

Our God is Worthy and Wonderful!

Deuteronomy 10:1-22

Introduction – When God calls His people to trust and obey Him, He often does it in the context of a grand vision of Himself. In other words, God inspires our trust and obedience by showing us what He is like...

Deuteronomy 10:1-22

¹ At that time the LORD said to me, “Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones and come up to me on the mountain. Also make a wooden ark. ² I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. Then you are to put them in the ark.”

³ So I made the ark out of acacia wood and chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I went up on the mountain with the two tablets in my hands. ⁴ The LORD wrote on these tablets what he had written before, the Ten Commandments he had proclaimed to you on the mountain, out of the fire, on the day of the assembly. And the LORD gave them to me. ⁵ Then I came back down the mountain and put the tablets in the ark I had made, as the LORD commanded me, and they are there now.

⁶ (The Israelites traveled from the wells of Bene Jaakan to Moserah. There Aaron died and was buried, and Eleazar his son succeeded him as priest. ⁷ From there they traveled to Gudgodah and on to Jotbathah, a land with streams of water. ⁸ At that time the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister and to pronounce blessings in his name, as they still do today. ⁹ That is why the Levites have no share or inheritance among their fellow Israelites; the LORD is their inheritance, as the LORD your God told them.)

¹⁰ Now I had stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights, as I did the first time, and the LORD listened to me at this time also. It was not his will to destroy you. ¹¹ “Go,” the LORD said to me, “and lead the people on their way, so that they may enter and possess the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.”

¹² And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ and to observe the LORD’S commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

¹⁴ To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. ¹⁵ Yet the LORD set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations—as it is today. ¹⁶ Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. ¹⁷ For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. ¹⁸ He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. ¹⁹ And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. ²⁰ Fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. ²¹ He is the one you praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes. ²² Your ancestors who went down into Egypt were seventy in all, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky.

Exposition

I. Our God forgives (Vv. 1-9)

While the scene that precedes chapter 10 is quite grim, with the Israelites resorting to idol worship of a golden calf while Moses was still on Mt. Sinai receiving the 10 Commandments, in these verses, we get another glimpse of God’s gracious and merciful character toward His people. As one OT scholar, noted, “The second writing of the law and the gift of the tablets is indicative of the graciousness of God and the response of God to the intercession of Moses.”

If our God was not a forgiving God, there would have been no second writing of the law or giving of the tablets to the Israelites after their rebellion with the golden calf. What this teaches us is that while we fall short of God's intention for us and sin against Him, if we turn to Him, He will forgive us. For, He is the God who forgives our sins. As Isaiah 55:7 says, "Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon."

Free pardon and mercy are offered to us from our God. Forgiveness is available for all who call upon the LORD. But you say, "Someone must pay for my sins, otherwise God would be unjust." And you are right to say this. The penalty of our sins against this Holy God must be addressed. They must be dealt with. And this is where the beauty of the gospel is so clearly seen. In God's justice, He deals with our sins Himself in Jesus Christ. The righteous who takes the place of the unrighteous. That we, the unrighteous might be pardoned. And because of what God has done in Christ, forgiveness is available to all who would turn away from their sin to Him in faith. For our God forgives!

II. **Our God keeps His Word** (Vv. 10-11)

The second thing that we see in our text this morning is that God not only forgives, but He keeps His Word. Simply put, in these verses, we see God keeping His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob regarding their offspring growing and flourishing to enter the promised land that they might fulfill their purpose of being a blessing to all the peoples of the earth. Even though those patriarchs were gone from the scene, God's promise remained. He is faithful. He keeps His word.

For us, this principle gives us hope that God will fulfill every promise that He has made to us in Christ Jesus. He has promised us eternal life in the new heavens and new earth. A coming world with no more pain or tears. A world with no more cancer diagnoses or miscarriages or funerals. A world where death shall be no more. At times, it is hard to believe that such an existence can be real. It is so far removed from our present experiences. Yet, the promise of God's Word is sure. For, it comes from the God who always keeps His word. Even when it appears that He is slow in keeping His promise, there is always a purpose behind His timing. These verses teach us that our God is trustworthy. We can trust our God.

III. **Our God is worthy of our full allegiance** (Vv. 12-22)

Finally, as we come to verses 12-22, we find some of the richest language and imagery in the Bible. These verses describe how God desires His people to respond to Him. They should be fully allegiant to God. For, He is worthy. He desires more than our outward actions (though these are important), he desires our hearts to be engaged in our relationship to Him. We are to love Him! To serve Him! To walk in His ways! To revere Him! Why? Not so that we might become His people, but because by grace already are His people. He has made us His own, and we owe Him our lives.

Conclusion - When we fall short, He will forgive us. When we struggle to trust, He reminds us that He is faithful. He desires our full allegiance and affection as the God who is wonderful and worthy! Do you know this wonderful and worthy God?