

Dec 10&11, 2022 LCF Message Notes (pg 4)
Discovering Deuteronomy's Divine Duties #20
Deut 20: 1-20 Laws Of Physical & Spiritual Warfare

Christianity (John 14:6, & 3: 3-21)

- d) supporting the Great Commission to make disciples who apply the Bible to every aspect of life, including civics!
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God Safeguards National Security by...

- a) getting us to acknowledge & subscribe to the Supremacy of the God of The Bible
 - b) suffocating (not allowing to breath) that which worships other gods (Deut. 20: 16-18)
 - c) suppressing what suppresses the salvation of Biblical Christianity (John 14:6, & 3: 3-21)
 - d) supporting the Great Commission to make disciples who apply the Bible to every aspect of life, including civics!
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All spiritual warfare is a _____ for the _____ of the _____ of Salvation = family, Fruitfulness (both spiritually & in our labors) & freedom from fear

We War Not Against Flesh and Blood, So That Flesh and Blood Obtain the Benefits of Their Salvation!

Eph 6: 14-18 Warring Successfully Requires Putting on the Full Armor of God



Dec 10&11, 2022 LCF Message Notes (pg 1)
Discovering Deuteronomy's Divine Duties #20
Deuteronomy 20: 1-20
“The Laws of Physical Warfare
Parallel The Realities of Spiritual Warfare”

The Old Testament Is Relevant because it provides the processes of the principles that are in the New Testament
In both Testaments, everyone fails and gets grace. Thus Ecc. 1:9 ... there is nothing new under the sun. & Heb. 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Deut. 20: 1-3 Law Of Warfare # 1 We Must War By Faith & Not By Fearful Sight (2 Cor. 5:7)

Slide 10) Deut 20:1-4 Do Not Fear Larger Forces, But Follow The Lord Who Overcame Egypt

God says the above because the reality is...

- a) we may be out numbered
- b) we are afraid (as was Moses, Gideon, Esther)
- c) God is larger & more powerful than any army confronting us
- d) God has proven His powerful supremacy by busting Israel out of Egypt

The _____ God sites most to give us confidence in Who He Is, is “I Am the Lord your God, Who _____ My people from _____”

Deut. 20: 1-3 & 6 God Wants Us Free From Fear
F.E.A.R = False Evidence Appearing Real

Deut. 20: 1-20 Laws Of Physical & Spiritual Warfare

Faith _____ us into God's _____. Fear _____ us into our limited _____. Our faulty _____ is no indication of God's provision for His will for our _____!

Our Faith Walk Requires Focus. Reality Reigns, but it must be _____ reality, based on His _____ perspective, and not our fallen, faulty, _____, self-confined perspective! Faith (pis'-tis) = how we are _____ based upon belief (vs. an upswell of emotion that motivates a short burst of activity) Walk = the way one conducts his/her life, as a result of what we are _____ with, or what pre-occupies us!

God Wants To Liberate Us From The Spiritual & Physical Consequences Of Sin

Just because something has occurred for years, there is no reason for it to _____ for all those years, and one more day!

Let's _____, _____ and _____ back to God in repentance and put out the fire of His discipline & judgement!

Remember, the Bible provides us with _____ — _____ Propositions (2Chron 7:14)

Deut. 20: 5-9 Law of Warfare # 2

Honor the Exemptions God Establishes

We wrestle not against flesh and blood, so we can enjoy the blessings of _____, the _____ of our labor & _____ from _____

Deut. 20: 10-13 & 15-18 Law Of Warfare # 3

We Pursue Peace But Discern What God Devotes To Destruction (Lev. 18:19 29)

Deuteronomy 20: 10-13 Enemies Are Entreated For Terms For Peace - Just As God Prefers "Not Any Should Perish." (2 Peter 3:9)

God's Binary Approach To People:

- Enemies: become slaves or are besieged and conquered
- We all are (male & female) _____ sinners, who either **1)** submit as servant-slaves of righteousness (Rom 6:16-19) or **2)** we get besieged and destroyed (Matt 12:3, Luke 11:23,, Rev 3:15-16)

Deut 13:12-15 Worthless Fellows Put Entire Cities at Risks

12 "If ... in one of your cities... 13 certain worthless fellows ... have drawn away the inhabitants..., [to]...serve other gods,' ..., 15 you shall surely put the ... city to the sword, devoting it to destruction, all who are in it and its cattle.

Deut. 6:4 "_____ -Theism" is more deceptive & destructive than is Atheism

WWII was started & perpetuated by nations that ascribed god-like status to their leaders.

_____ Prophets are _____ Enemies!

Severance From Violations of 10 Cmds 1 & 2 Secures our Spiritual / Godly Inheritance

God safeguards national security by...

- a) getting us to acknowledge & subscribe to the Supremacy of the God of The Bible
- b) suffocating (not allowing to breath) that which worships other gods (Deut. 20: 16-18)
- c) suppressing what suppresses the salvation of Biblical Christianity (John 14:6, & 3: 3-21)



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE SLIDES NOTES

Today's Scripture Reading Slides

Slide 1) Deuteronomy 20: 1-3 (ESV)

Law 1 - We War By Faith & Not By Fearful Sight

¹“When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them, for the LORD your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. ²And when you draw near to the battle, the priest shall come forward and speak to the people ³and shall say to them, ‘Hear, O Israel, today you are drawing near for battle against your enemies: let not your heart faint. Do not fear or panic or be in dread of them,

Slide 2) Deut 20: 4-6 (ESV) Because God Gives The Victory We Faithfully War His Way

⁴for the LORD your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory.’ ⁵Then the officers shall speak to the people, saying, ‘Is there any man who has built a new house and has not dedicated it? Let him go back to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man dedicate it. ⁶And is there any man who has planted a vineyard and has not enjoyed its fruit? Let him go back to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man enjoy its fruit.

Slide 3) Deut 20: 7-9 (ESV) The Fearful Must Not Influence His Fellows

⁷And is there any man who has betrothed a wife and has not taken her? Let him go back to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man take her.’ ⁸And the officers shall speak further to the people, and say, ‘Is there any man who is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go back to his house, lest he make the heart of his fellows melt like his own.’ ⁹And when the officers have finished speaking to the people, then commanders shall be appointed at the head of the people.

