

Deuteronomy **Part 2**

Chapter 3.23-7.11 "**Prayer**" *nnj ta*

"THE GRACE OF GOD"

introduction

*The heading and focus of this section of the book is the "Prayer of Moses" *nnj ta* though the section (Part 2) itself is not about "Prayer" but about that "Grace" *nnj* that is the root or base word of the Hebrew word for "Prayer"*

Deuteronomy (the second law) continues with Moses importuning God another time for the relaxing of His ban on Moses' entrance to Canaan. This prayer gives us the gist of God's response and the spirit of it. The absence of new truth did not mean, however, that Moses prayer life had come to an end. It displayed the sufficiency of Truth as now revealed to point prophetically ahead on Israel's journey. In this book we have inspired passages which must have come out of Moses' time with God-which would have increased not diminished now that sequential leadership was in place. Along with Joshua he ministered in prayer at the Tent of Meeting. We have no new "words" but necessary reiteration of previous Torah which confirms that Moses ministry is closing yet we have vintage Moses in "dreams" of the great future God had planned. Moses like John the divine warns God' people of latter day blessing and judgement.

Over this period below Pisgah in the plain of Moab Moses is encouraging a new generation in the prophetic Torah of God and acting as a spiritual support to its now well trialled leader Joshua.

READING No.1 3.23-4.3

MOSES' ENTREATS FOR GRACE 23-25

I had implored or sought favour through or near the LORD at that time (when Moses divided Moab AMMON and BASHAN between Reuben Gad & Manasseh and inspired Joshua for battles in Canaan) saying, "O LORD God you have caused praise through showing your servant your greatness and your strong hand in prophecy. For who is god in heaven and earth who will do as YOU have done and as you have prevailed in warrior fashion? I pray that I may pass over and see the good land which is at and beyond the house of the ford of Jordan; this good hill country and Lebanon. *Moses prayer seemed to request just getting beyond the ford and then went to the hills beyond and then made bold to request walking in the Lebanon range. It would seem from context in the NT that the transfiguration which answers this prayer in large measure occurred in the Lebanon area and that Messiah kept a tryst 1300 plus years later in respect of this matter.*

BECAUSE OF YOU 26

But belonging partly or **in a portion** to you [The Hebrew text has a *l* of relationship and a *m* of proportionate responsibility] the LORD has been **passing by in wrath** [Others have "has been pouring himself forth in wrath"-but it is not reflexive] Moses had seen the LORD "pass by" {Hebrew *rb*[]} when God refused to allow him see His face-this time in a different way God had curtailed the colloquy or "passed from Moses" but not before He instructed Moses **to complete his ministry** as He did with Elijah later. The corresponding verses in 4.21-22 "The LORD had been "furious" with me [Hebrew *pn* as distinct from *rb* in 3.26] (on the well-known separate occasion at the rock) **on account of your deeds or actions** and swore that as for me there should be no passing the Jordan and there would be no question of me coming into the good land which the LORD is giving you to inherit. Had it been merely the "words at the rock" it would have been no different because in Numbers 20.10 God said the "trust"

that "honoured God" was lacking and consequently the ministry was curtailed and the possibility of either Aaron or Moses leading beyond Jordan had ended at or near KADESH. One of Moses great final speeches had at its heart "do not forget the LORD"(I. e. learn from my mistake) Deut 8.15. Israel's rebellion of Numbers 14 (Lets appoint leaders and go back) was forgiven by Moses intercession and the anger of Exodus 32 (when they made them a calf and said, "these be your gods") was appeased when Moses said, "Blot me out of Your book"-the occasion when God could have done different-dispensed with the tribes and made Moses a very great nation -in which instance the "Rock incident" would not have taken place.

MOSES "PASSED OVER" -DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY AND HISTORY MOSES AND THE DOCTRINE OF GOD - MOSES IN PERSON IS A PROPHETIC TORAH OF CHRIST THE MEDIATOR

The writer to the Hebrews sagely observes that Moses might have "enjoyed the pleasures of sin for a season"(Hebrews 11.25) at the outset and failed of his mission to lead Israel out of Egypt-but he did not. In the following exordium it will appear clear that God knew his Moses just as Moses knew his God. Like David he was a "man after God's own heart" **and loved mercy or grace.** It becomes transparent that immediately Moses determined to act **vicariously** the die was cast that he would not be himself the centre of a great nation God could create to His glory but would stand with the people of Israel. Israel in turn by their rebellion would test his great meekness to breaking point so that his faith would be tarnished by sin and one lapse into anger would promote a rebuke that allowed his conceit and self-justification to overshadow the glory of God. Even in those earlier days God promised Moses Rest and his presence but only that he would reach the verge [Hebrew 1a] of Israel[Exodus 33.1]The option offered to Moses..."I WILL DESTROY THIS PEOPLE AND MAKE OF YOU A GREAT NATION" has vast implications-the covenants with David would not exist nor the book of Psalms. Salvation would have **ARISEN FROM ANOTHER PLACE** albeit **by the only Redeemer** and the prophecies of Isaiah (who sprung from Judah) would not exist. Even the manner of setting righteousness among the Gentiles **would not have involved Paul** (who was of the tribe of Benjamin) and we would have none of his epistles. We have to recognise that the alternative would have been to the glory of God because it would still be Christ centred-but the point Moses made about God's covenant promises to the patriarchs was right to make. One of the implications of this "vicarious act of Moses was that he became a great **TORAH** of the coming mediator and of his sufferings. His one act out of concert with his chosen role was "striking the rock" and although it received severe punishment it demonstrated that a Mediator with "only one sin" could not bring God's people into rest. Through Moses' failure Christ's credentials of **perfection** appear more clearly. Like the test of Abraham at MORIAH so was **the test of Moses** at Sinai where Aaron proposed another god and God proposed another future. In all this time the LORD continued to show His love to Moses and indeed Moses is recorded as dying "by the kiss of the LORD (virtually in the arms of God) and it is further recorded that "God buried him". His presence at the Mount of transfiguration with Elijah -a prophet born in the land of Gad & Manasseh is very significant. Elijah like Moses had a deep grasp of divine grace and he like Moses prayed mightily for his people.(James in speaking in the context of Elijah's wrestling for Israel and the soul of Ahab says, "Remember; whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover a multitude of sins) The LORD summarily ended Elijah's mighty ministry by instructing him to encourage his successor The divine actions bespeaks an uncommon alliance of heart and steadfast purpose between these prophets and their God who desired them in His nearer presence and purposed to use them uniquely in far off future days.

