### Deuteronomy

## Chapter 7

1‘And when Jehovah your God brings you in and gives you the land where you’re going; [He] will remove great nations from before you – the Hittites, Gergesites, Amorites, CanaAnites, Pherezites, Evites, and Jebusites – 7 nations that are larger and stronger than you are.  
  
 2‘Jehovah your God will give them into your hands and you must cut them down… Destroy them!  
  
 ‘You must not make any treaties with them or feel pity for them, 3nor may you marry among them or give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons. 4Otherwise, they’ll draw your sons away to serve other gods, and Jehovah will be very angry with you and quickly destroy you.  
  
 5‘This is what you should do to them:  
  
 ‘Destroy their altars and break down their [sacred] columns, then cut down their sacred poles and burn the carved images of their gods with fire… 6For you are a holy people to Jehovah your God, and He chose you to be His people over all the other nations on the face of the earth!’  
  
  
 7‘But, Jehovah didn’t prefer and choose you because there are more of you than there are in other nations… For you’re smaller than the rest. 8Rather, He chose you because He loves you and because He wants to keep the promise that He made to your ancestors. So He brought you out of the house of slavery – out of the hand of PharaOh, the king of Egypt – with His strong hand.  
  
 9‘Therefore, you should know that Jehovah your God is a faithful God who keeps promises, and that He’s merciful to those who love Him and keep His Commandments through thousands of generations... 10Yet, He pays back those who hate Him to their faces by destroying them… He doesn’t cut any slack for those who hate Him.  
  
 11‘So you must keep His Commandments, rules, and these decisions that I’m giving to you today. 12And after you hear them (and if you decide to keep them), Jehovah your God will keep His Sacred Agreement with you and show you the mercy that He promised to your ancestors.  
  
 13‘He will love you, bless you, and make you grow.  
  
 ‘He will also bless the children who come from you, as well as the fruitage of your [fields] – your grain, wine, oil, herds of oxen, and flocks of sheep – in the land that Jehovah swore to your ancestors that He would give to you.  
  
 14‘You’ll be blest beyond all other nations, and neither you nor your cattle will be impotent or sterile.  
  
 15‘Jehovah your God will also take away all illnesses… He won’t bring any of the terrible diseases that you saw in Egypt upon you, but He will send them upon all those who hate you.  
  
 16‘You may eat whatever you take from the nations that Jehovah your God is giving to you. But you must not spare them, nor may you serve their gods, because that would be a sin!  
  
 17‘Now, if you start thinking that some nation is stronger than you are, and you wonder if it’s even possible for you to destroy them... 18Just remember all that Jehovah your God did to PharaOh and to the Egyptians! 19For you’ve seen all the great signs, wonders, and the strong hand and mighty arm that Jehovah your God used to bring you out of there; and that’s the same thing that He will do to those nations… They’ll [shake in] fear when they see you!  
  
 20‘Jehovah your God will send hornets against them until all that are left and hiding from you are destroyed. 21Yet, none of you’ll even be wounded, because Jehovah your God who’s among you is a great and powerful God.  
  
 22‘However, Jehovah your God will only destroy these nations a little at a time… You won’t be able to destroy them quickly; otherwise, the land would become desert again and there would be too many wild animals in your fields. 23Yet, Jehovah your God will give them all into your hands… So you must [keep on] destroying them until they’re all gone.  
  
 24‘He will deliver their kings into your hands and you’ll wipe away their names… No one will be able to stand before you until you’ve destroyed them all!  
  
 25‘Then you must burn all the carved images of their gods in fires… You must not loot their [images] of silver or gold, for that would offend Jehovah your God, since these things are disgusting to Him! 26So, don’t bring their disgusting things into your homes… Hate them and consider them as cursed, because they really are cursed!’