

Message Five

Becoming Qualified to Inherit the Promised Land

RS Hymns: 602

Scripture Reading: Deut. 1:8, 21; 4:1-2, 5-9, 20, 40; 8:6; 10:12-21

- Deut 1:8 See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which Jehovah swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to them and to their seed after them.
- Deut 1:21 See, Jehovah your God has set the land before you; go up, possess it, as Jehovah the God of your fathers has spoken to you. Do not fear, neither be dismayed.
- Deut 4:1 And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the ordinances which I am teaching you to do, in order that you may live and go in and possess the land which Jehovah, the God of your fathers, is giving you.
- Deut 4:2 You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor shall you take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of Jehovah your God, which I am commanding you.
- Deut 4:5 See, I have taught you statutes and ordinances, as Jehovah my God commanded me, so that you would do them within the land which you are going in to possess.
- Deut 4:6 Keep and do them therefore; for this will be your wisdom and prudence in the sight of the peoples who hear all these statutes and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and prudent people.
- Deut 4:7 For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as Jehovah our God is whenever we call upon Him?
- Deut 4:8 And what great nation is there that has statutes and ordinances so righteous as all this law which I am setting before you today?
- Deut 4:9 But be careful and guard your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; rather, make them known to your children and to your grandchildren.
- Deut 4:20 But Jehovah has taken you and brought you forth from the iron furnace, from Egypt, that you would be to Him a people for His inheritance, as you are this day.
- Deut 4:40 Therefore keep His statutes and His commandments, which I am commanding you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, so that you may extend your days upon the land which Jehovah your God is giving you forever.
- Deut 8:6 Therefore keep the commandments of Jehovah your God, walking in His ways and fearing Him.
- Deut 10:12 And now, O Israel, what does Jehovah your God ask of you except that you fear Jehovah your God so that you would walk in all His ways and love Him and serve Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul;
- Deut 10:13 So that you would keep the commandments of Jehovah and His statutes, which I am commanding you today, for your good.
- Deut 10:14 Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to Jehovah your God, the earth and all that is in it.
- Deut 10:15 But on your fathers Jehovah set His affection to love them and to choose their seed after them, that is, you above all the peoples, as it is this day.
- Deut 10:16 Circumcise then the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer;
- Deut 10:17 For it is Jehovah your God who is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who does not regard persons and does not take bribes;
- Deut 10:18 He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and He loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.
- Deut 10:19 Therefore love the sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.
- Deut 10:20 You shall fear Jehovah your God; Him shall you serve and to Him shall you hold fast and by His name shall you swear.
- Deut 10:21 He is your praise and He is your God, who has done these great and awesome things for you, which your eyes have seen.

I. The book of Deuteronomy speaks of the kind of person who is qualified to inherit the promised land as the good land—1:8, 21:

- Deut 1:8 See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which Jehovah swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to them and to their seed after them.
- Deut 1:21 See, Jehovah your God has set the land before you; go up, possess it, as Jehovah the God of your fathers has spoken to you. Do not fear, neither be dismayed.

A. God's people need to match what God is—4:20, 40; 10:12-21:

- Deut 4:20 But Jehovah has taken you and brought you forth from the iron furnace, from Egypt, that you would be to Him a people for His inheritance, as you are this day.
- Deut 4:40 Therefore keep His statutes and His commandments, which I am commanding you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, so that you may extend your days upon the land which Jehovah your God is giving you forever.
- Deut 10:12 And now, O Israel, what does Jehovah your God ask of you except that you fear Jehovah your God so that you would walk in all His ways and love Him and serve Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul;
- Deut 10:13 So that you would keep the commandments of Jehovah and His statutes, which I am commanding you today, for your good.
- Deut 10:14 Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to Jehovah your God, the earth and all that is in it.
- Deut 10:15 But on your fathers Jehovah set His affection to love them and to choose their seed after them, that is, you above all the peoples, as it is this day.
- Deut 10:16 Circumcise then the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer;
- Deut 10:17 For it is Jehovah your God who is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who does not regard persons and does not take bribes;
- Deut 10:18 He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and He loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.
- Deut 10:19 Therefore love the sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.
- Deut 10:20 You shall fear Jehovah your God; Him shall you serve and to Him shall you hold fast and by His name shall you swear.
- Deut 10:21 He is your praise and He is your God, who has done these great and awesome things for you, which your eyes have seen.

