### Deuteronomy

## Chapter 9

1‘Listen [to me], O IsraEl!  
  
 ‘Today you’re going to cross the JorDan and you’ll inherit nations that are greater and stronger than you are, as well as large cities with walls that ‘reach into the skies.’  
  
 2‘The people there are great, numerous, and tall… People like the sons of Enac, with whom you’re familiar and of whom you’ve heard it said:  
  
 ‘Who can stand before Enac’s children?’  
  
 3‘But I want you to know today, that your God Jehovah will go ahead of you! For He is a consuming fire and He will destroy them… He will move them back before you and destroy them all quickly, just as He promised.’  
  
  
 4‘Now, after Jehovah your God has destroyed all these nations before you, don’t say in your hearts:  
  
 ‘Jehovah brought me here to inherit this good land because I’m so righteous.’  
  
 5‘For it isn’t because of your righteousness or due to the holiness in your hearts that you’re inheriting their land! Rather, it’s because these nations are so wicked that Jehovah will destroy them… And [He’s doing it] so that He may fulfill the Promise that He swore to our ancestors AbraHam, IsaAc, and Jacob.  
  
 6‘No, it isn’t because of your righteousness that Jehovah your God is giving you this good land as an inheritance; for you’re a [rebellious] people! 7Don’t forget how much you angered Jehovah your God in the desert, starting from the day that you left Egypt until you arrived here, because you’ve continued to disobey Him!  
  
 8‘[Do you remember how] you made Jehovah so angry in the dry place (Horeb) that He wanted to destroy you?  
  
 9‘Back when I went up the mountain to receive the stone tablets of the Sacred Agreement that Jehovah made with you (the mountain that I was on for 40 days and 40 nights, and during which I had nothing to eat or drink), 10and the Lord gave me the two stone tablets that had been written on by the finger of God (yes, all those words that Jehovah said to you on the day that you gathered at the mountain)… 11At the end of those 40 days and 40 nights, when Jehovah gave me the two stone tablets containing the Sacred Agreement, 12He said to me:  
  
 ‘Now, get up and hurry down the mountain, because the people you brought out of the land of Egypt have sinned! They’ve already left the Commandments that I gave to them and they’ve made an image for themselves against Me!’  
  
 13‘Then the Lord said to me:  
  
 ‘As I told you before, I’ve seen these people and {Look!} they’re rebellious. 14So, now I’m going to destroy them – blot their names out from under the sky – and make a great and mighty nation of you… One that’ll be greater than them!’  
  
 15‘So, as the mountain was burning with fire that reached into the heavens, I turned around and went back down the mountain carrying the two tablets of Proofs, one in each hand... 16And when I saw that you had sinned against Jehovah your God and made yourselves an idol – something that Jehovah had commanded you not to do – 17I took the two tablets and threw them out of my hands and broke them there before you!  
  
 18‘Then I prayed and begged before the Lord (during another 40 days and 40 nights when I didn’t eat or drink anything), because of all your sins and the evil things that you did before Jehovah your God to anger Him.  
  
 19‘And [this time] I was really frightened, because He was so angry with you that He wanted to destroy all of you! However, Jehovah listened to me one more time.  
  
 20‘He was also so angry with Aaron that He wanted to destroy him… So I also prayed for Aaron. 21Then, because of your sins, I took that [gold] calf and burned it in a fire… I beat it down and ground it into dust, then I threw the dust into the brook that runs down the mountain!  
  
 22‘You also angered Jehovah at the Burning, at the Temptation, and at the Graveyard of the Greedy.  
  
 23‘And when Jehovah sent you from KaDesh Barne and said:  
  
 ‘Go and inherit the land that I am giving to you...’  
  
 ‘...you disobeyed Jehovah your God again! You didn’t believe Him and you wouldn’t do what He told you to do!  
  
 24‘You’ve disobeyed everything that Jehovah has said since the day that you first came to know Him!  
  
 25‘So I prayed to Jehovah for 40 days and 40 nights… That’s how long I prayed to Jehovah, begging Him not to destroy you!  
  
 26‘I prayed this to God:  
  
 ‘O Lord,  
  
 ‘King of gods,  
  
 ‘Don’t destroy Your people… Your inheritance whom You purchased and whom You brought out of the land of Egypt with Your great power, strong hand, and mighty arm.  
  
 27‘Remember Your servants AbraHam, IsaAc, and Jacob, to whom You swore an oath by Your [Name]. Don’t look at the hard hearts of these people, at their lack of respect, and at their sins... 28Otherwise, those who live in that land from which You carried us away will say,  
  
 ‘Jehovah was unable to bring them into the land that He promised to them, because He didn’t care for them! So He carried them away from here just to kill them in the desert!’  
  
 29‘But, these are Your people… Those whom You brought out of the land of Egypt with Your great strength, Your mighty hand, and Your mighty arm, because they’re Yours!’