

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

Secret & Revealed Things Deuteronomy 29:29

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“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may obey all the words of this law.”

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Contextual Meaning

1. Immediate Context

- a warning of the consequences of breaking the covenant and forsaking the Lord
- more than a warning – an implicit prediction of Israel's future judgment; (*part of God's larger, sovereign purpose*)

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Contextual Meaning

2. Meaning of “secret/revealed things”

- “secret things” refers to the yet unknown, though inevitable, God-ordained future
- “revealed things” refers to God's word/law – that which He has clearly made known

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Contextual Meaning

3. Significance for Israel

- Israel's future did not alleviate its present responsibility to obey
- God had revealed all that was necessary for their obedience and blessing

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Principle: # 1

The purpose of God's revelation is not to make all things known, but all things necessary for faith and obedience

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Principle: # 2

The sovereign decree and exhaustive foreknowledge of God do not negate the responsibility of man to obey

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Illustrations

1. God's sovereignty and the command to pray
2. God's sovereignty and the command to repent and believe
3. God's sovereignty and the command to proclaim the gospel to all peoples