

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 29, 2024
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SERMON OUTLINE

STAY GROUNDED IN GOD'S WORD

DEUTERONOMY 29:1-29
REV. BOBOT ANDALIS

Deuteronomy 29 is part of the LORD's reminder through Moses. It was the time for the Israelites to take on the land that was promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

In this chapter, the LORD told Moses to make a covenant besides the covenant that he had made with them at Horeb (v. 1). The chapter reminded the Israelites of the LORD's miraculous works. He reminded the people what the LORD had done for them and what they needed to do before they crossed to the promised land. They were also reminded of the great trials and battles they had encountered. The LORD has freed them from Pharaoh. He provided deliverance as He faithfully gave them food, clothing, and shelter for the 40 years that they were in the wilderness. Their clothes did not wear out, and they lacked nothing—a powerful testimony of God's faithfulness. He emphasized, "Keep the words of this covenant and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do (v. 9)." Today, God's people must recognize God's faithfulness and commit to His Word (vv. 1-9).

Reflect on how the Lord has provided, protected, and sustained you throughout the year. Let these reminders deepen our commitment to trust and obey His Word. Renew your covenant with God by recognizing His faithfulness in your lives.

The covenant (vv. 10-15) is for all Israel. It included every member of the community: leaders, men, women, children, and even foreigners among them. In this section, the Lord wanted to re-establish His promise not only to the people of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob but to everyone. It was a commitment meant to extend to future generations. Moses stated, "This covenant is not with you alone, but also with those who are not here today (vv. 14-15)."

As parents, mentors, and church members, we have a responsibility to pass on the truths of God's Word to the next generation. We are to lead by example so that God's Word remains central in the lives of those around us. Make God's Word the foundation of every household and community.

Embrace God's Word as a covenant for your life, your family, and all people.

Amidst these realities, Moses warned Israel about the consequences of idolatry and covenant unfaithfulness. Rejecting God's Word leads to judgment, devastation, and separation from Him. "Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit" (v. 18). Israel was reminded to be vigilant in guarding their hearts and communities against compromise. Idolatry can be anything that takes priority over God in your life, such as wealth, success, or relationships. Examine your heart constantly and repent of anything that distracts you from God's Word. Guard your heart against turning away from God's Word (vv. 16-29).

In our sermon today, we will be reminded to always make God and His Word our priority. May we be challenged to stay grounded in God's Word and experience victory amidst the challenges in the coming year. ✨

ENDINGS AND NEW BEGINNINGS

REV. LITO VILLORIA

"And you will say in that day: 'Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.' ⁵ 'Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶ Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.'" - Isaiah 12:4-6

When we go through endings and experience new beginnings in life, there is always the challenging period of waiting. During this waiting period, we need to pause and rest upon God. Otherwise, we might get impatient and decide to do things we might regret. As we wait, it will also be wise to give thanks to God, declare His great works, proclaim His name and sing praises to Him!

In Isaiah 12, the prophet prophesied Israel will be regathered in the Promised Land and restored to her right standing before God. This will happen at the Second Coming of Christ in accordance with God's sovereign plan. It will be a day when they will praise God for His salvation. They will fully trust God and no longer fear Him. God will be their strength and hope.

"You will say in that day: 'I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you

might comfort me. ² 'Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.'" - Isaiah 12:1-2

"In that day", Israel will give thanks to God for His forgiveness and comfort. She will declare her trust and confidence in God who is the source of salvation and strength. And their hearts will be filled with joy in God's presence. Israel will experience the abundant blessings from God. They will give thanks to Him and declare His great works among all the people.

"With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say in that day: 'Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵ Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶ Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.'" - Isaiah 12:3-6

Isaiah 13 to 23 reveals God's judgment to the nations who rose against Israel. It was not written to be read by these nations. But, it was meant to assure Israel God will judge her enemies and affirm God will establish His kingdom according to His way and in His perfect timing. In God's appointed time, He will restore Israel back to her right standing before God. "In that

day" (Isaiah 12:1, 4), they will give thanks to God, declare His greatness, proclaim His name and sing praises to Him. It will be a glorious time for God's people! A time of great celebration of God's goodness, a joyous proclamation of God's greatness, and a powerful manifestation of God's glory!

Being followers of Christ, we, too, are recipients of God's promises and blessings to Israel. We too can look forward to the Second Coming of Christ, for we will take part in this exhilarating experience! From today until that time, let us keep directing people to Jesus so that in the end, we will hear these words of Jesus, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

As 2024 comes to an end and 2025 begins, there are three things we need to do. First, look back and thank God for His work in the past. Second, look around and thank God for His work in the present. And third, look forward and thank God for His work in the future.

On behalf of Linda, may you and your family have a great and joyful New Year! ✨

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