

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## DEUTERONOMY 5-8

Deuteronomy 5 re-lists God's Ten Commandments.

And a good pastor knows his people. He knows how to speak to his flock. That's why I'm starting today with **The Hillbilly Ten Commandments** - just to make sure all of us know exactly what Moses is talking about...

1. Ain't but one God.
2. Nuttin comes fore the Lord.
3. Quit yer foul mouthin'.
4. Git yer hide to Sunday meetin'.
5. Honor yer Ma and Pa.
6. No killin' sept for critters.
7. No foolin' wit another fellers gal.
8. No swipin' yer kinfolks stuf.
9. No tellin' tales or gossipin'.
10. No hankerin' fer wat's not yours.

Whether you're a hillbilly or a city slicker God has ten non-negotiable(s) by which you should live! Regardless of our peers or circumstances there are ten principles we all should obey. *You'll live better... our society will be better...* if we all adhere to God's Top Ten...

Deuteronomy 5:1, "And Moses called all Israel, and said to them: "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them." Recall Deuteronomy is a series of speeches given by Moses, on one day, to the exodus' younger generation, just before they enter Canaan. With what the elders disobeyed, their children will now be challenged...

"The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb (or Mount Sinai)." The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive." God's commands were directed to kids and grandkids as well as adults.

Verse 4, "The LORD talked with you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire. I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the LORD; for you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up the mountain." God appeared on Mount Sinai engulfed in fire and smoke. Obviously, this was a serious moment. Then in an audible voice He gave to Israel **ten commandments**...

“He said: I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. **'You shall have no other gods before Me.'**”

Note, God's first commandment is a response to His grace and deliverance. *“I saved you from the house of bondage. I ended your slavery, now follow Me alone.”*

Hey, God never frees us just for freedom's sake. In fact, freedom is an illusion, **everybody serves somebody**. Our only real choice is who will be our master. God pleads with Israel to worship Him alone.

Verse 8, **“You shall not make for yourself any carved image - any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.”** The true God is spirit. He has no confinements - no bounds or limitations. He can't be boxed in or restricted. The second command prohibits us from marginalizing or diminishing God to an image.

In the Roman Catholic list of Ten Commandments this prohibition gets left out. Their obsession with icons and images makes this command a bit uncomfortable.

But here's why this is so important. **“For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God,”** God is not jealous *“of us,”* but *“for us.”* Our love for Him should be unrivaled. He doesn't share our loyalty with anyone or anything.

And God will judge people. He holds human beings accountable... **“visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.”**

Verse 11, **“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”** You can break this command, and take His name in vain, in at least three ways: *with **profanity**, or **hypocrisy**, or **frivolity**.*

Obviously attaching a **profanity** to God's name, or speaking His name in disgust, or in anger, or any use of His holy name in an unholy way is a violation.

Second, claiming a closeness to God without a real association with Him is **hypocrisy, and a violation**.

And third, perhaps the most common way to break this commandment is to throw God's name around **frivolously**, *without taking Him seriously*. In our culture, everybody talks about “God,” but no effort is given to understand who He is and what pleases Him. The devil's goal in a nutshell is *“to keep God in our thoughts, but as nothing more than an afterthought.”*

Verse 12, “Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall not do any work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your manservant and your maidservant may rest as well as you.” Hey, *work seven days straight and it makes one weak!* Take a break or you’ll get broken. God wants us to *rest, and reflect, and recharge* one day in seven.

Remember God created mankind at the end of the sixth day. The purpose of all the previous creation was to make an environment that would support human life. But after God created Adam and Eve He ceased from His work. **Why?** To enjoy the people He had created.

God rested not because He was tired, but because He wanted to hang out with the man and woman.

Later, God put Adam to work in His garden, but He wanted Adam to return to Him one day in seven to spend time with His Creator, and to remember why He was created. And so God established the Sabbath. God created man by breathing into his nostrils the breath of life. Now every seventh day God wants us to catch our breath, and return to our life source. Every seventh day you and I need to be spiritually recharged.