MOSES MEDIATION HIGHLIGHTS GOD'S GRACE

Moses also pleaded for "grace" and so ironically the principle figure associated with the law is the one to whom we owe most in OT history for the prevailing operation of Grace against vengeance In Exodus 32.14 we read "Then the LORD felt compassion and did not bring about the judgment of which He had spoken." Moses had come to the heart of divine love and his writing shows that he knew God intimately and understood the LORD rejoiced to waive judgement as a God of all grace. " This voyage of understanding God was completed in Exodus 34.7 when the LORD revealed Himself as One who is **"compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to**

thousands, and forgiving iniquity rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation."

MOSES RECEIVES GRACE TO VARY HIS MINISTRY TO BACK UP & ENCOURAGE 27-29

Go up to the top of Pisgah and lift your eyes toward the Sea, northward, southward and towards sunrise and look into the distance with your eyes for you will not cross this Jordan. *Moses saw the land from which Jews would reach the world as the nation spread. He would see the Northern Mountains where one day he was to stand by the LORD Jesus -and from whence the Assyrian would come down like a wolf on the fold. He was to look south toward Egypt the land that would share cities and faith with Israel in the end times and east from where Abraham came-and like Abraham think of a great land the LORD would give to Abraham's seed a long way in the future.* Appoint Joshua and confirm him or assist him and train him to be alert or instant [*Hebrew xma*] for he will pass over before the face of this people and cause them to inherit the land **that you will see.** *In this last phrase is rather more than looking in the distance while standing on Pisgah. There lies in this a promise of Moses seeing the land-which was not made good for over 1300 years. And we remained settled in the valley of BETH PEOR.*

CHAPTER 4.1-4

Hear and obey O Israel the statutes and the judgements which I have constantly taught you. Do them that you may "live" and "go in" and "seize" or "claim by dispossessing" the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you. Do not add to or take away from the commands that I commanded you in keeping the commands which I the LORD your God commanded you. You saw with your own eyes what the LORD did at Baal PEOR to every man who went after Baal PEOR [*"Husband" of the "mountain gap" or "open mouth"*] the LORD destroyed from your midst but you who stuck close to the LORD your God are still alive today. *The Hebrew word qbd speaks of an intimate relationship of "cleaving" "soldering" or "inlaying".*

READING No.2 4.5-40 PROPHETIC TORAH (5-11)

"Look prophetically" [*Hebrew har*]-I have taught you decrees and judgements as the LORD God commanded me that you may do them in the land which the LORD your God is bringing you in to possess. Observe them and do them for it is your wisdom and understanding in the eyes of the nations who will hear about all these **decrees.** They will say "this great nation **alone** is a wise and understanding people" For who is a nation that has God near to it as our God in everything concerning which we call on Him? Who is a nation that has all the righteous decrees and judgements of God as I have given this entire **TORAH** before you this day? *The completeness of the Torah is the completeness of the prophetic indicators of Messiah's person and work and ultimate kingdom. To set this before Israel was Moses' mission. Whilst he spoke of the present dangers he went on to deal with specifics of the latter day and to remind the nation of salvation history in the past.*

(i) WE ARE TO BE WATCHFUL AND PRAYERFUL AS WE SEEK GRACE TO DEAL WITH THE PRESENT 9-26 "WATCH NOW"

One thing **only**-watch yourself and (a) **watch your soul very greatly** lest you forget the things your eyes have seen and they escape from your heart every day you live. *Moses is talking to the individual. He probably talked to Joshua in the first instance and then it was set down in the Torah.* Teach them to your sons and their sons. **The day when you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb when He said to me, "Gather to me the people that they may hear the words which they will learn so that they may fear me all the days when they are alive in the fertile land and teach them to their sons.** You were coming near and you were standing under the mountain blazing or consuming with fire to the heart of the heavens-under darkness and thick cloud. *These terms were used metaphorically of sadness and weakness or obscurity as if to say that at that time Israel was receiving a great lesson on the character of God.*

