**Dt 1 / Da 2**

**Main theme: Trust and plead for the Lord because He is Almighty. He who believes in half or does not believe will lose the grace**

 **-Do not believe / Confident (Gain the good land /Learn the mystery)**

Golden verses: Dt 1:31 Da 2:44

Deuteronomy is a magic weapon of God's children to overcome every temptation, oppression, to gain and keep the land. This was the repeated injunctions of Moses to the children of God before he passed away. He stressed on the importance of obeying the commands of God and instructed them to obey carefully to love God and love man, and not to be tempted to worship other gods. Then they would be blessed for long in the good land. The main point of this chapter discusses on not believing and be confident. Before the Israelites entered Canaan, God passed the laws to them through Moses so that the new generation might be careful to obey and to gain the promised good land. Similarly, during the generation when God's people were taken captive, God interpreted the dream for King Nebuchadnezzar through Daniel. So the captivated people understood the everlasting will of God and had faith to wait for the kingdom as promised by God. This teaches us that we ought to trust wholeheartedly and follow the Lord till the end, and then we will have the promise of God. The prophecy of the large statue has left the feet and toes soon to be fulfilled. The everlasting kingdom of Christ will come!

1. **Obey the Lord's word and go forward; if we plead and rely on man, nothing will be gained**

Ought to believe (Dt 1:1-18) – Ought to plead (Da 2:1-19)

1.【Circulate around the land for not believing and delay to gain it】1-8 The Israelites had overcome two strong enemies east of the Jordan River by the last stop of their journey in the desert. Moses spoke to them of the laws so they might be careful to obey and gain the good land promised by God. Looking back at the eleven day's journey, they took thirty eight years to go around it because they were wayward in their faith and abandoned righteousness. Thus they had no rest for disbelieving which resulted in delaying to gain the land.

※【Troubled for not seeking God and was ignorant】1 God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream of all the rise and fall of the nations and the plan of His will. But he was presumptuous and arrogant. After the dream he did not seek God or trust in Him. He was troubled and knew nothing. God's people took an unbelieving attitude towards His promise of the good land also gained nothing. They circulated around in vain. Therefore we ought to believe firmly in God's promise and be humble to seek to understand His will to gain the land without delay.

2.【Power belongs to God】9-18 As it was too heavy a burden for Moses to carry alone, he once listened to the advice of Jethro, his father-in-law to appoint some officials. Thereafter God took his burden and selected seventy elders to share his burden. (Num 11:14-17) Strength belonged to God and God's Spirit was with him. His grace was sufficient for him. “Our competence comes from God.”(2 Co 3:5) We should not follow men's desire and appoint officials for ourselves. (Exo 18:13-26)

※【Wisdom belongs to God】2-13 The king did not trust in God or seek Him. Instead he summoned the magicians to explain his dream. However, the magician declined for three times. They could not interpret the king's dream for it came from God. Thus the king was in a rage and ordered to kill all the wise men. Strength belongs to God and wisdom also belongs to God. “The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God… Only the spiritually discerned makes judgments.”(1 Co 2:14) Daniel had great wisdom, faith and boldness. He faced danger fearlessly and stood up. Daniel spoke with wisdom and tact and asked for more time to interpret the dream. We ought to seek God wholeheartedly for His strength and wisdom. We should not go after men's desire or by our own wisdom. Then we may carry the assignment of God and be discerned in His mystery.

3.【Judgment belongs to God】16-18 Moses charged the judges to judge fairly and not to show partiality, or be afraid of any man. They were to bring any case too hard for them to Moses for judgment belongs to God.

※【Mystery belongs to God】16-19 Daniel returned to his house and pleaded for mercy to reveal the mystery from the heavenly God together with his friends. They strongly believed God was righteous and would not show partiality. Nor would He accept bribes (Dt 10:17). He would rescue them and all the wise men from death. During the night, the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. On one side was hard case be brought before God for judgment belongs to God. On the other side was the pleading in trouble was answered for the mystery also belongs to God.

**B. Follow wholeheartedly, plead with one heart, gain the good land and get the mystery**

Wholehearted (Dt 1:19-46) – In one heart (Da 2:20-49)

1.【Be rebellious, disbelieve and complain greatly】19-32 When the people reached Kadesh Barnea, they ought to have obeyed to go up and gain God's promise land. Instead they requested to spy out the land. After they had spied out the land, they were not willing to go up. They had a sinful and unbelieving heart, and they complained greatly. They saw only by their eyes the tallness and greatness of their foe. They would not listen to Moses’ exhortation. They did not believe in the Lord their God and had forgotten His grace of upbringing in the desert. Without faith it is impossible to please God. (Num 14:11; Heb 11:6)

※【Pray together in confidence and sing praise】20-28 After Daniel was favored, he praised God for answering their prayer in one heart. He testified to the king that it was not because he had greater wisdom than other living men, but it was the God in heaven who revealed the mysteries to the king. The people disbelieved and they balked before the enemies and complained. Daniel firmly believed in God and was able to turn the tide and give praise.

2.【Follow the Lord wholeheartedly and is given the good land】33-40 How corrupt is the nature of the old self! The Israelites had forgotten how God had led and cared for them through pillars of cloud and fire in the desert. They were rebellious and disbelieved. Thus God was enraged and swore not one of them would see the good land He promised. Only Caleb and Joshua had a different spirit. They followed God wholeheartedly. God promised wherever they had put their foot, it would be given to them as their inheritance. The women and children were weak in the eyes of men and be taken captive. But they would enter the good land due to their submission and trust on God. We ought to humble and trust, to boast of our weakness daily and trust in God's grace and follow Him wholeheartedly to gain the good land.

※【Seek wholeheartedly and is granted the mystery】29-45 Daniel sought wholeheartedly and was revealed with the mysteries of God, just like Caleb and Joshua followed God and were given the good land. He interpreted to the king the large, dazzling and awesome statue in the dream represented the four foreign kingdoms including the head of pure gold (Babylon), the chest and arms of silver (Medes and Persia), the belly and thighs of bronze (Greece) and the legs of iron (Rome). The large statue which represented the foreign kingdoms standing high up to the sky was majestic and awesome. But it would be struck and smashed like chaff by a rock (Christ), not by human hands. Our God is full of power and makes the old self fall. The new creation would enter Canaan and break the power of the anti-God to pieces. The everlasting kingdom of Christ would then come. (Rev 11:15; Mt 21:44) Therefore we ought to be wholehearted to gain the good land and be wholehearted to seek the mystery.

3. 【Lose the witness greatly】41-46 How rebellious is the nature of the old self! Though the Israelites apparently confessed they had sinned against God, in fact they violated God's command and went to battle on their own will. God was not with them and thus they were destroyed tragically by the enemies.

※【Witness greatly】46-49 After the king had heard the interpretation of Daniel, he fell down on the ground and humbly praised the God of Daniel was the God who revealed the mysteries. Daniel gained rich reward and was made ruler of the province. After he was favored, he did not forget his companion. Daniel feared God and loved men. He was humble and denied himself. God was with him and he gave good witness in the foreign land and glorified God's name. On the other hand, the rebellious people were beaten before the Amorites. They lost the witness and dishonored God's name.

**Pro 4 / Rev 18:22 Main theme: Do not listen to the voice of the world, only listen to the voice of the Lord and fix your eyes to follow closely**

 **-The voice of the Lord / The voice of the world**

(1)【Do not hear the voice of the world】Though the various sounds of the world are pleasing to the ear and make people drunk, they are noisy and quaking to the ear. They are full of sins and labor. The Lord Jesus told us there is only one thing is needed which is to listen attentively to the Lord's voice. (Lk 10:42) Do not attend to trifles to the neglect of essentials. The Lord's words are life. Blessed are those who listen to them.

(2)【Obey the Lord's words completely】1-12 All the Scriptures were written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He, who has an ear, let him hear and listen attentively without forgetting and swerving. We ought to love the Lord's words and seek unceasingly, esteem and embrace the Word of wisdom. We should rather deny everything to keep them like Joseph and Daniel who firmly kept the Lord's words and were given honor. They shone and saved many. The path of the righteous gets brighter as he goes.

(3)【Hold on to instruction】13-22 Keep the Lord's words firmly without loosened and shun away wickedness.

(4)【Guard your heart, mouth, eyes and action】23-27 We ought to press toward the goal like Elisha saw straight and followed closely after Elijah (the good example of the prophet). Finally he inherited a double portion of the spirit and triumphantly accomplished the assignment of God.

**Central point of the wheels: Listen to the Lord and be away from evil, trust and seek to gain the good land and the mystery**

Dear Lord, I am willing to be watchful in your wise instruction, be away from sin and follow you wholeheartedly and to welcome the coming of your kingdom!

**Dt 2 / Da 3**

**Main theme: Be very careful only to hear the command of the Lord and He displays His Almighty**

 **-Be careful to act / Keep firmly (Listen to the command /Be unyielding)**

Golden verses: Dt 2:7 Da 3:16-18

A discussion on acting carefully and keeping firmly – on one side it concerned the Israelites went through the desert. They obeyed the will of God and were careful to listen to the commands. They did not swerve to the left or right and by God's promise, they triumphed over the strong enemy of King Sihon of the Amorites east of Jordan. On the other side it concerned the three warriors of the captivated Judah. They firmly kept the command of God and rejected the king's proclamation. They did not worship the gold image and were thrown into the fiery furnace. They were miraculously saved by God and came out from the fiery furnace. They were all in different generations but greatly exhibited God's majesty. We may overcome our inner and outer enemies and ought to trust in the Almighty God, be loyal and unyielding to keep the Word till the end.

1. **Do not detour, do not worship idols and be very careful to go forward**

Be careful (Dt 2:1-25) – Unyielding (Da 3:1-20)

1.【The body is corrupt and so detoured in the desert】1-3 Due to rebellion and unbelief the chosen people would not go up to take the land. In God's wrath, He told them to turn back. Thus they had detoured in the desert for thirst eighty years. Their flesh was corrupt and their spirit detoured. Finally God ordered them to turn north as they had made their way around the hill country long enough and ought to rise up to take possession of the land. We have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do – living in debauchery, drunkenness and detestable idolatry. We ought to go forward to gain the land without detouring and be against God. (1 Pe 4:3)

※【The gold image was tempting and everyone worshiped it】1-7 The king was presumptuous and arrogant. He was supercilious and thought himself as God. So he made an image of gold on the plain of Dura and summoned the officials of the whole country to fall down and worship it. Whoever did not fall down and worship would immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace. This was a great confusion and deception of Satan. This also referred to the confusion and persecution of the anti-Christ toward the people of God in the final days. (Rev 13:14-15) The people in the desert were also led astray and worshiped the idol (Num 25:1-5; Am 5:25-26), and fell into the trap of Baal of Peor. Thus they fell and were lost. Their spirit detoured and suffered greatly!

2.【Be careful to obey the command and not by the flesh】4-12 God told the people to be very careful and be resolute to listen to God's command not to provoke the descendants of Esau and people of the flesh. They were not to take their benefit. Then God would bless them and be with them so they might enjoy the abundance in God.

※【Firmly keep God's command and reject to worship the image】8-12 Only the three captivated warriors of Judah refused to worship the image set up by the king. Though they were on high post, they did not compromise and kept their belief firmly. They only obeyed God's command and not the king. Men thought they were strange as they did not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation and they heaped abuse on them. They did not wage war with the world but God was with them. They fought fiercely in the spirit against the power of Satan. (2 Co 10:3-5)

3.【Ready to war】13-25 Zered Valley was the end of the desert. God ordered the people to get up and pass the valley to end the journey of detouring in the desert. The old generation of fighting men perished and the young men emerged to prepare for the battle to gain the land.