“And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.” For 400 years the Hebrews had labored in Egypt without a single day off. It’s hard to believe **not taking one now** would ever be an issue.

But God knew that greed, busyness, and ambition can become as cruel a taskmaster as Egypt. This is why God’s people need to rest one day in seven.

“Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.” God wrote these commandments with His finger on two stone tablets. The first dealt with *man’s relationship with God*. The second dealt with *his relationship with his fellow man*.

Most people place this fifth command on the second tablet, but I think it belongs on the first. *For if you can’t respect your parents, the authority you can see, how will you respect the authority you can’t see, or God?*

Verse 17, “**You shall not murder.**” Newer translations rightly say “*murder,*” not “*kill.*” For there are some God-sanctioned types of killing... *capital punishment, self-defense, just war...* Murder though is taking a person’s life without a biblical justification, and it is forbidden!

Verse 18, “**You shall not commit adultery.**” Did you hear of the Sunday School teacher who was explaining the Ten Commandments? He was doing great, until number seven... One child asked, “*What does it mean to commit agriculture?*” The little guy had his words confused... Well, while the teacher was laughing, another student offered a great answer. He said, “*It means you shouldn’t plough in another man’s field.*”

That’s a great definition for committing *agriculture and adultery*. In both cases “*you shouldn’t plough in another man’s field.*” Even if two unmarried people have sex it violates their future spouse. *It’s adultery in advance.* You’re still guilty of plowing in another’s field, and they’ll have to deal with the problems you caused.

Verse 19, “**You shall not steal.**” Put positively, respect personal property. Private property is God’s idea, which makes robbery a sin against God. And there’s a long list of ways to steal without breaking into a house...

*Shoplifting, pilfering from the company, failure to pay your taxes, fraudulent insurance claims, software piracy, padded expense accounts, failure to pay child support, frivolous lawsuits, borrowed items never returned, unlawful downloads of music, taking a coca-cola out of the cooler in the Brook without putting \$.50 in the can...* And lastly, the worst of all thievery, *withholding your tithes and stealing from God.*

Verse 20, “**You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**” Don’t lie, or gossip, or exaggerate, or slander. Proverbs 19:9 tells us, “*A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies shall perish.*”

And Number 10, verse 21, “**You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his manservant, his maidservant, his ox, his donkey, (his car, his golf clubs, her new countertops, their high definition plasma screen television), or anything that is your neighbor's.'**

There’s nothing wrong with us wanting nice things - *with working hard, saving your money, and purchasing amenities that’ll better your life.* The Bible teaches us that God “*gives us richly all things to enjoy.*”

But be content with what God gives. Covetousness wants what the other person’s got. A Christian should be characterized by *contentment*, not *covetousness*.

"These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me." It's been said, "The Ten Commandments were written on stone tablets and by following them you'll avoid taking lots of other tablets."

"So it was, when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, that you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders. And you said: 'Surely the LORD our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire.

We have seen this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives." This was surprising, people assumed sinful humans could never survive before a holy God.

They're thinking, "Now therefore, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the LORD our God anymore, then we shall die. For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? You go near and hear all that the LORD our God may say, and tell us all that the LORD our God says to you, and we will hear and do it."

The Hebrews don't want to test their fate again, so they ask Moses to go before God as their intermediary.

For the rest of Chapter 5 God expresses His desire for Israel to fear Him and keep His commands. If they walk in His ways it'll go well for them and their children. Moses is to stand by God and be His spokesperson...

Chapter 6, "Now this is the commandment..." for the people who'll cross over the Jordan into... verse 3, "*a land flowing with milk and honey.*" In verse 4 He begins, "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!" The word "hear" in Hebrew is "*shema.*" And this is why the Jews call verse 4, "*the Great Shema.*"

This verse became a Jewish creed - an affirmation of faith. In the midst of a polytheistic world, the *Shema* declared the monotheistic nature of God, "*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!*" Judaism was the only belief to declare one God as the true God.

