

## Deuteronomy Part 3

# Chapter 7.12-11.25 **"HOLDING ON TO GOD"** bq[ **"OBEDIENCE"**

### Introduction

#### A NOTE ON THE TITLE AND THE NAME "JACOB"

*The basic meaning of the Hebrew title of the section bq[ is "to the end" or "extremity" and as the heel is the "extremity" of the body it is well named. The "extremity" of Israel's future history is explored prophetically within this book and somewhat in this section of the book. The word is translated "retard" in Job 37.4 and Gesenius introduces from the Arabic the idea of "to come from behind". Something of the Hebrew idea of "arched" or "curved" or "bent" Hebrew bbq is also suggested in the root of this word. It has even been suggested from the connection with "elevated" Hebrew bbq that the word carries the significance "to come from behind" as the heel arch rises. With the vocalisation and position of the word in this text it generally means "continually" or "to the end" and is rendered simply "because" though I shall render it "taking hold". With the addition of a YADH (Hebrew y) we have the name "Jacob". This section supplies us with a "Pun" on the name of the Patriarch and is about "Continuance in our relationship with God-"holding on to God" in obedience is the subject matter of this section.*

### READING No.1 7.12-8.10

#### OBEDIENCE LEADS TO VICTORIOUS LIVING

And it shall be **"taking hold"** you shall listen to these judgements and keep and do them then the **LORD your God** will keep covenant with you and his covenant mercy which He swore to your fathers. Israel was to be as tenacious of obedience as Jacob was in holding Esau's heel and of the birthright. In a sense the things of God were Israel's birthright. He will love you with deep desire and bow low to bless you [This is **prophetic TORAH** worked out in the advent of Messiah] and make you great numerically and stoop to bless the fruit of your womb, the fruit of your field, your grain, your new wine, your oil, the calf of your herd, the armours of your flocks [meaning the affections or amorous attachment-a counter to ASHTAROTH-the pagan god-because the LORD is behind the increase of the flocks] upon the land He swore to your Fathers to give you. You will be blessed more than any other people and none among you will be childless or your animals without progeny The LORD promised to bless Israel above all other peoples. Despite their failures and divine discipline they have been highly favoured-and not least when the Almighty stooped to favour the Virgin Mary and the nation with the birth of the Christ. The LORD will "remove from you" all disease [Hebrew ylj "internal" Deut 7.15 or "external" Isaiah 1.5.] and all the evil sickness with vomiting [Hebrew hwd] of the Egyptians which you have known personally He will not set on you but He will give them to all who hate you. The promise holds out "health" in the future as opposed to "sickness" in the past. It requires much faith to believe in such a change. The strengthening of viruses is our current experience but when the LORD comes this process can be halted-indeed by divine healing it can also be stopped. cf Isaiah 53.5 You must make an end to all the people **the LORD your God** gives you. Do not let your eye spare or grieve for them and do not serve their gods for they will be a trap for you. For you might think in your mind, "These nations are stronger than we are, how can we drive them out? Do not fear them; keep in mind that which the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and all the Egyptians. Your own eyes saw the great trials and the signs and wonders and the mighty hand and outstretched arm with which **the LORD your God** brought you out. Thus **the LORD your God** will do to all the peoples whose faces you fear. And **the LORD your God** will send the hornet before you until all the remnant who have hidden from your face have perished. This "scourge" is literally "wasps" {Hebrew h[rx] }but it is so nearly related to the term for leprosy in 2 Kings 1.27; 15.5 that either a plague of wasps or scabby leprosy may be understood. Do not be terrified by them for **the LORD your God** in the midst of you is a great and terrifying God. The LORD will drive out these nations before your face **little by little**; you will not be enabled or permitted to completely drive them out quickly lest the wild beast of the field grow numerous upon you. The

**LORD your God has given them great depths of confusion** [*Hebrew mmj like mmj t*] until they are destroyed. I have given their kings into your hand and you will destroy their name from under heaven. **No man will be able to stand as a victor** before your face till you have destroyed them. Burn their images of gods in the fire. **Do not covet the silver or gold** upon them and take it for yourself lest it be a trap to you for it is an abomination to **the LORD your God**. Do not bring the abominable thing into your house or you will be under a ban like it. Loathe the abominable because it is under a total ban. *The people of Canaan are compared by the LORD to "the troubled sea" moving away from any approach of the forces of Israel. Israel was assured of outright and repeated victory. The people were not to covet silver or gold-this command was breached early in the conquest by ACHAN.*