GROUND OF TEACHING AGAINST IDOLATRY 12-26

The LORD God spoke to you out of the midst of fire. You heard the voice of words and **you saw no form or appearance except me-a voice**. He declared to you His covenant-ten words- which He commanded you to do and wrote them on two stone tables. The LORD commanded me at that time to teach you the statutes and judgements which you are to do in the land to which you cross and will possess. (b)And **watch for your souls** especially for you saw **no form** in the day when the LORD God spoke to you in Horeb from the midst of the fire lest you become corrupt and make an image for yourselves like any figure -a structure or model **male or female**; like any model of any animal which is on earth or like a model of a winged bird which flies **in heaven**. (Do not) make any model of a creeping thing **in the earth** or of fish **in the sea** which is lower than the earth lest you lift your eyes to heaven and see the sun or moon or stars -all the host of heaven-and cast yourself down and worship them and serve that which **the LORD your God allotted** to all the nations under all heaven. As for you the LORD brought you out of a furnace of iron -out of Egypt to be a people of His heritage as it is this day. And the LORD was furious with me because of your actions or words and swore that I should not cross this Jordan or come into the good land which the LORD God swore to give you as an inheritance. I will die in this land -I will not cross Jordan-but you will cross and occupy this good land. (c) **Watch yourselves** lest you break the covenant of the LORD your God which He made with you and lest you make for yourselves an idol of any form which the LORD your God has forbidden. For the LORD your God is a consuming fire-a zealous God. *The third admonition of Moses on idolatry goes right back to the time when the LORD threatened to destroy the nation and adopt Moses in their place. Moses does well to be emphatic here concerning an event in which His future and theirs was bound together and garrisoned by prayer and the compassions of the LORD.*

When you have settled in the land and produced sons and grandsons and become corrupt and make an image of any form; doing evil in the sight of the LORD your God to grieve him-I cause heaven and earth to witness today that perishing (already) you will perish "tomorrow"(i.e. "very fast") from the land to which you cross for your inheritance. You will not be many days in the land because being cut off (from the start) you will be cut off.

(ii)WE ARE TO LOOK FORWARD TO THE FUTURE OUTWORKING OF GOD'S SALVATION PLAN 27-31 WATCH PROPHETICALLY

The LORD will scatter you among the nations and only a remnant of men will be recorded among the nations where the LORD drives you. There you will worship gods made by the hands of man from wood and stone -gods that can neither see nor hear, eat or smell. From there when you continually seek or ask for the LORD your God because you chase after Him with all your heart and soul you will find Him. But in your distress [*Hebrew rx transliterates Tsar and means "adversary" being indicative of the latter day "Rosh" which the major prophets testify Israel must face before in the immediate prelude to Messiah's advent and kingdom.*] in the latter days you will find all these words and Sabbath or spend time worshipping with the LORD your God and be obedient to His voice. For the LORD your God is a God of most tender compassion [*Hebrew mj r of "cherishing gentleness" this gentleness is ultimately to be shown the repentant nation of the last days.*]

(a) **He will not let you (Israel) down** in the latter day.

(b)**He will not lay you waste** in the latter day

(c) **He will not forget the covenant with your fathers which He caused Himself to swear to them** in the latter day

We have here from **TORAH or prophetic pointers** from the prophet Moses concerning the happy gathering and covenant purposes of the LORD Yahweh expressly in respect of national Israel. These words as Paul said were written for us upon whom the ends of the world are come. We have an absolute guarantee that the Abrahamic promises are not dormant but vibrant in our times and every new day emphasises the **increasing cordiality** of God toward Israel as Messianic faith reaches town after town and Jews even at the top of Israel's political and academic life seek after God and put Jesus Christ back in the place of reverence. Peter once spoke of **prophecy as light that grows more luminous** toward the perfect day. Today **reaction** to prophetic truth on Israel's rebirth within European religious life in particular is very marked and indeed replacement theology has had a field-day-but these are its halcyon days; its position biblically is tenuous in the extreme, it cannot cover all the bases. The "priesthood" arguments from 1Peter 2 prove nothing about Gentile Churches replacing Israel in the divine economy

and to follow the Melchizedekian priesthood argument of Hebrew 7 simply shines light on the fact that when as the writer says "If or **when**" [Hebrew *yk* -as the original text was in Hebrew means "When"] the better hope of a King who is also a Priest appears in the latter day-one who has shown by Resurrection His immortality-then will he reign "for a millennial age" {The Hebrew of Psalm 110.4 being *ml'val* -"for an age"} Christ the Son the Hebrew scripture of Hebrews 7.28 goes on to remark is "raised up in **restorations of endurance** [Literally Salem's cf Hebrews 7.1 which made Him ancient King of Peace who (a) in the days at or before Salem's founding and King of Peace, and (b) when he came to Jerusalem and died and King of peace, and (c) when He returns to Jerusalem as Zechariah categorically states it will be to take up His rule in the latter day] The same N.T Hebrew text is emphatic that Abraham "had been given the promises" or "expectations" which are more particularly outlined in respect of Israel in the latter day by Jeremiah and quoted in Hebrews 8 8-12 "**This covenant I will make with the House of Israel...no longer will a man teach his neighbour 'Know the LORD because they will all know me from the least to the greatest'**" (Jeremiah 31 31-34)

