

PRELUDE TO DEUTERONOMY

COMMENTATOR'S REMARKS

I spent all 12 months of the Jewish year 6000 (popularly believed to be 5700) in the five books of Moses. The volume of revelation that is Deuteronomy provided me with three months of engrossing study and thought and I laid down the task on the final day of the year.

A HITCH

My computer disliked one of my external drives and decided not to open. With the help of a friend I managed to get going again. However, meantime I transferred my work indoors attaching the external disc to my wife's laptop. By some quirk through a malfunction or misuse of the "save process" I then lost two chapters of the text. These chapters were 33-34. I was very disappointed but like the crew of Donald Campbell's son who in the same year won over vicissitude to capture the world land speed record for a steam vehicle I persevered and believe under God I have a richer commentary on these chapters on that account.

BACKGROUND

In Deuteronomy there are 70 references to Exodus events in the PAST TENSE but it has to be noticed that references to entry into Canaan are in the FUTURE TENSE. I have shared within the text that the element of hindsight comes not I think from the scribes of Josiah as some would have us believe but through the oral record of Joshua and the pen of PHINEAS son of ELEAZAR.

A BOOK WHICH COMMENDS THE LOVE OF GOD

Thirty One times the word LOVE occurs. It occurs 22 times as AHAB and 3 as "covenant kindness" and 2 times as variants of "tender love" RAHGAM, 3 times as "desire" HASHAQ and once as HABAB "**Lover of the people**" Deut.33.3 I have checked George WIGRAM'S Hebrew concordance for the details and refer serious students to this source should they wish to pursue study of this profitable aspect of the Law further. From the commentary itself you can pick up all these instances which demonstrate the essential character of the God of the Old Testament.

THE PRINCIPLE OF "THE BAN" OR "DEVOTING A NATION TO DESTRUCTION"

Whilst the worship of MOLECH and the inhumane practice of child sacrifice offered so that every new home could be built and dedicated over the corpse of a child or baby would seem adequate reason for the Ban other factors are also in play. First from God's angle the "iniquity of the Amorite" was to become such that He commanded the associated nations be put to the sword. Second the repetition of the practice of endemic iniquity by Israel who did in part get enmeshed also factors into the command. (Deut.7.4)

THE ROOTING OUT OF SOCIAL EVIL AND POVERTY

"There shall be no poor among you...if only you fully obey the LORD"

Mechanisms for ensuring that poverty did not raise its head were put in place.

1. Interest free loans 15.1-3 & 23.19-20
2. Yearly leave for the poor to glean un-harvested produce and Sabbatical year crops Lev 19.10 and 23.22
3. Preservation of family capital by the Jubilee year principle Lev 25 13-14
4. Impartial Justice Ex 23 3, 6
5. Voluntary service for maintenance and seven years of training to provide for oneself Deut. 15.12-18
6. Organised collections taken on the third year to be given to the alien, to fatherless children and widows Deut 14. 28-29

OCCULT PRACTICE

Deuteronomy 18 states that the LORD is willing to supernaturally guide us by prophecy and through Christ whom He promised (Deut 18.18) so sorcery witchcraft mediums and the like are under God's condemnation and their detestable practices are to be eschewed. Deut.18 9-13