## **CHAPTER 8 OBEDIENCE OF FAITH LEADS TO LIFE (ETERNAL)**

Be vigilant to keep every command that I command you today in order that you may live and continually increase in numbers and come and possess the land which the LORD swore to your Fathers and remember all the way which **the LORD your God** lead you these 40 years in the desert to humble you so as to test by trial to know intimately if you would keep His commandments in your heart or not. He humbled you and starved you and caused you to eat manna of which you had no personal experience nor had your fathers in order that He might give you personal awareness that man does not live on bread alone for man lives by every command of the mouth of the LORD. *Our LORD went through exactly the same test-one day for every year of Israel's trials-and pronounced this divine maxim, "Man does not live on bread alone but by every word that God is speaking"(Matthew 4.4)* This is a **prophetic TORAH** of Christ. It is written a foretime to show that Messiah who is the source of His people's life. Your clothes did not wear out nor did your foot swell from being lifted up over these forty years. Know then in your heart that the LORD God disciplines you as a man disciplines his son. Keep the commands of **the LORD your God** to walk in His ways and fear Him. For **the LORD your God** has caused you to come to a good land, a land of rivers of water, fountains gurgling or melting [*Hebrew tmht*] flowing into the valleys and in the hills; a land of wheat and barley, wild vine and fig, pomegranate olive oil and honey. A land where there is no want of bread to eat, where you will lack nothing, A land whose rocks are iron and from whose hills you can mine bronze. When you have eaten and are sufficed bless the **LORD your God** for the good land He has given you.

### **READING No.2 8.11-9.3**

#### ***Prophetic TORAH of Christ***

Watch yourselves continually lest you forget **the LORD your God** to grow careless or worthless in keeping His commands, judgments and decrees which I am commanding you today lest you eat and are satisfied when you build good houses and you rest. *This form of Shabbat is rather more resting on one's laurels and feeling comfortable and certainly is not resting on the LORD.* When your herds and flocks increase and your silver and gold and all you have increases your heart will become uplifted and you will forget **the LORD your God** who brought you from the land of Egypt-the house of slaves. He led you effectively through the great and dreadful desert of fiery snakes and scorpion; an arid land where there was no water and brought you water from the flinty rock [*Hebrew vjmlj*] He caused you to eat Manna in the desert-which your fathers never knew about, to humble and test you in order to be good to you in your latter end. *The MANNA is a clear prophetic TORAH of God's purpose in Christ. The Patriarchs did not experience the exclusive sustenance of Manna-the desert trekkers themselves queried what it was-since it had such unique features-being skin like and pock marked. It was a sign that Christ alone would save and sustain Israel in the latter day and their continual dependence would be upon Him whom they would come to obey.*

You will say, "My power and the strength of my arm have made this wealth for me. But remember the **LORD your God** for He gave you power to make wealth in order that He might establish the covenant which He swore to your fathers as at this day. But it shall be if you keep forgetting **the LORD your God** and go after other gods serve them and worship them I testify against you today that gradually you will be destroyed. As the nations that the LORD destroyed before your faces so you will be destroyed continually or **to the extremity** [*Hebrew bq[ ]*] for not listening to the voice of **the LORD your God**.

## CHAPTER 9

Her O Israel you are today crossing the Jordan to go and possess nations greater and stronger than you with great cities fortified to the heavens. The people are great and tall-the ANAKITES which you know about and you have heard it said, "Who can stand and face the sons of ANAK?" But you will today experience (this reality) for *the LORD your God* will cross before you like a devouring fire. He will destroy them and he will destroy them before your face and cause them to be dispossessed and to be destroyed quickly according to what the LORD promised you. [cf 7.22 *The proviso on wild beasts*]

### READING No.3 9.4-29 FIVE-FOLD DISOBEDIENCE RECORDED

Do not say in your hearts through *the LORD your God* repulsing them from before you -this is *because of my own righteousness* that the LORD has caused me to possess the land; this is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD repulsed before your face. It is not because of the rigid right or vindication [Hebrew *qdx*] or the level nature of your own heart [Hebrew *rvj*] that you are going to possess the land but because of the wickedness of these nations the LORD God will cause them to be repulsed before your face and in order to lift up the promise He swore to your fathers, Abraham Isaac and Jacob. You should also know that it is not for your own righteousness that the LORD God gave you this land because you are a people with a stiff neck. Remember and do not ever forget how you provoked the LORD God to anger in the desert. From that day when you left the land of Egypt to this very day *you have lived lives embittered* against the LORD.