(iii) WE LOOK BACK ON THE STORY OF GRACE & DIVINE PROMISES KEPT 32-40 WATCH-HOLDING ON TO THE PROMISES OF GOD

For do please inquire about the former days which were before your presence (on earth), concerning (a) that part of the day [Hebrew *mm*] when God created man upon the earth -from one end of heaven to the other has any greater thing happened or anything comparable to this been heard of? *The creation of man from the beginning of the world to the day of Moses outshone the wonder of the Exodus and the profound act of the flood and the division of tongues and all else. God created man in His own image-it was and is to this day aside from Calvary and the regeneration of Man the second most wonderful event of all history.* (b) Has any nation heard the voice of God speaking from the midst of fire as you have heard it and lived? *For Moses since creation there was no greater event than the revelation of God at Sinai-not even the Passover itself could shunt it from its historical pre-eminence.* (c) Has any god attempted to come to take for Himself a nation from the midst of a nation with "calamities" [Hebrew *hsn*] and "signs" and "miracles" and "war" and "a hand that makes one strong" and "arm stretched out (in warning)" and "great and fearful acts" like those which the LORD God has done in Egypt before your eyes *For Moses the event to set alongside Sinai revelation was the Exodus. This trio of events all enacted by Yahweh bespeak his unequalled Glory.* You were caused to see these (latter two) events in order to know personally that Yahweh is God and there is none other than He alone. From Heaven He caused you to hear His voice to correct you and on earth He caused you to see the fire of His greatness and to hear His voice from the midst of the fire *Moses expounds the Sinai experience in terms of the demand for obedience and the intense purity and fearful holiness power and zeal of God.* And below or before or "in the hidden" when He loved your Fathers He chose through **His seed** after them and brought you out by **His presence** by His great strength from Egypt. (He) caused great and strong nations to be driven from before your face and cause you to come in and give you their land for an inheritance as at this day. Get to know personally this day and meditate upon it in your heart for The LORD (Yahweh) He is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath-there is none other. Keep His decrees and commands which I command you today and it will go good with you and your sons after you and that your days may be long upon the fertile land which Yahweh your God is giving you **all the days or "for all time" as the NIV has it.** When the LORD gave Canaan to the people of the Jews he gave it *sine die.* *The land covenant has never been revoked or varied even when masses of Jews were sent to Babylon or when the Jews were dispersed in Roman times. Israel belongs through all time to the people of the Jews and was not in the gift of Lord Balfour or the United Nations though they played a part in the establishment of the modern nation of Israel. Moses demanded of the Jews that they know and study their "present" "past" and future". The Christian should be an ardent student of all three aspects of scripture too!*

READING No.3 (following Ben Asher cf psl & val)

CITIES OF REFUGE 41-44 GRACE PROVIDES FOR OUR SECURITY

Many a Jew must have fallen in family feuds with as little chance of defending his life as Ahitophel. This good provision fulfilled the prayer of men who meant no harm but stood accused through accidental

injury. For the Christian the "Rock of Ages" (Isa26.4) is the divine provision for our security and full assurance

At that time Moses separated three cities at the crossing of the Jordan on the east or "a portion of sunrise" like our "ray of hope". They were for a refuge there of any who dashed his neighbour to pieces without being aware (of the effect of actions) or without thought (of doing it) because he bore no malice towards him immediately previous [*Hebrew lmtm "yesterday"*] He could flee into one of these cities-the first (he could reach) and remain alive.(He could go) to Bezer in the desert in level land belonging to Reuben and Ramoth in Gilead in Gad's territory and Golan in Bashan which belonged to Manasseh. *This provision for unpremeditated manslaughter threw out a life-line over an area of 100 miles in extent from Golan east of Galilee and 14 miles from Hippos through Ramoth (Mizpeh) a walled city 30 miles east of Bethshan to Bezer just over the mountain top east from Beth Peor. Both Ramoth and Golan were cities where compassionate Levitical settlements would welcome the fugitive.*

THE SHEMA 4.45-49..."Hear O Israel"(makes up the remainder of the Reading to 7.11)

This is *the prophetic TORAH* (containing promises besides instruction which Moses set before the children of Israel in person [*Literal Hebrew "before their faces"*] These are the precepts Torah and judgements which Moses spoke to the children of Israel when they left Egypt in the house of their passage over Jordan near the valley of Beth Peor in the land of Sihon [*The name in Hebrew means "(warrior who) sweeps all before him"*]king of the Amorites who dwelt in Heshbon [*The name of his capitol means "a reckoning" -with Israel's advent there came a "day of reckoning" for this Amorite*] whom Moses and the Israelites slew when they came from Egypt. They settled in his land and the land of Og [*"long necked" or "gigantic"*] king of Bashan.-two kings of the Amorites who lived across Jordan to the east. From Aroer [*"ruins"*] on the lip of the river Arnon [*"noisy"*] to Mount Siyon [*"elevated"*] which is Hermon-all of the Arabah over Jordan to the east and towards the sea of the Arabah [*The Dead Sea*] below the ravines of Pisgah. *It is to be understood that Israel at this time wiped out all opposition to the East from the uttermost south to the Golan and far away to the North West as far as Hermon-lands technically on the further side of Jordan [which river head rises from the southern slopes of Hermon] The territorial sweep of fighting men led by Joshua under Moses direction carried before them in months if not days a landmass equal to that which Joshua subdued over many years.*

CHAPTER 5

READING No.4 (After Ben Asher) TORAH WITH GRACIOUS PROMISES

And Moses called all Israel and said to them, "Hear O Israel the decrees and judgements which I discourse on in your hearing today and learn them and keep them that you may do them. Yahweh our God cut a covenant with us in house at Horeb. It was not with our fathers that the LORD cut this covenant for it is with us, those of us here today who have lived to the end (of the wandering)The LORD spoke to us face to face out of the fire at the Mountain. I was standing at that time between the LORD and you to declare His word (because you were afraid of the fire and did not go up the mountain)-which word said, "**I am Yahweh your God** who brought you up from the land of Egypt form the house of slaves.