Slide 4) Deut 20: 10-13 (ESV) Enemies: Become Slaves Or Be Besieged

¹⁰“When you draw near to a city to fight against it, offer terms of peace to it. ¹¹And if it responds to you peaceably and it opens to you, then all the people who are found in it shall do forced labor for you and shall serve you. ¹²But if it makes no peace with you, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it.

¹³And when the LORD your God gives it into your hand, you shall put all its males to the sword,

Slide 5) Deut 20: 14-15 (ESV)

Devote To Destruction The People God Is Displacing God Displaces People Devoted To Destruction Discern What God Devotes To Destruction

¹⁴but the women and the little ones, the livestock, and everything else in the city, all its spoil, you shall take as plunder for yourselves. And you shall enjoy the spoil of your enemies, which the LORD your God has given you. ¹⁵Thus you shall do to all the cities that are very far from you, which are not cities of the nations here.

Slide 6) Deut 20: 16-18 (ESV) Destroy What Violates 10 Cnds 1 & 2

Devote To Destruction The People God Is Displacing God Displaces People Devoted To Destruction

¹⁶But in the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes, ¹⁷but you shall devote them to complete destruction, a the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, as the LORD your God has commanded, ¹⁸that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices that they have done for their gods, and so you sin against the LORD your God.

Slide 7) Deut 20: 19-20 (ESV) God Conserves Food Trees War Against People Not The Food Trees God Provides

¹⁹“When you besiege a city for a long time, making war against it in order to take it, you shall not destroy its trees by wielding an axe against them. You may eat from them, but you shall not cut them down. Are the trees in the field human, that they should be besieged by you? ²⁰Only the trees that you know are not trees for food you may destroy and cut down, that you may build siegeworks against the city that makes war with you, until it falls.

TODAY'S MESSAGE & SLIDES

Slide 8A) Message Map Lcf Saturday 12/10 & 11/22 MESSAGE MAP: Deut 20:1-20

Discovering Deuteronomy's Divine Duties #20

“The Laws Of Physical Warfare Parallel The Realities Of Spiritual Warfare”

- 1) **Deut. 20: 1-3 Law Of Warfare # 1** We Must War By Faith & Not By Fearful Sight
 - Reality Reigns, but it must be **GOD'S** reality, based on His **OMNISCIENT** perspective, and not our fallen, faulty, **LIMITED**, self-confined perspective!
- 2) **Deut. 20: 5-9 Law Of Warfare # 2** Honor The Exemptions God Establishes
 - We Honor The **EXEMPTIONS** God Establishes That Support **FAMILY, FOOD & FREEDOM** From **FEAR**.
 - Because God Gives The Victory We Faithfully War His Way
- 3) **Deut. 20: 10-18 Law Of Warfare # 3** We Pursue Peace But Discern What God Devotes To Destruction

- 4) **Deut. 20: 17-20 Law Of Warfare # 4** Preserve The People & Food God Provides & Protects

Slide 8b) Slide 8b) The Reason The Old Testament Is Relevant

The Old Testament Provides The Processes Of The Principles That Are Explained In The New Testament

In the OT everyone fails & gets GRACE

In the NT everyone falls short & gets GRACE

How God works in the lives of NT believers and sinners is detailed in the OT

God is the same today, yesterday & forever!

- Heb. 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
- Ecc. 1:9 What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.

The Old Testament Is Relevant because it provides the processes of the principles that are explained in the New Testament

“The Laws Of Physical Warfare Parallel The Realities Of Spiritual Warfare”

God laws for warfare in Deut 20 provide a proxy (surrogate, stand-in or representative) for the spiritual warfare we face today.

The Physical War is a Proxy War for the Spiritual War

The Spiritual War is manifested through the Physical War

Jesus healed people whose spiritual problems and demonic activity were manifested in physical illness and torments.

Proxy (Webster's 1828) PROX'Y, noun [contracted from procuracy, or some word from the root of procure, proctor.]

1. The agency of another who acts as a substitute for his principal; agency of a substitute; appearance of a representative.

None can be familiar by *proxy* None can be virtuous or wise by *proxy*

2. The person who is substituted or deputed to act for another. In England, any peer may make another lord of parliament his *proxy* to vote for him in his absence.

3. In popular use, an election or day of voting for officers of government.

Apple Dictionary Thesaurus — *any member is entitled to appoint another person as his proxy to attend and vote instead of him*: deputy, representative, substitute, delegate, agent, surrogate, stand-in, attorney, ambassador, emissary, go-between, envoy, frontman; *rare* factor, procurator.

Slide 9) Part 1) Deut. 20: 1-3 We Must War by Faith & Not by Fearful Sight

Part 1 Deut. 20: 1-3 Law of Warfare # 1 We Must War by faith & not by fearful sight

2 Corinthians 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Slide 10) Deut 20:1-4 Do Not Fear Larger Forces, But Follow The Lord Who Overcame Egypt

God says the above because the reality is...

- a) we may be out numbered
 - b) we are afraid (as was Moses, Gideon, Esther)
 - c) God is larger & more powerful than any army confronting us
 - d) God has proven His powerful supremacy by busting Israel out of Egypt
- The **CREDENTIAL** God sites most to give us confidence in Who He Is, is “I Am the Lord your God, Who **LIBERATED** My people from **EGYPT**”
 - The business card, God distributes the most is the one that says, “I am the Lord your God, Who brought My people out of Egypt.”

- This is because God is in the business of liberating us all from our Egypts, which represents the condition & circumstances of our bondage to our flesh and enslavement to sin — the liberation from which involves God doing a series of miracles in our lives that parallel those He did in Egypt.
- We thus get liberated from the false gods we worshipped
- Having gotten overwhelmed by our sinful frogs, gnats,

Slide 11) Deut. 20: 1-3 & 6 God Wants Us Free From Fear

F.E.A.R = **F**alse **E**vidence **A**ppearing **R**eal

- Fear can cause us to react to what is not really there.
- Fear causes us to avoid situations where we anticipate people will have a negative reaction to what God is calling us to do.

