



Study 2 : "Trust In The Lord Your God"

(Deuteronomy 1:19-36; Isaiah 7:1-9)

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BULLEEN BAPTIST CHURCH

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Introducing the Study

What is the basis of the relationship between God and his people in the Old Testament?

The setting of Deuteronomy is the impending death of Moses. He challenges the generation who, under Joshua's leadership, were about to enter the land that God had promised them, to renew the Covenant that their parents first made upon their escape from Egypt.

You have declared this day that the LORD is your God and that you will walk in his ways, that you will keep his decrees, commands and laws, and that you will obey him.

And the LORD has declared this day that you are his people, his treasured possession as he promised ... that he will set you in praise, fame and honour high above all the nations he has made and that you will be a people holy to the LORD your God ... **Deut26:17-19**

Note the features of the Covenant, there were:

1. Two PARTIES involved - God and Israel
2. Two DECLARATIONS made - That Yahweh would be their God and they would be his people.
3. Two PROMISES - That God would honour & bless them in a unique relationship. They would be faithful and obedient.

What is at the core of the Prophet's message? *"God has entered into Covenant with you, and you with him. He has promised to be your God, and you have promised to be his people."*
"So TRUST him!"

A. CAN GOD BE TRUSTED?

1. A LONG HISTORY OF COMPLAINT

From the outset, those who escaped from Egypt complained at every difficulty. Eg:

Pharaoh's horsemen and troops pursued the Israelites and overtook them .. they were terrified and cried out to the LORD ... What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? ... It would have been better to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!" **Exodus 14:9-13**

God Provides : A PATHWAY through the sea

In the desert the whole community grumbled ... "If only we had died by the LORD'S hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve ... **Exodus 16:2-3**

God Provides : FOOD. A "plague" of Quail that evening, and every morning, "Manna"

there was no water for the people to drink ... "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" **Exodus 17:1-3**

God Provides : WATER. Moses' staff strikes the rock at Horeb, and water flows.

At issue here is a basic lack of trust in God. Whenever the realities of their circumstances threatened to overwhelm them, faith was ABANDONED and trust DISAPPEARED

2. THE SUPREME EXAMPLE ... when they were about to enter the land that God had promised.

In Deuteronomy, Moses reminds the next generation of their parents' reaction to the report of the 12 men who had been sent to "spy out the land." (The full account is in Numbers 13)
... you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God (saying) "The LORD hates us; so he brought us out of Egypt to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us. Where can we go? Our brothers have made us lose heart. They say, 'The people are stronger and taller than we are; the cities are large, with walls up to the sky ...'" **Deut1:26-28**

Moses, in his reply, goes to the heart of the matter:

Then I said to you, "Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them. The LORD your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes, and in the desert. There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place." In spite of this, you did not trust in the LORD your God. . **Deut1:30-32**

3. THE CONSISTENT FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

The following are typical of the many verses that summarise God's Redeeming Actions:

Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testings, by miraculous signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes? You were shown these things so that you might know that the LORD is God; besides him there is no other. ... Because he loved your forefathers and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his presence and his great strength. **Deut4:34-37**

God ACTS in history on behalf of his people ... through which he REVEALS his nature.

God is motivated by LOVE and demonstrates his FAITHFULNESS

4. THE BACKDROP OF THE PROPHETS

In spite of all that God has done, those called to be his people consistently fail to be what they are called to be! With the above Scriptures in mind, Isaiah tells a parable of a vineyard owner who looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. (**Isaiah 5:2**) The Owner asks:

"What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it?" **Isaiah 5:4**

Isaiah then outlines God's accusation against his people:

... The vineyard of the LORD Almighty is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are the garden of his delight. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress **Isaiah 5:7**

In spite of all that God had done, there is the continued failure to trust, to be obedient, to be faithful

B. THE PROPHET'S CALL

An alliance of smaller nations prepare to make war on Judah, to topple Ahaz from the Throne Of David, replace him with a King of their choosing, and force the nation to become their allies against the rising might of Assyria. Reaction to the threat? The hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind. (**Isaiah 7:2**) Isaiah confronts the King :

If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all. **Isaiah 7:9**

Stand firm in what? The promise that a King of the line of David only would reign in Judah. (Eg. 2Sam7:16) Isaiah's message. God can be trusted ... so TRUST him!

This is not just an issue for kings in matters of national importance centuries ago.

It's also an issue for US in everyday concerns. Can God be trusted?

C. A NEW TESTAMENT PARALLEL

We live this side of the Cross - a greater display of the love and power of God than the Exodus was to the ancient nation of Israel. In the light of this supreme redemptive and revelatory act of God, how will we then live? (You were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body. **1Cor6:20**)

God demonstrates his own love for us: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ... For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! **Romans 5:8-10**

Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? ... O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. ... from **Luke 12:25-31**