- (1) **DEITY.** There shall not be any following gods belonging to you near my face or ruling above me
- (2) **IDOLATRY.** You shall not make an idol of any form which is in heaven above, in the earth beneath or in the waters beneath belonging to the earth. You shall not bow in worship to them or serve them for I Yahweh your God am a jealous God visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me and **labouring in covenant love for thousands so they love and delight in Me and keep my commands.**
- (3) **BLASPHEMY.** Do not lift up the name of Yahweh your God in falsehood or as an empty word or in connection with evil for the LORD will not clear him who takes his name lightly.
- (4) **REST & WORSHIP, WORK & WEALTH** Shut off the Shabbat (or rest day) for its consecration (to God) or celebration as Yahweh your God commanded. Six days you shall serve and do all your prescribed ministry or wealth creating. The seventh day is the Shabbat for the LORD your God. Do not work any wealth-creation yourself or your son or daughter, manservant or maid, your ox or donkey or any animal or the stranger within your gates that your servant and maid may rest as you do. *Shabbat amongst the ancient Jews was the centre of their witness to servants concerning the work of Yahweh in*

Passover and his worth to them as they worshipped forsaking for His sake all wealth creating. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and Yahweh your God brought you from there with a mighty hand and outstretched arm-for which reason Yahweh your God commanded you to be engaged in the festival of the Shabbat The LORD wanted the "slaves" to be free and in their rest to spend quality time in His presence in recollection of their great redemption. This concept is transferable to the Christian "Day of Worship" although the accompanying testimony of one of more worth than gold or silver has dropped by the wayside in our society. The false construction of Protestant Orthodoxy which is loosely called the "Christian Sabbath" probably owes a lot to the customary cessation from work throughout the later Roman empire but it is also posited on the "Resurrection of Christ", the example of the Apostolic Church in Acts 2 etc and the bidding of the Hebrew writer (Hebrews 10.25) although this letter to Jews may well have been commending Shabbat- though not excluding the first day gatherings such as Pliny referred to in his rescript to Trajan saying, "The Christians meet a long time before dawn on the first day of the week to worship Christ". It is to be noted that Jesus never broke the Sabbath law to work in his own interests

(5) **PARENTS.** Weigh up all qualities of your father and mother as Yahweh your God commands in order **that your days may be long and it may be good or happy with you in the fertile land which Yahweh your God is giving you.**

(6) **MURDER.** Do not break bones or kill. *The instruction is meant to induce gentleness and prevent the misuse of any implement that might injure others with or without intent and deter us from such loss of our cool as might endanger those around.*

(7) **ADULTERY.** Do not engage in adultery. *The command applies to a man in dalliance consorting with his neighbour's wife or a wife consorting with her neighbour's husband by solicitation for sexual gratification*

(8) **THEFT.** Do not steal. *The Hebrew *bnj* "to take from the side" is like our idea of the pick pocket. It may also mean, "Do not put aside secretly". The element of stealth and deceit are usually present.*

(9) **PERJURY.** Do not reply to your neighbour to signify false testimony. We are forbidden to pervert justice and are not to give a false impression or massage truth or withhold or embellish facts

(10) **COVETING.** Do not desire or delight in your neighbour's wife; the house of your neighbour, his field, his servant, his maid, his ox, his ass or anything belonging to your neighbour. *The word "desire and the word "regret" are one and the same Hebrew word *dmj* To breach this commandment is to begin with overwhelming desire like David in Psalm 51 and to end with bitter sorrow as did the psalmist in 2 Samuel 12. It was this commandment that defined the base nature of his thinking for the purist apostle Paul (Romans 7.7)*

A MEMORABLE WAY OF LEARNING THE COMMANDS OF GOD

Using the ten fingers we can keep the law in our hearts very easily.

Put up one finger-there is one God

Put up two fingers- God has no peer or fellow

Put up three fingers-like a "W" which signifies "watch your words"

Put up three fingers of one hand and lay one of the other down-Rest

Put up five fingers -the whole hand-hold it by your heart-a sign of honouring parents

Put up four plus one on the other hand-and point it as to shoot-"You shall not kill.

Put up four fingers and two on the other hand -and roll them as on a bed-the sinful rolling of adultery

Put eight fingers over your eyes like bars-for thieve go to prison

Put up nine fingers and hide one in the palm-a sign of deceit or false witness

Put up ten fingers and cover the eyes so that you will not see and covet.