1. The inheritors need to match the Giver of the inheritance so that He would be with them both in their living and in their fighting—1:8, 21; 4:1-2, 5-9.

- Deut 1:8 See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which Jehovah swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to them and to their seed after them.
- Deut 1:21 See, Jehovah your God has set the land before you; go up, possess it, as Jehovah the God of your fathers has spoken to you. Do not fear, neither be dismayed.
- Deut 4:1 And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the ordinances which I am teaching you to do, in order that you may live and go in and possess the land which Jehovah, the God of your fathers, is giving you.
- Deut 4:2 You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor shall you take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of Jehovah your God, which I am commanding you.
- Deut 4:5 See, I have taught you statutes and ordinances, as Jehovah my God commanded me, so that you would do them within the land which you are going in to possess.
- Deut 4:6 Keep and do them therefore; for this will be your wisdom and prudence in the sight of the peoples who hear all these statutes and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and prudent people.
- Deut 4:7 For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as Jehovah our God is whenever we call upon Him?
- Deut 4:8 And what great nation is there that has statutes and ordinances so righteous as all this law which I am setting before you today?
- Deut 4:9 But be careful and guard your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; rather, make them known to your children and to your grandchildren.

2. In order to match the Giver of the inheritance, we need to be holy as He is holy—Lev. 11:44; 19:2; 20:7; 1 Pet. 1:16.

- Lev 11:44 For I am Jehovah your God. Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. And you shall not defile yourselves with any of the swarming things that move upon the earth.

- Lev 19:2 Speak to all the assembly of the children of Israel, and say to them, You shall be holy, for I, Jehovah your God, am holy.
- Lev 20:7 Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be holy; for I am Jehovah your God.
- 1 Pet 1:16 Because it is written, "You shall be holy because I am holy."
- B. Those who are qualified to inherit the good land know God's heart and God's government, love God, trust in God, fear God, subject themselves to God's ruling, mind the tender feelings of God, and live in the presence of God—Deut. 10:12; 6:5; 2 Cor. 10:13; Luke 6:36; Phil. 1:8.
- Deut 10:12 And now, O Israel, what does Jehovah your God ask of you except that you fear Jehovah your God so that you would walk in all His ways and love Him and serve Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul;
- Deut 6:5 And you shall love Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
- 2 Cor 10:13 But we will not boast beyond our measure but according to the measure of the rule which the God of measure has apportioned to us, to reach even as far as you.
- Luke 6:36 Be full of compassion, even as your Father also is full of compassion.
- Phil 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.
- C. Christ is the One who supplies us, sustains us, and makes us those who love God, trust in God, fear God, subject ourselves to God's ruling, mind the tender feelings of God, and live in God's presence—Matt. 8:9; Luke 7:13; John 6:57; 14:6; 1 John 3:2.
- Matt 8:9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my slave, Do this, and he does it.
- Luke 7:13 And when the Lord saw her, He was moved with compassion for her and said to her, Do not weep.
- John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- 1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been manifested what we will be. We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.

II. In His economy God has planned that we should do everything God requires of us—Matt. 5:18; 7:21; 12:50:

- Matt 5:18 For truly I say to you, Until heaven and earth pass away, one iota or one serif shall by no means pass away from the law until all come to pass.
- Matt 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens.
- Matt 12:50 For whoever does the will of My Father who is in the heavens, he is My brother and sister and mother.
- A. It is impossible for us to do anything for God by ourselves; we need another life—the divine life, the life of God—19:26; John 3:15; 1 John 5:13.
- Matt 19:26 And looking upon them, Jesus said to them, With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.
- John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.
- 1 John 5:13 I have written these things to you that you may know that you have eternal life, to you who believe into the name of the Son of God.
- B. God wants us to do all of this not by ourselves but in Christ, by Christ, with Christ, through Christ, and by being one with Christ—John 6:57; 14:19; Phil. 4:13.
- John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
- John 14:19 Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live.
- Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.
- C. This means that we need to have a spiritual union, an organic union, with Christ—John 15:4-5; Rom. 12:5:

- John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
- John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
1. In order that we may enter into such a union with Christ, God wants us not only to believe in Christ but also to believe into Christ—John 3:15-16, 18.
 - John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.
 - John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.
 - John 3:18 He who believes into Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe has been condemned already, because he has not believed into the name of the only begotten Son of God.
 2. To believe into Christ is to have an organic union with Christ, becoming one spirit with Him—1 Cor. 6:17.
 - 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
 3. In this union we are joined to Christ, we are one with Him, and we are in Him—John 15:4-5.
 - John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
 - John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
 4. Now as those who are one with Him and in Him, we need to do all that God requires by Christ and through Christ—Phil. 4:13.
 - Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.
 5. No longer should we live by ourselves and do things by ourselves, but we should live by Christ and do everything by Christ—John 6:57; 14:19.
 - John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
 - John 14:19 Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live.
- D. The crucial matter we need to realize is that God wants us to live, act, behave, work, and have our being in Christ, by Christ, with Christ, through Christ, and in oneness with Christ—Gal. 2:20; John 15:4-5, 7.
- Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
 - John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
 - John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
 - John 15:7 If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.
- E. In fulfilling God's requirements, we should not have any trust in ourselves; rather, we should learn to take God's desire as our desire and take Him as our life and life supply—Eph. 4:20-21; John 11:25; 6:57.
- Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
 - Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,
 - John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
 - John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

III. Moses charged the people of Israel to love God—Deut. 6:5; 10:12:

- Deut 6:5 And you shall love Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

- Deut 10:12 And now, O Israel, what does Jehovah your God ask of you except that you fear Jehovah your God so that you would walk in all His ways and love Him and serve Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul;
- A. The word *love* implies affection, which is something very tender—v. 12:
 Deut 10:12 And now, O Israel, what does Jehovah your God ask of you except that you fear Jehovah your God so that you would walk in all His ways and love Him and serve Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul;
1. God Himself has set an example of loving by setting His affection on His people—v. 15.
 Deut 10:15 But on your fathers Jehovah set His affection to love them and to choose their seed after them, that is, you above all the peoples, as it is this day.
 2. We should love God by setting our affection on Him.
- B. *The love of God* in 1 John 2:5 denotes our love toward God, which is generated by His love within us; God first loved us in that He infused us with His love and generated within us the love with which we love Him and the brothers—4:19-21.
 1 John 2:5 But whoever keeps His word, truly in this one the love of God has been perfected. In this we know that we are in Him.
 1 John 4:19 We love because He first loved us.
 1 John 4:20 If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.
 1 John 4:21 And this commandment we have from Him, that he who loves God love his brother also.
- C. In Deuteronomy 10:12 Moses spoke of loving God with all our heart and all our soul, and in 6:5 he commanded us to love God with all our heart, soul, and might (our physical strength); we love the Lord our God with all our being, that is, from our heart, through our soul, our mind, to our body—Mark 12:30.
 Deut 10:12 And now, O Israel, what does Jehovah your God ask of you except that you fear Jehovah your God so that you would walk in all His ways and love Him and serve Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul;
 Deut 6:5 And you shall love Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
 Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength."
- D. To love God (1 Cor. 2:9) means to set our entire being—spirit, soul, and body, with the heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30)—absolutely on Him, that is, to let our entire being be occupied by Him and lost in Him, so that He becomes everything to us and we are one with Him practically in our daily life.
 1 Cor 2:9 But as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard and which have not come up in man's heart; things which God has prepared for those who love Him."
 Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength."

IV. Moses commanded the people of Israel to fear God—Deut. 14:23; 31:13:

- Deut 14:23 And you shall eat before Jehovah your God, in the place where He will choose to cause His name to dwell, the tithe of your grain, of your new wine, and of your fresh oil and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear Jehovah your God always.
- Deut 31:13 And that their children, who have not known these things, may hear and learn to fear Jehovah your God all the days that you live upon the land into which you are crossing over the Jordan to possess.
- A. We all should fear God; we must have a proper fear of God—Prov. 1:7; 9:10; 1 Pet. 1:17; 2:17; 3:2, 16; 2 Cor. 7:1:
 Prov 1:7 The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of knowledge; / Fools despise wisdom and instruction.
 Prov 9:10 The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom, / And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

- 1 Pet 1:17 And if you call as Father the One who without respect of persons judges according to each one's work, pass the time of your sojourning in fear,
- 1 Pet 2:17 Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.
- 1 Pet 3:2 Seeing with their own eyes your pure manner of life in fear.
- 1 Pet 3:16 Yet with meekness and fear, having a good conscience, so that in the matter in which you are spoken against, those who revile your good manner of life in Christ may be put to shame.
- 2 Cor 7:1 Therefore since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and of spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
1. This is a holy fear, that is, a healthy, serious caution that leads us to behave holily—Phil. 2:12.

