness of sins, justification by faith, reconciliation in God's grace, and sanctification. Because we are redeemed, all the benefits in God's redemption are ours. Moreover, because we have been regenerated, we enjoy God's life, His nature, and His Person. **By these three qualifications—being created, redeemed, and regenerated—we are fully and thoroughly qualified to enjoy all the blessings in the universe, the blessings in God's creation, redemption, and regeneration.** The angels may be sinless, but they are not qualified to enjoy all these blessings. But through the blood of Christ, we enjoy forgiveness of sins, the washing of the blood, justification by faith, and peace with God. We enjoy all the blessings of Christ's redemption. Furthermore, we daily enjoy all the benefits and bounties of God's regeneration. We have the divine life, the divine nature, and the divine Person. What could be higher than this? Today we enjoy the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Father. This is the second aspect of well-speaking.

(Life-Study of Ephesians 2, section 2)

Day 5

- C. God “has blessed us with **every spiritual** blessing in the heavenlies in Christ”—Eph. 1:3:
1. **God has blessed us with His speaking**; all the speaking in verses 4 through 14 is **God’s blessing**.
 2. Every indicates the **all-inclusiveness of God’s blessings**.
 3. Spiritual indicates the **relationship of God’s blessings to the Holy Spirit**:
 - a. All the blessings with which God has blessed us are related to the **Holy Spirit**.
 - b. The **Spirit** of God is not only the channel but also the **reality of God’s blessings**.
 - c. **God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit** are all related to the **blessings bestowed upon us**—vv. 4-14; 3:16-17; 4:4-6.
 - d. **God’s blessing** is mainly the **dispensing of the Triune God into us**—2 Cor. 13:14.
 4. Heavenlies indicates not only the heavenly place but also the **heavenly nature, state, characteristic, and atmosphere** of the spiritual blessings with which God has blessed us:
 - a. These blessings are from the heavens, having a **heavenly nature, heavenly state, heavenly characteristic, and heavenly atmosphere**.
 - b. The believers in Christ are enjoying on earth these blessings, which are **spiritual as well as heavenly**.
 5. **In Christ** indicates that Christ is the **virtue, the instrument, and the sphere** in which God has blessed us:
 - a. In Christ God has blessed us with **every spiritual** blessing in the heavenlies.
 - b. We praise the Lord that **we are in Christ**, who is the virtue, the instrument, the sphere, and the channel in which we have been blessed.
 6. Since the nature of these blessings is spiritual, **we need to exercise our spirit** to realize, experience, and partake of them in our spirit—Rom. 8:4.

Day 6

- D. God’s blessing is intrinsically related to **oneness**—Psa. 133:1, 3:
1. The unity spoken of in verse 1 is a picture of the genuine oneness in the New Testament; this **oneness** is the **processed and consummated Triune God mingled with the believers in Christ**—John 17:21-23.
 2. There in Psalm 133:3 refers to the oneness upon which the Lord commands the blessing—life forever.
- E. Through His shepherding in His recovery by life, the **Lord brings us into the enjoyment of His blessing** and **causes us to become a source of blessing under the showers of blessing**—Ezek. 34:23, 26-27a, 29; Zech. 10:1:
1. **First, we ourselves enjoy the Lord’s blessing**, and then the Lord will cause us to become a **source of blessing to others** so that they may be supplied—Ezek. 34:26.
 2. God will cause the showers of blessing to come down in season—Zech. 10:1.
- F. The **greatest blessing** that we receive from the Lord is not what the Lord gives us; **it is what the Lord makes us, what He enables us to become**—Rev. 3:12:
1. The Lord’s promise in Revelation 3:12 is to make the overcomer a **pillar in the temple of God**:
 - a. Becoming a pillar in the temple of God involves **transformation** and **building**—21:22; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 2:21-22; 4:16.
 - b. It is a great blessing for the Lord to transform us and build us into His temple; this involves our being, what we are in Christ—Col. 1:27-28.
 2. If we see this vision, we will realize that in the church life the Lord’s intention is not to do something outside of us but to **transform us into another kind of being for His corporate expression**—Rev. 21:10-11.
 3. In the church life we should not expect outward blessings; rather, it is crucial for us to realize that the Lord’s blessing is to **transform us into precious material and then build us into His dwelling place**—Eph. 2:21-22.
- G. The normal **life** of a Christian is a **life of blessing**, and the normal **work** of a Christian is a **work of blessing**—Num. 6:23-27; Matt. 5:3-11; 24:46; John 20:29; Gal. 3:14; 2 Cor. 9:6; Rom. 15:29.
- H. We must realize that in our **work**, in our **Christian life**, and in our **church life**, everything **depends on the Lord’s blessing**—Eph. 1:3; Mal. 3:10.
- I. We need to pray, “Lord, please give us a vision that we may see the meaning of Your blessing, and have mercy on us that, unhindered, we may be able to receive Your blessing.”

BEING TRANSFORMED THROUGH GOD'S DISPENSING HIMSELF INTO US

What is God's building? **God's building is to dispense Himself into us and to work Himself into our being.** Consider again the illustration of petrified wood. The wood is natural, having no mineral element whatsoever to give it the substance of stone. There is no wood in God's eternal building. In His building there are only precious stones, gold, and pearls. The twelve foundations of the New Jerusalem are layers of precious stones (21:19-20), and the entire wall is built with jasper (21:18). In the New Jerusalem there is nothing of mud or wood. By nature we all are either muddy or wooden. Everyone would rather be wooden than muddy, thinking that wood is superior to mud. Nevertheless, neither mud nor wood is useful in God's building hand. **We need transformation.** The muddy people need to be transformed into precious stones, and the wooden ones need to be petrified. The way for a piece of wood to be petrified is to allow the living water to flow through it to carry away the wooden substance and to replace it with a solid mineral element. The process of petrification in the physical world is a symbol of the spiritual reality. Today God is truly "petrifying" us by the flow of His divine life. This flow is clearly revealed in Revelation 22:1, which says, "And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." This river flows throughout the whole city.

I constantly have a bitter taste within me, a bitter feeling concerning today's Christians. They appear to know much, but actually they are more than ignorant and know nearly nothing. It does not matter what you know. You may know many things, but every part of you may still be mud or wood, indicating that you have not been transformed. We must be transformed by God's dispensing Himself into our being. Forget your knowledge of the Bible and forget your religion, and just take care of one thing—how much you have been transformed by the living God's dispensing Himself into you. This is what truly matters. You may be able to recite so many verses in the Bible, yet you yourself mean nothing. Nothing counts in God's economy but Himself dispensed into your being. I hope that many of you will be able to say, "I don't know very much about the Bible. I only know one thing: **day by day God is dispensing Himself into me. Every day, something of God flows in to carry away my natural element and to replace it with His divine essence.**"

I am deeply burdened! It does not matter whether you are good or bad, holy or unholy, spiritual or unspiritual. The only thing that matters is whether or not you have been touched by the Lord and have been transformed. **We must be willing to open ourselves** and say, "Lord, get through. Lord, flow in, through, and out of me and carry away every particle of my natural element. Lord, I hate the outward improvement and am tired of being corrected outwardly. I am tired of religion and Bible knowledge. I am tired of being individually spiritual. Lord, I am desperate about my condition because I have so little of Your divine essence. I have been taught and 'edified' for years. But still I am what I am."

(Life-Study of Revelation, chapter 32, section 3)