

Deuteronomy 28:1-68 (July 2, 2021)

Reflection: *Are there covenant blessings and curses in the New Covenant? If there are, please list a few of each.*

Read Deuteronomy 28:1-14

1. What did the Israelites have to do (covenant stipulation) to receive these blessing? How does this covenant stipulation relate to loving the Lord? (cf. Deu 6:4-7, 30:15-20)

2. From these verses, what are the covenant blessings they would receive from the Lord?

Read Deuteronomy 28:15-48, 58-68

3. In v.15-44, what are the covenant curses if the Israelites did not obey the Lord? From v.58-68, What are the final consequences that Israel will face if they continue in disobedience? Do you think Christians today will experience these curses if they fail to obey, explain what is different in New Covenant? (cf. Gal 3:13)

4. It says that Gods delights in “bringing ruin upon you and destroying you”. Read Ezekiel 18:32, how do you understand the tension between these two passages?

Read Deuteronomy 28: 49-57

5. Describe the character of God's agents that he will use against Israel found in v.49-52, and the horrific consequences the Israelites will experience at their hand given in v.53-57? Do these agents show up in Israel's history, if so, who are these agents and what do they do to Israel?

6. What is the value of this section on Old Covenant blessings and curses for us as Christians today?

7. What enables Christians to obey God's word and live out the Christian life?

In God's covenants, there are both promises and stipulations by which the people of God must trust in and abide. If Israel had been faithful to Him, then they would have flourished under God's covenant blessings. However, because Israel did not love and obey God, they experienced the curse of the Law. Indeed, there is a day nearing where a curse will fall on the entire world, and it will experience God's wrath and judgment. Thanks be to God that we are in Christ! That not only will we be saved, but we enjoy all the blessings of Heaven now and forever because of Christ. However, this chapter is a sober warning for us to test ourselves to see if we really love God and if that love for God motivates us to wholehearted obedience to Him. If this is not us, then we must repent and cling to the gospel for salvation.