But the *Shema* holds a deeper revelation. The word translated "*one*" is the Hebrew "*echad*," which speaks **not** of an *absolute unity*, but of a *compound unity*. When the rabbis explain the word "*echad*" they hold up one fist, then point out that this one fist is also made up of five fingers - *it's a unity, but it's a compound unity*.

And this is a beautiful way to describe the nature of our Triune God. He's a compound unity - one God existing in three distinct persons: Father, Son, Spirit.



Once, a little girl was asked if she knew the term for the three persons of the Godhead. The teacher was looking for the term, “Trinity” - or the triunity of God. But instead the little girl answered, “The Triplets.” She was right on the three persons, but God is still just one God!

Verse 5, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” In Mark 12 a Jewish scribe came to Jesus, testing Him, “Which is the first commandment of all?”

Jesus answered, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.”

According to Jesus, Deuteronomy 6:5 is the greatest of all the 613 Jewish commandments. *We’re to love God with all we’ve got. Love the Lord passionately.*

And we’re to pass on our passion for God to our children. For “These words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.” I love the way God tells us to teach spiritual truth to our kids... He doesn’t suggest we hold Bible classes, or festive Sunday Schools, or bust the bank to send our kids to Christian school, or even sit once a week and have a family devotion... *although these practices have value.*

But the preferred method is much more hands-on and relational. The best way to convey spiritual truth to kids is to integrate its application and relevance into everyday life. **Teach God’s truth as you live your life.** “When you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up...”

Always be on the look-out for a teachable moment. The kid on the baseball team who throws a temper tantrum is your opportunity to talk about why a good attitude is important... Rejection from a friend becomes the springboard for a lesson on why our security needs to be in God, not man... Nervousness before a test is fertile ground to teach the power of prayer and a reliance on the Holy Spirit... *These are opportunities!*

This is how Jesus taught His disciples. He was walking down the road one day, and saw a man with a bag of seed... “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed...” Or a flock of birds flew overhead, and He pointed, “Look at the birds of the air, for they neither reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them...” Jesus was always drawing on real life situations to teach spiritual truths.

And it's the context of this chapter that helps us interpret verse 8, "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." Moses is talking about a comprehensive, integrative approach toward applying God's Word to our world. He says "*bind it on your hand*"... let God's Word guide your activities. "*Bind it between your eyes*"... let His Word color your thinking.

Write God's Word on "*the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*" In essence, the Bible should set the atmosphere inside your home and within your city.

Today though, Orthodox Jews have a different take on this verse. They're very literal in their interpretation and application. They wear leather pouches strapped around their foreheads and wrists called *phylacteries*. These small pouches contain tiny pages of Scripture.

Also *mezzuzahs* are boxes containing these verses from Deuteronomy. Families nail them to the column or doorpost of their homes. As they enter or exit they kiss the *mezzuzah*. It shows their love for God's Word.

Verse 10, "So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant..." As Israel journeys they'll end up in **grace-land**. A world that's all grace. All their blessings will be unearned. *It came with the territory...* And this is our experience in Christ! We now live in a grace-land. Christianity is all about grace.

But "*when you have eaten and are full - then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.*" And here's the danger with those who are saved by grace. "**Lest you forget.**" We can take God's blessings for granted and forget where they came from and how they were obtained. As we talked about last time, one theme of the book of Deuteronomy is **our responsibility to remember**. Don't forget what God has done for you.

For we're all susceptible to spiritual amnesia. We need to take seriously our responsibility to remember!

It reminds me of the woman sitting in her car at the train station, half-crying, half-laughing. When the cop asked her what was the problem, she explained, "*For ten years, each morning I've driven my husband twenty miles to this station to catch his train. This morning I forgot him!*" Israel had spent forty years with God, but that didn't mean they would always remember Him.

In verses 13-19 God warns His people that when they enter the promised land they'll

be surrounded by nations who serve false gods. They need a faith that stands strong, and fears God, and serves Him alone!