※【Faced with the fiery furnace】13-20 The king was enraged and ordered the three men be brought before him. They were faced with the threat of the fiery furnace like the warrior pressing forward to the battlefield. They were ready to be loyal without yielding even to death. They were not willing to be perfunctory for help. They firmly believed God would rescue them. Thus they declared to the king fearlessly and boldly – even if they were burnt to death by the fire, they would not serve the god of the world! So the king was even more furious and ordered the three warriors be tied and thrown into the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual. The old self died and the new creation was ready to go to the battle as a warrior, just like the three warriors were faithful till death without a sound to face the powerful fiery furnace.

**B. Overcome the enemy by God, keep the Word till the end, and deny your body to glorify God**

Destroy the enemy (Dt 2:26-37) – Overcome (Da 3:21-30)

1.【Overcome the strong enemy】26-34 Sihon the Amorite king was stubborn and threatened the people. He would not allow them to pass through his place. God promised to give the enemy into the hands of the Israelites and they annihilated the first strong foe east of Jordan. They besieged all the towns and won triumphantly. God fought personally for them!

※【Overcome the fiery furnace】21-25 The king's command was so urgent that the men who took up the three men were killed by the hot flame. But they were walking around in the fire unharmed. What made the king overwhelmed was he saw four men walking around in the fire and the fourth looked like a son of the gods! The people trusted in God's promise and overcame the strong enemy east of Jordan. The three warriors trusted firmly in God and overcame the fiery furnace and death. God was with them personally.

2.【Take the land and enjoy abundance】35-37 God promised to give the enemies into the hands of the Israelites. He also promised them to gain their land. After they had destroyed the enemy, they took everything as their plunder and enjoyed abundance.

※【Was exalted to exhibit God's glory】26-30 The king gathered the satraps, prefects and important people and saw the three warriors came out from the fire unharmed. The king was terrified and praised the God of the three warriors who saved them. The three warriors denied themselves unyieldingly. They were not willing to serve other gods. This was the result of their strong belief to keep God's order just like the people who overcame the strong foe east of Jordan. (Heb 11:33-34) They greatly glorified God's

name! The people enjoyed the victory and abundance and the three warriors were exalted by the king and even gained the praise and blessings of God!

**Pro 5 / Rev 18:23 Main theme: Do not be led astray, be away from the adulterous way, thirst for the holy word to avoid the enemy's harm**

 **-Be away from sin / Thirst for the Word**

This world is like the great prostitute. She uses sorcery to lead the nations astray. The light of the world represents all sorts of theory, doctrine and sects which lead men to run the wrong way. Only the truth of the Lord is true light which leads us to eternity. The affection of men is just the sweetness of the new bride and bridegroom. Can this last forever without changing? The noble men of the world are despicable in the eyes of God. Those who pursue this in the world will end up in misery and darkness. So how can we not to be led astray:

(1)【Listen to the word of the Lord】1-6 Pay attention to the words of the Lord and gain true wisdom and discretion so you will not be led astray by the adulteress. (This adulteress refers to the temptation of worldly sins, the lies and falsehood of the false prophets and the anti-Christ.)

(2)【Be away from the adulterous way】7-14 We ought to shun away from sins and the wrong path. Whoever stays close will be harmed.

(3)【Drink the living water】15-19 We ought to open our mouth wide to the Lord's words, His Spirit and His love, just like Paul who did not consider himself to have taken hold of it. He sought continuously for the Lord and pressed on toward the goal.

(4)【Avoid the temptation and death】20-23 Why be led astray and captivated by the adulteress to run toward death? The Holy Spirit grieved and sighed for us. Thus we ought to turn back and gain life due to the Lord's words.

**Central point of the wheels: Listen firmly to the command, do not be led astray, do not yield and overcome the enemy greatly**

Dear Lord, may you let me keep your Word firmly, be far away from evil, deny my body to overcome the enemy and grab to save the souls to satisfy your heart!

**Dt 3 / Da 4**

**Main theme: Do not be afraid of the strong enemies for God is the Most High and be humble to obey His will**

 **-Consider superior / Bring low**

Golden verses: Dt 3:22 Da 4:17

A discussion on considering oneself superior and bringing oneself low – on one side it concerned the Israelites destroyed the giant Og King of Bashan and his army through the leading of Moses. Thus they took their land. On the other side it concerned the madman King Nebuchadnezzar was arrogant and against God. Thus he was severely punished by Him and lost everything by the wink of any eye. This displays the Most High God rules over the history of mankind and He gives the kingdom to anyone he wishes. This teaches us not to be arrogant. Instead we ought to be humble and surrender under the mighty hands of God. He will lift us up when the time comes. (1 Pe 5:6)

1. **Destroy the enemies by God and gain the land; interpret the dream of the king by the Spirit**

The giant (Dt 3:1-17) – The madman (Da 4:1-18)

1.【Witness God】1-7 Moses witnessed to the congregation the glorious record of God. After the Israelites had overcome Sihon the king of Heshbon, they triumphed over Og king of Bashan and all his army. All this exhibited God's glory and the faithfulness of His promise.

※【Proclaim God】1-3 King Nebuchadnezzar was the founding head of the kingdom of Babylon and the first king. Just like the king of Bashan he was presumptuous and arrogant. Under the deterrence of the Most High God, he had to preach what God did on him and praised Him as great. Even the foreign king proclaimed God; we too ought to witness God so His name might be exalted among the nations.

2.【The giant was against God and destroyed】1-7 The Israelites were faced with the final strong foe, Og the king of Bashan (the giant). He was extremely proud. He ignored the tragic result of Sihon the king of Heshbon and dared to lead his army to challenge God's people. Finally they ended with tragedy. The Lord is a God who alone does marvelous deeds. He put the enemies into the hands of the Israelites leaving no survivors. The Israelites took all the cities and villages and destroyed everything.

※【The madman was arrogant and punished】10-18 The king said in his dream he saw an enormous tall and strong tree. Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant. The beasts were fed from it. This was his image of arrogance just like the king of Bashan. One was a giant and the other was a madman. They were like a big tree with its top touching the sky but were finally chopped down and fell on the ground with their deserved retribution. This teaches all presumptuous men that whoever exalts himself will be humbled! The Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and His kingdom rules over all. There is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord and victory rests with the Lord!

3.【Gain the land as inheritance】8-17 After the Israelites had defeated the king of Bashan, they took not only the plunder but also the piece of land of the two Amorite kings east of Jordan. Therefore Moses gave the land to Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh. By the promise of God, the Israelites destroyed the enemies and gained the land.

※【Be deprived completely】10-15 God gave the dream to the king so he might humble and take lesson to turn from wrongdoing and keep from pride; (Job 33:15-18) otherwise he would be like the big tall tree being cut down and fall, every prosperity would be deprived like the result of the king of Bashan with only the stump. He would be of no difference to a wild beast and turned to nothing in an instant. On one side was destroying all the enemies and gain the land as inheritance. On the other side was cut down by God and deprived completely! We ought to take lesson in trembling lest we may be stripped!

4.【With great faith】1-17 Under the guidance of Moses, the Israelites defeated the two Amorite kings successfully and destroyed them completely which was entirely due to the victory in faith. (1 Jn 5:4) Just by the promise and faith in God they were able to destroy an army stronger than them.

※【Full of the Holy Spirit】4-9 The king summoned all the magicians but they could not interpret the dream for him. Then Daniel was summoned to interpret the dream of the king as he had the spirit of the holy God and was full of spiritual wisdom. He was able to interpret the dream and explain the mystery. By trust the people were able to destroy the strong enemies. By the Spirit of the holy God (Isa 11:1-3), the trust and boldness from God, Daniel overcame the magicians and the evil spirit behind them.

**B. Deny oneself to obey the will, be humble and favored**

Deny oneself (Dt 3:18-29) – Modest and deferential (Da 4:19-37)

1.【Deny yourself to help others】18-20 Moses gave the land east of Jordan to the two and a half tribes. He encouraged them to help the brothers to fight in the battles west of Jordan until each tribe would have their own inheritance and enjoy peace. Then they might go back to the east. We too ought to deny ourselves to help others and keep the Word of love. (Gal 6:2)

※【Righteous and love others】19-27 By the spirit of the holy God Daniel interpreted the dream for the king on one side and on the other he urged him to accept his advice to renounce his sins by doing what was right and be kind to the oppressed, then his prosperity might be continued. Moses encouraged the two and a half tribes to deny themselves to help others. Daniel exhorted the king to be righteous and love men. God's heart desires everyone to be righteous and compassionate and to walk the good way.

2.【Humble to accept the consignment】21-22 All his life Joshua humbled to be the servant of Moses. He silently followed Moses several decades were like a day. Now he was summoned to succeed for the assignment. Moses encouraged him to be strong and bold. How God treated the two kings east of Jordan and destroyed them, He would do the same to the kings west of Jordan and put them into his hands. The Lord would fight for him.

※【Presumptuous and lose the position】28-33 After hearing, the king did not humble or take lesson. Instead he became more arrogant and forgot about it. Twelve months later, as the king was walking in the palace and boasting of his majesty and building, no sooner than the words been said, his punishment came. He was driven away from people and lived like a wild animal fulfilling what was said in his dream. On one side was favor from God and accepted the assignment humbly; while on the other side was punishment for arrogance and lost everything.

3.【Be modest and deferential to consider the mind of God】23-29 Moses was faithful till the end in God's house all his life. But as he had violated God's command and struck the rock for twice, he was forbidden to enter the good land given by God. In his sorrow he pleaded to God to let him go over and see the good land but was refused. He not only obeyed in humility and accepted God's punishment; he also considered His heart and requested God to appoint a successor, lest the people would be like the sheep without a shepherd. (Num 27:15-17)

※【Brought low and praised God】34-37 By the seventh time at the end of the time of punishment, the king understood his sins and humility, he was no more arrogant against God. He raised his eyes toward heaven and acknowledged the absolute sovereignty of the Most High God who did as He pleased on earth and in heaven. Thus his wisdom, throne, honor and majesty were restored to him. Then he praised and worshiped the King of heaven and extolled His deeds. We ought to learn from the humility and obedience of Moses to remember the flock and be humble till the end by putting the old self to death!

**Pro 6 / Rev 18:24 Main theme: Do not idle but be diligent to prepare food, be away from evil lest we be harmed**

 **-Evil /Be harmed**

Many prophets, saints and people of the world are killed by the Great prostitute that is the evil power of the world. Many are martyred and many more are led astray by the sinful power and turn to death. The secret to avoid being harmed is as follows:

(1)【Be humble to plead】1-5 If we are zealous due to muddle and are nosy and then be trapped, we ought to humble and plead, for the Lord can free us from it.

(2)【Prepare diligently】6-11 We ought to learn from the ant to be diligent to gather food ready for winter. David suffered a crushing defeat because he fell asleep and met temptation.

(3)【Turn from evil things】12-19 We must shun away from the seven things detestable to God.

(4)【Be careful to keep the commandments】20-24 We must trust in the Holy Spirit by faith and firmly keep the Lord's words so we may be guarded from evil.

(5)【Take warning seriously】25-35 God's love is as strong as death, and its jealousy unyielding as the grave. If we are led astray to do evil, we will not go unpunished in disgrace and perish. The result is tragic and we must take warning seriously to avoid disasters and gain blessings.

**Central point of the wheels: Be diligent to obey the Word, turn from evil, be humble to keep the will and destroy the strong enemies**

Dear Lord, may you let me be humble till the end, love you wholeheartedly, exalt you as the King, be faithful till death and glorify your name!

