

Leviticus 26-27 – 8 October 2020

“Will You Choose Life?”

Introduction

Throughout 2nd half of Exodus & Leviticus we've been given the laws & statutes of God.

That has mostly come to a close at the end of Lev 25.

Now the Lord turns to the future, now the Lord turns to them for their input.

Will they obey God?

Lev 26 addresses this question (Chap 27 is a bit of an appendix to the book - we'll spend some time on next)

They've been offered a chance to serve the God of the Universe, their response will greatly impact their quality of life

Today, the 3 potential responses of man to the offer to serve and live with God

1st potential response of man to the offer of serving God is obedience which brings blessing (Chap 26:1-13)

Read Chap 26:1-2

1. Interesting that this is what the future has for Israel; it talks of Idol worship and Sabbath keeping
 - a. Idolatry is the main reason they're sent out
 - b. Sabbath yrs are the timing of being sent out

Read Chap 26:3-5

1. Abundance of economy results from obeying
2. Obedience brings a busy joyful life w/ God

Read Chap 26:6-8

1. Peace & national defense results from obeying
2. Obedience brings wisdom and strength

Read Chap 26:9-13

1. God's favor results from obeying
2. Obedience brings grace & freedom from bondage

Will Israel obey God? We know the answer to this.

The whole Old Covenant of the Law is a testament to man's failure.

The New Covenant is a testament to Christ's victory!

Will WE obey God? We know the answer to that.

In and of ourselves, we continually try and fail

2nd potential response of man to the offer of serving God is disobedience which brings punishment (Chap 26:14-39)

Read Chap 26:14-18

1. Disease, bondage & fear result of disobedience

Read Chap 26:19-24

1. Lack of crops, disunity w/ God & animals result of disobedience

Read Chap 26:25-32

1. Besiegement by foreign nations result of disobedience
2. All these will happen at different times to them

Read Chap 26:33-39

1. Vs 33 – Disobedience will scatter them out of their land
2. Vs 34 – So the land can have its Sabbaths

Fulfillment of this disobedience

2 themes run thru this section of disobedience

1. They that hate you will reign over you as you're scattering / perishing among the heathen (vs 17, 33, 38, 39)
2. If you continue to disobey, your punishment will be 7 times the punishment (vs 18, 21, 24, 28)

When was this fulfilled that Israel & the land God gave her lay desolate?

1. Jeremiah tells 70 yrs of punishment (Jer 25:11, 29:10)
2. Ezekiel tells 430 yrs of punishment (Eze 4:4-8)
3. II Chr 36:21 concludes the Babylonian captivity is fulfillment of Jer 25
4. Daniel & Nehemiah agrees the Babylonian captivity is the curse of Lev 26 (Dan 9:11, Neh 1:8)
5. Babylonian captivity started 606 BC
6. Jeremiah's 70 years ended 536 BC
7. At this time (536 BC) Israel is still rebellious so Lev 26 applies (Ezra 9:1-3, 13-14, Neh 13 esp vs 17-18, Mal 2:2)
8. 7 times punishment for the remaining 360 years = 2520 years
9. Convert to our years = 2483 years, 284 days
10. Add 1-year b/c there was no year 0 = 1948 AD
11. So conclusion to “those that hate you will reign over you” & “land laying desolate” ***was 1948!!!***

3rd potential response of man to the offer of serving God is humble confession which brings remembrance & restoration (Chap 26:40-46)

Read Chap 26:40-43

1. God is looking for acceptance of our low estate and acceptance of His glorious estate.
2. Vs 40 – Confess our guilt & intentional sin of doing, thinking and speaking against God
3. Vs 41 – Confess that their scattering to foreign lands wasn't 'bad luck' but God's hand on them.
4. Vs 42 – What was the covenant God made?
 - a. Make you into a nation, Bring the Messiah thru you, Give you a land
 - b. **THE LAND IS TIED TO THE PROMISE**

Read Chap 26:44-46

1. God determines to bring them back, b/c He won't break the covenant. (Even though they did)
2. If He won't forsake Israel, He won't forsake u!
 - a. Romans 11 – God won't forsake Israel!

Now chap 27 is a bit of an appendix to the book:

If someone wants to go beyond the Law and consecrate something to God, what are the guidelines for that?

That item or person would then be used in temple or spiritual service to God around the country.

Read 27:1-8

1. The value of a person being given to God
2. Notice the women have to pay less money so they get off the hook.
 - a. Remember the application is a spiritual one.
 - b. Spiritually the man represent Christ & the women represents the Church
3. Let go thru this & make application at the end.

Read 27:9-13

1. So the valuation of the offering of a beast

Read 27:14-25

1. So the valuation of the offering of possessions

Read 27:26-27

1. Firstborns can't be vowed or redeemed, they already belong to God

Read 27:28-29

1. Once something is devoted to God (not just consecrated to Him, it can't be redeemed

Read 27:30-34

1. The 10th of all things are the Lord's

What's the application of devoting something to God?

1. Don't just speak devotion, back it up w/ action
2. Don't devote to quickly, or pay for it (20%)
3. Certain things should automatically be devoted

Conclusion

So there are only 3 potential responses to the offer of serving and loving God

1. **Obedience** – This brings blessing
 - a. The most important blessing obedience brings is God's favor and God's grace
 - b. We strive for this, but can never perfectly, continually live up to this standard
2. **Disobedience** – This brings punishment
 - a. Just like w/ Israel it brings a forfeiture of God's promises to us
 - b. Our enemies gain control over us in ways that they never should be able to
3. **Humble Confession** – This brings remembrance and restoration
 - a. We & Israel needed to accept what Hosea would later say in Hosea 5:15
 - b. Read Deut 30:19 – I've set before you life and death, blessing & cursing, choose life!