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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Greater Refuge Memorial Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**EATING THE OLD AND**

**BRINGING FORTH THE NEW**

**Leviticus 26:1-11**

***Leviticus 26:1 "Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up [any] image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I [am] the LORD your God."***

This chapter is a collection of blessings on those who keep the law and of curses on those who do not. A collection of such blessings and curses was the usual way to close a major legal text in biblical times. The main section of Deuteronomy ends with a similar series of blessings and curses (Deuteronomy 28). We also find this pattern in Exodus 23:25–33 and Joshua 24:20. This chapter of blessings and cursing’s for either obedience or disobedience to the law of Moses is similar in form to the ancient treaties between kings and their subjects found in the lands around Israel. In this case, the king is the Lord who lays down the rules to be followed by his subjects in a covenant relationship with him. The basic commands the people were to obey in order to enjoy God’s blessings were stated up front: Do not make idols for yourselves keep my Sabbaths and revere my sanctuary. Why? I am the Lord your God. This is just another way of stating part of the Ten Commandments. Idols, from the Scripture above, is translated from the word el-eel, which means good for nothing or of no value. Another way of saying it would be "nothings". One of the best examples, in the Bible, about how important it is not to bow to an idol, or a false god, is Daniel. He even went to the lions' den rather than bow down. Another very good example is Shadrach, Meshack, and Abed-nego; who were thrown into the fiery furnace, because they would not bow to an idol, or false god. God protected them because they made a stand for the one true God. None of them were harmed. It is bad enough to make a false image, but to bow down to it would be even worse. Would you {at the threat of death} still not bow down to a false god or idol? In the end times, many will be faced with just that problem. One thing that I have said so many times, that helps me so much is; we must worship the Creator and not any of His or our creations. The Elohim God; Father, Word, and Holy Ghost, who are all one in person, are the only God to worship. All others are false.

***I John 5:7 "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."***

***Leviticus 26:2 "Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I [am] the LORD."***

Notice first of all, who this all belongs to; God. It is His sabbath. It is His sanctuary. Even we are His. To not obey His wishes would be to disobey the very God that made us. It is so little for Him to ask that we keep His sabbaths. Sabbath, for the physical house of Israel, was Saturday. We Christians do not forget either, but we practice first fruit remembrance on Sunday. To not reverence, then, brought swift punishment. The best example of that, being the fire coming from the altar and killing Aaron's 2 sons. We do not see this type of manifestation of disapproval in our sanctuaries today from God. Perhaps, it is because God has moved out of many of these sanctuaries where He is not reverenced. The sanctuary should be a place set aside where we can go and meet with God. Jesus opened the way for all believers to come to God. Sanctuary means a consecrated place. Reverence means to hold in very high esteem. If this sanctuary belongs to God, then the way we can please God in it, is to do what He desires in this special place of His. Have we come to church to please Him or to please ourselves? Why do we go to church? Have we come to humbly bow before our LORD? Have we come to fellowship with Him, and to be a sweet, sweet sound in His ear? Did you come to church to meet with the LORD in His Word? If you came to be entertained, or so the neighbors could see you at church, or for any other fleshly reason, you should have stayed at home. The Sanctuary should be a place set aside 24 hours a day 365 days a year where you can go and fellowship with God. The sanctuary has one purpose, we should not use it for worldly things. The sanctuary is holy.

***Leviticus 26:3 "If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them;"***

***Leviticus 26:4 "Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit."***

Everyone wants to receive the blessings of God, but few want to admit that there is a part we each have to play to receive these blessings. The "if", in the verse above, hinges a great deal. You might even say that life and death hinge on that "if". Blessings if you keep them, and curses if you do not. Some respond correctly saying, but we are not under the law. We are not, but after we receive the gift of salvation through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, we must walk in that state of being saved.

***1 John 1:5-7***

***5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.***

***6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:***

***7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.***

We cannot choose to go back into the world. You see, the believers' life is a walk. Just as these of the physical house of Israel must walk keeping God's statutes, we must walk in the salvation we have received. We must keep the commandments to stay saved.

***Matthew 19:17 "And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? [there is] none good but one, [that is], God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments."***

***John 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my commandments."***

***John 15:10 "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."***

***I John 3:22 "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."***

***I John 5:2 "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments."***

***Revelation 14:12 "Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."***

Notice, just what some of these blessings are. It will rain at the right time and just the right amount. You will have a bountiful harvest of not only the fields, but of fruit as well. Looking at that spiritually, shows me that the fruit of the spirit, as well, will be abundant in your life.

***Leviticus 26:5 "And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely."***

We see in this, that the harvest will be so great, that they will just have time to get in all the harvest, before it is time to plant again. There will be a tremendous abundance of food. Look in Egypt, when Joseph did exactly what God had told him to do, there was a bountiful abundance of food in Egypt, when all the surrounding countries were starving. Obedience to God, brings bountiful blessings then or now. Notice the statement, "dwell in your land safely".

***Proverbs 16:7 "When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."***

***Leviticus 26:6 "And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make [you] afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land."***

This peace spoken of here, can only come from the King of Peace. This peace is freedom from fear of people or animals. There will be no terror by night or day. Faith is the opposite of fear. If we have faith in God and His Word, it brings perfect peace. When there is no war, then men have more time for hunting wild beast. The world today needs to see the last part of this come true. There will be no war. The only real peace, then or now, is in God. Jesus said it the best in the John.

***John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."***

***Leviticus 26:7 "And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword."***

***Leviticus 26:8 "And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword."***

The enemy will run from them, because the enemy can not fight them and God, too. The enemy will be well aware that this type of victory is from God. The protection here is supernatural. The enemy knows it cannot win against God, so they run.

***Psalms 91:7 "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; [but] it shall not come nigh thee."***

***Leviticus 26:9 "For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you."***

***Leviticus 26:10 "And ye shall eat old store, and bring forth the old because of the new."***

***Leviticus 26:11 "And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you."***

A covenant is more than just an agreement. A covenant is made by passing through the opening between an animal cut in two. So, a covenant is sealed with blood. The "if", we spoke of earlier, has been explained in detail. God will keep his side of the agreement, "if" the people keep their side of the bargain. Blessings come from obedience to God. One of the blessings they were to receive, was children. We see above, they will have many children. The Hebrews thought it to be a curse not to have children. In verse 10 above, God promised that before their food from the last year is gone, they will have another bountiful harvest. God promised, also, to tabernacle with them if they would follow His commandments. God’s desire is to fellowship with mankind, but He is holy. If we are to fellowship with Him, we must be holy too.

***Revelation 21:3 "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God."***

**QUESTIONS**

1. What does verse 1 of Leviticus chapter 26 prohibit?
2. What does the word mean that idol was translated from?
3. Who faced the lions' den, because he would not bow down to an idol or false god?
4. Who were the three men who faced the fiery furnace, rather than bow to a false god?
5. What is worse than making a false god?
6. Who are the three that bear record in heaven?
7. "Ye shall keep my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. "And \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ my sanctuary.
9. Who does the sabbath and the sanctuary belong to?
10. What does sanctuary mean?
11. What are some reasons for coming to church, that probably would not please God?
12. There are blessings if you \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
13. There are curses if you do not \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
14. The believers life is a \_\_\_\_\_\_.
15. Are Christians obligated to keep God's commandments?
16. "If ye love me, \_\_\_\_\_ my commandments.
17. What is meant by the threshing reaching unto the vintage?
18. The peace spoken of in verse 6, can only come from whom?
19. How many shall five chase?
20. How is a covenant made?
21. What seals the covenant?
22. What is meant by old store?
23. How can we fellowship with holy God?