**Dt 4 / Da 5**

**Main theme: Be careful to obey the Lord's words and keep them forever; be led astray and indulging will soon be destroyed**

 **-Be careful to act / Indulging**

Golden verses: Dt 4:31 Da 5:22-23

A discussion on acting carefully and indulging – on one side it concerned Moses who encouraged the people to be careful to obey the laws of God and not be enticed to worship other gods lest God would destroy them completely on the good land. On the other side it concerned King Belshazzar was arrogant, indulging, and disdainful and profaned the holy instrument of God without taking warning. Thus he provoked the anger of God and was killed. His nation was also subjugated. This teaches us we ought to reject the feasts of the world but to enjoy the abundant feast of God's words. We ought to keep His Word in trembling and lead a godly life.

1. **Blessed is he who fears God and obeys His Word; anger be brought if we are arrogant and indulging**

Obey the Word (Dt 4:1-14) – Be wayward (Da 5:1-9)

1.【Listen to the Lord's Word and gain the inheritance】1 Moses recollected the great love of God towards the people and reiterated we ought to listen to God's decrees and laws so we might enter the good land which God had promised as the inheritance. God's words are the only guarantee to gain the land by faith.

※【Be indulging and wayward, then the last day will come immediately】1 Though Babylon held sway over the world, due to her extravagance and dissipation, her doomsday was near. King Belshazzar was dissipated and unconstrained. He set the feast for a thousand of his nobles and indulged in joy and dream life. He did not know that disasters would come suddenly. (1 Th 5:1-7) We ought to be always watchful to obey the Word and do not indulge in drinking so we may stand firm when the Lord reveals.

2.【Keep the Word without swerving and trust only on God】2-8 Moses strictly reminded the people to be careful to keep God's words without addition or subtraction. They had to be particularly mindful of the tragedy of the plot of Baal of Peor. (Num 25) Only those who trusted in God alone and obeyed to love Him, God would be close to them. They would show their wisdom and understanding to the nations.

※【Do as one pleases and profanes God】2-4 King Belshazzar drank and indulged and was not contented. He even ordered to bring the goblets taken from the temple in Jerusalem and drank from them. They praised gods of gold and silver, of wood and stone and were extremely presumptuous and foolish. Such indulgence in lust, defiling the instruments of the Most Holy God and profaning the holy name of God committed heinous crime!

3.【Fear God, keep His covenant and be favored】9-14 Moses also encouraged the people to be careful and watch closely not to forget what their eyes had seen that God proclaimed the Ten Commandments out of the fire. They were to teach them to their children to revere God and keep the covenant forever, to humble and take lesson to be the people of the covenant and God.

※【Be wayward and against God and turn to trembling】5-9 God's judgment was majestic and every word was like a consuming fire that burned away the frenzy of the wayward! Suddenly there were the words written by the fingers of the judging God revealed on the plaster of the wall. The king saw them and was so frightened that his knees knocked together and his legs gave way. Helplessly the wise men were not able to tell the king what they meant. The king was terrified and his face grew more pale. Similarly, if the people did not tremble to listen but be wayward and go against God, they too could not escape from the ending of waywardness.

**B. Do not be led astray, do not worship idols, have insight, intelligence and a keen mind**

Jealous (Dt 4:15-31) – keen (Da 5:10-20)

1.【Be very careful not to be enticed】15-24 When God spoke out of the fire at Horeb, the people did not see any form. Therefore they had to be very careful not to be enticed to worship other gods, whether an idol like a man or a woman, any bird or animal or any fish in the waters, or the heavenly array to corrupt themselves and be ensnared into traps and temptation.

※【With a keen mind and not be defiled】 10-12 Daniel had a keen mind and God's laws were in his heart. He trembled to keep the Word all his life. Though he had lived in the palace full of sins for long, he was spotless, holy and unblemished. He was not enticed. The descendants of Israel did not take warning and were enticed to serve the foreign gods after entering Canaan and suffered the ending of subjugation and captivity.

2.【Carve idols to corrupt oneself】25-26 God's people ought not to forget forever that God brought them out from the furnace of Egypt to be His people. Therefore they had to be careful, lest they would forget the covenant God made with them. Moses called heaven and earth as witness against the people to warn them. If they ignored God's warning and carved idols for themselves to provoke His wrath, they would soon be destroyed in the good land because God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

※【Be jealous and hate sin, be discerned in the spirit】10-12 The queen witnessed Daniel had the spirit of God. He loved God wholeheartedly and was jealous to hate sins. He had a spirit not to be defiled by sin. Therefore he lived long in the good land of God's will. He was also filled with the wisdom of God to discern to tell the words.

3.【Led astray in the heart and is destroyed due to ignorance】27-28 Moses solemnly declared to the Israelites the result of worshiping idols would be scattered among the peoples and forced to worship man-made gods. They would die of swerving of the heart and ignorance.

※【Have insight and full of wisdom】13-16 Daniel was full of wisdom from heaven. He was able to understand the mystery which worldly people could not because he was intelligent. He was able to get close to the light which men could not. He had close fellowship with God. He was not perverse but he served God wholeheartedly and dwelled in God's light. (1 Jan 1:5) Belshazzar was indulging and went against God. He praised the idols and would live in the darkness in everlasting destruction.

4.【Seek in trouble and is favored】29-31 God promised that in their distress, if they would seek Him with all their heart and with all their soul, they would be redeemed and return like David. God promised He would not abandon or destroy them. God is a God full of unfailing love!

※【Seek wholeheartedly and is favored】13-20 In his terror, Belshazzar did not know to seek the Most High God. He only sought the wise men of his nation but they could not tell him. Only Daniel who had clean hands and a pure heart was able to point out boldly the frenzy of the king and his punishment. He hated evil and loved goodness. He did it not because of reward but he sought wholeheartedly to understand the mystery. On one side we ought to understand God is a God full of unfailing love. On the other side we ought to understand God is a God full of majesty. (Ps 24:3-6)

**C. Judgment is coming soon, so take warning and be blessed; it is hard to escape if we sinned**

1.【Take warning and be blessed】32-40 Again Moses reminded the people to pay attention to the deliverance of God and know that only the Lord is God. Apart from Him, there is no other God. If they would listen and take lesson, they would be blessed and live long in the good land.

※【Be arrogant and bring trouble】21-25 Without regard for anything, Daniel rebuked Belshazzar for not taking the lesson of the punishment of his predecessor and humble. Instead he still was arrogant toward the Lord of heaven and praised the false gods. He did not ascribe the honor to the God who held his life and all his ways in His hand. The people listened to take the lesson and would be blessed. King Belshazzar was arrogant and would not confess which was suicidal. Thus God revealed His finger of judgment so he might take lesson and be humble to confess and turn from evil.

2.【Run to the Lord and gain life】41-49 Moses set aside three cities east of the Jordan so everyone who killed unintentionally might escape to the cities of refuge to hear the judgment, die to the old self, be protected and kept alive. These fully exhibited God's great love and care to save every innocent man from death.

※【Not willing to confess and be destroyed】25-31Daniel declared to the king: (1) God had numbered the days of his reign and brought it to an end. (2) He had been weighed on the scales and found wanting. (3) His kingdom was divided and given to the Medes and Persians.

Sure enough, that very night king Belshazzar was slain and Babylon was subjugated. God is our shelter like a city of refuge we may escape to the Lord and be protected. King Belshazzar sinned intentionally and was not willing to be humble to accept the punishment. He was unwilling to confess till death and would be destroyed, just like the two kings east of the Jordan were overwhelmed with no way to escape. God set up the cities of refuge so whoever killed unintentionally might have the wisdom to count his days and to reflect himself deeply in the scale of God's words to understand how corrupt he had been. Thus his life might change to avoid disasters and gain blessings.

**Pro 7 / Rev 19:1 Main theme: Obey the Lord's Word firmly without being led astray and gain favor, honor and power**

 **-The Lord's Word / Grace and honor**

God's children do not belong to the world and their mind is on heavenly things. Due to faith they experience the complete salvation of the Lord and their body, soul and mind are sanctified to glorify God and benefit man. They have the spiritual power. Thus they praise God aloud because all this comes from God. If we turn to the adulterous way, we will be harmed and die.

(1)【Value the Word and go near it to be guarded】1-5 We will be guarded if we store up the Lord's words and be close to them and obey His words in all our actions.

(2)【Stay near the adulteress and be held by her】6-13 Only by calling on the Lord may

we escape from the world.

(3)【Ought to understand the enemy's plot】14-21 The adulteress had a godly appearance and even masqueraded as an angel of light to tempt you to death.

(4)【Fall into the trap and be victimized】22-23 The youth was ignorant and led astray. He followed her at once. He was victimized and cost his life.

(5)【Now we ought to listen to the word of the Lord】24-27 We ought to forget the past and grab the presence to listen to the Lord without swerving and stray into her paths and the grave. Be absolutely sure to take warning because many are the victims she has brought down.

**Central point of the wheels: Listen and walk the Way, do not be led astray, overcome the temptation and be guarded**

Dear Lord, may you guard my heart to love you purely, so I may keep the covenant in trembling all my life, to lead a godly life and overcome to the end.

**Dt 5 / Da 6**

**Main theme: Deny oneself to obey the Word, trust and rest for God will protect**

 **-Listen / Act (Obey firmly / plead firmly)**

Golden verses: Dt 5:29 Da 6:20-22

A discussion on listening and acting – on one side it concerned Moses reiterated the Ten Commandments to the Israelites and encouraged them to fear God always and be careful to obey without swerving to the left or right, and then they would be blessed. On the other side it concerned Daniel insisted to pray even in calamity without changing his regularity. He became an example who kept God's Word firmly. This chapter and chapter nine happened at the same time. So you may see that Satan attempted to destroy the plan of Daniel to pray and prevent the people to return. But his plot did not succeed at the end. The will of God triumphs forever! This teaches us we ought to obey the Word and keep His covenant through trials. We ought to pray and give thanks, and be faithful till the end. Then we will see His glory!

1. **Obey the Word and keep the covenant, serve regularly and rest in trouble**

Keep the covenant (Dt 5:1-21) – Rest (Da 6:1-18)

1.【Have close fellowship with God and proclaim His holy word】1-6 Moses went to the top of the mountain and spoke with God face to face and received His holy words. Then he taught the people to learn to keep the decrees and laws and made a covenant with God. Moses was the mediator of the Old Testament who stood between God and the people. He reiterated the Ten Commandments and declared God's words to them. He was the faithful servant of God.

※【Have a keen mind and serve faithfully】1-5 Daniel was in a high position and he still shun away from sin. He had close fellowship with God and a keen mind just like Moses. He kept God's words firmly in his mind and was careful to obey. He was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. He distinguished himself among the administrators. Thus he suffered the jealousy of his colleagues and they tried all sorts of ways to charge against him but they were unable to find any.

2.【Love God and obey His command】7-11The Ten Commandments are the consuming fire of God's laws and the core of God's words. They are even the Commandments of the Commandments. We shall have no other gods before Him. We are prohibited to make or worship any idol. Nor shall we misuse the name of the Lord for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses His name. Only those who love God and obey His commands will be loved and blessed to a thousand generations.

※【Not afraid of the decree】6-9 The royal administrators and satraps all requested the king to issue a decree. Anyone who prayed to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to the king, should be thrown into the lions' den. Daniel had engraved God's commandments on his heart. He loved God and obeyed His commands. He dwelled in the Lord. (1 Jn 3:24) Thus he was able to insist in his faith without pleading other gods. He was not afraid to face this decree.

