

Saturday, 8/28 at 4:00 & Sunday, 8/29 at 9:00

14th Sunday after Pentecost / 13th Sunday after Trinity – 2021

An Old Testament Message For the USA

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Text: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: **The Bible is God's word to us for our temporal and eternal benefit!**

- ➔ Long ago, when the Israelites and the USA honored God and followed His word, **God made them prosperous and powerful!**
- ➔ However, for both nations, when they ignored God and followed their own sinful hearts, **God made them struggle and lose their prominence in the world!**

Leading up to today's OT reading, the Israelites had been disobedient, so God caused them to wander in the wilderness for nearly 40 years. Now, in this reading, God is speaking through Moses to give the people EXTREMELY IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS. If they heed, *God will bless them*; if they continue in disobedience, *God will cause them to struggle*.

1. **Know and Do – Whatever God Says:** ¹ “Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes [things prescribed] and the judgments [legal decisions] which I am teaching you to perform [do], so that you may **live** and **go in** and **take possession of the land** which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. // Keep in mind: Moses was speaking, *but the words belong to **the LORD God Almighty!***
- a. Moral, ceremonial, and civil: The LORD gave many laws to the people; *there are three basic categories*:
- i. **Moral**, like the 10 Commandments, *and apply to all people of all time.*
 - ii. **Ceremonial**, like the various sacrifices, *and applied only until the Messiah came and took away the sin of the world.*
 - iii. **Civil**, like prohibiting the Israelites to intermarry with other nations, *and applied only to the nation of Israel prior to the finished work of the Messiah.*
- b. Encouragement to listen and do: Parents might say, “If you behave, I will buy you some ice cream.” The LORD said, “If you know and do what I have commanded, you will **live**, **go into the Promised Land**, and **take possession of it**. In **chapter 6**, Moses made this insightful statement: “...the LORD commanded us to **observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God for our good always and for our survival...” (6:24).**
- c. What happened with the USA? The LORD established our nation; many were faithful to His ways; and He blessed us! However, as Israel turned away and fell, so the USA is *turning away more and more* 😞 and *losing the LORD’s blessing more and more* 😞!

2. **God's Word – Do Not Add or Subtract:** ² **You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you...** // The Bible IS God's word; *it contains all we need*, such as God's truth about ▶creation, ▶sin, ▶repentance, ▶salvation, ▶living as believers, and ▶Jesus' return. Even though many in the USA are adding to and/or subtracting from God's word, *let us know it, love it, live it, and share it!*
3. **Laws and Actions – Reveal Wisdom or Foolishness:** ⁶ **“So keep and do them, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’** ⁷ **“For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the LORD our God whenever we call on Him?** ⁸ **Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today?”**
- a. Examples of wisdom: **Israelites** – *they heard and did what the LORD said, so they marched around the fortified city of Jericho until the LORD caused the strong walls to fall.* **USA** – since the founders recognized the truth and value of the Bible, *there are many parallels between the Bible and the U.S. Constitution.*¹
- b. Examples of foolishness: **Israelites** – The LORD said, **“...Any man from the sons of Israel... who gives any of his offspring to Molech, shall surely be put to death...”** (Lev. 20:2). *But sadly,* **“...Solomon built a high place... for Molech”** (1 Ki. 11:7). **USA** – We declared that LIFE is a

¹ <https://nccs.net/blogs/articles/parallel-concepts-between-the-u-s-constitution-the-bible>

natural and legal right for all humans, *but sadly* abortion (*human sacrifice*) is now legal in all 50 states.

4. **Guard, Watch, Remember, Keep, and Declare:** ⁹ “**Only give heed to** [*guard*] **yourself and keep** [*watch*] **your soul diligently, [why?] so that you do not forget** [*continue to remember*] **the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart** [*mind and desire*] **all the days of your life; but make them known** [*declare them*] **to your sons and your grandsons.**”
- Guard and watch:** As a guard watches for intruders, so let us watch for deceptions that could ♦corrupt our understanding of God’s truth and ♦pull us away.
 - Remember and keep:** Even though many no longer ♦know God’s truth nor ♦have a desire to keep it, *it is essential for us – as believers in Jesus – to be different!*
 - Declare:** Since most do not know what we know, *let us get serious about making such things known to others!*

Conclusion:

- **Truth** – The USA is opposing God in many ways!
- **Relevance** – The godless laws and practices of the USA are pushing away God’s blessings!
- **Inspiration** – Let us pray for repentance and restoration!

Let Us Pray: Dear LORD, we have greatly sinned, *yet we are relying on Your greater mercy.* Please help us for Jesus’ sake!

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