

If You Listen

Deuteronomy 7:12-26

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I. Consider the Prospects of Faithfulness

A. If people listen and obey, God will make life attractive for them. Wherefore it shall come to pass, *if ye hearken* to these judgments, and *keep*, and *do* them, that *the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy* which he swore unto thy fathers: (DEUTERONOMY 7:12)

B. All the good things societies claim to seek as “the good life” flow from faithfulness. And *he will love thee*, and *bless* thee, and *multiply* thee: *he will also bless the fruit of thy womb*, and the *fruit of thy land*, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, *in the land which he swore unto thy fathers to give thee*. (DEUTERONOMY 7:13)

1. Believers bring no resource to such success but faith. *The LORD did not* set his love upon you, nor *choose you, because ye were* more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: (DEUTERONOMY 7:7)

2. Even that effective faith is a gift to demonstrate God’s kindness, not evidence any human resource or effort. For *by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God*: Not of works, *lest any man should boast*. For *we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them*. (EPHESIANS 2:8-10)

C. Not only will there be good times for the faithful, but there will not be the bad times which God uses to prod the faithless out of their stupor. *Thou shalt be blessed above all people*: there shall *not be male or female barren* among you, or among your cattle. And *the LORD will take away from thee all sickness*, and will put *none of the evil diseases of Egypt*, which thou knowest, upon thee; *but will lay them upon all them that hate thee*. (DEUTERONOMY 7:14-15)

D. The Exodus illustrates Providence. *He smote also all the firstborn* in their land, *the chief of all their strength*. *He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes*. (PSALM 105:36-37)

II. Eliminate the Competition

A. Recognize the irreconcilable gulf between righteousness and everything else. And thou shalt consume all the people which the LORD thy God shall deliver thee; *thine eye shall have no pity* upon them: *neither shalt thou serve their gods*; for *that will be a snare* unto thee. (DEUTERONOMY 7:16)

B. Do not be disarmed by the magnitude of the struggle; transfer focus from human inability to divine ability. *If thou shalt say in thine heart*, These nations are more than I; *how can I* dispossess them? *Thou shalt not be afraid of them: but shalt well remember what the LORD thy God did* unto Pharaoh, and unto all Egypt; (DEUTERONOMY 7:17-18)

C. God has a record; don’t insult it with cowardice. The great temptations which thine eyes saw, and the signs, and the wonders, and *the mighty hand, and the stretched out arm*, whereby *the LORD thy God brought thee out: so shall the LORD thy God do unto all the people of whom thou art afraid*. (DEUTERONOMY 7:19)

D. Leave cowardice to those who deserve to be afraid. Moreover the LORD thy *God will send the hornet* among them, *until they that are left, and hide* themselves from thee, *be destroyed*. Thou shalt *not be affrighted* at them: for the LORD thy *God is among you, a mighty God and terrible*. (DEUTERONOMY 7:20-21)

III. Watch Providence Unfold

A. God will take down the enemy in the way which is best for His chosen people. And the LORD thy *God will put out those nations* before thee by *little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee.* (DEUTERONOMY 7:22)

B. God will do what must be done. But the LORD thy *God shall deliver them* unto thee, *and shall destroy them* with a mighty destruction, until they be destroyed. (DEUTERONOMY 7:23)

C. Nothing can stand against the people of God on duty in the service of their King. And *he shall deliver their kings into thine hand*, and thou shalt destroy their name from under heaven: *there shall no man be able to stand before thee, until thou have destroyed them.* (DEUTERONOMY 7:24)

D. Destroy the evil which corrupts and ensnares. *The graven images of their gods shall ye burn* with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold *that is* on them, nor take *it* unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for *it is an abomination to the LORD thy God.* (DEUTERONOMY 7:25)

E. It is irrational to attempt what is in itself destructive; only darkness can be compatible with darkness. *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:* for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and *what communion hath light with darkness?* (2 CORINTHIANS 6:14)

F. Keep the poison out of the system. *Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it,* and thou shalt utterly *abhor it;* for *it is a cursed thing.* (DEUTERONOMY 7:26)