Faith **TAPS** us into God's **FORESIGHT**.

Fear **TRAPS** us into our limited **HINDSIGHT**.

Our faulty **PAST** is no indication of God's provision for **His will** for our **FUTURE!**

God uses Gideon in Judges 6-7 to overcome 7 years of oppression.

God moves through Deborah & Barak in Judges 4-5 to overcome 20 years of oppression from a Midian led alliance of enemies.

Slide 12) Our Faith Walk Requires Focus

Reality Reigns, but it must be **GOD'S** reality, based on His **OMNISCIENT** perspective, and not our fallen, faulty, **LIMITED**, self-confined perspective!

Faith (pis'-tis) = how we are **PERSUADED** based upon belief (vs. an upswell of emotion that motivates a short burst of activity)

Walk (Biblically) = the way one **CONDUCTS** his/her life, as a result of what we are **OCCUPIED** with, or what pre-occupies us!

- Thus real Biblical faith “always is a gift from God, and never something that can be produced by people.” Thus we have come to belief as a result of "God's divine persuasion that convicts us of the certainty that He is True-Truth (as Francis Schaefer would say)!
- Ephesians 2:8 — For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
- God gives grace to a remnant of true believers He preserves to Himself Romans 11:6 sqys “But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.” (In Context: Rom 11: 4-6 **4**But what is God’s reply to him? **“I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.”** **5**So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. **6**But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.
- Thus in America today, God has preserved for Himself a remnant that has not bowed the knee ...
 - ✓ to compromising what the Bible says about God wanting us to apply the Bible to every aspect of life including civics!
 - ✓ ignoring that God says He will judge the nations on the basis of whether or not their politics honor Him.
 - ✓ to participating in the IRS’s 501C3, deception that churches need it to maintain the “tax immunity’ provided by the U.S. Constitution’s 1st Amendment - “Congress shall make no law!”
 - ✓ to political correctness by teaching topical sermons that avoid much of what the Bible says about Godly civics!
 - ✓ to the lies “The mythology of Sustainability” tells against God’s creative goodness, in that all He made is good, and in Gen 8:22, He promises us the change of seasons, seed time and harvest. Remember - coal and oil are not outer-worldly

substances, but are part of the good gifts God gives that provides man with the ability to have dominion over the earth, and bring thousands of good things to our lives!

- Thus In all of Scripture, the term faith is used to instruct us that ...
 - Ro 14:23: Whatever is not of faith (4102/pistis) is sin."
 - Heb 11:6: "And without faith (4102/pistis) it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him" (NASU).
- **Faith Is A Continuously Maturing Process**
 - 1Corinthians 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.
 - 1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.
 - 1 Corinthians 3:1,2 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ...
 - 1 Corinthians 14:20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.
 - Ecclesiastes 11:10 Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity.
- **See the Addendum of these notes for much, much more on “faith.”**

Slide 13) God Wants To Liberate Us From The Spiritual & Physical Consequences Of Sin

Just because something has occurred for years, there is no reason for it to **CONTINUE** for all those years, and one more day!

Let's **STOP, DROP and ROLL** back to God in repentance and put out the fire of His discipline & judgement!

Remember, the Bible provides us with **IF-THEN** Propositions (2Chron 7:14)

Slide 14) Part 2) Deut. 20: 5-9 Law Of Warfare # 2 Honor The Exemptions God Establishes

We wrestle not against flesh and blood, so we can enjoy the blessings of **FAMILY, the **FRUIT** of our labor and **FREEDOM** from **FEAR****

Slide 15) Because God Gives The Victory We Faithfully Should War His Way

Certain domestic circumstances entitle one to exemptions from military service:

Warring God's Way Supports Ten Commandment #5 by ensuring ...

- 1) If one had built a house, but had not dedicated (taken possession to dwell in it);**
 - Calvin - God grants this exemption so every man's **property rights** should be maintained. **Ten Cmd #8**, "Thou shall not steal," ascribes property rights to what we legally obtain or are given.
 - Josephus — House Dedication is a formal ceremony commemorating taking possession and moving into the house, involving a solemn ceremony, followed by a festive entertainment.
- 2) If one had betrothed a wife, but had not yet married her;**
 - Deut. 24:5 "When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be liable for any other public duty. He shall be free at home one year to be happy with his wife whom he has taken.
 - Calvin — God grants the exemption to the betrothed

- **in honor of marriage (10 Cds 5 & 7)**
- **a year is time enough to fulfill God's mandate to "be fruitful and multiply."** (Man is told to be fruitful and multiply in Gen 128,9:1 & 7, God says animals are to be fruitful and multiply in Gen 1:28: &8:17)
- **to provide for progeny to be available** so the inheritance would not be transferred to others, which would divert it from its rightful owner.

Warring God's Way Supports Us Benefitting From The Fruit Of Our Labor by ensuring ...

- 3) if one had planted a vineyard and not eaten of its fruit**
 - Vineyard. The Hebrew word (כַּרְמִים) used here designates "a field or park of the nobler plants and trees cultivated in the manner of a garden or orchard" (Ges.); so that not vineyards alone, but also olive yards and plots of the more valuable fruit trees may be included.
 - Calvin - in order that every man's property should be maintained.
 - Calvin & Josephus - It is in the interest of the state to ensure land is developed suitably to provide produce for the common use = available for the public market place (Deut. 28:30; Jer. 31:5).
 - Pulpit Commentary — Trees planted for food were not to be used before the fifth year of their growth (Leviticus 19:23, etc.; cf. Deuteronomy 24:5).
 - Lev. 19:23 "When you come into the land and plant any kind of tree for food, then you shall regard its fruit as forbidden. Three years it shall be forbidden to you; it must not be eaten.
 - This means in year one you occupy. Year 2 you plant, and wait also years 3 & 4. In year 5 you eat!?!"
- 4) if one is fearful and fainthearted, he gets to fall back**
The Faint Hearted Must Not Effect Everyone Around Him

I fainted in a choir in front of my entire Jr. High School

assembly. I effected the entire row where I was standing, as I swooned to my left, I created a domino effect, and kids in that direction eventually got knocked off the riser. As I swooned to the right the same thing happened on the other end.

