

October 3, 2023

A Mouth to Bless

Shalom,

In **Deuteronomy 26:1–29:8**, the portion known as **Ki Tavo** or “**When you enter**” emphasizes the importance of maintaining focus on the Word of God. To keep His instructions in mind, God ordered the people to write the Torah on plaster-coated stones.

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 27:2 TLV)

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

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**

Moses commanded the people on that day saying, “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. For the curse these are to stand on Mount Ebal: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.” (Deuteronomy 27:11-13 TLV)

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, are not in just doing, but **must start with hearing**. Pay close attention to the following words: **people can physically hear or read instructions and not really comprehend**. Often, we quickly react to directions, intending to obey, but **miss vital parts** of what is written or said. I want you to notice the way God phrases Deuteronomy 28:1.

“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.” (Deuteronomy 28:1 TLV)

There is more to hearing than just perceiving sound with your ears. To “**Listen obediently**” is translated from one Hebrew word, “**Shema**,” which is most often

rendered as “Hear,” but carries a deeper meaning of **“Hear intelligently,” “Diligently discern,” or “Perceive.”** I am realizing that, even though I read the Word of God, mostly aloud, I often **only hear myself** saying the words, and miss out on a wonderful gift of hearing God speak those words by His Spirit within me with His revelation. Believers can miss out on so much when they receive God’s Word as something they just obey without intimately knowing the Lord Who gave the Word. This hearing without relationship only produces **religious adherence** which often turns into **legalistic perversion** and **never leads to the full knowledge of the truth.**

We can hear and misunderstand the very words that are meant to give fullness of life. **We can become legal experts who argue about words** rather than **spending time with the One Who is speaking.** Many believe that God is mostly silent today and would be surprised and, undoubtedly, write a book if they heard Him speak. We have **become narrow in our expectation** and limit our understanding of a supernatural God to those things we only naturally perceive.

The Greek language has two words commonly translated, **“Word:” “Logos”** and **“Rhema.”** **“Logos”** has more to do with the **topic** or subject presented while **“Rhema”** is involved with utterance or **the spoken word.** It is becoming clear to me that most of us are satisfied to latch on to that which is written and, at the same time, neglect to **allow the Holy Spirit to speak those words within us with life-giving, transforming power.** We often say that we know the things of the Word because we have read them, and may even be able to recite them, but we do not really know them as we might. They have not become a reality in our hearts. We have read words, but we have not received **God’s Rhema within.**

The **good news** for us is that **God’s Rhema is not only available, but He is also willing to demonstrate and pour forth His mighty Word into the midst of us when we yield ourselves to Him.** Expect Him to fill you with revelation as you hear Him and His spoken Word. This is the place where we not only claim His promises, but we receive the revelation that they are already ours.

It is a matter of choice whether you will **really hear God’s voice in your heart,** or if you will be satisfied to just receive a surface knowledge. The blessings of the Lord flow to those who **choose to really hear the Word through the anointing of the Holy Spirit.**

*Then all these blessings will come upon you and overtake you, if you **listen** to the voice of Adonai your God: (Deuteronomy 28:2 TLV)*

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

*“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.”* Jeremiah 31:32 (TLV)

Really listening,
Terry

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