(1) And in HOREB you caused the LORD to be provoked and the LORD grew angry enough to lay you waste as a nation. When I went up the mountain to get the tablets of stone, tablets of the covenant which the LORD cut with you **I remained in the mountain 40 days and nights not eating or drinking water** *Moses never forgot how he survived without difficulty such an extended period without water in the desert. This was a testimony to the people who believed that he was dead. Moses contrasts the happiest 40 days of his desert life with God to the 40 years desert life with a bitter people.* And the LORD gave me the two tablets of stone cut by the forefinger of God and upon them all the words that the LORD spoke with you from the midst of the fire on the day of gathering. And at the end of 40 days and 40 nights the LORD gave me these stone tablets of covenant. And the LORD said to me, "Go down from this quickly for the people which you caused to come from Egypt have defiled themselves and turned quickly from the way that I continually commanded and made an image for them by pouring out (metal). The LORD said to me, "I have seen this people and behold they are a stiff necked people". Desist from me (or) **go and relax** [Hebrew *hpr*] on your own and I will "blot out this people" [Hebrew *hjm* "take out the marrow from the bone" which is suggestive of a leukaemia style plague] and I will wipe out their name from under heaven, and I will make of you a people greater and more numerous than them. I wheeled around and went down the mountain -the mount was blazing with fire and I had the two tablets of stone in both arms. And I looked and behold you had sinned against the LORD and made for yourselves a molten calf and apostatized quickly from the way which *the LORD your God* commanded. *After a spate of 19 references to the lord your God Moses withdraws the expression in response to Israel's sin and God's anger.* So I seized (or) handled them [as a bow with arrows] **with both hands** and sent them from both my arms and shattered them in pieces before your eyes. *Moses is demonstrating that he laid the tablets which he had in either hand down. He then took them both-at the top and bottom and threw them upon the ground.*

And I fell on my face before the LORD as before for 40 days and 40 nights eating no bread and drinking no water because of all your sin which you sinned to do this evil in the LORD'S eyes causing Him to be provoked. For I was afraid [Hebrew *ryj* "to turn aside from fear"] from the appearance of the anger and hot wrath which was breaking out against you [*pxq* "like splinters" shooting many ways toward the people] but the LORD was listening to me also through this one single step or anvil blow. *It is as if Moses struck one great blow in favour of Israel-he took one giant step for the nation's life-he made one urgent demand on God to save the people. This also is a prophetic TORAH of Calvary when the Herculean step of self sacrifice of our redeemer brought us salvation out of the fire of divine wrath.* And the sinful thing you made-the calf-I took and burned it in the fire and I beat it small and ground it

in a corn mill to do (you) good (or) do my best [*Hebrew bfyh*] with it until it was small as dust and I sent the dust on the river that flowed down from the mountain.

(2) At TABERAH and

(3) MASSAH and

(4) KIBROTH HATTA AVAH your lives or way of life provoked the LORD. And the LORD sent you from

(5) KADESH BARNEA saying, "Go up, take possession of the land" you rebelled against the mouth of the LORD your God and did not cause yourselves to believe Him or **obey** His voice. Your lives or way of life has been rebellious against the LORD from the day I got to know you. I was falling down before the LORD 40 days and 40 nights where I had cast myself down because the LORD said He would destroy you. And I interceded as an attorney with the LORD and said, "O LORD God (1) do not destroy Your people and Your inheritance which You have redeemed by Your Greatness-which You brought out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand; (2) remember Your servants Abraham Isaac and Jacob; (3) Do not look upon the difficulty or obstinacy of this people their wickedness and their sin lest the land from which you brought us say, the LORD was not able to bring them to the land he promised because He hated them He has brought them out to die in the desert. (4) But these are Your people and Your inheritance which You brought out by your Great power and stretched out arm. *This fourfold plea*

*(1) Begins with the nature of God Himself and the loving kindness behind His redemption*

*(2) It asks that the LORD consider the natural line of promise (though God was emphatic only of "the" seed-nevertheless all Israel were "children of Israel")*

*(3) Most amazing of all he pleads that God not see sin-this by-passing could only be for Christ's sake.*