Following that experience I purposed in my heart to never again sing in public!

God, through the church, wrestled against my avoidance behaviors to get me to start learning to play guitar & lead worship, write songs, audition into Cafe Lena & 8th Step.

Our Crummy Resumes present past realities that are not an accurate representation of God's Future For Us.

Persons in these 3 circumstances were to be allowed to return home, lest they should die in battle, and others consummate what they had begun.

Calvin

A different principle applies to a fourth class, because the faint-hearted and lazy are not deserving that God should have consideration for their cowardice, when they shun dangers to be incurred for the public welfare; but because it concerns the whole people that soldiers should go forth readily to war, God will not have more required from any one than he is disposed to bear. We now understand the substance of this passage, viz., that, when every man's right is asserted to enjoy what he possesses, it extends so far as that a man who has built a house should not be dragged unwillingly to war, until by dwelling in it he shall have received some advantage from the expenses incurred.

Pulpit Commentary

Verses 5-7. - The officers; the shoterim, the keepers of the genealogical tables (Deuteronomy 16:18). It belonged to them to appoint the men who were to serve, and to release those

who had been summoned to the war, but whose domestic relations were such as to entitle them to exemption. If there was one who had built a house, but had not dedicated it, i.e. by taking possession of it and dwelling in it; or if there was one who had planted a vineyard and had not eaten of the fruit thereof; or if there was one who had betrothed a wife, but had not yet married her; - such were to be allowed to return home, lest they should die in battle, and it be left to others to consummate what they had begun. According to Josephus, this exemption was for a year, according to the analogy of Deuteronomy 24:5. Dedicated; probably formal possession was taken of the house by some solemn ceremony, followed by a festive entertainment. Vineyard. The Hebrew word (כֶּרֶם) here used designates "a field or park of the nobler plants and trees cultivated in the manner of a garden or orchard" (Ges.); so that not vineyards alone, but also olive yards and plots of the more valuable fruit trees may be intended. Hath not eaten of it; literally, hath not laid it open, made it common, i.e. begun to use it, to gather its produce for common use (cf. Deuteronomy 28:30; Jeremiah 31:5). Trees planted for food were not to be used before the fifth year of their growth (Leviticus 19:23, etc.; cf. Deuteronomy 24:5).

Slide X) XxxDeuteronomy 20: 7-9 (ESV)

The Fearful Must Not Influence His Fellows

⁷And is there any man who has betrothed a wife and has not taken her? Let him go back to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man take her.' ⁸And the officers shall speak further to the people, and say, 'Is there any man who is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go back to his house, lest he make the heart of his fellows melt like his own.' ⁹And when the officers have finished speaking to the people, then commanders shall be appointed at the head of the people.

Commanders are appointed, after the fainthearted (Webster's 1828, cowardly; timorous; dejected; easily depressed, or yielding to fear) are dismissed because ...

- a) some of those eligible as leaders also may have been fearful
- b) some may have been like the fearful spies of Numbers 13, who discouraged Israel from entering the land 40+ years ago
- c) God reduced Gideon's army by allowing 22,000 fearful to fall back

Deut 20:9 And when the officers have finished speaking to the people, then commanders shall be appointed at the head of the people.

Judges 7:3 Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.'" Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained.

Numbers 13

1The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2"Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a chief among them." 3So Moses sent them from the wilderness of Paran, according to the command of the LORD, all of them men who were heads of the people of Israel. 4And these were their names: From the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur; 5from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori; 6from the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh; 7from the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph; 8from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Nun; 9from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti the son of Raphu; 10from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel the son of Sodi; 11from the tribe of Joseph (that is, from the tribe of Manasseh), Gaddi the son of Susi; 12from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel the son of Gemalli; 13from the tribe of Asher, Sethur the son of Michael; 14from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi the son of Vophsi; 15from the tribe of Gad, Geuel the son of Machi. 16These were the names of the men whom Moses

sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun Joshua.

4And these were their names:

- 4 from the tribe of Reuben ("behold a son!"), Shammua (three Israelites) the son of Zaccur (mindful);
- 5from the tribe of Simeon (hearing), Shaphat ("he has judged") the son of Hori (no meaning ascribed);
- 6from the tribe of Judah (praised), Caleb (forcible) the son of Jephunneh (he will be prepared);
- 7from the tribe of Issachar (xxx), Igal (xxx) the son of Joseph (xxx);
- 8from the tribe of Ephraim (xxx), Hoshea (xxx) the son of Nun (xxx);
- 9from the tribe of Benjamin (xxx), Palti (xxx) the son of Raphu (xxx);
- 10from the tribe of Zebulun (xxx), Gaddiel (xxx) the son of Sodi (xxx);
- 11from the tribe of Joseph (that is, from the tribe of Manasseh (xxx)), Gaddi (xxx) the son of Susi (xxx);
- 12from the tribe of Dan (xxx), Ammiel (xxx) the son of Gemalli (xxx);
- 13from the tribe of Asher (xxx), Sethur (xxx) the son of Michael (xxx);
- 14from the tribe of Naphtali (xxx), Nahbi (xxx) the son of Vophsi (xxx);
- 15from the tribe of Gad (xxx), Geuel (xxx) the son of Machi (xxx).
- 16These were the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun Joshua

**Slide 16) Part 3) Deut. 20: 10-13 & 15-18 Law of Warfare # 3
We Pursue Peace but Discern What God Devotes to
Destruction**

**Lev. 18:19 29'For Whoever Does any of These
Abominations, Those Persons Who Do So Shall Be Cut Off
From Among Their People.**

**(Slide 17) Deuteronomy 20: 10-13 Enemies Are Entreated for
Terms for Peace Just as God Offers Us Peace Through
Christ**

10“When you draw near to a city to fight against it, offer terms
of peace to it. 11And if it responds to you peaceably and it
opens to you, then all the people who are found in it shall do
forced labor for you and shall serve you.

