### Deuteronomy

## Chapter 28

1‘Now, if you listen to the voice of your God Jehovah and follow and obey all these Commandments that I’m giving to you today, you’ll be raised higher than all the other nations on the earth by Jehovah your God, 2and then these blessings will search for you and find you.  
  
 ‘For if you listen to the voice of your God Jehovah:  
  
 • 3Your fields and your cities will be blest.  
  
 • 4The offspring that comes from your bodies, the fruit of your land, your herds of oxen, and your flocks of sheep will be blest.  
  
 • 5Your barns and your storage bins will be blest.  
  
 • 6You’ll be blest when you leave and blest when you return.  
  
 • 7Jehovah will give your enemies [into your hands], and those who oppose you’ll fall before you... If they come against you from one direction, they’ll run from you in 7 directions.  
  
 • 8Jehovah will put His blessings on your barns and on everything that you do in the land that He’s giving to you.  
  
 • 9Jehovah will raise you as a holy people to Himself, just as He promised your ancestors that He would do – if you would listen to His voice and walk in all of His ways. 10Then, all the nations on the earth will see that you’re called by the Name Jehovah, and they’ll stand in awe of you.  
  
 • 11Jehovah your God will bring [many children] from your bodies, many young from your cattle, and much fruit from your land… This land that Jehovah swore to your ancestors that He would give to you.  
  
 • 12Jehovah will open His treasures in the skies and bring rain to your land in [the proper] seasons, and He’ll bless everything that you do.  
  
 • You’ll lend to many nations and not borrow, and you’ll rule over many nations and not be ruled. 13For, Jehovah your God will make you the head not the tail, putting you on the top… You’ll never be on the bottom if you’ll listen to the voice of your God Jehovah and obey all the things that I’m telling you today.  
  
 • 14You must not swerve to the right or to the left from any of the Commandments that I’m giving to you today, or follow and serve other gods.’  
  
  
 15‘However, if you don’t listen to the voice of your God Jehovah and obey all His Commandments that I’m giving to you today, these curses will come here and catch up with you:  
  
 • 16You will be cursed in your cities and in your fields.  
  
 • 17Your barns and your storage sheds will be cursed.  
  
 • 18[The children] who come from your bodies, the fruit from your land, your herds of oxen, and your flocks of sheep will be cursed.  
  
 • 19You’ll be cursed when you leave and when you return.  
  
 • 20Jehovah will send shortages and famines [among you], and everything you do will be consumed until He’s totally destroyed you... Yes, if you leave Him and start doing evil things, you’ll be quickly exterminated.  
  
 • 21Jehovah will bring plagues among you until you’ve all been wiped from this land that you’re going to inherit.  
  
 • 22Jehovah will strike you with dysentery, fever, chills, inflammations, sores, and paleness.  
  
 • They will chase you down and destroy you.  
  
 • 23He will turn the sky above you into brass and the ground beneath you into iron.  
  
 • 24Jehovah your God will turn the rain that falls from the skies into dust, until it destroys you and quickly consumes you.  
  
 • 25Jehovah will hand you over to your enemies and they’ll slaughter you. You’ll attack them from one direction, but you’ll run from them in 7 directions, and then you’ll be scattered throughout all the kingdoms of the earth.  
  
 • 26Your dead will become food for the flying creatures in the skies and the animals on the ground… And nothing will scare them away.  
  
 • 27Jehovah will strike your bottoms with the sores of Egypt… And the scabs will itch and never heal.  
  
 • 28Jehovah will strike you with mental illnesses, blindness, and anxiety, 29so you’ll grope around in the daytime like the blind grope around in their darkness.  
  
 • Nothing you do will prosper... You’ll be treated unfairly; you’ll be looted continuously, and no one will come to your aid.  
  
 • 30You’ll take women for yourselves, but other men will have them.  
  
 • You’ll build houses and not live in them.  
  
 • You’ll plant vineyards and not gather their grapes.  
  
 • 31Your calves will be butchered before you, but you won’t eat any of the [meat].  
  
 • Your burros will be taken from you and never be returned.  
  
 • Your sheep will be given to your enemies, and no one will get them back for you.  
  
 • 32Your sons and daughters will be given to other nations, then you’ll search for them as your eyes are wasting away and your hands are growing feeble.  
  
 • 33A nation that you’re unfamiliar with will eat the produce of your land, and all your hard work will be crushed and done away with… 34You’ll be amazed by the things that you’ll see!  
  
 • 35Jehovah will strike you with bad sores on you knees and legs that won’t heal… From the soles of your feet to the tops of your heads.  
  