3.【Obey the command and rest】12-15 God ordered the Israelites to keep the Sabbath and remember they were delivered by God from Egypt and be a slave no more. Therefore they ought to keep the Sabbath so they, their children, the man-servants and maid-servants, the animals and the aliens might rest. The Lord promised all who are weary and burdened might come before Him and enjoy the true rest. (Mt 11:28-30)

※【Rest in trouble】10-11When Daniel had learned that the decree had been published, he still set his face toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God as usual. Those who keep the Word of the Lord have peace in them. In his crucial moment, not only he could pray, he also trusted in God and gave thanks to Him. God's Word was in his heart and became his refuge in distress. He was able to enjoy God's peace. (Pr 10:29) The men went as a group and were busy doing evil trying to put Daniel to death, but they did not have peace.

4.【Obey firmly】16-21 The principle of the law is to love God and love men. The laws are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Ro 13:8-10) Love does no harm to its neighbor and does not infringe on the interest of others. To honor your father and your mother is a commandment with a promise of blessing. You shall not murder, commit adultery, steal or give false testimony against your neighbor. You will have lasting blessings if you keep the commandments firmly.

※【Plead firmly】12-18 Daniel feared God and honored God. Irrespective of any cost he would keep God's commandments firmly. He was not perfunctory. He was faithful to God's assignment and insisted to cry to God so the people might return to revive. No matter how the wicked were like roaring lions and went before the king to accuse him, he was unyielding! Daniel kept the commandments firmly and had lasting blessings! The wicked desired for the world and harmed others to benefit themselves. They were finally in disasters. After king Darius had thrown Daniel into the lions' den, he regretted and could not sleep the whole night. He did not have peace. Though he was in the palace, he did not have true blessings.

**B. Let the Lord's word be engraved in the heart, trust and be saved**

Honor God (Dt 5:22-33) – Trust (Da 6:19-28)

1.【The Lord's word is engraved in the heart】22-27 The Ten Commandments were proclaimed by God in a loud voice to the people on the mountain from out of the fire. They were written by God on two stone tablets and ought to be carved in our heart forever. The people saw by their very eyes the majesty of God. How awesome! As such they dared not hear God's voice again.

※【Face danger fearlessly】19-23 Daniel had carved the commandments of God in his heart, so he did not fear in danger. God's words were his weapon to overcome death. (Eph 6:17) But the king was unable to sleep the whole night because of Daniel. At the first light of dawn, he hurried to the lions' den and saw the eternal God had saved Daniel from the lion's mouth. Then his sorrow turned to joy.

2.【Keep the Word and be blessed】28-33 God wished the people to keep a heart of fear to fear Him and keep His Word to be blessed forever. Moses proclaimed the statutes and decrees to the people, so they would not turn to the left or turn to the right in order that they might inherit the land and live long.

※【Trust and be saved】24-28 Daniel feared God and kept the Word all his life. Though he was innocently harmed and was thrown into the lions' den, God was with him and He sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions. Finally he was rescued due to his trust in God. Then the king ordered those who had falsely accused Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den. A decree was proclaimed to all the land to fear the God of Daniel! God's name was greatly glorified in the Gentiles!

**Pro 8 / Rev 19:2 Main theme: The Lord's word judges, listen consistently and obey His Word, and great blessing will come**

 **-Obey consistently / Be wayward**

God's judgment is righteous. But his judgment is unsearchable. Only by seeking persistently may we see exactly his mind (the Lord will not be cheated by Satan who used God's words). We ought to seek fervently and be blessed by understanding and obeying the Word. We obey the Word by the Lord. God will let the enemy be accountable for his sin and defend the cause for his servant.

(1)【Understand the value of the word of the Lord】1-11 The value of the Lord's word far exceeds everything. We ought to be prudent to gain an in-depth understanding, then we will not fall or be lost or led astray.

(2)【Where is wisdom】12-21 The Lord is the Word and is wisdom. We ought to thirst humbly. He will be found along the paths of justice to gain discretion, knowledge, power and riches.

(3)【God's almighty】22-31 God created everything and everything submits under His authority. If we obey the Lord's words, we have His presence. No matter the mountains, the hills, the waters or the deeps cannot obstruct us. Paul could do everything through Him who gave him strength.

(4)【Blessings and warnings】32-36 'Now' we ought to listen to the Lord and come before Him everyday. Blessed are those who listen to the Lord and obey His Word. We will harm ourselves if we do wrong or sin against Him. Those who hate the Lord's Word will run to destruction.

**Central point of the wheels: Blessed is he who listens and acts, trust and be saved,**

**and let the Word of the Lord be engraved in your heart**

Dear Lord, may you let me listen to the voice of your wisdom, keep your Word for all my life, be faithful without compromising and love you above everything!

**Dt 6 / Da 7**

**Main theme: Know the dangerous situation, lead men to love the Lord wholeheartedly to guard the future**

 **-Gain the land / Gain the kingdom**

Golden verses: Dt 6:17 Da 7:9-10

A discussion on gaining the land and gaining the kingdom – on one side it concerned Moses exhorted the Israelites to love God and obey his Word after entering Canaan. Then they would enjoy the everlasting blessings in the good land promised by God. On the other side it concerned Daniel the prophet saw the vision of the giant beast and encouraged the people to keep the Word and triumph under the power of the foreign nation. Then they would gain the kingdom and enjoy. This teaches us we shall not be afraid of the power of the beast. We ought to defeat crime and walk righteously by grace. We shall be the holy people of the Most High and wait for the kingdom of Christ to come.

1. **Value God's word, do not follow other gods, and be discerned to obey the Word**

Teaching (Dt 6:1-15) – Vision (Da 7:1-17)

1.【Fear God, obey the Word and enjoy the everlasting blessing】1-3 God promised the people if they would fear Him for generations and keep all His commandments and statutes, they would enjoy the lasting blessings and increase in number in the good land flowing with milk and honey.

※【Fear God, obey the Word and see the vision】1-3 Daniel feared God and kept His Word all his life. Though he was in the land of exile, the palace of the foreign nation, he was blessed by God. He was brought to the abundance of the spiritual land of milk and honey. Thus he repeatedly saw visions. And because he loved God wholeheartedly and feared Him and obeyed His commands, he had long life and rich blessings despite the many trials.

2.【Value God's word】4-9 The Israelites ought to love God with all their heart and with all their soul and with all their strength and to impress the children to value God's Word and remember it in their heart so as to be blessed. Therefore we have to talk about it anywhere and anytime. Our thoughts think of His words and our action shows His words. We shall even write the on the doorframes of our houses and the gates so the whole family and the whole nation will value God's words and be blessed when we enter or exit.

※【Do not be afraid of the enemy's power】4-8 Daniel saw four great beasts came up out of the sea represented the four great kingdoms similar to the large statue which king Nebuchadnezzar saw. (Dan 2) The lion referred to Babylon, the bear referred to Medes and Persia, the leopard referred to Greece. The four wings and the heads referred to the four kingdoms which were divided later. The fourth beast referred to Rome - terrifying and frightening. Its head had ten horns and another small horn came up which was the anti-Christ. The four beasts and the four kingdoms represented the sinful power of Satan. It was the law of the jungle and horrifying. But God's words will overcome, the strong enemy will fail. God's people have long been under the authority of the beast. If they keep the Word firmly and value God's words, then they do not need to be afraid like Daniel who was blessed all his life. Apart from the small horn (the anti-Christ) which have not been fulfilled, the vision of the four beasts was fulfilled in history. God's words will be accomplished!

3.【Be careful not to follow other gods】10-15 Once again, Moses exhorted the people to be careful lest they enjoyed the abundance in the good land and were satisfied but have forgotten God who had led them out of Egypt and depraved in grace to follow other gods. God's anger would be aroused because He is a jealous God.

※【Worship the only true God】9-17 Daniel saw the majesty of God's throne, the glorious form of the only Sovereign and the Ancient Days and the Son of man. When Christ comes into His kingdom with His judgment authority, all the gods of the world will be brought low, to nothing. The nations of every shore will come together with the chosen people of God to worship the only true God. (Zep 2:11; Zec 14:9) They will not kneel before other gods to provoke God's anger. Daniel sought to understand the true meaning of the vision. We too, ought to advance to pursue and be blessed abundantly.

**B. Be careful to seek and walk the Way, so you may gain the good land and God's kingdom**

Pass on and take heed (Dt 6:16-25) – Warn (Da 7:18-28)

1.【Take heed to walk the Way】16-19 Again Moses told the people to be sure to keep the commands, the stipulations and decrees of God and not to test God again. If they would do what was right and good, they might go well and take over the good land. God is faithful. He would thrust out all the enemies according to His promise.

※【Take heed to seek】18-22 Not only did Daniel ensure to keep the Lord's Word, he also took heed to seek to understand the vision he saw. The four beasts and the four kingdoms would soon rise. The little horn among the ten horns would beat up three horns referred to the rise up of anti-Christ in the ten kingdoms at the last days. It would subdue the three kings and wage war against the saints until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints. The saints of the Most High would possess the kingdom for ever and ever. (Rev 11:15) God's promise and prophecy are faithful and trustworthy. How God promised to thrust out all the enemies, He will punish the power of the four beast in the same way.

2.【Pass on to the descendants】20-25 Israel had to be a people covenanted with God for generations. Therefore God told them to proclaim the stipulations, the decrees and the statutes which God set for them to all generations. How God brought them out of Egypt, He would lead them to enter the promise land so as to make them fear God and obey the Word and be guarded by Him. They would be blessed if they did righteously.

※【Warn the people】23-28 One of those who stood explained to Daniel: the fourth beast will devour the whole earth. The anti-Christ will oppress the saints. But the everlasting kingdom of the saints will finally come. Therefore we have to proclaim

God's instruction to our descendants and to warn the chosen people of God. Faced with the anti-God power of Satan, we must be watchful to guard, to fear God and keep His Word without yielding and not be let astray. We will overcome by God and wait for the Lord's coming.

**Pro 9 / Rev 19:3 Main theme: Destroy evil forever, obey the Lord's word completely to avoid death and gain life**

 **-Walk in the light / Destroy sin**

We ought to hate the temptation of sin severely and burn it to smoke lest we will be harmed. We ought to obey the Lord's word completely without hearing the voice of the enemy.

(1)【Turn to wisdom and walk in the way of understanding】1-6 The Lord's words are true wisdom. All Scripture is the perfect gospel so whoever hears may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. We ought to eat up the scroll to fill our stomach, leave the simple ways and turn to the way of understanding.

(2)【We ought to fear and know the Lord】7-12 Do not mock or go against the words of God lest the ending of Samson and Balaam becomes your result. Fear the Lord and make every effort to know the Lord and you will gain long life and everlasting blessings like Joseph, Daniel and Paul.

(3)【Do not hear the voice of the enemy】13-18 The enemies (the great prostitute, the false prophet and the anti-Christ) cry aloud the whole day. We ought to imitate Elisha to follow Elijah (the prophet and the holy word) closely and do not listen to other voices and press forward toward the goal. If we turn to the sound of the enemy and be led astray from the faith, we will be devoured to the grave.

**Central point of the wheels: Fear God and destroy evil, keep and proclaim the Word, and be blessed and gain the kingdom**

Dear Lord, may you let me value your words, not to fear the adulterous rule of the beast, grant me wisdom and faith to overcome till the end!

**Dt 7 / Da 8**

**Main theme: Truly listen to the Lord's word, hate the enemies and destroy them, and wait watchfully for the coming of the Lord.**

 **-Destroy the enemies / Guard against the enemies**

Golden verses: Dt 7:9-10 Da 8:13-14

A discussion on destroying the enemies and guarding against the enemies – on one side it concerned Moses admonished the elect they ought to destroy the seven tribes of Canaan after gaining the land. They should not be merciful to them lest they might fall into their evil trap. They ought to be a holy people belonging to God forever. On the other side it concerned the vision seen by Daniel reminded the people to be on guard watchfully even under the persecution of the enemies and to keep the Word to overcome. They would gain the kingdom and enjoy. This teaches us not to be afraid of the power of the beast. We ought to destroy sin and walk in righteousness by grace. We shall be the holy people of the Most High and wait for the kingdom of Christ to come.