**Deuteronomy 20: 10-13 Enemies Are Entreated For Terms
For Peace - Just As God Prefers “Not Any Should Perish.”
(2 Peter 3:9)**

- **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

God's Binary Approach To People:

- **Enemies:** become slaves or are besieged and conquered
- We all are **ENEMY** sinners, who either **1)** submit as servant-slaves of righteousness (Rom 6:16-19) or **2)** we get besieged and destroyed (Matt 12:3, Luke 11:23,, Rev 3:15-16)
- **Matthew 12:30** Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.
- **Luke 11:23** Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

- **Rev 3: 15-16-** ¹⁵“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

Regarding us being slaves to righteousness ...

- **Rom 6:16-19** ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.xxx

**(Slide 18) The Rebellious Require God's Discipline &
Judgement**

**The OT Models What's in Store for Those Who Reject God's
Offer of Peace Through Christ.**

**12But if It Makes no Peace With You, but Makes War
Against You, Then You Shall Besiege It.**

**13And When the LORD Your God Gives It Into Your Hand,
You Shall Put All its Males to the Sword**

**Males = of Adult Fighting Age— as Children Are Spared.
Herod Violated This Trying To Murder the Baby Jesus in
Bethlehem (Matt. 2: 16-18)**

People often want God to act swiftly to avenge wrong in the world. When He gives instructions for that to happen — after more than 400 years of the Canaanites persisting in horrific sin

against God and abuse of their fellow man, some are shocked that a “Loving God” would give such instructions.

Gen 15:12-16 ¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. ¹³Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. ¹⁴But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

Regarding this, Matthew Poole says, Of the cities given to Israel, none of their inhabitants must be left. Since it could not be expected that they should be cured of their idolatry, they would hurt Israel.

Christ's law of love - regulates these rules of our conduct. [While] The horrors of war ... fill the feeling heart with anguish [they are required by the] proofs of the wickedness of man, the power of Satan, and the just vengeance of God, who thus scourges a guilty world.

[This shows] ... how dreadful their case who are engaged in unequal conflict with their Maker, who will not submit to render him the easy tribute of worship and praise! Certain ruin awaits them.

Let neither the number nor the power of the enemies of our souls dismay us; nor let even our own weakness cause us to tremble or to faint. The Lord will save us; but in this war let none engage whose hearts are fond of the world, or afraid of the cross and the conflict.

Care is here taken that in besieging cities the fruit-trees should not be destroyed. God is a better friend to man than he is to himself; and God's law consults our interests and comforts;

while our own appetites and passions, which we indulge, are enemies to our welfare. Many of the Divine precepts restrain us from destroying that which is for our life and food.

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Matt. 2: 16-18 ¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

(Slide 19) National Security Depends Upon Devoting To Destruction

What God Devotes To Destruction

Deut. 20: 16-18 ¹⁶But in the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes, ¹⁷but you shall devote them to complete destruction... ¹⁸that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices that they have done for their gods, and so you sin against the LORD your God.

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Lev. 18: 24-28 ²⁴Do not defile yourselves by any of these things; for by all these the nations which I am casting out before you have become defiled. ²⁵For the land has become defiled, therefore I have brought its punishment upon it, so the land has spewed out its inhabitants. ²⁶But as for you, you are to keep My statutes and My judgments and shall not do any of these abominations, neither the native, nor the alien who sojourns among you ²⁷(for the men of the land who have been

before you have done all these abominations, and the land has become defiled); 28so that the land will not spew you out, should you defile it, as it has spewed out the nation which has been before you. 29'For whoever does any of these abominations, those persons who do so shall be cut off from among their people. 30'Thus you are to keep My charge, that you do not practice any of the abominable customs which have been practiced before you, so as not to defile yourselves with them; I am the LORD your God.'"

Slide 20) Deut 13:12-15

Worthless Fellows Put Entire Cities at Risks

12"If ... in one of your cities... 13certain worthless fellows ... have drawn away the inhabitants..., [to]...serve other gods,'..., 15you shall surely put the ... city to the sword, devoting it to destruction, all who are in it and its cattle.

Deut. 6:4 "**POLY**-Theism" is more deceptive & destructive than is Atheism

WWII was started & perpetuated by nations that ascribed god-like status to their leaders.

False Prophets are **Public** Enemies!

(Slide 21) Severance From Violations of 10 Cmds 1 & 2

Secures our Spiritual / Godly Inheritance

God safeguards national security by...

- a) getting us to acknowledge & subscribe to the Supremacy of the God of The Bible
- b) suffocating (not allowing to breath) that which worships other gods (Deut. 20: 16-18)
- c) suppressing what suppresses the salvation of Biblical Christianity (John 14:6, & 3: 3-21)
- d) supporting the Great Commission to make disciples who apply the Bible to every aspect of life, including civics!

Slide 22) Part 4)(Slide 21) Severance From Violations of 10 Cmds 1 & 2

Secures our Spiritual / Godly Inheritance

God Safeguards National Security by...

- a) getting us to acknowledge & subscribe to the Supremacy of the God of The Bible
- b) suffocating (not allowing to breath) that which worships other gods (Deut. 20: 16-18)
- c) suppressing what suppresses the salvation of Biblical Christianity (John 14:6, & 3: 3-21)
- d) supporting the Great Commission to make disciples who apply the Bible to every aspect of life, including civics!

Slide 23) Discipleship Involves Participation In A War God Interjected Christ Into At His Incarnation

Isaiah 9:6 6For To Us A Child Is Born, To Us A Son Is Given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,

(Slide 24) LCF Church Is Warring God's Way To Stand in the Gap ...

-
- 3BR Booklets & Initiatives
- Police Protect Community 10 Cmd Rights!
- Bible Based Constitution Courses
- 1st Amendment Flag Raising from SCOTUS Win!
- Voter Validations Cmd 8
- TPUSA Conferences
- Parental Rights In Health Care
- Schools Provide 3-R's Not Social Grooming

LCF Prayer Warriors have prevailed with God...

