### Deuteronomy

## Chapter 26

1‘Once you’ve entered the land that Jehovah your God is giving to you as your inheritance and you’ve each received your individual inheritance and started living there, 2you must collect the first fruitage [from the harvest] in the land that He’s giving to you and put it into a basket, then carry it to the place where Jehovah your God will choose to have His Name called.  
  
 3‘And when you bring it to the Priest (whomever it may be then), you must say to him:  
  
 ‘I’m testifying before My God Jehovah today, that I’ve come to this land which the Lord swore to our ancestors that He would give to us.’  
  
 4‘Then the Priest must take the basket from your hands and set it before the Altar of your God Jehovah, 5and you must say this before Jehovah:  
  
 ‘A small group of my ancestors (who came from Syria) went down to Egypt and stayed there, where they grew into a large number and a mighty nation... 6But the Egyptians made life difficult for us, humiliated us, and put us to work at hard labor.  
  
 7‘However, when we called out to Jehovah our God, He heard us. And when He saw our humiliation, our hardships, and how hard we were working, 8He brought us out of Egypt with His great strength, strong hand, and mighty arm through great miracles, signs, and wonders.  
  
 9‘Then He brought us into this place and gave us this land… A land flowing with milk and honey!  
  
 10‘So now {Look!} I’m bringing the first fruits of the land that You gave to us, O Lord, from this land that flows with milk and honey.’  
  
 ‘Then you must leave [the basket there] before Jehovah your God and bow low before Him, 11as you rejoice over all the good things that Jehovah your God has given to you, to your family, and to the Levites and strangers that are living among you.  
  
  
 12‘And in the 3rd year, after you’ve brought in all the tithes of your harvest, you must bring a second tithe for the Levites, strangers, orphans, and widows, so that they may eat it and enjoy themselves in your cities.  
  
 13‘At that time, you must come before Jehovah your God and say this:  
  
 ‘I’ve collected a full measure of the holy things from my home and given them to the Levites, strangers, orphans, and widows, just as You commanded. I didn’t sin against Your Commandments and I didn’t forget them, 14nor did I eat any of it during difficult times, or use it for any unclean purpose, or offer it to the dead.  
  
 ‘I’ve listened to the voice of our God Jehovah, and I’ve done just as He commanded me.  
  
 15‘So now, look down from your Holy House in the heavens and bless Your people IsraEl, as well as this land that flows with milk and honey, which You swore to our ancestors that You’d give to us.’  
  
  
 16‘Yes, today Jehovah your God is instructing you to keep all of His rules and decisions… You must obey them and follow them with your whole hearts and souls!  
  
 17‘For on this day, you’re choosing Him to be your God, and [you’re agreeing] to walk in His ways, follow His rules and decisions, and listen to His voice... 18And today Jehovah has chosen you to be His people exclusively – as He promised in His Commandments – 19to be above all the other nations.  
  
 ‘For He has made you famous, glorious, and something to brag about… A holy people to Jehovah your God, just as He promised.’