1. **Destroy the enemies completely and be discerned in the vision**

Destroy completely (Dt 7:1-11) – Be discerned (Da 8:1-12)

1.【Destroy the seven tribes completely and gain the land as inheritance】1-5 Though the seven tribes of Canaan seemed large and strong, God promised He would drive them out and gave them to the chosen people. They had to destroy them totally and accomplish the five 'no', lest they might follow them to serve other gods and arouse the anger of God. We too, ought to be as thorough as this in dealing with the lust of our flesh and heresy (Col 3:5-15) without mercy, then we may trust in the cross and overcome to enjoy the abundance and gain the inheritance.

※【Overcome the temptation and be discerned in the vision】1-8 Though Daniel was in the palace, he set apart to be holy to God. He defeated all his inner enemies and was not tempted. In his long period of trial, he overcame in the spiritual wars. He had a pure heart and loved God. Thus he was able to see the vision in heaven. He was truly discerned. In his vision, he saw in the eyes of God the foreign nations and the strong ones were presumptuous and brutal like the beasts and just like the seven tribes of Canaan, they were finally subdued.

2.【Holy to God】6-11God chose Israel out of all the peoples to be His people. He set His affection on them and rescued them from Egypt, the land of slavery. Therefore they ought to be holy to God and should not be allowed to follow the foreign nations to deprave in their faith or ethics. God is faithful. Only if we will keep His commandments, He will keep His covenant of love to a thousand generations.

※【Guarded by God】3-4 The two horns of the ram (the kingdom of Medes and Persia) became great and did as he pleased. They dominated for a while and even the beast could not stand against them and none could rescue from their power. Thus God's people were released from exile and restored. (Ezr1:1-3) By the end of the kingdom, the leftover exiles were oppressed, but would still be guarded by God to turn the tide. (the book of Esther) This showed that God loved His people with an everlasting love and brought them from the worldly evil to set apart for God and were guarded.

3.【Those who hate God will be avenged】10 Those who hate God He will repay to their face by destruction and will not be slow like the ending of the Amorites and the Canaanites. Only those who love God be like the sun when it rises in its strength! (Jdg 5:31)

※【Through refinement the enemy will be avenged】5-8 Then Daniel saw a goat with a prominent horn between his eyes. This was Alexander. The goat became very great and wishfully thought to dominate the world. At the height of his power, the large horn was broken off. God cannot be mocked. The wicked who goes against God will be avenged just like Canaan was avenged. (Ps 75:10) Out of the four prominent horns there grew another small horn which represented the anti-Christ. He would oppress the children of God, take away the daily sacrifice, throw the truth to the ground and defile the sanctuary. God's people were bitterly refined. If they love God and keep His Word, they will finally be blessed.

**B. Overcome the enemy and guard against them will be blessed without disaster**

Overcome the enemy (Dt 7:12-26) – Refine (Da 8:13-27)

1.【Be attentive and favor over the nations】12-16 How trustworthy is God's promise! If the people listened to the laws and were careful to obey, God would keep His covenant of love and bless them so they might increase in number. Their people and their livestock would prosper over all other peoples and the horrible diseases in Egypt would not be inflicted on them. (Exo 15:26) Therefore they had to destroy all the enemies without pitying on them lest they served other gods and be caught in a snare.

※【Be refined and blessed to become the sanctuary】13-17 Daniel heard that the taking away of the daily sacrifice and the rebellion that caused desolation took 2,300 days to be fulfilled. If the chosen people would listen in their deep refinement and hold on to God's command to wait till the end, they would be refined and blessed to be the sanctuary of God; just like the people who exited Egypt and paid attention to the laws, then they would be blessed over all the peoples because God's promise is forever faithful!

2.【Be bold to destroy the enemies by God】17-24 They had to remember well what God did to all Egypt. Therefore, do not be afraid, God would do the same to all the enemies and send the hornet among them till they had perished. God is a great and awesome God. No one will be able to stand up against Him.

※【Understand the vision by God】18-19 Daniel saw the vision and thirsted to seek and understand the meaning. Then Gabriel came to let him understand that the vision concerned the time of the end. We must seek wholeheartedly and trust in God in order to overcome the strong enemies and understand the vision. Only God is the source of wisdom and power!

3.【Destroy all detestable thing to avoid falling into the trap】25-26 At the end Moses seriously warned the people to hate what God hates and burn down the detestable carved idols of the Canaanites. They should not covet the silver and gold on them lest they might be ensnared by it. We must utterly abhor and detest what God hates.

※【To warn the evil plot of the enemy to avoid being destroyed】20-27 In the latter part of the four kingdoms, the rebels would become completely wicked. A king, a master of intrigue and cause deceit to prosper, would rise to destroy the holy people. He would destroy them when they felt secure and stand against the Prince of princes. God's people must be alert to the plot of the enemy like abhorring the idols. We have to be watchful momentarily for a hundred times to avoid being destroyed.

**Pro 10 / Rev 19:4 Main theme: The elders and the living creatures are righteous, holy and fear God and love man**

 **-Wisdom / Worship**

The elders and the living creatures worshiped God before the throne. The elders who shepherded the flock were like the four living creatures who turned according to the Spirit. They were the wise righteous men.

(1)【The wise righteous man】1-3 Fear God and act righteously like Paul so God will be delighted. To be foolish and do wicked will grieve the Holy Spirit.

(2)【Prepare diligently】4-5 Be diligent to prepare like Paul, seek unceasingly, understand the mystery of the gospel deeply, then you will be an expert builder. Samson slept and put God to disgrace and stumbled others.

(3)【The righteous are blessed and remembered】6-7 Abraham walked the good way and was blessed and remembered forever. The wicked goes down in history as a byword of infamy.

(4)【What is righteous】8-26 (a) The wise in heart will fear the Lord's command. (b) The man of integrity obeys the Lord's words. (c) Those whose eyes look ahead to the right will press forward toward the goal. (d) Those who do not chatter and slander or are few in words but pour out the living water will nourish many. (e) He who has no hatred is full of God's love. (f) Keep the Word firmly and stand firm with faith will not worry buy delight in the Lord. (g) Be diligent and faithful to the Lord's assignment.

(5)【The righteous will have many advantages】27-32 (a) Adds length to life and enjoys long life. (b) The prospect of the righteous is joy. (c) God is his refuge in times of danger. (d) Will gain the land and never be uprooted. (e) Be the spokesman of the Lord's gracious words. The wicked will be punished for perverting the Lord's words.

**Central point of the wheels: Serve the Lord humbly, destroy the enemies and guard against them and teach men**

Dear Lord, I am willing to destroy all my inner enemies by your strength and wisdom, to guard against them watchfully and praise you for your joy!

**Dt 8 / Da 9**

**Main theme: Be careful in grace, plead in trouble and be highly esteemed**

 **-Warn / Intercede**

Golden verses: Dt 8:3 Da 9:24

A discussion on warning and interceding – on one side it concerned Moses warned the Israelites not to be arrogant and ungrateful in God's grace and abundance after crossing the river and gaining the land. On the other side it concerned Daniel considered God's mind and grabbed His promise to confess and intercede for the captive people so they might return and revive. In the prophecy of the seventy 'seven', sixty-nine 'seven' had already fulfilled, leaving the last one 'seven' and will be fulfilled. (Rm 11:25-26)

1. **Consider God's mind, exhort to obey the Word, confess and intercede**

Exhort (Dt 8:1-10) – Intercede (Da 9:1-15)

1.【Obey the Word, live and gain the land】1 God promised the chosen people if they would be careful to follow every command, then they might live and increase and enter to possess the good land promised by Him.

※【Be wayward and thus subjugated and taken captive】1-2 After the chosen people had entered the good land, they committed sins. They were stubborn and wayward. They repeatedly refused to listen to the exhortation and warning of the prophet and provoked God to anger. Thus the holy city became a desolate. They were taken captive and subjugated and driven out of the good land.

2.【Forty years of refinement】2 The chosen people ought to remember without forgetting the forty years in the desert. God refined them and tested them out of God's love in order to know what was in their heart, whether or not they would keep His commands.

※【Seventy years of refinement】1-2 God's people were refined in the fiery furnace of Babylon for seventy years in order to let them be thoroughly refined after hardship. Then they would be willing to keep God's command to love Him wholeheartedly without serving other gods.

3.【Value the word of God】3 God humbled them and caused them to hunger and then fed them with manna. The purpose was to let them value the words of God and know that man did not live on bread alone but on every word that came from the mouth of the Lord. The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. (Jn 6:63; Job 23:12)

※【Pay attention to the prophecy】1-3 Daniel was a prophet who loved his nation and his people. He interceded faithfully and valued God's words. In the first year of Darius he understood from the Scriptures of Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. Then God would come to them and restore them. (Jer 29:10) Therefore his spirit was awakened. He knew revival would come. So he turned to God and pleaded with Him in prayer and petition, in fasting and in sackcloth and ashes. On one side was Moses exhorted the people faithfully at his deathbed. On the other side was Daniel's intercession of love for his nation and his people in his old age. They both had in mind of God and exhibited God's heart.

4.【Think of the love of God's discipline】4-6 The forty years in the desert for the chosen people were a period of forty years' corruption in the flesh and fall. It was also God's discipline of forty years showing the unchanging love of God like a father disciplining a son. (Pr 3:11-12) Therefore we ought to think of God's love and count His grace. We also ought to fear God and be careful to follow His Word.

※【Confess and intercede under discipline】3-11 Daniel had the mind of God. He grabbed the promise of God's unfailing love to confess the sins of himself and his people. He acknowledged their violation and ungratefulness. They sinned against God and were punished. Thus the curses on the laws of Moses came upon them. He acknowledged God's discipline was out of His love so they might have a share in God's holiness.

5.【Praise God in grace】7-10 The good land which God brought the people to was a source of abundance with nothing in lacking. Therefore they ought to fear God and obey the Word in grace and praise the Lord their God because He gave them this good land.

※【Call on God in disaster】12-15 Daniel acknowledged in his prayer that God brought disasters because He was a righteous God. This was to fulfill the laws which Moses wrote because they did not listen to God's words, nor did they seek the favor of God by turning from their sins. Therefore he acknowledged to God of their sins. When we are in grace, we ought to praise God. Even in our disasters, we too ought to cry out to God fervently.

**B. Destroyed for being arrogant and ungrateful; be highly esteemed and see the vision**

Warning (Dt 8:11-20) – Plea (Da 9:16-27)

1.【Warn not to be ungrateful】11-14 Moses told the people to be absolutely sure to be careful not to forget the God who brought them out of the house of slavery as their herds and flocks grew large or their silver and gold increased and became proud without keeping His commands. If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! (1 Co 10:12)

※【Plead and do not delay】16-19 Daniel pleaded God to show great mercy and look with favor on the holy city so His anger might turn away and shed light on the desolate sanctuary. May God give ear and forgive. May He act without delay. Do not give heart if our treasure increases. We ought to be like Daniel to be filled with love and have in mind of the holy mountain of God! Faithful servants will not only warn others and also intercede fervently.

2.【Go well】15-18 Recalling that they had passed through the vast and dreadful desert, God let them have water from the rock and sent manna to them to eat to humble them so they might go well and to confirm the covenant which He swore to their forefathers.

※【Be highly esteemed】20-24 Daniel humbled before God. He trembled and acknowledged his sins and the sins of the people. While he was praying, Gabriel came in swift flight and appeared before him. His prayer was answered. He was highly esteemed and given the vision and the prophecy. God has prepared for those who love him far more than they expected. (1 Co 2:9) Gabriel had instructed Daniel of the decree of "seventy 'sevens' for their people and their holy city showing the faithful God had affirmed the covenant He swore to their forefathers so the chosen people might experience God's redemption to finish transgression and to bring in everlasting righteousness. They were to experience the long period of refinement to restore, so when the kingdom comes, they will enjoy the blessing forever.