- 1) to withstand ANTIFA & BLM destroying the Capital District from Greenville to Glens Falls (our Dan to Beersheba!)
- 2) Partnering with America's Front Line Doctors in a Conference on Jan 17, 2022 to stand in the gap to prevent people from getting the COVID death jab
- 3) Appearing at the Supreme Court on Jan 18, 2022 to stand up for Christian Free Speech, a case won on May 2, 2022!
- 4) to advocate for voter rights by sponsoring the Dave Clements Conference in March '22
- 5) Pastor Mark speaking on 3BR for the regional TPUSA Conference in MA in May, 2022
- 6) Pastor Earl attending the TPUSA Pastor's Conference in SanDeigo, CA Aug, 2022
- 7) Pastor Earl, Pastor Mark, Alan & Tom C. participating in the Christian Flag Raising at City Hall in Revere, MA in Oct 2022
- 8) LCF elders Bill D & Jon DS, teaching a 12 week Constitution Course to 18 people in Selkirk and over 30 people in Goshen, NY (a weekly drive of over 3 hours one way)
- 9) Coordinating with Law Enforcement to reinforce their role to safeguard the community's Ten Cnds rights NOT to be murdered, sexually molested, etc..
- 10) Distributing over 2,000 3BR booklets and receiving orders for 400, since Sept 2022

We also have coordinated with another half dozen groups to stand for America's Bible-based freedoms xxx

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SUMMARY Slide X) Deut 20:1 Do Not Fear Larger Forces

¹“When you go out to war against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and an army larger than your own, you shall not be afraid of them, for the LORD your God is with you, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.

In Deut 20: God tells us not to fear forces that are larger than us because ...

- a) war is inevitable
 - War is inevitable because people are sinners who are greedy, evil, licentious, self-aggrandizing, pompous, opportunistic abusers of others. When these sins are done on a mass level, enforced by large armed forces, war is the procedure and process that deals with it by administering justice that enforces God's Laws against it.
- b) [the reality is] we tend to fear being out numbered
- c) [the reality is] God is larger, more powerful than any army confronting us
- d) God has proven His powerful supremacy by setting (busting out) Israel free from Egypt

From Pulpit Commentary:

God expects participation by **ALL** those summoned to war, just as all Christians wrestle against the powers of darkness

(Slide 25) All Spiritual Warfare Is a BATTLE for the BENEFITS of the BLESSINGS of Salvation = Family, Fruitfulness (Both Spiritually & in our Labors) & Freedom From Fear

We War Not Against Flesh and Blood, So That Flesh and Blood Obtain the Benefits of Their Salvation!

Eph 6: 14-18 Warring Successfully Requires Putting on the Full Armor of God

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- (1) ¹⁴belt of truth = we are bound in the Bible, which upholds all we have and are!
- (2) ¹⁴breastplate of righteousness = outcome of Biblical discipleship = a heart after God's
- (3) ¹⁵feet shod with the readiness to deliver the gospel of peace (in season and out of season 2 Tim. 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; rebuke, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.
- (4) ¹⁶shield of faith — snuffs out the evil one's flaming darts
- (5) ¹⁷helmet of salvation = the renewed, transformed mind (Rom 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world,c but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.d)
- (6) sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, sharper than any 2-edged sword, Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
- (7) ¹⁸praying always in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

We wrestle not against flesh and blood, so we can enjoy the blessings of family, the fruit of our labor and freedom from fear

Eph. 6: 14 - 17

¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of

the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.Slide x) xxx
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(Slide 26) Let's Pray that God ReAwakens, ReInvigorates & ReEstablishes Us in Our Calls In Christ!

Let's Pray (Slide 1 of 2)

Lord, God, who liberates us from all our Egypts, we thank You for interjecting Christ to intervene in sinful lives & fulfill Your plan of salvation through Him.

Please work in us to make us the kind of disciples who can celebrate Your gift of Christmas by applying the Bible to every aspect of life, including civics, so we can give others

the opportunity to be saved

and the understanding of the Bible based rights and freedoms of Western Civilization

(Slide 27) Let's Pray that God ReAwakens, ReInvigorates & ReEstablishes Us in Our Calls In Christ!

Let's Pray (Slide 2 of 2)

May we submit to all the Your word explains.

Give us Your heart and wisdom for our ministries with our families, relatives, churches, co-workers, classmates, customers and others.

Give us grace and favor for all those You lead us to interact with.

In Jesus name we pray. AMEN



Slide Xx) Let's Pray 1

Lord, we thank you for your amazing word that teaches us how to worship You in Spirit and in truth!

Give us grace to walk in obedience to your will. Give us the mind of Christ to serve you, according to Your will.

Confirm and Comfort us with Your Presence, and make us more than conquerors, through Christ Jesus, who loves us! Use us to serve you for the salvation of souls and restoring our beloved USA to once again submit to You!

In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen!

Anne's LCF Opening 6-4-24

Welcome to LCF on this sunny Saturday evening! We are glad you are joining us to worship the God of the Bible, and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Tonight we continue our series "Investigating The Insights of Isaiah, and will see in chapter 63 that for both us and Israel that What God starts in and through us us by grace only can be maintained by us resting in God's grace.

Before we worship in God's Word, let's turn our hearts to prayer, and then worship in song!

Suggested Prayer:

Lord, we come before You in Jesus's name, and we turn this service over to You. Please meet each of us in worship tonight and speak to our hearts from Your Word. Build us up and grow us in Christ, through this service we pray.

And all God's people say, Amen!

Mark's Introduction To Today's Scripture Reading

Tonight we continue our series "Discovering Deuteronomy's Divine Duties, and will be in chapter 20, with a message about "Xxx"

Before Pastor Earl lead us through Deuteronomy 20 , let's read its 18 verses together from the slides on the screen.

As we read today's Scripture slides, I'll read the slide headers, and then we'll read the passages together.

Addendum of Faith

From — <https://biblehub.com/greek/4102.htm>

The Lord continuously births faith in the yielded believer so they can know what He prefers, i.e. the persuasion of His will (1 Jn 5:4).