*(4) He pleads the reputation of the LORD among the nations and His keeping power displayed in His people.*

#### READING No.4 10.1-11

### MOSES COMBINES THE LAW AND THE ARK BOTH OF WHICH ABIDE TILL THIS DAY AS TESTIMONY TO THE SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY OF YAHWEH

(1) **At that time** (at Sinai) the LORD said to me, "Hew out for you two tablets of stone like the first and come up to me on the mountain. Also make for yourself a chest of wood. I will write upon the tablets the words which were on the first tablets which you broke and put them in the chest." And I made an ark of Shittim wood and cut out two stone tablets like the first and ascended the mountain with the two tablets in my arms. And He wrote on the tablets as He had written on the first -the ten words which the LORD your God spoke from the midst of the fire in the day of assembly and the LORD gave them to me. And I turned round and came down the mountain and placed the tablets in the ark I had made and there they are just as the LORD commanded.

(2) And the children of Israel struck camp from the wells of the sons of JEAKEN (adorned with necklace) to MOSERAH (bind or band). There Aaron died and was buried and ELEAZAR his son became priest in his stead.

(3) From there they moved to GUDGODAH (thunder or "beat")

(4) And from GUDGODAH to YATBATAH (place of "goodness"), a land with rivers of water. **At that time** the LORD separated the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of covenant the LORD; to wait or stand before the LORD to minister and to bless in His name to this very day. For this reason Levi had no lot or inheritance with his brothers. The LORD was his inheritance as the LORD your God said to him. I stayed on the mountain forty days and nights as on the first time and the LORD listened to me also on this occasion (this "strike on the anvil"-this "step" I took meaning a vital moment) **The LORD was not willing to cause you to be destroyed.** [*The Hebrew hba means "He had "no wish" "no need" or "inclination"-the word is built on "Father". The father heart of God loved his erring children*] And the LORD said to me. "Rise up to go before the face of the people and they will go and possess the land which I swore to their fathers to give them."

## READING No.5. 10.12-11.9

### OBEDIENCE BEGINS WITH LOVE

**And now (3)** O Israel what does the LORD your God ask of you but that you fear the LORD your God to walk in all His ways and to love Him and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and all your soul; to keep the commandments and the ordinances of the LORD which I am commanding you today and it will be well with you? Behold the heavens belong to the LORD your God; the heaven of heavens, the earth and all that is in it. Certainly the LORD desired or joined with your fathers to love you and He chose them and their seed in your house from all the peoples **as at this day**. Circumcise the impurity of your hearts [*Hebrew* *lr* [ "*profanity*" ] and be not stiff-necked any longer. For the LORD your God He is God of gods and LORD of Lords, a great and warrior God who will not show partiality or take a bribe. He takes up the cause of the fatherless and widow and loves the stranger giving him food and an outer garment. And you should love the stranger for you lived as aliens in the land of Egypt. Fear the LORD your God and serve Him and take your oaths in His name. *A fundamental doctrine of God is being developed by Moses. The principles are these:-*

- (1) *God is love*
- (2) *God calls by election out of love*
- (3) *God chooses that we become holy and obedient*
- (4) *God is supreme and sovereign*
- (5) *God is able to strive victoriously for right and compassionate to defend the needy.*
- (6) *God expects us to act alike lovingly and compassionately.*
- (7) *God's name is Yahweh*

He is your praise; He is your God who did these great and awesome signs with you which you saw with your own eyes. With 70 souls your father went down to Egypt and now the LORD your God has set you as the stars of the heavens.

### CHAPTER 11.1-9 CONTINUANCE IN OBEDIENCE BRINGS LONG LIFE

Love the LORD your God and continue to keep His ordinances judgments and commandments all the days.

- (1) Be surely aware today that your sons did not know and did not see the discipline of the LORD your God; the greatness of His hand and the strength of His outstretched arm, His signs and doings in the midst of Egypt before Pharaoh King of Egypt and all his land.
  - (2) And what He did to the army of Egypt, its horses and chariots when He overwhelmed their faces in waters of the Red Sea and the LORD pursued them and destroyed them at this sea.
  - (3) And what He did for you in the desert till He brought you to this place.
  - (4) And what He did to DATAN and ABIRAM sons of ELIAB son of REUBEN when the earth opened her mouth and swallowed them, their houses, their tents and everything that stood up on their feet in the midst of Israel. It was your eyes that saw all these great things the LORD did.
- Keep all the commands I command you today that you may be strong to go over and seize the land which you are going to possess.