He says in verse 16, “**You shall not tempt the LORD your God as you tempted Him in Massah.**” This happened right out of Egypt. The Hebrews complained about a lack of water. God had Moses strike a rock. He silenced their grumblings with water from a rock. From now on they need to *trust God*, not *try God*.

Verse 20, “**When your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God has commanded you?'**” And this is the question your son will one day ask you! Young kids accept rules on face value, but teenagers want to know *why*... *Give me a reason for the rules?... Give me a rationale to obey?*

**Why is sex outside of marriage a bad idea?.. Why should I go to church every Sunday?... How do we know the Bible is the inerrant Word of God?...** Parents need to be informed and do their research. “**When you son asks you in time to come...**” You need to be prepared to provide sound, biblical, rational answers.

Verse 21, “**then you shall say to your son: 'We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand; and the LORD showed signs and wonders before our eyes, great and severe, against Egypt, Pharaoh, and all his household.'**” Not only do our teens need answers, let them hear your testimony - *how God delivered you*.

“**Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers.**” And this is vital, **God always brings us out, to bring us in.** He delivers us from sin... saves us, washes us, cleanses us... not to put us on a mantle where we can be admired, but to make us useful.

God brought Israel out of Egypt to bring them into the land of Canaan... *to win battles, to conquer enemies, to obtain blessings*. When we come to Jesus, God brings us out of the world and into a better life.

Verse 24, “**And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day. Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us.**” I love this truth, “**to fear the Lord is for our good always...**”

Deuteronomy 7 opens with a battle plan for the invasion of Canaan. “**When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the**



Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.

Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.” Recall the Hebrews lacked the power of God’s Spirit. They had no inner strength, and were subject to outside influences. This is why they were so easily seduced by surrounding peoples. **And this is why God put such tight prohibitions on them intermingling with the pagans of the land.** The Hebrews lacked the power to resist temptation.

“But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.” God required of Israel a zero tolerance policy toward idols, and images, and altars.

For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; (Israel was set apart for God - for His purposes and plans) the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”

How amazing, God didn’t choose Israel because of her natural advantages, or her large numbers, or her pedigree, or any special endowments. *God chose Israel for one reason - **He loved them.*** And the same is true of us. Our relationship with God is all grace! We get into God’s family not on merit, but on mercy.

Let me summarize verses 9-13. God is faithful. He blesses those who keep His commands, but destroys those who hate Him. And when Israel listens to His statutes God will bless. The land will be fruitful, the people will multiply, crops will grow, cattle will increase.

God promises in verse 14, “You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you or among your livestock. And the LORD will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you...”

Understand, protection from disease and an increase of herds are the blessings of God's Old Covenant. With OT Israel God was building an earthly, physical, political kingdom, thus His promises to His people involved physical and tangible blessings.

Today though, God is building a spiritual kingdom. Certainly, He blesses us however He chooses, and at times healing and prosperity come from His hand. But the blessings that flow **from His covenant** are spiritual more so than physical. As Paul said to the Ephesians, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ." Thus, under the NC, *that is in Christ*, God will use an illness or a lack to shape our character; for His blessings are primarily spiritual.

Verse 16, "And you shall destroy all the peoples whom the LORD your God delivers over to you; your eye shall have no pity on them; nor shall you serve their gods, for that will be a snare to you." As we've discussed before, another huge difference between the Old and New covenants is that under the OC idolaters were destroyed - under the NC they're converted. In Christ there is power to convert the sinful human heart.

Verse 17, "If you should say in your heart, 'These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them?' - you shall not be afraid of them, but you shall remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt: the great trials which your eyes saw, the signs and the wonders, the mighty hand and the outstretched arm, by which the LORD your God brought you out. So shall the LORD your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid. Moreover the LORD your God will send the hornet among them until those who are left, who hide themselves from you, are destroyed. You shall not be terrified of them; for the LORD your God, the great and awesome God, is among you." When the Lord fights for you even the hornets become your allies - your secret weapon.