READING No.5... 5.22-6.3

THE ENTREATY OF THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL HIGHLIGHTS THE SPECIFIC NEED FOR THE GRACE OF A MEDIATOR

These actual words Yahweh spoke with a great voice to the whole congregation on the mount from the midst of the fire the cloud and profound darkness. **He added nothing** but He wrote them on **two stone tablets** [Hebrew *twl* "polished plates" as "leaves of a door"] and gave them to me. *The commandments are the best moral guidance in short compass known to man because they are a complete set of*

principles which do not require rescinding or supplementing. All error and sin that arises is traceable to defaulting on these foundational laws of God. They are the "doors" to loving God and one's neighbour, to the highest in Spirituality and Ethics but only that righteousness of Christ imputed by faith can promote through the Holy Ghost birthing life and working within us such love as will attempt those works God has prepared for us to do as all the while we feed on Christ and are transformed into His likeness of character so that we live in obedience of faith. The commandments are **prophetic TORAH** of the One who is "complete" or "completely righteous" namely Christ. It appears from the Hebrew תּוֹרָה "polished or smooth stone" originals on which these commands were inscribed by the finger of God that they in themselves reflected the perfection of the law.

As you listened to the voice in the midst of the darkness and the mountain burned with fire it happened pass that all the leaders of your tribes and elders came to me and you said, "Behold Yahweh our God has revealed to us His glory and greatness and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire this day." **"We have seen the man lives or will live when or because the mighty God keeps on speaking"**. This also is **prophetic TORAH**-the leaders in their wisdom had observed that Moses could live for 40 days on a mountain without food or drink in the presence of God-and that "life" was the gift of Yahweh spoken into man in the beginning and sustaining him as Moses was sustained at this time. Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God".

Moses drew attention to the fact that not the **letter written** but **the LORD who speaks** is the life-giver. But now why should we die for the fire of this great voice will swallow us. If we add longer time to listen to the voice of Yahweh our God we will die for who of all flesh who has heard the voice of the God of lives or living God speaking from the midst of fire as we have has lived on? You go near and listen to all that Yahweh says to us and you tell us all that Yahweh our God says to us and we will listen to all that Yahweh says to us and do it. Yahweh heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me and Yahweh said to me, "I have heard the voice of the words of this people who spoke to you and all that they said is good. This high commendation of the LORD included:

- (1) The LORD is the source of true revelation those who wait for Him
- (2) The LORD is glorious above all and supreme over all
- (3) God by His word sustains man's life
- (4) God is unapproachable in holiness and fearful in judgement
- (5) **Man stands in absolute need of a Mediator**
- (6) There is need for declarative proclamation of God's word in every place and era
- (7) To draw men to a place of obedience is the object of God and his servants.

The Prophetic TORAH- A DIVINE QUESTION THAT DIRECTS ISRAEL TO GOD'S GRACE IN THE GIFT OF CHRIST. 29-33

The statement has been rendered rather blandly and curiously but not unfairly, "Who will give that this [Hebrew masculine hz "This One"] might belong to their hearts-to fear Him and keep His commands all their days that it may be well with them and their sons always" as if God is saying -the promise is very good but how will they ever keep it? It may also read, (a) **Who** will give or provide (b) and (who) lives or is to their hearts-(c) **this One** belonging to them to cause them to fear me and to keep all my commands all their days in order that it may be happy for them and their children for an age or era? In which case God is proposing that He has a personal solution to the problem He sees. I believe this conundrum-if it is so understood-or proposed resolution through a provided person, if that is accepted, is answered in Christ alone and that with the benefit of greater revelation through the gospel of Jesus Christ our LORD we can say resoundingly-"Christ Jesus through whom we can do all things!" Only through Him can this happiness come. Finally only through Him can the desire of nations come and the age of gold when none shall say to his neighbour "Know the LORD for all shall know him." This kingdom that Yahweh anticipated long before Israel had a king is the climax of the ages and the "perfect day" contemplated at this time of the dawn of world redemption.

Go, say to them, and "return to your tents. But you stand here ministering with ME and I will tell you all the commands and decrees and judgements which you shall declare to them that they may do them in the land which I am giving them to possess." But watch to do the commands decrees and judgements of the Yahweh your God which He commanded you. Do not turn to the right or left. Walk in all the way

which the LORD your God commanded you in order that its may be well with you and your days may stretch long in the land you will possess.

CHAPTER SIX 1-3

These are the commands statutes and judgements which Yahweh your God commanded to teach you that you should do them in the land which you are going over to possess. In order that you may fear Yahweh your God to keep all his statutes and commands which I have commanded you and your sons and grandsons all the days you live and that your days may stretch out in length.

Hear O Israel and watch to do what will be happiness for you and what will cause you to increase greatly according to that which Yahweh God of your fathers spoke by promise to you-"a land flowing with milk and honey".

READING N0.6 6.4-25

THE CONFESSION OF FAITH OF ISRAEL -IMPLICIT WITHIN IT THE INTIMACY OF COVENANT LOVE FIRST SEEN BETWEEN THE "CONSOLIDATED MIGHTY ONES WHICH IS YAHWEH" (THE GODHEAD) AND DEMONSTRATED MOST CLEARLY IN THE GOSPEL

Hear O Israel, "Yahweh our God is one Yahweh" *dja hwhy whl a hwhy lrrvy* [mv *This oft quoted statement of faith in the Hebrew Text has an emphatic "AYIN" and "DALETH" which letters announce the momentous nature of the brief confession. Together these letters mean "witness" which is what the statement is. Separately the letters mean "well" and "door" and the LORD is both the "water of life" and the "door of salvation." The statement most strikingly carries the word "One" and the Hebrew dja means strictly "One" as in compound unity. A good example is Genesis 1 where the "evening and the morning were one day" In the same book we read, "The man shall cleave to **his** wife and they shall be one flesh" so the confession might read without breach of syntax "Hear O Israel, Yahweh our ELOHIM (God in the plural) is a plural Yahweh" We get confirmation of the triune personality of God in Isaiah 48.16 where we read "ADONAI (1) and His Spirit(2) hath sent Me(3)"and so without equivocation on the witness of scripture and truth of God we hold inviolate the tri-unity of our Great God and Saviour.*

You shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your weight and strength and these words which I command You today shall be on your heart You shall make them sharp and penetrating [*i.e. they are to impress or have a cutting edge*] for your children and you shall speak of them when resting in your house and during your travelling in the way and when you lie down (at night) and rise up(in the morning)*This comprehensive summary of relationship with God and man is quoted by Jesus our LORD as fulfilment and summary of all the law in Matthew 22.37 and Mark 12.30 and Luke 10.27 and is referred to 7 or 8 times in Deuteronomy itself. Bind them as a signet to your arm (as your closest love) and let them be for bands (later equivalent -Phylacteries) before your eyes. In a sense they were the equivalent of a woman's jewellery that intimated her marriage. They declared a tryst and covenant with God. TEPHILLIM were a later development not worn at the time of Christ (bands with embroidery would have been worn-some made ostentatiously broad) but TEPHILLIM subsequently became universal very much as outward demonstration of religion. They were capsules containing Ex13 1-10,11-16 Deut6 4-9 and 11 13-21and were fitted with black leather straps wound round the arm seven times and three times round the hand or on the forehead in a mystical manner. Originally the 10 words were envisaged as being carried in the heart and on the body and on the doors and no doubt this summary took their place. Write them on the door frames of your house and on your gates.*

GRACE NOT WORKS OF OUR OWN BROUGHT ISRAEL THEIR LIFE AND INHERITANCE

As it was with Israel it is with Christians. We too have been given the inheritance of saints. The greatest danger is that we forget the Giver and lapse from the obedience of faith.

And it shall be when Yahweh your God brings you into the land He swore to your Fathers to Abraham to Isaac and to Jacob to give to you great and renowned cities you did not build and

houses full of all good things which you did not fill, wells hewed out which you did not hew, vineyards and olive groves you did not plant and you eat and are satisfied. Watch yourself lest you forget Yahweh who brought you from the land of Egypt-the house of slaves. Fear Yahweh your God and serve Him and swear by His name. Do not forsake ELOHIM to go after other gods of the nations around about for Yahweh your God is a jealous God in your midst -lest the anger of Yahweh your God burns against you and He destroys you from the face of the red earth. Do not tempt Yahweh your God as you tested Him at MASSEH. **Watch and watch the commandments** of Yahweh your God and His testimonies and his statutes or ordinances which He appointed for you. Do that which is right and good in the sight of Yahweh your God that it may go good with you and you will possess the good land which Yahweh swore to your fathers to chase from before you all your enemies as Yahweh promised.

THE CHILDRENS' ENQUIRY UNVEILS VITAL ELEMENTS OF THE GRACE OF GOD

When your son asks you "to-morrow" (i.e. in the future) "What is the testimony and the statutes and judgements which Yahweh our God commanded you?" you shall say to your son, "we were slaves before Pharaoh in Egypt and Yahweh brought us out with a mighty hand."

(1) *This is Israel's clear testimony-it is a testimony of **Redemption**. The testimony of every Christian should be of similar clarity to the glory of God in the person of Christ who has redeemed us with His own precious blood. Yahweh gave great signs and miracles and calamities in Egypt before the eyes of Pharaoh and all his house-but He brought us out from there and brought us in to a land He swore to our Fathers.*

(2) *This testimony has to do with God's defence of His people against their deadly foe. We too can testify of the **LORD'S Intercession** for us and protects us against him who would condemn us. Yahweh commanded us to do all these statutes and to fear Yahweh our God that it would be well with us all our days as it is this day.*

(3) *Testimony must come up to date and Israel was obliged to testify to the sweet providence of God. We too are obligated by grace and God's good hand upon us to speak of the "keeping power" of the LORD and the operation of his loving kindness according to His promise in His **Provision** for His children. The fourth part of their testimony followed This will be righteousness belonging to us when we watch to do all these commandments before the eyes of Yahweh our God as he commanded. We too by a life of obedience to Christ live openly before His eyes and testify that it is our joy to do God's will in God's way. No more could the Jew keep the law in his own way than we could please God on our own. It is through the one whom God promoted in 5.29 -the One who could keep Israel and who can keep the saint of God that we have any testimony to the saving mercy and preserving grace of God.*

(4) *Our testimony therefore is to Him who gives us righteousness. It is a testimony of **Imputation** of the merits of the Righteous One by whose stripes we are healed.*

