

Focus on Blessing.

Shalom,

In the Torah portion for this week found in **Deuteronomy 26:1 - 29:8**, YHWH emphasizes the importance of maintaining focus on the Word of God by instructing His people to write the Torah on plaster-coated stones.

Deuteronomy 27:2 (TLV) ² Now on the day when you cross over the Jordan to the land that Adonai your God is giving you, you are to set up large stones for yourself and coat them with plaster.

Deuteronomy 27:8 (TLV) ⁸ You are to write on the stones all the words of this Torah very clearly."

Not only were they to have this visual reminder that God's Words were to be at the center of all that He had in store for them, but they were to continually hear these Words to remember that all the instructions of Torah present a choice to either hear and do, or to rebel and ignore; the choice to be blessed, or to be cursed

Deuteronomy 27:11-13 (TLV) ¹¹ Moses commanded the people on that day saying, ¹² "When you have crossed over the Jordan, these are to stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin. ¹³ For the curse these are to stand on Mount Ebal: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

Chapter twenty-eight of Deuteronomy is well known to most of us as the place where God lays out the blessings and curses, but I want you to notice that the beginning words for positioning ourselves for blessing, or refusing blessing, have to do with hearing.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2 (TLV) "Now if you listen obediently to the voice of Adonai your God, taking care to do all His mitzvot that I am commanding you today, Adonai your God will set you on high—above all the nations of the earth. ² Then all these blessings will come upon you and overtake you, if you listen to the voice of Adonai your God:

Deuteronomy 28:15 (TLV) ¹⁵ "But if you will not listen to the voice of Adonai your God, to take care to do all His mitzvot and statutes that I am commanding you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you:

YHWH wants us all to know that His will for mankind is blessing, and that He wants none of us to receive the wages of sin. His desire is that we all hear and choose to turn to Him, or repent.

2 Peter 3:9 (TLV) ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some consider slowness. Rather, He is being patient toward you—not wanting anyone to perish, but for all to come to repentance.

The way for us to repent, is to hear God's Word and **turn** ourselves to His ways through trusting, and while the verses regarding blessing and cursing in this portion speak of doing His commands, **the ability to "do" comes, not from just being good, but from trusting.** The fact is that until you hear and until you trust, the good works that you do count for nothing. However, once you put your trust in the Word of God, Yeshua the Messiah, as newborn babes we receive His sinless nature into our born-again spirits, and **as new creations in Him, the Living Torah is written in our hearts by His grace so that we can become doers of His Word.**

Jeremiah 31:32 (TLV) ³² "But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days" —it is a declaration of Adonai— "I will put My Torah within them. Yes, I will write it on their heart. I will be their God and they will be My people.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (TLV) ²⁶ Moreover I will give you a new heart. I will put a new spirit within you. I will remove the stony heart from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ I will put My Ruach within you. Then I will cause you to walk in My laws, so you will keep My rulings and do them.

Not only has God taken care of our future; He has also dealt with our past, for the devastation of the curse we had chosen through not hearing and disobedience is dealt with through the redemption of Jesus the Messiah.

Galatians 3:13-14 (TLV) Messiah liberated us from Torah's curse, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree")— ¹⁴ in order that through Messiah Yeshua the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so we might receive the promise of the Ruach through trusting faith.

All of this becomes a reality in us because we choose to hear the Word of God and choose to put our trust in Him.

Romans 10:17 (TLV) ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Messiah.

Trusting through hearing,
Terry