

Date : 22 October 2023

Theme : Possessing our inheritance

Topic : **How does God keep His covenant of love**

Passage : Deuteronomy 7:12-26

Key verse : Deuteronomy 7:12-13 - If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the Lord your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your ancestors. He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers ...

Introduction:

Last week, we learnt how God impressed us with His love – by His protection, His instructions, His choice, and how we ought to express back our love to God – by our faith in God’s Word and our obedience to His commandments. (Deuteronomy 7:1-11).

Then Deuteronomy 7:12 follows that if we do so - pay attention and carefully follow God’s laws, God has promised to keep His covenant of love to help us obey Him. We will explore how God does that and pay special attention to His warning as to what robs us of our inner resolve to look ahead to future conquests.

1. How does God keep His covenant of love?

1.a. What is in God’s covenant of love?

Deuteronomy 7:13 - He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers.

i. He will love you.

Every book of the Bible, in its own way, is about the love of God because the whole Bible points to God’s ultimate act of love in Jesus. But there are specific books of the Bible where the theme of love takes a more central role. Of the 1st 5 books, God’s benevolence and love can be seen in creation, His provision after sin and deliverance from judgement in Genesis. Deuteronomy also mentions God’s love more than any other book of the first five books.

○ **God’s love for us is shown and spoken.**

Deuteronomy 7:9 “... He is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep his commandments.”

- This is a repeat when God first gave the 10 commandments in Exodus 20:5-6 which He said “... showing love to a thousand generations ...”
- Early historical narratives show us many things the Lord did for his covenanted people. Most, if not everything, that He did was out of His love for us. Even His discipline was out of love because He is our father, and we are His children. A father disciplines his children because he loves and cares about his children’s well-being and future.

○ **God’s love for us is not just in action, but also with affection.**

Deuteronomy 7:7 “The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other people”.

- The Lord is delighted to choose us as his people and as his treasured possession.
- He attributed us with of high worth and value, precious in His eyes.

○ **God’s love for us is demonstrated when He redeemed us.**

Deuteronomy 7:8 “... the Lord loved you ... and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt”.

- God has redeemed us today by paying the highest price – His one and only son Jesus.

ii. He will **ble**ss you.

- **Provision & Wealth**- In providing more than what we need. v13
 - We will not be in lack. No need to beg or borrow from others.
 - There will always be more than enough food, water, clothes so that we can lend, share, or give to others. that we can share with others.
 - And we will have abundance to accomplish even more.
- **Reproduction** - In reproducing children and spiritual generations. v13,14
 - We will not be barren, unfruitful, or childless.
- **Health** - In healing and health. v15
 - God will take away all sickness from us. We bounce back to health quickly.
 - We will have long and healthy life.
- **Above all** peoples. v14
 - God's special blessing and favour on us.
 - In school, we excel academically and have good relationship with people and teachers.
 - In the workplace, we are productive and have favour with people.
 - In our neighbourhood, we have opportunities to bless others.

iii. He will **in**crease you.

- In giving of **land** and extending the **boundaries** of our inheritance. v13
- In **enlarging** God's kingdom, through saving the lost, increase in effectiveness in raising disciples and leaders.

1.b. How does God keep His covenant of love?

- **He has promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, that He will do it. v12**
 - After 400 years of slavery in Egypt, the Israelites were not forgotten,
 - the Lord delivered the Israelites and gave them the land of Israel.
 - After 500 years of losing the land to the Babylonians,
 - the Lord brought the people back to Israel to live under the Roman empire rule.
 - After 1900 years of scattering after being crushed by the Romans in AD70,
 - The Lord brought the people back to Israel in AD1948
- **He has repeated His promises continually throughout the scripture.**
- **He has promised to cascade His blessings to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commands. v9**
 - His blessings are not just for us. God cares very much about the next and future generations, that they walk in His ways and come under His blessings.
 - Jesus repeated this in John 14:21 "Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them"
 - If we want to receive the love of Jesus and the Father, if we want Jesus to show Himself to us, we need to give attention to the listening, reading, and keeping of His Word and commands.

2. How does God address our fears in moving forward to take possession of our inheritance?

Deuteronomy 7:17-18 "You may say to yourselves, "These nations are stronger than we are. How can we drive them out?". But do not be afraid of them; remember well ..."

But God commands us not to be afraid or terrified. On what basis should we not be afraid or terrified? God says "Remember well" v18. We must remember well the following 4 Ps to overcome our fears.

2.a. Personal – God is our Lord God.

- We need to remember clearly. Who is our god?
- God repeats over and over "the Lord your God". The Lord is our God! Remember this well!

2.b. Power – God is the great, awesome and powerful God. v18,21

- God already demonstrated His great power of deliverance. v18
- Our own salvation is evidence that the Lord has overcome the devil. We must remember this well. The remedy for fear is memory.
- To remember God's invincible power through His past performance - His signs and wonders. v19.

2.c. Perform - God perform works in ways that you do not see. v20

- The Lord will send hornet against the enemies so that they will not be able to escape destruction.

2.d. Present – God is present; He is with us. v21

- Look forward to God enabling you to do the task ... will drive out. v22

The external strength required to do His will God will provide, but what about the inner resolve to resist the ways of the world?

3. What are the 2 main traps that undermine our blessings?

3.a. Coveting objects of idol worship

- **Deuteronomy 7:25** “The images of their gods you are to burn in the fire. Do not covet the silver and gold on them, and do not take it for yourselves, or you will be ensnared by it” and result in destruction. This does not authorize us to go around destroying the gods of others, which we have no authority over.
- Do not even bring them into your house and neither allow others to put them with you.
- Coveting anything that has to do with worship of the things God hates is a recipe for disaster, even if you don't worship such objects.

3.b. Having idols or participating in ungodly spiritual practices. v26

Having other gods breaks the 1st and 2nd of the 10 commandments. God's covenant is a loving and loyal relationship with us. Having other gods is being disloyal to God, thus breaking His covenant of love.

God's prohibitions are to protect His holy people.

What are the common snares in current times that constitute breaking the covenant?

- **God of Mammon**
 - Money, hobbies, tuition, holidays can become our master and god when making money supersedes worship time, making us unavailable for His instruction, equipping and bible reading. The Lord's day must not be compromised with Mammon, the god of wealth.
- **Fengshui, Fortune Tellers and Horoscopes**
 - These forms of divination can draw one away from dependence on God and to dabble with things beyond the natural into the spiritual realm.
 - People are deceived into believing that positions, cards, crystals, and deceased loved ones can give guidance, tell their future and give them a fortune.
 - Demonic powers open doors for curses to be released into our lives
 - Participating in them is breaking God's command as it turns us away from seeking God, His word and His guidance. Deuteronomy 18:9-13.
- **Syncretism.**
 - This is the blending of non-Christian religious ideas with Christian faith.
 - For example: For the sake of religious tolerance, we concede that all roads lead to heaven.
 - Is that the truth? Does the bible say so? Is this Jesus' teaching?
 - People make up their own ideas all the time. But as God's covenantal people, the truth is in His written Word.

Application

- Can you explain how God's love, blessing and increase can look like in your life? And what are the conditions to be recipients of these promises?
- What fears do you need to confront to seek God's covenantal blessings over worldly pursuits?