READING No.7 1-8

CHAPTER 7 1-6 EXPULSION OF NATIONS TO WHOM NO GRACE IS TO BE SHOWN

*The iniquitous Amorite and kindred nations come under God's fearful judgement. This is a prophetic **TORAH** of the end time judgement of nations and the ultimate judgement of the Great White Throne* When Yahweh your God brings you to the land which you are going over there to possess and takes off as a shoe [Hebrew / *ṣal*] great nations from before you -Hittites, GIRGASHITES, AAMORITES, CANAANITES, PERIZZITES, HIVITES and JEBUSITES-seven nations greater[*in number*] and stronger [Physically-often used of "strong skin bottles"] than you. But Yahweh your God is making a gift of them before your face and is enabling you to smite them devoting them to HARAM [utter destruction of cities men women and children] you shall utterly destroy them. You shall not cut a covenant with them or **show them grace**. You shall not have had marital affinity with them not give your daughter to their son nor take their daughter for your son. For they will apostatize your sons from following Me and they will serve other gods and the anger of Yahweh will burn against you and he will destroy you "tomorrow"[*speedily*] [The Hebrew word *dmv* is used here for "destroy" -as distinct from *mrj*-meaning, "He will cut off individuals" or lay waste cities though the spiritual end may be no different in those who see that destruction] When on this account you deal thus with them tear down their altars, break in pieces their stone pillars or idols and cut down their ASHERAH shrine poles and burn their molten images in the fire. A number of these religious articles were phallic affording

testimony to the base and orgiastic nature of endemic religion. Quite the most serious aspect was infant sacrifice to the widespread nature of which archaeological digs give testimony.

For you are a holy people to Yahweh your God. Yahweh has chosen you to be His people - "private property" or "wealth" apart from all the peoples that are upon the face of the red earth. *Several matters call for comment in this declaration. **First**, God has "chosen" Israel. That is His preference-His election-it cannot be questioned. It originated in his "delight" with their Fathers the patriarchs and the base meaning is "**chosen out of testing or trial**." [cf the trial of Abraham's faith in Genesis 22] Israel has undergone huge trials historically and it would appear her present establishment as a nation affirms God's continued interest in His "property"*

To list but a few in 70AD 1,100,000 Jews died and 97,000 were carried to Roman slavery.

1096 In the cities of the Rhine 12,000 Jews were slain.

In 1189 Most Jewish homes in London were burned and their possessions claimed by the crown

In 1290 England banished 16,000 Jews

In 1348 Jews were blamed for the "plague" and 11,400 were killed

In 1355 12,000 were massacred

In the 15th century through forced baptism 300,000 Jew left Spain for welcoming Moslem countries

From 1548-56 100,000 Jews were massacred in Poland.

From 1871-1921 untold numbers of Russian Jews died in Pogroms and 750,000 sent to the Pale

From 1933 the Third Reich murdered 6,000,000 Jews. Second, the choice is in sharp contrast to all nations who have rich lands and beneficial locations on the planet. Israel has been given a land "flowing with milk and honey"-rich in fruit and minerals-and it would now seem she is about to "dip her foot in oil" besides.

Third, the Jewish people have enriched the world as the divine wealth might be expected to do. Israelis in modern time have made huge contributions to the advance of physics and medicine as their credits at the Nobel level serve to show. The following listings demonstrate the divine gifting of this people:

Ernest CHAIM developed Penicillin Fleming who worked in his Oxford lab shared with him the Nobel prize, Arthur KORNBERG discovered DNA, Otto MEYERHOLF of Kiel dropped to the chemical basis of "fatigue", Rich WILLSTAETER invented gas masks, Selman WAKSMAN the microbiologist invented antibiotics, Albert SABIN gave us the polio vaccine in 1961, Freud became the father of modern Psychiatry, Jacob Cantor formulated the "maths of infinity", G.C De HEUESY developed the radioactive isotope for Cancer treatment. Albert Einstein revolutionised our understanding of Time & space. Isaac SCHERESCHEWSKY with 2 fingers put the Old Testament into Mandarin and translated the bible into WEN LI Mandarin for 250million people.

Fourth, Jews remain a people devoted to Yahweh. From their ranks in the West have arisen the Inspirational Broadcasting Network and many evangelists. In Israel itself significant Messianic congregations have arisen at KEHILAT on Carmel, in Jerusalem, In NAHARIYA along the Maritime coast, in TIBERIAS and GINNOSAR - which represent God's growing wealth in the land of Israel itself.

GRACE LIKE FAITH WORKS ON THE BASIS OF LOVE 7-8

But Yahweh did not join with you [Hebrew *qvj* "cleave with affection"] and He was not choosing you because your were greater numerically than other nations for you are smaller than all the nations because from loving you and watching over his oath **sworn to Abraham** that Yahweh brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slaves form the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

SUMMARY 9-11

THE GRACE OF GOD NEEDS TO BE PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED

Know intimately and personally that Yahweh your God is ELOHIM ["strengths" or "Strong combined ones"], "The" faithful God keeping the Covenant and true to the Covenant Mercy belonging to His Love for those who watch His commands to a thousand generations. *The time period implicit here runs to 25,000 years which would seem to be far greater than the time scale of world redemption. It is a depiction of the immensity of God's love rather than the length of man's stay on earth Bringing the retribution of ABADDON destruction to the face of those who hate him. He will not keep lingering concerning those who hate him to bring His retribution to his face. So keep with diligence the*

commands and decrees and judgements which I command you this day. *The catalogue of blessing the LORD is prepared to bestow continues to the next section which is entitled "Jacob" -a title which is in itself quite tantalising-and which governs the next chapters 8-11. The word essentially means "supplanter" because of the link with "heel" [Jacob caught his brother's heel at birth] but the basic meaning is "to the end" or "extremity" as the heel is the "extremity" of the body. The "extremity" of Israel's future history and indeed her immediate story is linked to divine blessing (and cursing) as in 11.29 and this is expounded in detail in Deuteronomy 27-28. Her story at this point is one of "supplanting nations greater and stronger than herself.*²

The End of Part 2 "The Grace of God"