[4102 (pistis) in secular antiquity referred to a guarantee (warranty). In Scripture, faith is God's warranty, certifying that the revelation He inbirthed will come to pass (His way).

Faith (4102/pistis) is also used collectively – of all the times God has revealed (given the persuasion of) His will, which includes the full revelation of Scripture (Jude 3). Indeed, God the Lord guarantees that all of this revelation will come to pass! Compare Mt 5:18 with 2 Tim 3:16.]

1. The root of 4102/pistis ("faith") is 3982/peithô ("to persuade, be persuaded") which supplies the core-meaning of faith ("divine persuasion"). It is God's warranty that guarantees the fulfillment of the revelation He births within the receptive believer (cf. 1 Jn 5:4 with Heb 11:1).

Faith (4102/pistis) is always received from God, and never generated by us.

Ro 12:3: "For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith (4102/pistis)" (NASU).

Eph 2:8,9: " For by grace you have been saved through faith (4102/pistis); and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast" (NASU).

Gal 5:22,23: "²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith (4102/pistis), ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

2 Thes 1:11: "To this end (glorification) – indeed each time we pray about (peri) you for the purpose (hin) of our God counting you worthy of the call – even that He may fulfill (His) every good-pleasure that comes from (His) goodness and work of faith, in (His) ability."

Reflection: Faith is only (exclusively) given to the redeemed. It is not a virtue that can be worked up by human effort.

2. Faith (4102/pistis) enables the believer to know God's preferred-will (cf. J. Calvin; see 2307/thelçma). Accordingly, faith (4102/pistis) and "God's preferred-will (2307/thelçma)" are directly connected in Scripture.

2 Ro 12:2,3: " And do not be conformed to this world, but be-transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will (2307/thelçma) of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith (4102/pistis)" (NASU).

5 2 Cor 8:5,7: " And this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will (2307/thelçma) of God" (NASU).

7" But just as you abound in everything, in faith (4102/pistis) and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also" (NASU).

Heb 10:36,38: "³⁶For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will (2307/thelçma) of God, you may receive what was promised" (NASU).

" BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH(4102/pistis); AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM" (NASU).

1 Jn 5:4: "For whatever is born of God conquers the world; and this is the conquest that has conquered the world – our faith (4102/pistis)."

3. In sum, faith (4102/pistis) is a persuasion from God that we receive as He grants impulse ("divine spark"; cf. the Heb hiphil form of believe, *mn, in a later discussion). Faith is always the work of God and involves hearing His voice – whereby the believer lays hold of His preferred-will (cf. J. Calvin).

1 Hab 2:1: " I will stand on my guard post And station myself on the rampart;

And I will keep watch to see what He will speak in (Heb b) me" (NASU).

Hab 2:4: "Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him;

But the righteous will live in his faith" (= 4102/pistis, "faith from the Lord").

More on what faith is . . . and isn't

1. In Scripture, faith and belief are not exactly the same. Faith always comes from God and involves His revelation therefore faith is beyond belief!
2. Faith is God's work; faith is never the work of people. We cannot produce faith ourselves, nor can we "drum it up at will." Rather, faith comes as Christ speaks His rhçma-word within (see Ro 10:17, Gk text).
3. In all of Scripture, only the term faith is ever used in the following way: Ro 14:23: Whatever is not of faith (4102/pistis) is sin." Heb 11:6: "And without faith (4102/pistis) it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him" (NASU).

Reflection: Nothing quite like this two-fold witness appears elsewhere in the Bible. These sweeping statements sober the heart and inspire the soul!

The Lord offers to inbirth faith in each scene of life – so that each matters equally in eternity . . . no matter how insignificant they seem (Lk 16:10 with Lk 17:6 and 2 Pet 1:2).

Key quotes

"Faith always pre-supposes revelation" (W. H. Griffith Thomas, Genesis, 55). "Faith is always a response to a divine revelation" (W. H. Griffith Thomas, Hebrews, 143). "Faith . . . both in its initiation and every step of the way, is Spirit given . . . faith is God given" (W. Hendriksen, Galatians, 197). "Faith precedes works, and is not something merely deduced by

reason of existing" (D. Edmond Hiebert, Thessalonians, 2 Thes 1:11). "Faith is always a gift of God" (L. Morris, John, p 520).

"The basis of faith is God's revelation of Himself . . . Christianity came

to be seen as a faith event" (O. Michel, Dictionary of New Testament Theology).

"Faith is the divine response, wrought in man, by God" (from Berkof's Systematic Theology, representing the views of Barth and Brunner).

"Faith always has the element of assurance, certainty and confidence . . . and evidential value substantiating the thing we hope for . . . with faith, there is no strain or tension; rather, it has the element of assurance and confidence in it . . . if there is strain or tension . . . trying to persuade yourself to keep from doubting, you can be quite sure that it is not faith . . . faith is not the law of mathematical probability, . . . faith is not natural . . . faith is spiritual, the gift of God . . . you cannot command faith at will, faith is always something that is given-in-wrought by God; . . . therefore, if you want to be a man of faith, it will always be the result of becoming a certain type of person" (M. Lloyd Jones, Romans, Ro 4:18-25).

"Faith is the divinely given conviction of things unseen" (Homer Kent Jr., Hebrews, 217, quoting Theological Dictionary of the NT vol 2, 476).

"Faith is the organ which enables people to see the invisible order" (F.

F. Bruce, Hebrews, 279).

"Faith is knowing what is His will toward us; therefore, we hold faith to be the knowledge of God's will toward us" (John Calvin, as quoted by R. McAfee Brown in Is Faith Obsolete?).

"Right faith is a thing wrought in us by the Holy Spirit" (Wm. Tyndale).