3.【Follow other gods and will be destroyed】19-20 Moses the servant of God repeated the injunctions and warned them if they ever forgot God to follow others gods, they would be destroyed like the foreign nations. Those who do not listen to God's words have tragic ending.

※【Revival after refinement】24-27 The prophecy of the seventy 'seven' started at the rebuild of the holy city (Ne 2:1) till Christ, the Anointed One was cut off. This would be the sixty nine 'seven'. The last 'seven' would be fulfilled at the time of the great disasters. God's people rejected His beloved son. As a result they were scattered among the nations and suffered until they completely abandoned other gods and put an end to sin and atone for wickedness. When they were refined and revived and finally brought in everlasting righteousness, they would then be in the glorious kingdom of Christ to listen and serve God willingly. The abomination that causes desolation would finally cause God's wrath and ended with everlasting destruction. How righteous is God's judgment!

**Pro 11 / Rev 19:5 Main theme: The faithful servant will fear God, seek good and walk righteously to glorify God and benefit man**

 **-Fear / Walk righteously**

The servants of God and those who fear God will take a grateful heart to praise and glorify God. We ought to remove our unrighteousness and be a righteous servant to avoid punishment and be rewarded.

(1)【Remove the unrighteousness】Deception, pride, duplicity, ungodliness, destroy others with the mouth, gossip, putting up a security for another (confused enthusiasm), cruelty, pursue evil, a heart of perversion, withhold unduly, selfishness, hoard grain (to hide the grace of the Lord), trust in one's riches, and sin foolishly etc.

(2)【Seek good eagerly and be righteous persistently】1-29 Be a faithful servant who fears God, seeks justice and righteousness, humility and openness, perfection (in thought, words and actions), treats others with kindhearted and kindness, does not turn to deception but sows seeds of righteousness, be generous and refreshes others like Paul preferred to suffer more so that he might share in the gospel's blessings.

(3)【Two kinds of different results】30-31 God hates the unrighteous. Their ending is disgraceful, falling and are punished. The righteous servants who fear God, both small and great will receive the rich blessings and be loved by God. They will flourish and bear fruit unceasingly.

**Central point of the wheels: Warn and intercede, fear God and walk righteously, and give praise to God**

Dear Lord, may you let me not be arrogant or ungrateful but be godly and loved, to intercede faithfully and welcome the revival of your promise!

**Dt 9 / Da 10**

**Main theme: The spiritual war is severe, humble yourself to seek, be loved and gain the land**

 **-Intercede / Seek (Destroy evil / Overcome the prince**

Golden verses: Dt 9:6-7 Da 10:12

A discussion on intercession and pursuance – on one side it concerned Moses paid the price to deny himself and intercede for the rebellious people who worshiped the gold calf and thus he was shown mercy. On the other side it concerned Daniel humbled himself and sought wholeheartedly to understand about the vision and prophecy of the fight. He was thus highly esteemed. The intercession and pursuance of the two servants of God experienced the fight in the spirit. They overcame the power of Satan and were granted by God. They are our example of learning.

1. **Not by our righteousness, seek wholeheartedly and see the glorious image of the Lord**

Go up the mountain (Dt 9:1-14) – See the Lord (Da 10:1-10)

1.【God's devouring fire destroys the strong enemy】1-3 The Israelites had to cross the river and gain the land. They had to face the tall and strong Anakites whose cities had walls up to the sky. Who could drive out and annihilate these strong enemy? We ought to know that God is a devouring fire and He promised to destroy the enemy and subdue them. We just need to grab the Lord's promise by faith to drive them out.

※【God revealed and understood the vision】1-2 Who can instruct the prophesy of the future great war? Who can drive out and destroy the enemy? Only the Lord! He is the first and He is the last; apart from Him there is no God. (Isa 44:6-7; 46:10) In the third year of Cyrus, though Daniel was already ninety years old, he experienced the spiritual fight and mourned for three weeks. He was revealed by God to let him understand the true prophecy of the great war and the whole vision.

2.【Not by our righteousness but gain the land by grace】4-7 God wanted the people to know that the enemy was driven out not due to their righteousness, but because the enemy sinned to its full measure. (Gen 15:16) Further it was because God wanted to accomplish what He swore to their forefathers. Therefore they could not boast of themselves or forget they had been rebellious and stiff-necked to provoke God's anger. They gained the land not by their righteousness but by God's grace.

※【Not by our righteousness but humble and seek】3-5 Just like the chosen people gained the land, Daniel sought the prophecy was also not of his righteousness. Everything is God's grace. Therefore he did not slacken but humbled himself to fast. He forsook every enjoyment and only set his mind on what the Spirit desired and sought wholeheartedly. This teaches us that we need not only to tremble in grace but also to advance to understand God's prophecy and will.

3.【Go up the mountain and be favored】8-14 Moses stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights with no bread and no water and had close fellowship with God. Thus God gave him two stone tablets inscribed by the finger of God which were the words proclaimed to them on the mountain out of the fire, that were the Ten Commandments. God gave them to the people as their everlasting inheritance. (Dt 33:4; Ps 119:111) God instructed Moses that the people had become corrupt. They had turned away from the Word of God and cast a gold calf which provoked God to anger. Thus God wanted to destroy them.

※【See the Lord's majesty】4-10 Daniel was like Moses who had ascended the spiritual mountain. He was also like John who saw the glorious form of Christ's righteousness and majesty in the island of Patmos. (Rev 1:13-16) His face shone in righteousness and His eyes were like blazing fire that searched the heart and mind. The Lord's hands and feet had been nailed. They were like bronze glowing in a furnace. He was full of power when he spoke like the sound of rushing waters. Who would not tremble? The Lord is the Word so the people might know God through the Ten Commandments and let Daniel understand more of God through the vision. But the people worshiped the idols. Not only did they turn from God's Word, they also lost the image of God. On one side God was angered to destroy the people. On the other side God comforted and strengthened Daniel to restore his strength.

**B. Crush the idol, intercede with love and seek and is granted**

Intercede (Dt 9:15-29) – Seek (Da 10:11-21)

1.【Cast an idol and provoke God to anger】15-17 Moses turned and went down from the mountain. He saw that they had sinned against God. They worshiped idol and cast a gold calf. They had broken the covenant with God. Thus he became angry and threw the two tablets to pieces.

※【Keep the Word firmly and is highly esteemed】10-11 Daniel was able to keep the Lord's Word through long period of testing. He loved God wholeheartedly and advanced to seek the future matters. Thus he was highly esteemed before God and saw His majesty! The people ran after other gods and provoked God to anger and lost His grace. Only by obeying the Word and keeping His covenant and maintaining the tablets in the heart, then they will not be broken! (Ps 119:165)

2.【Intercede fervently and is granted】18-20 Before Moses went down from the mountain, he pleaded earnestly for the people who worshiped the gold calf. God granted him not to send disasters to the people. (Exo 32:9-14) Thereafter he went up the mountain again for forty days and nights with no bread and no water. He prostrated to intercede. He also interceded for Aaron. He was granted by God for his intercession of love and self-denial.

※【Seek wholeheartedly and is granted】12-15 Since the first day Daniel set his mind to gain understanding and humbled himself just like Moses interceded on the mountain. They both paid the price. They feared God and loved God. They sought God earnestly and were not in vain for God answered them. (Pr 8:17; Isa 45:19)

3.【Crush the idol】21 Moses was the faithful servant of God. On one side he had the mind of God to intercede for the sinful people and on the other side he hated evil as his enemy. In his jealousy he burned the calf and crushed it to powder as fine as dust and threw it into a stream. He thoroughly crushed the sinful power of the gold calf so the evil plot of Satan was completely ruined.

※【Overcome the prince】13-19 Through the prince of the Persian kingdom Satan prevented Daniel from knowing the prophecy for 21 days. But the will of God will overcome! Suddenly Michael came to help the angel to overcome the prince so Daniel could understand what would happen to the people in the future. To crush the idol and to overcome the prince were the victory of God's will. Only those who thoroughly destroy the idols will receive God's help to overcome the prince!

4.【Continue to intercede】22-29 The people were corrupt in the flesh. They were greedy, full of complaint and rebellious and provoked God to anger. Moses had repeatedly paid the price to intercede for them. Again, he prostrated for forty days and nights. He pleaded God to remember His name and His servants Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and not to destroy them. He pleaded God to remember that the people were His inheritance that He brought out by His great power.

※【Continue to fight】20-21How fierce was the battle in the spiritual world! The angel had to return to fight against the prince of Persia. Thereafter the prince of Greece would also come. This was about the prophecy of the kingdom of Greece. God sent Michael from heaven to come to fight with the prince so as to protect God's people. (Dan 12:1) There is contention in the spiritual world. The flesh and old self of the people also had contention. Moses and Daniel the two servants of God continued to

fight in the spirit and paid the price to pray so the people might thoroughly overcome the power of the gold calf and the beast to set apart to be holy and enjoy the inheritance and the glory of the kingdom promised by God.

**Pro 12 / Rev 19:6 Main theme: Be humble to take discipline, exalt the Lord as King and lead men to righteousness**

 **-Take discipline / Exalt the Lord**

The sound of heaven was like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder full of power. We ought to be humble to take discipline, to turn from evil and do good, and be diligent to flourish. If we seek diligently and exalt God as King, then our words will be powerful.

(1)【Be humble to take discipline and turn from evil and seek righteousness】1-28 Be humble to take lesson all the way and be willing to accept rebuke and discipline. Do not be arrogant or pretend to be somebody but be filled with God's words and love. Make every effort to be perfect without sinful talk. Be able to overlook an insult. Proclaim the truth and lead many to righteousness. Hide oneself but exalt the Word of the Lord, be diligent to pursue unceasingly like Daniel who gained the mystery of God. Be humble and righteous all your life and enjoy long life.

(2)【The good and evil will be recompensed】1-28 The kind will be favored by God. They will endure to glorify God and benefit men. They will proclaim God's words to rescue and heal others. They will intercede for others so many will avoid trouble and be blessed. The evil will be condemned for they put God to shame and harm others. They may prosper for a while but will be overthrown in an instant. The wicked will plot evil and lead others astray. They will receive their punishment.

**Central point of the wheels: Be highly esteemed, intercede and seek, take discipline and give praise**

Dear Lord, may you make me consider your mind, to intercede with love, seek you wholeheartedly and praise your name all my life!

**Dt 10 / Da 11**

**Main theme: The floodwaters come, consecrate and obey the Word, and be bold to save men**

 **-Keep the Word / Be bold (Consecrate / Overcome)**

Golden verses: Dt 10:17-18 Da 11:32-35

A discussion on keeping the Word and be bold – on one side was Moses obeyed to chisel out two stone tablets and brought to the mountain. God re-wrote the Ten Commandments on them. God set the covenant again (Exo 34) so the people might write the commandments on their hearts (Heb 8:3-13) to encourage them to fear God and obey the Word and be blessed. On the other side was Daniel had the vision of the fight. This encourages the people of God to be bold to guard their faith. This exhibited God's intention to focus on His chosen elect. This teaches us we ought to trust in the Holy Spirit to overcome the flood of wickedness, to keep the Word till the end and exalt God as King forever.

1. **The floodwaters come, engrave the word of the Lord on our heart and intercede with love**

Intercede (Dt 10:1-11) – Warn (Da 11:1-22)

1.【Keep the covenant and obey the Word】1-5 God is a God who is faithful and keeps His covenant of love. His words stand firm forever. He told Moses to chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones and bring them up on the mountain. God would write on the Ten Commandments on them. Moses obeyed to place the two tablets in the chest so the people might write the Lord's words in their heart to keep the covenant willingly and obey forever after being dealt with all these failure and hardship.