Verse 22, "And the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once, lest the beasts of the field become too numerous for you." The byproduct of mass extermination would've been to leave no one to help protect the population from lions and bears. Israel would be rid of its enemies, but overrun with predators. Thus, God drove out the enemy, "little by little."

God promised an incremental victory. Often, we want instant, overnight elimination of our problems, but that is not usually how victory occurs in a Christian's life.

Yes, God's salvation occurs inwardly the moment we embrace Jesus, but the *working out* of what *God works in* takes time. It occurs "little by little," and along the way vital lessons get learned, maturity develops, patience accrues, and long-term victories get won.

The end of Chapter 7 describes how God will defeat Israel's enemies in due time. And instead of coveting their idols of gold and silver, Israel should burn them.

Verse 26 tells us, **Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is an accursed thing.** This is a vital verse, for it teaches us to properly hate. We **need** to detest and abhor the things that are sinful. Moses tells Israel not to bring an **abomination** into their house... *What do we bring into our house?* Through the internet or TV or from the package store... We need to hate what God hates.

Evangelist, Billy Sunday, once said, **"I'm against sin. I'll kick it as long as I've got a foot, and I'll fight it as long as I've got a fist. I'll butt it as long as I've got a head. I'll bite it as long as I've got a tooth. When I'm old and fist-less and footless and toothless, I'll gum it till I go home to glory and it goes home to perdition!"**

We need to *hate sin* and *love God*. Both attitudes are needed to live a victorious Christian life.

Chapter 8 tells us Israel's wilderness experience was not just for time to elapse so that the older generation could die off. God also intended it as a period to test the faith of the younger generation... *There are no self-made individuals in the desert.* It takes daily miracles from God to survive. They had to learn to walk by faith.

He tells them in verse 3, **"So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD."** This is the verse Jesus quoted when the devil tempted Him in the wilderness.

Remember, the devil said, **"if you are the son of God turn these stones to bread."** But Jesus said, **"man shall not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD."** We feed our bodies with bread, but the soul needs richer food. Only God's Word can fortify the spirit of a man.

Charles Spurgeon once commented on verse 3 and the term **"every,"** as in **"every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD..."** He wrote, **"In places where they cut diamonds, they sweep up the dust, because the very dust of diamonds is valuable; and in the Word of God, all the truth is so precious that the very tiniest truth, if there be such a thing, is still diamond dust, and is unspeakably precious."** Even the diamond dust of God's Word is valuable to a seeker with eyes to see.

Verse 4, **"Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years."** My kids *wore out* a pair of sneakers in a few weeks. Imagine, forty years with

the same clothes and sandals. They walked a desert floor for 40 years and never needed Dr. Shoals.

“You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you.” You might know this **in your head**, but Moses says “**you should know (this) in your heart.**” God is a good dad. But because of it, He’ll spank His children.

Don’t resent God’s discipline or be surprised when it happens. Chalk it up to God’s love for you. It means you’re His kid. God is faithful to discipline His children.

Verse 7, “For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper. When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.” So beware! When you’re living in abundance don’t forget the Lord who brought you out of the slavery of Egypt.

Don’t become so enamored with *God’s gifts* that you forget the *Giver of those gifts*. Sadly, it can happen!

“Who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock; who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end...” Remember this in the midst of a trial or difficulty you’re facing today, God’s intention is “**to do you good in the end.**” In the beginning it might be terribly excruciating, in the middle it’s still really difficult, but it’ll be “**good in the end.**”

“Then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’ God is warning Israel. He had done miracle after miracle, now don’t you rise up at the end and take credit for it all!

It reminds me of the woodpecker pecking on a tree trunk in a thunderstorm. Suddenly, the tree gets struck by lightning. It splits in two. The woodpecker flexes his muscles, and thinks, *“Look at the power in my beak.”*

*Don't you be as ridiculous!* God doesn't bless your business, family, and finances for you to take the bows. Give glory to whom it belongs. Be humble before God.

Verse 19, *"Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God."*

Again, the key is to not forget the Lord your God. Remember and you'll obey His voice!