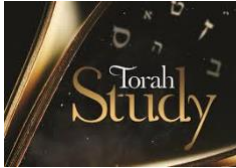


20170923 Deuteronomy 32:1-32:52 "Choosing Life: Making Him Your All in All "

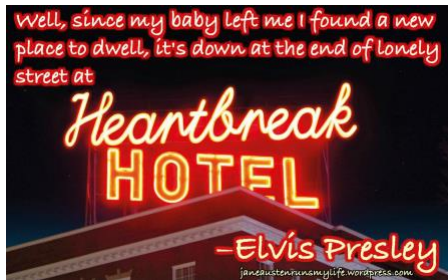


"Choosing Life: Making Him Your All in All "
Series: "Lessons for Living: A Christian Walk through the Torah"
by Faber McMullen, Union Grove Baptist Church ©2017

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[Torah: Deuteronomy 32:1-32:52](#)

- [Torah: Deuteronomy 29:9-31:30](#)



If you Google search "Songs that changed the world forever" you will pull up 13, 700,000 hits. "Love to you Baby" by Donna Summer is number one.

"Heartbreak Hotel" by Elvis is number two, and then the list has a multitude of songs which I have never heard. I did recognize "Mellow Yellow" by Donovan and I'm still trying to figure out how calling it mellow yellow could really have changed

the world forever. Songs are important. I love singing scripture because it helps me to remember the words of large passages in the Bible. One of the first songs of scripture I ever learned was during my college days when we learned together the Song of Miriam, Moses' sister, that she sang just after Pharaoh and his chariots had been thrown into the sea. We sang, "I will sing unto the Lord for He has triumphed gloriously the horse and rider thrown into the sea." And thus began the long journey of the Israelites in the desert.

So, it is actually very fitting that as the Children of Israel stood waiting to go into the Promised Land, Moses sang to them his very last words. Jewish sages report that this song was sung to them on the last day of Moses' life. In my Bible, Deuteronomy Chapter 32 is entitled "The Song of Moses". Let's listen to some key points before we get to our key passage which is found in verses 44 - 27. Please open your Bibles to Deuteronomy Chapter 32 verse 1.

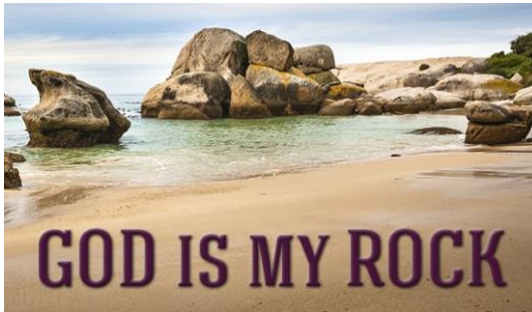
- 1 "Give ear, O heavens, and let me speak;
And let the earth hear the words of my mouth.
- 2 "Let my teaching drop as the rain,
My speech distill as the dew,
As the droplets on the fresh grass
And as the showers on the herb.
- 3 "For I proclaim the name of the LORD;
Ascribe greatness to our God!

4 “The Rock! His work is perfect,
For all His ways are just;
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
Righteous and upright is He.



Moses sets the stage by saying "Hey listen up heavens and listen up earth"..... "Hey entire universe, listen to what I have to say" because this teaching is to be like rain. Rain restores, cleanses and nourishes the parched and dry ground. And he continues, "the things that I'm going to tell you are all condensed down. They are distilled down to the things that really matter and they're going to be like droplets and showers that come down bringing life and nourishment to grass and herb."

He starts off saying, "I'm proclaiming the name of the Lord". So let me ask you, "What is the name of the Lord?" Remember back when Moses was receiving his call to go and free his people in Egypt. He asked God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" (Ex 3:11-12) And what did God tell him? ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' "This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.



So here again Moses is declaring that the God that they serve, Yahweh, was, and is, and will always be. That is the very meaning of His name. There is nothing that exists outside of Him. And then in verses 3 and 4 Moses begins to describe the very essence or character of the one and only God, "**He is THE ROCK**" upon whom we all can depend. He is perfectly righteous and He is perfectly

just." He is *Tzedek*..... righteously just in all of His ways.

Moses then sings of just how much God chose Israel and just how much God has made provision for her.

9 “For the LORD’s portion is His people;
Jacob is the allotment of His inheritance.
10 “He found him in a desert land,
And in the howling waste of a wilderness;
He encircled him, He cared for him,
He guarded him as the pupil (or apple) of His eye.

You see the Lord picked out the people of Jacob. And, just for memories sake, who was Jacob? Jacob was the son of Abraham whom God had called out of a city far north and east in Mesopotamia. Abraham had been chosen and called, and he left to go to the place that God had called him not knowing where he was going nor how he was going to get there. Abraham only knew that God would be there when Abraham got there. And then young Jacob was born to Abraham and in time God's covenant with Abraham was renewed in Jacob, and in time God changed Jacob's name to Israel. "Israel" either means "God rules" or "Straight or orthodox of God". And then when God chose Israel the text tells us that he encircled him, cared for him, and guarded him like the pupil (or literally the 'apple') of His eye."

So what did Israel do to deserve such grace? The answer is NOTHING. God chose Israel and asked only one thing in return. And, what was that thing?

12 the LORD alone guided him, no foreign god was with him.