Phil 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
 2. We should fear God and want to be separated, sanctified, unto Him as a holy people—Eph. 1:4; 5:27; Col. 1:22; 1 Thes. 5:23; 1 Pet. 1:16.

Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,

Eph 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

Col 1:22 He now has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and without blemish and without reproach before Him;

1 Thes 5:23 And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 1:16 Because it is written, "You shall be holy because I am holy."
 3. To fear God is to submit to His authority—Matt. 28:18.

Matt 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
 4. Because God is severe toward those who are rebellious, we need to fear Him—Num. 12:1-12; 16:1-35.

Num 12:1 And Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman).

Num 12:2 And they said, Has Jehovah indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not also spoken through us? And Jehovah heard it.

Num 12:3 Now the man Moses was very meek, more than anyone else who was on the face of the earth.

Num 12:4 And suddenly Jehovah spoke to Moses and to Aaron and to Miriam, You three come out to the Tent of Meeting. So the three of them came out.

Num 12:5 Then Jehovah came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent, and called Aaron and Miriam. And when they had both come forward,

Num 12:6 He said, Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, / I, Jehovah, will make Myself known to him in a vision; / I will speak with him in a dream.

Num 12:7 My servant Moses is not so; / He is faithful in all My house.

Num 12:8 With him I speak face to face, even openly, and not in riddles; / And he beholds the form of Jehovah. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant, against Moses?

Num 12:9 And the anger of Jehovah was kindled against them, and He departed.

Num 12:10 And when the cloud had departed from over the tent; there Miriam was, leprous, as white as snow. And Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, leprous.

Num 12:11 And Aaron said to Moses, Oh, my lord, please do not lay this sin upon us that we have so foolishly committed.

Num 12:12 Please do not let her be like one dead, whose flesh is half consumed when he comes out of his mother's womb.

Num 16:1 Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, the sons of Reuben, took men

Num 16:2 And rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred fifty leaders of the assembly, who were summoned to the meeting, well-known men.

Num 16:3 And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said to them, You take too much upon yourselves, for all the assembly are holy, every one of them, and Jehovah is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the congregation of Jehovah?

Num 16:4 And when Moses heard this, he fell on his face.

Num 16:5 And he spoke to Korah and to all his company, saying, In the morning Jehovah will make known who is His and who is holy, and will bring him near to Himself; even the one whom He will choose He will bring near to Himself.

Num 16:6 Do this: Take censers for yourselves, Korah and all your company,

Num 16:7 And put fire in them, and put incense on them before Jehovah tomorrow; and the man whom Jehovah chooses, he shall be holy. It is you who take too much upon yourselves, O sons of Levi!

Num 16:8 And Moses said to Korah, Hear now, O sons of Levi:

Num 16:9 Is it a small thing for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the assembly of Israel to bring you near to Himself to do the service of the tabernacle of Jehovah and to stand before the assembly to minister to them?

Num 16:10 Or that He has brought you near, and all your brothers the sons of Levi with you? And do you seek the priesthood also?

Num 16:11 Therefore you and all your company are gathered together against Jehovah; but Aaron, what is he that you murmur against him?

Num 16:12 Then Moses sent word to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab; but they said, We will not come up!

Num 16:13 Is it not enough that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to have us die in the wilderness, but must you also lord it over us?

Num 16:14 Indeed, you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, nor have you given us an inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you put out the eyes of these men? We will not come up!

Num 16:15 Then Moses became very angry and said to Jehovah, Do not regard their offering. I have not taken a single donkey from them, nor have I done harm to any of them.

Num 16:16 And Moses said to Korah, You and all your company be present before Jehovah, both you and they along with Aaron, tomorrow.

Num 16:17 And let each of you take his censer and put incense on them, and each of you present his censer before Jehovah, two hundred fifty censers; you also and Aaron shall each present his censer.