(1) And on that account **your days will be long** on the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them and their seed, a land flowing with milk and honey. *A section that exhorts to perpetual vigilance calls the people to speak to their children of the "work" of the LORD. The work in question involved "chastening" [rsy] and defence and providential provision and guidance and discipline (cf DATHAN) The Redemption of the NT is also accompanied by these four evidences of God's work in our lives each of which plays its part in establishing obedience.*

## READING No.6 11.10-21

### OBEDIENCE REDUCES ENNUI

But the land which you are going to possess is not like the land of Egypt which you left where you planted your seed and watered it with your foot as a garden of greens *The time-honoured procedure of drawing a channel for water using the heel and walking along in it to ensure a steady flow of water from the Nile canals was suited to the sandy soil of Egypt.*

- (1) The land you are crossing to possess is a land that drinks water from the rain of heaven.
- (2) It is a land that the LORD your God visits or to which He applies Himself. [*Hebrew* *vrđ*]

(3)The eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginnings of the year to the ends of the year. *The beginnings in March April saw the Passover and the **latter rains** followed by the Barley harvest. The second phase of beginnings was the dry season with early figs, wheat and grapes. The earliest endings comprised of the olive harvest and **early rains** of September October followed by ploughing and sowing in October -November and **rains** in December-January with snow on Hermon and the hills as the Almond blossom or "awakener" heralded the beginning all over again. The LORD visited the land with productivity and reduced the toil and labour required to sustain fertility. And it shall be if you obey the commands that I am giving you this day to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and soul*

(4)I will give you the rain of your land in its season, both the early and latter rain

(5)And you shall gather your harvest of cereal new wine and new oil and

(6)I will provide grass in your field for cattle

(7)And you yourselves shall eat your fill.

### **DISOBEDIENCE SHUTS HEAVEN 16-17**

Watch yourselves lest you open your hearts and deviate or move away and serve other gods and cause yourselves to bow to them. The anger of the LORD will burn against you and He will shut the heavens and there will be no rain and the fertile fields will give no increase and you will quickly be destroyed from the good land that the LORD is giving you.

### **SIGNS OF OBEDIENCE 18-21**

(1) Place or set these words like pillars in the house of your hearts and in the house of your souls;

(2) Bind them [*Hebrew rvq*] symbolically on your arms;

(3) Let them be as bracelet bands between your eyes.

(4) Teach train and accustom your sons to them by speaking of them while resting in your house

(5) Teach them while walking in the way

(6) Teach them as you retire to sleep

(7) Teach them when you rise up.

(8) Teach them on the door frames of your houses. *Ancient Tephillim or Phylacteries from the early centuries of the Common Era appear as "twin scrolls"-suited to fixing either side of the door so that the word of God would surround the believer.*

(9)Teach them on your gates-

-in order that your days and those of your sons may be many in the land which the LORD your God swore to your forefathers to give-(that your abiding may be) -as many as the days of the heavens and the earth. *The promise that Israel would be as the sand of the sea and the stars of the heavens becomes much clearer here-as a nation they would indeed increase but more significantly they would live in the land of Israel as long as the present heavens and the present earth should endure- i.e. as long as the "stars" and the "sand" exist. This is no gratuitous statement but an implicit encouragement to the people to believe that they could outlast the creation itself as God's faithful obedient children. The statement is also **prophetic TORAH** holding forth promise of **Messiah's kingdom** which will conclude the use of the present world.*

### **READING No.7AND SUMMARY 11.22-25 BLESSINGS THAT FOLLOW OBEDIENCE**

Because when observing you keep all these command which I command you to do-

(1) To love the LORD your God,

(2) To walk in all His ways and

(3) To damask or join you to Him...

(1)Then the LORD will cause all these nations to be driven out before your face and you will possess (the lands of) nations greater and stronger than you.

- (2) Every place where the sole of your foot treads will be for you - from this desert to the Lebanon - from the river - "River of sweet taste" (Euphrates) [*Hebrew hrpa meaning "sweet tasting"*] to the Western (Mediterranean) Sea shall be your borders.
- (3) No man shall cause himself to stand or settle before your face.
- (4) The LORD your God will cause the terror and fear of you on the face of the whole land where you walk as the LORD promised

The End of Part 3 "Obedience that holds on to God"