13 He made him ride on the high places of the land, and he ate the produce of the field, and he suckled him with honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock. ¹



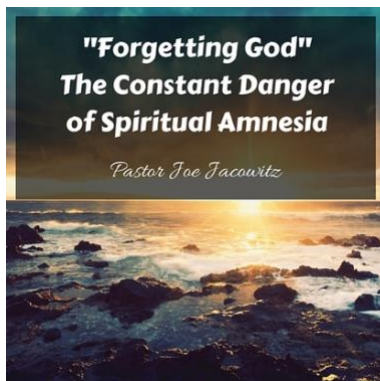
You see God desired an exclusive arrangement with Israel. God had warned them at Sinai, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." So what happened? How could it happen? The text tells us that as the Israelites grew prosperous, they forgot the very source of their prosperity.

15 "But Jeshurun grew fat, and kicked; you grew fat, stout, and sleek; then he forsook God who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation.

16 They stirred him to jealousy with strange gods; with abominations they provoked him to anger.

17 They sacrificed to demons that were no gods, to gods they had never known, to new gods that had come recently, whom your fathers had never dreaded.

18 You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you, and you forgot the God who gave you birth. ²



The Lord is saying you "Jeshuran" (the upright one; Israel) grew fat and sassy, and then you thought yourself to be so classy. You forgot that Yahweh was the rock upon whom you can depend, and you began to seek after everything else but God Himself. Don't you see ourselves

Standard Version. (2001). (Dt 32:12–13). Wheaton:

Standard Version. (2001). (Dt 32:15–18). Wheaton:

in this passage church? How quickly we forget that all that we are and all that we have comes straight from Him. We begin so honestly and sincerely wanting to honor God with our lives and our selves and then when we feel comfortable and settled we grow restless to seek after me, myself, and I. Men grow restless and lust after other women. Women grow restless and lust after things likewise forbidden. We end up "sacrificing" ourselves and all that we have to demons that want to only enslave us, dominate us, and destroy us. Remember the meaning of "Baal". He is the possessor or the dominator. How easily we forget that our only hope is in the Rock of Jacob; in the Holy One of Israel. How quick we are to exchange a loving shepherd for a cruel dominator. We do this over and over. It is a predictable cycle.



It's kind of interesting because the text tells us that sometimes when his people do this forgetting God spares His people of judgment lest the enemies of Israel be mistaken about what is happening. The text tells us that they might mistakenly take the glory for the downfall of Israel. The song then voices all the ways that rejecting the Lord takes a toll on our lives. What Moses is really saying in all of this is that WE HAVE A CHOICE. He is saying that we have a choice each step along the

way to say, "Lord, you have made me all that I am and Lord I want to honor you with my very life."

Moses tells us that our tendency will be to grow cold and lax. Our tendency will be to begin thinking that it was our own doing that brought blessing into our lives. He is reminding us in song that God wants us to have an exclusive relationship with Him.

We are not to follow the world or the world's values. We are to choose Him. When we fall in love with Him a new song is put in our mouths. My own heart often sings these words, "Oh Lord, your beautiful. Your face is all I seek. And when your eyes are on this child, your grace abounds to me." And then I bow in my mind praying, "We exalt thee. We exalt thee. We exalt thee, Oh Lord. We exalt thee. We exalt thee, Oh Lord." Take a moment and sing that with me.

Moses is singing from the depths of his soul. This is his end. This is his swan song. This is his dying declaration. These are the most important words he'll ever say.

- 44 Then Moses came and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people, he, with Joshua the son of Nun.
- 45 When Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel,
- 46 he said to them, "Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, which you shall command your sons to observe carefully, *even* all the words of this law.
- 47 **"For it is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life. And by this word you will prolong your days in the land, which you are about to cross the**

Jordan to possess.”

Moses is saying, "These words are not empty. Choose these words and choose life!" This is the secret to prosperity. This is the secret to prolonging your days in the land and not to fall under the judgment of God. The last few verses chronicle the death of Moses. You see Moses wasn't allowed to enter the Promised Land because of his sin. We do know however that Moses did in fact come into the Promised Land.



When Jesus was revealed as Messiah before His disciples on the Mountain, the text tells us that Jesus stood there with our old friend Moses and Elijah. Moses was there watching the fulfillment of all God's promises in Yahashua Ha Messiaich - Jesus the Messiah - the one and only lamb that was to take away the sins of the world forever. No longer was the blood of the lamb to be spilt on the doorposts; rather THE LAMB had come to take away the sins of the world on a cruel and despised rugged cross.

When the lawyer came to Jesus to test Him concerning his knowledge of Moses and the Torah, he asked Jesus, "What is the greatest commandment?" He did this to make Jesus somehow discredit Himself. What did Jesus say? Well He quoted Moses encapsulating ALL that Moses was singing in the Chapter 32 of Deuteronomy.

Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all of your soul, and with all of your strength". And Jesus ended it saying, "And thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang ALL of the LAW/TORAH and the PROPHETS".

So guys, how can this be done? How does this look in your own life? Well, first if you've never made a decision to follow Jesus and to accept His finished sacrifice on the cross then I ask you make a decision to do that today.

Secondly, if you already know Him, confess your wandering today and commit to following Him with your all. Let him be your "all in all". I love the song we often sing, "

You are my strength when I am weak, You are the treasure that I seek
You are my all in all, Seeking You as a precious jewel
Lord, to give up I'd be a fool, You are my all in all
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name
Let us Pray

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