Num 16:18 So each took his censer and put fire in them and laid incense on them, and they stood at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting with Moses and Aaron.

Num 16:19 Thus Korah gathered the whole assembly against them at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of Jehovah appeared to the whole assembly.

Num 16:20 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,

Num 16:21 Separate yourselves from among this assembly, so that I may consume them in a moment.

Num 16:22 But they fell on their faces and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, will one man sin and You be angry with the whole assembly?

Num 16:23 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,

Num 16:24 Speak to the assembly, saying, Get away from around the dwellings of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

Num 16:25 Then Moses rose up and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him.

Num 16:26 And he spoke to the assembly, saying, Depart now from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing which belongs to them, or you will be swept away with all their sins.

Num 16:27 So they got away from around the dwellings of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood at the entrance of their tents, with their wives and their children and their little ones.

Num 16:28 And Moses said, By this you shall know that Jehovah has sent me to do all these works, for it is not of myself.

- Num 16:29 If these people die as all human beings die, or if what befalls all human beings befalls them, then Jehovah has not sent me.
- Num 16:30 But if Jehovah brings about a new thing, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they descend alive into Sheol, then you will understand that these men have despised Jehovah.
- Num 16:31 And as soon as he finished speaking all these words, the ground that was under them was split open.
- Num 16:32 So the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, along with their households and everyone who belonged to Korah and all their possessions.
- Num 16:33 So they and all that belonged to them descended alive into Sheol; and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the congregation.
- Num 16:34 And all Israel who were around them fled at their outcry, for they said, The earth may swallow us up too!
- Num 16:35 And fire came forth from Jehovah and consumed the two hundred fifty men who presented the incense.

B. The lack of fearing God is terrible; it is the source of all kinds of lawlessness—1 John 3:4, footnote 2.

1 John 3:4 Everyone who practices sin practices ²lawlessness also, and sin is lawlessness.

Note 2 I.e., having no law, being without law. This does not denote being without the Mosaic law (cf. Rom. 5:13), because sin was already in the world before the Mosaic law was given. To be without law here denotes being without, or not under, the principle of God's ruling over man. To practice lawlessness is to live a life outside of and not under the principle of God's ruling over man. Hence, lawlessness is sin, or, reciprocally, sin is lawlessness.

C. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Heb. 10:31), and "our God is also a consuming fire" (12:29):

1. The living God whom we serve is not mocked—Gal. 6:7.

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

2. The history of the church proves that a Christian who does not fear God will not have a good ending; such a Christian will have a miserable ending.

3. If a believer is God-fearing, sooner or later he will be manifested by God; such was the case with Joseph, who was a God-fearing man and was enthroned—Gen. 41:38-44.

Gen 41:38 And Pharaoh said to his servants, Can we find such a man like this, in whom the Spirit of God is?

Gen 41:39 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, Since God let you know all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you.

Gen 41:40 You shall be over my household, and according to your word all my people shall be ruled; only in the throne will I be greater than you.

Gen 41:41 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.

Gen 41:42 And Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it upon Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen, and put a gold chain around his neck.

Gen 41:43 And he made him ride in the chariot of his second-in-command, and they cried out before him, Bow the knee! And he set him over all the land of Egypt.

Gen 41:44 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, I am Pharaoh, yet without your consent no man will lift up his hand or his foot in all the land of Egypt.

V. The children of Israel were not only to keep God's commandments but also to walk in His ways—Deut. 8:6; 10:12-21:

Deut 8:6 Therefore keep the commandments of Jehovah your God, walking in His ways and fearing Him.

Deut 10:12 And now, O Israel, what does Jehovah your God ask of you except that you fear Jehovah your God so that you would walk in all His ways and love Him and serve Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul;

Deut 10:13 So that you would keep the commandments of Jehovah and His statutes, which I am commanding you today, for your good.

- Deut 10:14 Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to Jehovah your God, the earth and all that is in it.
- Deut 10:15 But on your fathers Jehovah set His affection to love them and to choose their seed after them, that is, you above all the peoples, as it is this day.
- Deut 10:16 Circumcise then the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer;
- Deut 10:17 For it is Jehovah your God who is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who does not regard persons and does not take bribes;
- Deut 10:18 He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and He loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.
- Deut 10:19 Therefore love the sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.
- Deut 10:20 You shall fear Jehovah your God; Him shall you serve and to Him shall you hold fast and by His name shall you swear.
- Deut 10:21 He is your praise and He is your God, who has done these great and awesome things for you, which your eyes have seen.