 • 36Jehovah will drive you and the leaders whom you’ll set over yourselves away, and you’ll be sent to a nation that neither you nor your ancestors have ever known... There you’ll serve gods made of wood and stone. 37And there, [the things that happened to you] will be used as amazing examples and illustrations among all the nations where Jehovah your God will send you.  
  
 • 38You’ll plant many seeds in your fields but harvest little, because the locusts will eat whatever you plant.  
  
 • 39You’ll plant vineyards and cultivate them, but you won’t drink the wine or enjoy any of it for yourselves, because worms will eat them.  
  
 • 40You’ll plant olive trees all around your land, but you won’t receive any oil to anoint yourselves, because your trees will drop their fruit.  
  
 • 41Sons and daughters will be born to you, but they’ll never be yours, because they’ll be carried away as captives.  
  
 • 42All the trees and produce of your land will be consumed by blight.  
  
 • 43The strangers who live among you will be lifted high, while you’ll be dragged down... 44Then they’ll lend to you but you won’t be able to lend to them, for they’ll be the heads and you’ll be the tails.  
  
 45‘All of these curses will come upon you and chase you down until they’ve consumed and destroyed you, if you don’t listen to the voice of your God Jehovah and keep the Commandments and rules that He’s given to you.  
  
 46‘They’ll serve as signs and wonders among you and among your offspring throughout the ages, 47if you fail to serve Jehovah your God happily and with a [cheerful] heart, because of all the many [good] things that you’ll have received.  
  
 48‘Then you must serve the enemies whom Jehovah will send against you. You’ll be hungry, thirsty, naked, in need of everything, and you’ll have to wear iron yokes on your necks until they’ve destroyed you.  
  
 49‘Jehovah will bring a nation against you from the ends of the earth that will come like fast-flying eagles, and you won’t understand their language... 50They’ll be a fearsome people who won’t respect your old people or pity your young.  
  
 51‘They’ll eat the young of your cattle and the fruit of your land, and they won’t leave any grain, wine, oil, herds of oxen, or flocks of sheep for you, until they’ve destroyed you 52and totally crushed your cities.  
  
 ‘For even your highest and strongest walls will be destroyed, and all your land and all the cities that He’s given to you [will be theirs].  
  
 53‘Then you’ll eat the fruit of your bodies… The flesh of all the sons and daughters that He’s given to you. For your enemy will bring a great time of stress and difficulty upon you. 54And even those who are kind and gentle among you will look at their brothers, their loved women, and any children that may be left in an evil way, 55and they won’t offer them any of the flesh of their children to eat, because they wouldn’t have enough for themselves.  
  
 ‘That’s how your enemies will pressure you and make life difficult for you in all of your cities!  
  
 56‘Then, even the tender, gentle women among you – those who’ve never searched the ground for delicacies – will look at their loved husbands, sons, and daughters in an evil way. 57For they’ll eat the newborn that come from between their legs secretly in their [hunger].  
  
 ‘Yes, that’s how your enemies will make life difficult for you in your cities!  
  
 58‘So, if you won’t listen to and obey all the words of the Law that have been written in this scroll and fear the glorious and wonderful Name of your God Jehovah, 59He will bring these horrible plagues and unending illnesses upon you and your offspring.  
  
 60‘He will bring all the pain of Egypt that you were so afraid of, and make it stick to you.  
  
 61‘And Jehovah will even bring sicknesses and plagues that haven’t been written about in the scroll of this Law, until He’s destroyed you.  
  
 62‘Then, although you were once as many as the stars of the sky, there won’t be many left, due to the fact that you didn’t listen to the voice of your God Jehovah!  
  
 63‘And as Jehovah once rejoiced over you, did good things for you, and made you grow... He will rejoice over destroying you and in quickly removing you from the land that you’re going to inherit!  
  
 64‘Then Jehovah your God will scatter you among all the nations – from one end of the earth to the other – and you must serve other gods there, which are made of wood and stone, and of whom you and your ancestors have never heard.  
  
 65‘In addition...  
  
 ‘[In the places where you’ll be living] among those nations, He won’t provide any quiet, nor will the soles of your feet find any rest. For there, Jehovah will give you weak hearts, failing eyes, and wasted lives.  
  
 66‘You won’t know [what each day will bring], and you’ll be afraid both night and day; for nothing in your lives will be sure.  
  
 67‘In the morning, you’ll say:  
  
 ‘I wish it were evening!’  
  
 ‘And in the evening, you’ll say:  
  
 ‘I wish it were morning!’  
  
 ‘You’ll have fear in your hearts and you’ll be afraid of everything you see.  
  
 68‘Then Jehovah will take you back to Egypt in ships – back to the place that He said you should never see again – where you’ll be offered for sale to your enemies as slaves…  
  
 ‘And nobody will [wish to] buy you!’