

# Warning Signs on the Road to Canaan

# Deuteronomy

Deutero-nomy

Second-Law

- Dt.5: repeated Law
- Dt.6: explained Law
  - 6:1: 'commandment' (singular). 4:44
  - 6:2: 'fear': respect, reverence (awesome).  
(3-4 – 'hear')
  - 6:4-9: way
  - 6:10-25: warning signs (road to Canaan)

I. Beware lest you forget the LORD,  
10-12

## Beware prosperity (10-11)

- Distraction, 11. In Canaan: who needs God?
- Saturation, 11 (full). Lk.12
- Misdirection, 12 (forget Lord).
  - Ro.1<sup>25</sup> ‘...exchanged truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator’
  - Mt.6<sup>24</sup> ‘you cannot serve God and money’
  - 2 Tim.3<sup>4</sup> ‘lovers of pleasure...’

# Warnings about riches – 1 Tim.6

- Do not use God for profit, 5. Mt.19:24
- Do not seek riches, 9-10 (Mt.6:32)
- Do not misuse riches, 17-19
  - Good stewards are truly rich
    - Abraham
    - Job
    - David
    - Macedonians (2 Co.8 / Ac.16)

I. Beware lest you forget the LORD, 10-12

II. The LORD your God is jealous,  
13-15

# What some think of God

“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, blood-thirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal ... capriciously malevolent bully” – R. Dawkins

1. If no God, so what?
2. What standard condemns these things?
3. Often autobiographical

# What some think of God!

13: fear, serve, oaths...: total commitment

- NOT because He needs it. RYR

14: idolatry is spiritual adultery

- Canaan's gods gave 'fertility'; Israel would honor their claims, forgetting God's salvation from Egypt / victory in Canaan



# What some think of God!

13: fear, serve, swear: total commitment

14: idolatry is spiritual adultery

15: jealous (it arouses His anger)

- **Two kinds of jealousy –**

1. Improper: selfish feeling over another...

1 Sm.18; Lk.15

2. Godly: 2 Co.11<sup>2</sup> For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ

- Concern: God's honor / man's soul

# Jealousy

Used of ardent love: *intense positive interest in something, ardor*

- **Paul:** marriage relation describes it.
  - Ex.20<sup>5</sup> you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,  
<sup>6</sup> but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments

# Jealousy

Used of ardent love: *intense positive interest in something, ardor*

- **Paul:** marriage relation describes it.
  - Ex.34<sup>14</sup> for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God
    - Name stresses: this is His nature, His character.
    - Holiness does not tolerate competitors.

# Jealousy

Used of ardent love: *intense positive interest in something, ardor*

- Ac.12<sup>21</sup> So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. <sup>22</sup> And the people kept shouting, “The voice of a god and not of a man!” <sup>23</sup> Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died. <sup>24</sup> But the word of God grew and multiplied.

I. Beware lest you forget the LORD, 10-12

II. The LORD your God is jealous, 10-12

III. You shall not tempt the LORD  
your God, 16

## Ex.17:1-7

- **Massah:** tempting
- **Meribah:** strife
  - Doubted His care, power, and goodness
  - Complained in spite of many blessings

## Ps.78:40-41

<sup>40</sup> How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, And grieved Him in the desert! <sup>41</sup> Yes, again and again they tempted God, And limited the Holy One of Israel.

- If *limited*: did not believe He could help them.
- If *provoked*: tested Him to see how far they could go. 1 Co.10:9

## Mt.4:

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

- He would not presume upon His grace.
  - “My God is a God of love.”
  - Treats Him like a buffet...



## Hb.3

<sup>8</sup> Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness,

<sup>9</sup> Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years.

- Neglected and disobeyed Him.
- Greatest threat to Israel: NOT foreign army...but worldly desires and false prophets within Israel itself.

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II. The LORD your God is jealous, 10-12

III. You shall not tempt LORD your God, 16

IV. The LORD commanded us  
for our good always, 24

## Dt.6:24

God's rules restricted their happiness (?)

- Pr.9<sup>12</sup> If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you will bear it alone
- Pr.16<sup>26</sup> The person who labors, labors for himself, For his hungry mouth drives him on
- Pr.13<sup>15</sup> Good understanding gains favor, But the way of the unfaithful is hard

- Isa.3<sup>10</sup> Say to the righteous that it shall be well with them, For they shall eat the fruit of their doings.
- Mt.6<sup>33</sup> seek first the kingdom of God . . .
  - It's not enough to . . .
    - want it
    - think about it
    - do a little
    - put it second
    - plan to do it right later in life

- 2 Chr.1<sup>11</sup> Then God said to Solomon:  
“Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life—but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king—<sup>12</sup> wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like.”

# Desert and temptation met again...

## Mt.4, temptation of Messiah

- Israel had lived in dependence upon God...
- When they prospered, they were tempted to forget God
- When blessings are not recognized as a gift of God, they become a curse
- Mt.4 – Jesus teaches same lesson to new generation...including us
  - Mt.4:7, temptation
  - Mt.4:10, worship God ALONE