A. When we fear God, we will walk in God's ways—8:6; Exo. 33:13:

Deut 8:6 Therefore keep the commandments of Jehovah your God, walking in His ways and fearing Him.

Exo 33:13 Now therefore if I have found favor in Your sight, please let me know now Your ways, that I may know You, so that I may continue to find favor in Your sight. Consider also that this nation is Your people.

1. God's ways are actually what God is—Psa. 103:7.

Psa 103:7 He made His ways known to Moses; / His acts, to the children of Israel.

2. Whatever God is, is a way to us; for instance, God is love, and love is a way in which we walk—Rom. 8:4; Gal. 5:25; 1 John 4:8, 16.

Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

Gal 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

1 John 4:8 He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

1 John 4:16 And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.

3. To walk in God's ways, therefore, is to live God, express God, manifest God, and magnify God—Rom. 2:4; 11:22; Titus 3:4-5; Phil. 1:20-21a.

Rom 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His kindness and forbearance and long-suffering, not knowing that God's kindness is leading you to repentance?

Rom 11:22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but on you, the kindness of God, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.

Titus 3:4 But when the kindness and the love to man of our Savior God appeared,

Titus 3:5 Not out of works in righteousness which we did but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit,

Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.

Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...

4. We need to learn God's ways—what God is and how He acts and behaves—Exo. 33:13.

Exo 33:13 Now therefore if I have found favor in Your sight, please let me know now Your ways, that I may know You, so that I may continue to find favor in Your sight. Consider also that this nation is Your people.

B. The God who is our way is Christ; to take Christ as our way is to live Him in what He is, and to live Him is to express Him, to manifest Him, and even to magnify Him—John 14:6; Phil. 1:20-21a.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.

- Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...
- C. In the New Jerusalem the river of water of life proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb and flowing in the midst of the street indicates that God is both our life and our way—Rev. 22:1-2.
- Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
- Rev 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
- D. We take God as our life, and His life with His nature then becomes the way on which we walk—1 John 5:13; 2 Pet. 1:4.
- 1 John 5:13 I have written these things to you that you may know that you have eternal life, to you who believe into the name of the Son of God.
- 2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

VI. The children of Israel went forth in battle to fight against their enemies; today we also are in a war—Deut. 20:1-20:

- Deut 20:1 When you go forth into battle against your enemies, and you see horse and chariot, a people more numerous than you, you shall not fear them; for Jehovah your God is with you, He who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
- Deut 20:2 And when you draw near to the battle, the priest shall approach and speak to the people,
- Deut 20:3 And he shall say to them, Hear, O Israel! You are drawing near to the battle against your enemies today. Do not let your heart fail; do not be afraid or alarmed or terrified of them.
- Deut 20:4 For it is Jehovah your God who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.
- Deut 20:5 And the officers shall speak to the people, saying, Is there any man who has built a new house and has not dedicated it? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man dedicate it.
- Deut 20:6 Is there any man who has planted a vineyard and has not partaken of it? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man partake of it.
- Deut 20:7 Is there any man who has gotten engaged to a woman and has not taken her to himself? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle and another man take her to himself.
- Deut 20:8 And the officers shall speak further to the people and say, Is there any man who is afraid and whose heart fails? Let him go and return to his house, so that the heart of his brothers does not melt like his heart.
- Deut 20:9 And when the officers have finished speaking to the people, they shall appoint commanders of the armies at the head of the people.
- Deut 20:10 When you draw near to a city to fight against it, you shall proclaim peace to it.
- Deut 20:11 And if it responds with peace to you and opens its gates to you, all the people found within it shall become your forced labor; and they shall serve you.
- Deut 20:12 But if it does not make peace with you, but rather engages in battle with you, you shall besiege it.
- Deut 20:13 And when Jehovah your God delivers it into your hand, you shall slay every male in it with the edge of the sword.
- Deut 20:14 But the women and the little ones and the beasts and all that is in the city, that is, all its spoil, you shall take as your plunder; and you shall enjoy the spoil of your enemies, which Jehovah your God has given you.
- Deut 20:15 Thus shall you do to all the cities that are very far from you, which are not among the cities of these nations.
- Deut 20:16 But of the cities of these peoples which Jehovah your God is giving you as an inheritance, you shall not allow anything that breathes to live;
- Deut 20:17 But you must utterly destroy them: the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, just as Jehovah your God has commanded you,
- Deut 20:18 So that they do not teach you to do according to all their abominations which they do for their gods and you sin against Jehovah your God.