※【God will bless】1-4 Three more kings would appear in Persia. Then a fourth one who would be far richer than all the others, would send his troops to attack Greece and was destroyed. Though the mighty king of Greece ruled as he pleased, his kingdom was broken up in an instant and given to others. This teaches the people to obey the Word and keep the covenant despite the contention between the strong ones. God would send Michael the chief prince to guard them peacefully through the distress.

2.【Serve faithfully and God be the inheritance】6-9 After Aaron died, Eleazar continued his priesthood. God set apart the tribe of Levi (unite) to carry the ark of the covenant, to serve God and to bless the people. They had no share or inheritance among their brothers. God was their inheritance. (Dt 18:1-5)

※【Fight against each other and turn to nothing】5-12 The king of the South and the king of the North were at times in good terms or they fought against each other. The king of the South plotted to marry his daughter to the king of the North. As a result it was self-defeating and he was killed. The king of the South took revenge. He overcame the king of the North and seized their gods and valuable articles. Though the king of the South won over the king of the North repeatedly, he would not remain triumphant due to his pride. The kings of the world fight against one another and turn to nothing. Only by uniting with God and serving before Him, we will be remembered. God is our inheritance and we will never fail.

3.【Intercede】10-11 Moses went up the mountain for the second time. He had no bread and no water for forty days and nights to pay the price for the people who worshiped the gold calf. He denied himself to intercede and was granted by God not to destroy them. He was instructed to go and lead the people to gain the land promised by God.

※【Warn】13-22 Daniel was like Moses who humbled himself and sacrificed willingly. He not only interceded for the people but also warned them through the prophecy that the king of the North would muster another large army and won over the king of the South. The violent men among their own people would rebel and help the king of the North. As a result, disasters were brought to the own nation and led to destruction. God's people ought to take this deep warning! The king of the North plotted to marry his daughter to the king of the South and resulted in failure and insolence. Thereafter a king would use contemptuous means to gain his kingdom while God's people would gain the land by God's promise.

**B. Circumcise the heart, be courageous to overcome the enemies and obey the Word to be blessed**

Consecrate (Dt 10:12-22) – Be courageous (Da 11:23-45)

1.【Fear God, obey the Word and be blessed】12-13 What did God want from the Israelites? Only if they would fear God and love God, to serve Him with all their heart and be careful to obey His Word, and then they would be blessed and God's heart would be satisfied.

※【Be crafty and fail】23-27 The king of the North triumphed over the king of the South by a few people. He also plotted to overthrow the fortresses, but only for a time. His plot would fail and God would make him accountable. Only the Word of the Lord endures! God will show His mercy to those who love Him and keep His commandments for a thousand generations.

2.【Circumcise the heart】14-16 Everything on earth and in heaven belongs to God. But He takes delight in Abraham and his descendants. He chose them from among the nations. Therefore He wanted them to remove all their impurity in the heart without being stiff-necked.

※【Refine and overcome the enemies】28-32 In the latter time the king of the North was defeated and he lost heart and returned. He vented his fury against the holy covenant and put the blame on the people of Judah. He showed favor to those who forsook the holy covenant and desecrated the temple. He corrupted them with flattery. God's people met the severe test so as to refine them and to cleanse their inner impurity. Only those people who knew God would firmly resist him and guard the Word bravely and not be afraid to sacrifice. They were chosen from among the peoples and were also refined to be victorious.

3.【Righteous, compassionate and praise God】17-22 The Lord is great and awesome, how righteous! He shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He is full of mercy. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the aliens. We ought to have the mind of God as our mind, to fear Him, to serve Him and hold fast to Him. And we too ought to give thanks and praises for His deeds!

※【Be brutal, harm man and attack God】33-45 Some of the wise would fall so as to refine the others and make them spotless. The prophet continued to prophesy that in the last days the anti-Christ and the king of the North would exalt themselves and do as they please. The situation would be like a storm . They would attack many countries and be brutal like beasts. He would attack the God of gods and claim to be God. He would seize the treasure and finally be alarmed. His result was doomed to destruction. Only the people of God will praise and overcome by God. (Eze 38, 39) On one side was the praise of God's righteousness and mercy. While on the other side was the frenzy and brutality of anti-Christ.

**Pro 13 / Rev 19:7 Main theme: Listen diligently, proclaim carefully, lead men to obey the Word and be the Lord's bride**

 **-Listen diligently / Prepare**

If we are well prepared, when the time comes we will be the bride of the Lamb and be joyous to glorify God

(1)【Prepare wisely】1-16 Prepare according to the Lord's words (the teachings in the Scriptures) (a) be diligent to listen : make every effort to enter perfection so there is no

fault of the mouth (b) act righteously : act according to the words of the Lord (c) turn from evil : the teaching of the wise turns a man from the snares of death like Joseph and Daniel turned from evil and were guarded.

(2)【Work faithfully】17-25 Rescue men with God's words everywhere, be humble to take lesson, turn from evil, remove all unrighteousness, store up precious spiritual wealth for the descendants, can feed on time and edify men with authority. In this way, you will have your reward when the Lord comes.

**Central point of the wheels: Fear God and keep the Word, prepare diligently and be watchful to overcome the enemies**

Dear Heavenly Father, may you let the church be consecrated and prepared, to obey the Word watchfully, be strong to overcome and to welcome the wedding of the Lamb!

**Dt 11 / Da 12**

**Main theme: Be careful to obey the Lord's word till the end, then you will understand the mystery and gain the good land**

 **-Keep the Word / Shine**

Golden verses: Dt 11:13-14 Da 12:4, 7

A discussion on keeping the Word and shining – on one side it concerned Moses encouraged the people who were about to cross the river to love God and be attentive, to be careful to keep the Lord's word and not be led astray. Then they would gain the good land promised by God and be blessed for long. On the other side it concerned about the calamity of the end times and the prophecy of the resurrection of the dead. This encourages us to be watchful to keep the Word, be a wise man and shine like a star and to wait till the end will enjoy the everlasting blessing.

1. **Keep the Word and shine, be protected in trouble; the good and evil will be recompensed**

Gain the land (Dt 11:1-15) – Save men (Da 12:1-6)

1.【Love God and listen to the commands】1-3 Israel was a redeemed people. They had personally experienced God's rescue from Egypt the house of slavery and the power of sin with His mighty hand. They ought to love God and always keep His Word to repay His love.

※【Be protected in trouble】1Daniel the prophet loved God and obeyed His commands. Thus he was revealed to prophesy the chosen people would undergo the unprecedented great distress. (Mt 24:21) Michael the chief prince would stand up to protect them so whoever's name was recorded in the book would be rescued. This exhibited the unchanging love of God. If the people of God obeyed to keep His Word in distress and dwell in Him, they would be guarded. There will be hardship on earth, but there will be peace in the Lord.

2.【Two kinds of ending】4-7 God is righteous and faithful! On one side He let the people walk on dry ground and was redeemed in peace. On the other side He made Pharaoh and the whole army drowned in the Red Sea. The people also saw with their eyes the party of Korahs fell into the grave alive and swallowed by the ground. To believe in God and going against God will result in two different endings.

※【Two types of resurrection】2 Two kinds of endings will have two types of resurrection. Those who have done good will rise to live and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned and forever be hated and put to shame. (Jn 5:29; Rev 20:5-6, 11-15) This shows God does not show favoritism. His judgment is righteous! (Ro 2:11) Due to faith we are protected by God, so we ought to be watchful in trembling and to lead a life to be upright, self-controlled and godly while we wait for the blessed hope. (Ti 2:11-13)

3.【Gain the land and save men】8-12 Moses told the people earnestly that they had to keep all the commands of God and be strong to go and gain the land flowing with milk and honey. They had to grab and save the sinners to enjoy the happiness of the unsearchable abundant salvation in Christ.

※【Shine and save men】3 Those who are wise will lead many to righteousness and shine like stars. The righteous will shine like the sun in the Father's kingdom (Mt 5:13; 13:43) We shall deny ourselves to obey the Word and shine to glorify God. We shall save the global world and gain thousands of souls to wait to rise and shine in heaven till everlasting. (1 Co 15:41-42)

4.【Keep the Word】13-15 If God's children are careful to listen and keep His commands to love God and serve Him with all our heart and soul, we will live in God and He in us. (1 Jn 3:24) We will be poured with the spiritual rain and bear fruit abundantly.

※【Seek the Word】4-6 The time of the end is near. Many will go here and there to thirst for and study earnestly to seek the truth. All the prophecy will not be sealed. (Rev 22:10) We ought to imitate Ezra the teacher to devote himself to the study and practically obey the Lord's Word, (Ezr 7:10) and seek to understand the prophecy and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. (2 Pe 3:18) More important is that our life may take root in the Lord's words to be careful to keep them lest we may be led astray and fall in grace.

**B. Do not turn from the Lord's word, wait till the end and enjoy the everlasting blessing**

Take discipline (Dt 11:16-26 ) – Wait (Da 12:7-13)

1.【Be careful to obey the Word】16-20 Be sure to be careful, or we will be enticed to turn away to worship other gods and provoke God to anger. Then we will soon be destroyed in the good land. We ought to fix the Lord's words in our heart and mind (Col 3:16) profoundly, to hold on to instruction and do not let it go. (Pr 4:13;22:18) Further we have to tie them as symbols on our hands and bind them on our foreheads. In all our actions and thoughts we ought to obey the Lord's commands meticulously. We also have to write them on the doorframes of our houses and gates and teach our children to talk about them whether we go in or out. We ought to memorize them anytime and be filled with His Word to obey. Then all generations will be blessed.

※【Note the prophecy】7-8 Not only did Daniel value God's words and was careful to obey all his life, he also paid attention to the prophecy and sought to understand the vision. Therefore he knew in the great disaster the anti-Christ would break the power of worship of the holy people. The holy people would suffer for three and a half years and all these things would be completed.

2.【Love God and obey the Word will gain the good land】21-25 To those who love God and pay attention to obey the Word and hold fast to Him, God promised to drive out the nations stronger than they. Every place they set their foot will be given to them and no man will be able to stand against them.

※【Is granted wisdom and understand the mystery】9-10 At the time of the end many would be refined and made spotless to be given the wisdom to understand the mystery by God. But all the wicked would not understand. God would give the good inheritance and mystery to those who were refined and loved His Word. If we obey God's commands, that is to love God. Then we will have wisdom. (Dt 4:6; 1 Jn 5:3) Daniel loved and trusted in God all his life. He was able to understand the mystery and the prophecy about the result of the great disaster. Though it was sealed, he enjoyed his long life and gained the everlasting good land.

3.【Take warning and listen to the command will be blessed】26-32 Moses set the blessing and the curse before the people. Those who listened would be blessed. If they did not listen and turned from the Word of the Lord to worship other gods, they would be in disasters. These words were proclaimed on Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal to be the warning and motto of all the people when they gained the land lest they might be in disasters.

※【Wait till the end and be blessed ultimately】11-13 In the great disaster, if the people of God would listen to the commands and take warning and wait till the end due to the Lord's words , they would be blessed and freed from disasters to enter the millennial kingdom. They too ought to encourage the saints in disaster to endure and wait till the end. Then they would be blessed. Daniel accomplished the assignment of God faithfully and rested in Him. He will await to rise to enjoy the everlasting blessings. (Heb 11:33-35)

**Pro 14 / Rev 19:8 Main theme: Fear God and obey the Word, be far from evil and save men, and build the house of God**

 **-Build / The righteous robe**

This holy righteous robe is clothed by grace and not by our own strength to act righteously. This is by faith, the blood of the Lord to redeem and the grace of the renewal of the Holy Spirit.

