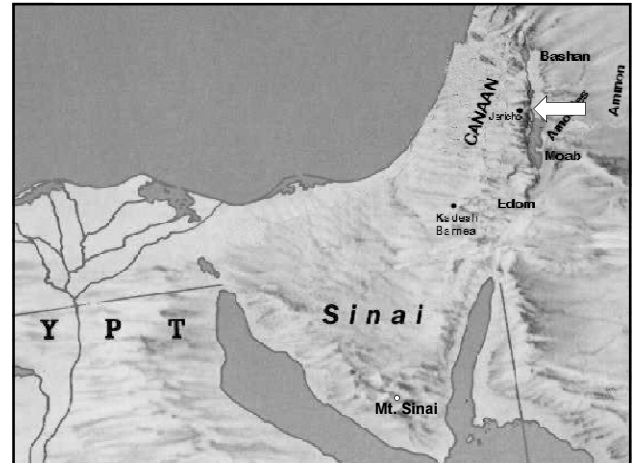


Gleanings from the Pentateuch

The Danger of Self-Righteousness Deuteronomy 9-10



Book of Deuteronomy

Review

- *Occasion* – the new generation of Israel was about to enter the promised land of Canaan
- *Purpose* – covenant renewal; Moses expounded the Law to the people and they pledged allegiance to it
- *Form* – a “covenant”; emphasized God’s kingship and the people’s loyalty

Book of Deuteronomy

Dangers of Canaan

- *Chpt. 7* – the danger of idolatry
- *Chpt. 8* – the danger of prosperity
- *Chpt. 9* – the danger of self-righteousness

Self-Righteousness Excluded

Deuteronomy 9-10

“It is not for your righteousness or for the uprightness of your heart that you are going in to possess their land, but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that Lord your God is driving them out before you, in order to confirm the oath which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Know then, it is not because of your righteousness that the Lord your God is giving you this land to possess, for you are a stiff-necked people.” (v5-6)

Self-Righteousness Excluded

Deuteronomy 9-10

1. Israel’s possession of Canaan was not due to their righteousness

- because of the Canaanites’ wickedness
- fulfillment of God’s promise to their fathers
- an unmerited gift of God’s grace

Self-Righteousness Excluded

Deuteronomy 9-10

2. Israel was no more worthy/righteous than the Canaanite nations

- Israel had been rebellious against the Lord, provoking Him to wrath, their entire history
- Israel, like the Canaanites, was worthy of the Lord's destroying judgment

Self-Righteousness Excluded

Deuteronomy 9-10

3. God's election of Israel was not based on any inherent quality, but on His unmerited love

- God chose Israel to be His people out of all the peoples on the face of the earth
- God's choice of Israel was to serve as great incentive for their love and obedience

Self-Righteousness Excluded

Remedies to Self-Righteousness

1. Salvation is an unmerited gift of God's grace not based on our righteousness

Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:28

Self-Righteousness Excluded

Remedies to Self-Righteousness

2. All of us are equally deserving of God's just wrath and judgment

Romans 1:18; 3:9-20

Self-Righteousness Excluded

Remedies to Self-Righteousness

3. In our rebellion and willful unbelief, we were incapable of submission to God

Romans 8:7; Ephesians 2:1-5

Self-Righteousness Excluded

Remedies to Self-Righteousness

4. Our salvation is grounded ultimately in God's sovereign election

Ephesians 1:3-6; Romans 9:13-16

Self-Righteousness Excluded

Outcome

A humble, broken-hearted love for God

AND

A love for our enemies