- Deut 20:19 When you besiege a city for many days, battling against it to capture it, you shall not destroy its trees by putting an axe to them; for you may eat of them, and you shall not cut them down. For is the tree of the field a man, that it should be besieged by you?
- Deut 20:20 However, a tree that you know is not a tree for food, you shall destroy and cut down, so that you may build a siege-work against the city, which engages you in battle, until it falls.
- A. In this war we are fighting for Christ and to remain in Christ.
- B. If we would possess Christ and live in Christ as our land, we need to fight against the spiritual enemies—Col. 1:12; Eph. 3:8; 6:10-18.
- Col 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;
- Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
- Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
- Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
- Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
- Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness
- Eph 6:15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace;
- Eph 6:16 Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.
- Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
- Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
- C. As we are fighting, we need to realize that we are fighting for what God has given us; once the enemies have been defeated, the land will be cleared for our inheritance—Col. 1:12.
- Col 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;
- D. Actually, we are not the ones fighting, for God goes with us and fights for us—Deut. 20:3-4:
- Deut 20:3 And he shall say to them, Hear, O Israel! You are drawing near to the battle against your enemies today. Do not let your heart fail; do not be afraid or alarmed or terrified of them.
- Deut 20:4 For it is Jehovah your God who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.
1. It is our duty to fight, but we cannot fulfill this duty by ourselves; we can fulfill our duty to fight only by faith in the Lord, that is, only by the Lord Himself as our life and life supply.
 2. We need to believe that the Lord has ordained us to fight and that He will fight for us—vv. 1-4.

Deut 20:1 When you go forth into battle against your enemies, and you see horse and chariot, a people more numerous than you, you shall not fear them; for Jehovah your God is with you, He who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.

Deut 20:2 And when you draw near to the battle, the priest shall approach and speak to the people,

Deut 20:3 And he shall say to them, Hear, O Israel! You are drawing near to the battle against your enemies today. Do not let your heart fail; do not be afraid or alarmed or terrified of them.

Deut 20:4 For it is Jehovah your God who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.
 3. We should simply take His word and obey Him, knowing that the outcome depends

on Him—1:30.

Deut 1:30 Jehovah your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you according to all that He did for you in Egypt before your eyes,

VII. If we thoroughly study all these matters, we will know God better and also know what kind of person we should be, what kind of being we should have, and in what kind of way we should walk—4:20, 40:

Deut 4:20 But Jehovah has taken you and brought you forth from the iron furnace, from Egypt, that you would be to Him a people for His inheritance, as you are this day.

Deut 4:40 Therefore keep His statutes and His commandments, which I am commanding you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, so that you may extend your days upon the land which Jehovah your God is giving you forever.

A. We should walk before God and with God according to what God is—8:6.

Deut 8:6 Therefore keep the commandments of Jehovah your God, walking in His ways and fearing Him.

B. Because we have God's life, we should learn of Him to be the same as He is; in order to do all the things that God requires, we need the divine life, the life that works with God for His people—John 3:15; 1 John 5:11-13; 2 Pet. 1:4; Matt. 5:48.

John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.

1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

1 John 5:13 I have written these things to you that you may know that you have eternal life, to you who believe into the name of the Son of God.

2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

Matt 5:48 You therefore shall be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

C. We can fulfill all of the Lord's requirements only by the divine life, the eternal life, which is the Triune God embodied in Christ (John 14:6; 1 John 5:11), who is realized as the life-giving Spirit—John 14:16-20; 1 Cor. 15:45b.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.

1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may be with you forever,

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He abides with you and shall be in you.

John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.

John 14:19 Yet a little while and the world beholds Me no longer, but you behold Me; because I live, you also shall live.

John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

Study Questions

1. Explain the central thought in Message 5 and the important matters related to it.
2. What does it mean to love God?
3. Why must we learn to fear God, and why is it terrible not to fear Him?
4. What must we be and what must we do in order to walk in God's ways?