"We have made faith a condition of mind, when it is a divinely imparted grace of the heart . . . we can receive faith only as he gives it . . . you cannot manufacture faith, you can not work it up . . . you can believe a promise, and at the same time not have the faith to appropriate it . . . genuine, Scriptural faith is not our ability to 'count it done,' but is the deep consciousness divinely imparted to the heart of man that it is done, . . . it is the faith that only God can give . . . do not struggle in the power of the will . . . what a mistake to take our belief in God and call of faith . . . Christ, the living word, is our sufficiency . . . (Charles Price, The Real Faith, Logos/publications).

Note: On the distinction between believing (belief), and faith in the Scriptures see Js 2:19; Jn 10:38; Ac 8:13, 26:27,28; Ro 14:2; 2 Thes 2:11; 1 Jn 4:1; also Jn 2:23, 7:31, 12:42 and 4102/pisteuô ("believe").

As in the Gospels, a person's believing (belief) is vital (cf. Heb 11:6). But a personal encounter with Christ (a true connection with Him and His Word) is always necessary for believing ("man's responsibility") to be transformed into faith (which is always and only God's word). See also Mt 8:10,13, 9:22,28,29, 15:28; Ac 20:21; Ro 9:32; Gal 3:9,22.

Summary

Belief and faith are not exactly equivalent terms. When Jesus told people, "Your faith has made you well," faith was still His gift

(Eph 2:8,9). Any gift however, once received, becomes the "possession" of the recipient. Faith however is always from God and is purely His work (2 Thes 1:11).

Note: The Greek definite article is uniformly used in the expressions "your faith," "their faith" (which occur over 30 times in the Greek NT). This genitive construction with the article refers to "the principle of faith (operating in) you" – not "your faith" in the sense that faith is ever generated by the recipient.

[The meaning of the definite article in this construction is "the principle of faith at work in you," "the operating-principle of faith in them," etc. For examples see: Mt 9:2,22,29; Lk 17:19; Phil 2:17; 2 Pet 1:5, etc.]

Faith (4102/pistis) involves belief but it goes beyond human believing because it involves the personal revelation (inworking) of God. Faith is always God's work. Our believing has eternal meaning when it becomes "faith-believing" by the transforming grace of God.

Reflection: Demons believe (and shudder) . . . but they do not have (experience) faith!

Js 2:19: "You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder" (NASU).



Leviticus 26

Blessings for Obedience

1“You shall not make idols for yourselves or erect an image or pillar, and you shall not set up a figured stone in your land to bow down to it, for I am the LORD your God. **2**You shall keep my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.

3“If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them, **4**then I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. **5**Your threshing shall last to the time of the grape harvest, and the grape harvest shall last to the time for sowing. And you shall eat your bread to the full and dwell in

your land securely. **6**I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid. And I will remove harmful beasts from the land, and the sword shall not go through your land. **7**You shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. **8**Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall chase ten thousand, and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. **9**I will turn to you and make you fruitful and multiply you and will confirm my covenant with you. **10**You shall eat old store long kept, and you shall clear out the old to make way for the new. **11**I will make my dwelling^a among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. **12**And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people. **13**I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves. And I have broken the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.

Punishment for Disobedience

14“But if you will not listen to me and will not do all these commandments, **15**if you spurn my statutes, and if your soul abhors my rules, so that you will not do all my commandments, but break my covenant, **16**then I will do this to you: I will visit you with panic, with wasting disease and fever that consume the eyes and make the heart ache. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. **17**I will set my face against you, and you shall be struck down before your enemies. Those who hate you shall rule over you, and you shall flee when none pursues you. **18**And if in spite of this you will not listen to me, then I will discipline you again sevenfold for your sins, **19**and I will break the pride of your power, and I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. **20**And your strength shall be spent in vain, for your land shall not yield its increase, and the trees of the land shall not yield their fruit.

21“Then if you walk contrary to me and will not listen to me, I will continue striking you, sevenfold for your sins. **22**And I will

let loose the wild beasts against you, which shall bereave you of your children and destroy your livestock and make you few in number, so that your roads shall be deserted.

23“And if by this discipline you are not turned to me but walk contrary to me, **24**then I also will walk contrary to you, and I myself will strike you sevenfold for your sins. **25**And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall execute vengeance for the covenant. And if you gather within your cities, I will send pestilence among you, and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy. **26**When I break your supply^b of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in a single oven and shall dole out your bread again by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied.

27“But if in spite of this you will not listen to me, but walk contrary to me, **28**then I will walk contrary to you in fury, and I myself will discipline you sevenfold for your sins. **29**You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters. **30**And I will destroy your high places and cut down your incense altars and cast your dead bodies upon the dead bodies of your idols, and my soul will abhor you. **31**And I will lay your cities waste and will make your sanctuaries desolate, and I will not smell your pleasing aromas. **32**And I myself will devastate the land, so that your enemies who settle in it shall be appalled at it. **33**And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste.

34“Then the land shall enjoy^c its Sabbaths as long as it lies desolate, while you are in your enemies’ land; then the land shall rest, and enjoy its Sabbaths. **35**As long as it lies desolate it shall have rest, the rest that it did not have on your Sabbaths when you were dwelling in it. **36**And as for those of you who are left, I will send faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies. The sound of a driven leaf shall put them to flight, and they shall flee as one flees from the sword, and they shall fall when none pursues. **37**They shall stumble over one another, as if to escape a sword, though none pursues. And you shall have

no power to stand before your enemies. **38**And you shall perish among the nations, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up. **39**And those of you who are left shall rot away in your enemies’ lands because of their iniquity, and also because of the iniquities of their fathers they shall rot away like them.

40“But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me, **41**so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies—if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity, **42**then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land. **43**But the land shall be abandoned by them and enjoy its Sabbaths while it lies desolate without them, and they shall make amends for their iniquity, because they spurned my rules and their soul abhorred my statutes. **44**Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not spurn them, neither will I abhor them so as to destroy them utterly and break my covenant with them, for I am the LORD their God. **45**But I will for their sake remember the covenant with their forefathers, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God: I am the LORD.”

46These are the statutes and rules and laws that the LORD made between himself and the people of Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai.

Footnotes:

a 11 Hebrew *tabernacle*

b 26 Hebrew *staff*

c 34 Or *pay for*; twice in this verse; also verse 43



