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Deuteronomy 31: 1-29 Fear The Lord; Then Fear Nothing Else 9/17/2023

Question: What are some of the things we might do to hurt ourselves, as a nation, as a result of 9/1/2001? I mean as a result of the fear it produced.

Fear could drive us to exchange freedoms for a false sense of security, attempting to guarantee a completely safe world.

Fear could drive us not to face the enemy and hope to pacify them by endless concessions.

Ex. Richard Reid- Shoe Bomber- Attempted to set off a bomb in his shoes! Dec. 22, 2001. Miami to Paris flight; American Airlines flight 63. Result? We may be barefoot in the airport for years!

Ex. Think now of the devastation that Covid fears have produced.

Deuteronomy lays before us the idea of fearing God. It basically means to be most concerned about what He thinks, over what anybody else in the world thinks. There are multiple-facaded statements about what the fear of the Lord means, but the collected whole can never reduced to the idea of mere reverence. **If we don't fear God the only other option is to fear man.**

Funny how people would rather fear people, to get their approval, than to fear God who holds their entire future and their entire soul!

Once you fear the Lord, ironically, He convinces you that you need not fear anything or anybody else!

God is training His people for a great future. Step one is they learn to fear consequences.

To fear God is refreshing, when it leads to a self-exam and faith in God.

A healthy child's fear of consequences (assuming good parents) later turns to intrinsic motivation of love and obedience. This was Israel's training.

The full Biblical story from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant is moving from fear of consequences to knowing and loving God intrinsically.

Question: Could not God have just given rewards to prevent the bad? No

You can only go so far with that approach.

Ex. Parent tells 16- year- old that if they will stop slipping out at night then they will buy him a jet ski. That ends up with a role reversal and this kid starts extorting his parents for favors.

Deut. 5:29 and 29:4 Truly shows that the problem is never solved until the heart is changed. The amazing thing is that God knew all this and continues to reach out to the remnant who would have a real, and deep love for Him. Would you have continued to do that much?

I John 4:15-19 The best unbelieving Israel can do, or gentiles can do, is behavioral changes but not heart changes.

I John 4: 18 is the best most of them were willing to give. I do right only because of bad consequences! **For us who have trusted Christ, with all of our lives; we have left fear behind.**

How can God train with the kind of fear we see in Deuteronomy and end up with a believer who cries out, "Abba, Father?" It is the result of all that Christ did! We are born-again by believing.

AMAZING GRACE: " Was grace that taught my heart to fear; and grace my far relieved."

Text Intro: Summary of their future- Deut. 30: 15-20

Main Text: 31: 1-22 *****

31: 1-8 Fear God; and then you need not fear anything else.

31: 9-13 SUKKOT- Feast of tabernacles (Booths). A reminder of the 40 years of unsettled living; dependent on God.

31: 14-19 What a stupid conclusion! "I decided to ignore God, because I had other plans for myself, now things stink! God is not taking very good care of us!" The heart was not changed!
Read v. 17 again

How does a person think this way? Answer: No self-examination! "An unexamined life is not worth living!"

K and D: (On v.17) " Simply missing God's help, is not repentance."

Ex. Esau- He was sorry about the outcome, but did not repent. Cursed his "luck" but never saw his own evil to allow himself to be taken in by his sorry brother, because he did not really care to know God at that point in his life! Hebrews 12: 15-17

31: 19 This song has probably changed the lives of many people.

31: 20-22 When abundance is great, we forget who provided. " Deuteronomy 8 Syndrome."

Sin causes us to drop short the logical chain of events back to the God who provides.