(1)【Pursue to fear God】1-35 Be upright, righteous, truthful, humble and remove envy and quick-temper will be favored.

(2)【Be foolish to act wickedly will bring the Lord's anger】1-35 He whose ways are devious and wicked, lazy and self-deceiving, faithless, hotheaded and reckless, oppresses the poor will suffer God's wrath. We ought to be diligent to remove evil and seek righteousness by faith, be blessed to be a wise person to satisfy the Lord's heart.

**Central point of the wheels: Keep the Word and shine, turn from evil and walk righteously, and be the Lord's bride**

Dear Lord, may you let me be refined by You, be bright and pure all my life, lead men to righteousness to reciprocate your goodness and wait for your coming!

**Dt 12 / Hos 1**

**Main theme: Do not follow man's idea** **and the evil customs; be careful to obey the Lord's word and act**

 **-Own idea / God's will (Obey the will firmly / Save the sinners)**

Golden verses: Dt 12:5 Hos 1:7

A discussion on own idea and God's will – on one side it concerned God ordered the Israelites not to serve by their own idea after gaining the land. They ought to follow God's will and to sacrifice where God chose to put his Name for his dwelling. Neither should they follow the evil customs of the foreign nations lest they might be ensnared. On the other side it concerned the chosen people followed other gods after entering the good land. They acted adulterously like a wife turned from her husband. Hosea the prophet obeyed God's will and took an adulterous wife as a prophecy. This exhibited God's great love of redemption for the chosen people surpassed the laws. (Dt 24:1-4) Thus, it is not a matter of how much work we have done, but how much do we consider the mind of God to be obedient completely and obey His will.

1. **Do not follow our idea to serve, consider God's love and save the sinners**

Own idea (Dt 12:1-18) - God's mind (Hos 1:1-6)

1.【Destroy all idols completely】1-4 Moses told the people that after they had gained the land, they had to burn all the idols which the foreign nations served completely lest they might follow their way to serve the Lord which was detestable to Him. (Dt 7:1-6)

※【Did not turn from the idols】1The Israelites did not take warning on the good land given by God. They did not listen to the book which God wrote through Moses. Thus all the kings through the generations worshiped idols and followed other gods. Jeroboam II reigned when Hosea was a prophet . He still did evil and did not turn from the sin of worshiping the gold calf. He did detestable things and caused the people to sin. (2 Ki 17:21-23) Hosea rejected evil and through the decades, God's words came to him repeatedly like Moses.

2.【Do not serve God by our own idea】5-14 God told the people that when they entered the resting place, that was the good land of Canaan, given by God, they could not sacrifice at the place which they fancied but at the place God put his Name there for His dwelling to inquire and offer sacrifice. This teaches us we shall not serve by our own idea but by the will of God and to serve Him on the foundation of the cross. We shall learn from the Lord to obey the Father's will all our life and always do what pleases Him. (Ps 40:6-8; Jn 8:28-29)

※【Commit adultery and abandon God】2 The Israelites forsook God and did not obey His will to serve Him. Instead they followed their desire and sight. They worshiped idols and committed adultery just like a wife forsook the husband and committed adultery and provoked God's anger. Nonetheless, God's heart still wanted them to return. (Jer 3:1) Therefore He told Hosea to take to himself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness which exhibited God's great love! On one side was the people ought to obey God's will to serve. On the other side was the prophet obeyed to be the prophecy to retrieve God's wrath. This was also to act what pleased the Father God.

3.【Sacrifice and fulfill the vow】5-14 All the good offerings like the burnt offerings, the fellowship offerings which the people offered to give thanks to God had to be offered before God according to the place God chose to put his Name there for His dwelling. They had to offer with their family, the menservants and maidservants and the Levites together happily to enjoy God's grace.

※【Grab the chance to save the sinners】2-3 Hosea (salvation) was a prophet of God. He had in mind of God's great love. Thus he obeyed to take an adulterous woman Gomer as his wife and children of unfaithfulness. He denied himself to break like a sacrifice of burnt offering and fellowship offering to obey God's will. He offered completely to grab to save sinners to enjoy the salvation and the everlasting peace.

4.【Obey and be blessed】15-18 How great was God's grace! He promised that after they had entered the good land, He would bless them to enjoy God's grace and eat as much of the meat as they wanted. But they could not eat the blood and value life. They also had to obey to offer what they had vowed and the freewill offerings at the place God chose for them. They were to rejoice this with their children, menservants and maidservants and the Levites.

※【Indulged and was taken captive】3-6 Gomer bore Hosea a son and a daughter successively named Jezreel (scatter) and Lo-Ruhamah (unpitied) showing God would make Jehu be accountable for the massacre at Jezreel. He did it knowingly and still did not turn from the sin of worshiping the gold calf. On one side was the people obeyed and were blessed. On the other side was the house of Israel indulged in grace. God would pity them no more. He had decided not to forgive them so they were scattered, subjugated and taken captive.

**B. Be careful to obey, do not follow the evil customs, the Lord's word will be fulfilled**

Be blessed (Dt 12:19-32) – Revive (Hos 1:7-11)

1.【Obey and be accepted】19-21 God promised the people to enlarge their territory and to enjoy God's grace to eat as much meat as they wanted. But they had to be firm in their heart not to eat the blood (Lev 17:10-13) so they might value life because the blood might atone sins. The things which the people set apart to be holy and the offerings they vowed had to be brought to the place God chose to be offered on the altar of God and be accepted.

※【Be saved by God】7 God promised to show mercy to the house of Judah because when Hezekiah reigned, they were persecuted and threatened by Assyria. But he was contrite and turned from sin. They were shown love by God. They did not turn to sword, bow and horsemen but were rescued by God from the hands of Assyria because of the great love of redemption of God that passed over and guarded Judah and Jerusalem. (Isa 31:5) How the people trusted in God and were favored and similarly they were rescued by God.

2.【Do good and enjoy the blessing forever】22-27 God told the people to be careful not to neglect the Levites but to take the mind of God to care for the temple of God so they might enjoy abundance and serve the Lord wholeheartedly. By such good act, they would be blessed forever before God.

※【Violate the command and be wicked bring disaster】8-9 Gomer had another son named Lo-Ammi which meant you were not my people. The Israelites followed evil and not good. They were not God's people and God was not their God. On one side was to obey to do good and be blessed. On the other side was to violate to do evil and was in trouble!

3.【Do not follow the evil customs to avoid being ensnared】28-32 God promised the people if they obeyed and did what was right in the eyes of God, their descendants would go well forever. But God told them that after they had destroyed the enemies and gained the land, they had to be very careful not to be ensnared. (Lev 18) Nor could they inquire about their gods or worship God in their way. They could not burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods which was detestable to God. Be very careful to do as commanded; do not add to it or take away from it.

※【Return and revive to enter God's kingdom】10-11 After the people of God had been taken captive for long and bitterly refined to do what was right in the eyes of God and thoroughly rejected the foreign evil customs, Judah and Israel would be in one to return and revive. Their number would increase like the sand on the seashore. It also prophesied the foreigners would return to the Lord and enter the kingdom of God together. If they would strictly keep the Lord's command without adding or subtracting, to hate what God hated and to love what God loved, God promised the day of Jezreel (God plants), the glorious day would come!

**Pro 15 / Rev 19:9 Main theme: Be willing to attend the spiritual supper and take lesson to provide food according to the timing**

 **-Listen humbly / Attend the feast**

Blessed are those who attend the wedding supper of the Lamb. These words are true and should be written to be passed on to all generations. Today we ought to attend the feast of the Lord (Isa 25:6) and when the time comes we have a share in the Lord's wedding supper.

(1)【Be gentle and humble to God and to men】1-19 God is gracious to the humbled. Be gentle in our intention and words will avoid big wrong. Be humble to inquire and be modest to listen will gain knowledge. Then you may proclaim the Lord's words. Be diligent to pursue and walk a righteous path.

(2)【The benefits of being gentle and humble】20-25 Accept the Lord's Word with a humble and tender heart so He will be delighted. Be filled with the spiritual counsel to fight spiritually may provide food on time. Then the spirit will ascend full of God's love and joy.

(3)【We ought to take warning】26-33 Do not plot evil lest you will deprave in grace. We ought to remove all greediness and die completely to fame and fortune. We ought to hate bribery and respect the Lord in all our actions. In this way, the prayer of the

righteous has great effect. Proclaim the good news so all peoples and all generations may be blessed. Those who despise the Lord's words run towards destruction.

**Central point of the wheels: Taken lesson humbly, obey God's will, destroy evil and attend the gracious feast**

Dear Lord, I am willing to deny myself to obey your will, grab the chance to save the sinners, be redeemed by You and attend the wedding supper of the Lamb!

**Dt 13 / Hos 2**

**Main theme: Destroy all inducement, ascribe to God forever and everything works for the good of it**

 **-Destroy the inducement / Return forever**

Golden verses: Dt 13:1-3 Hos 2:14-16

A discussion on destroying the inducement and return forever – on one side it concerned Moses warned the people of God not to be induced by the false prophets, affection and the wicked men to turn from God's Word and serve other gods. On the other side it concerned Hosea the prophet rebuked the Israelites that they were induced in their belief and ethic to worship evil and commit adultery. They would be punished. But after they took their lesson, they would be loved by God and be ascribed to Him forever. We ought to prohibit the lust of the flesh and not to be induced to lose the pure and clean heart towards Christ like a virgin offered to Him.

1. **Keep the Lord's Word** **and not be induced; committing adultery will be punished**

Warn (Dt 13:1-11) – Be punished (Hos 2:1-13)

1.【Do not be induced to follow other gods】1-3 God warned the people, if a prophet, or one who foretold by dreams announced to them a miraculous sign or wonder to induce them to follow other gods you had not known, even if what was spoken took place, they could not listen. This was because God wanted to test them whether they loved Him with all their heart and with all their soul. (2 Co 11:4; Gal 1:8-9) Satan had led God's children astray through many false miracles and wonders. Many had been induced, so we must not take this lightly! (Mt 24:24; 1 Jn4:1-6)

※【Induced by sin and became the adulteress】1-2 After being contrite and return, the chosen were named as God's people and were shown mercy again. Therefore we have to be very clear who our brothers are and to contend for the faith. The chosen people neglected God's warning on the good land. They were induced to commit sins, to worship idols and commit adultery and followed what they loved. Their shameful adulterous look and unfaithfulness proved they were not the wife of God. God was no longer their husband. They had lost the pure virgin heart to love God.

2.【Rebel against God and be killed】4-5 God's people ought to revere Him, keep His Word and hold fast to Him. The false prophet who preached rebellion against the true God and used smooth talk to induce them to turn from God would be put to death and thoroughly removed without pity. (Eze 13:8-9)

※【Commit adultery ought be punished】3-5 The wife who turned away from her husband to commit adultery ought not be tolerated by the law. God would punish to strip her naked to make her bare and slay her with thirst. Their children of adultery would not be pitied. Therefore we ought to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints to maintain the virginity of the church without compromise lest it may turn to be an adulterous woman. (Jude 1:3)

3.【Reject inducement】6-11 All the more we have to guard against Satan's secret inducement through our kindred, our brothers, or our closest friend or the wife we love to go and serve other gods. Do not yield to him or pity him. We ought to love God above everything and be the first to remove him, so the others may tremble and fear. We ought to imitate Uriah, the faithful warrior of David. He only had in mind of the ark of Testimony and God's people. He was not led astray and he rejected to be induced. He even imitated Christ to resist the hindrance of human favor. (Mt 16:21-23)

※【Induced by sin】5-13 The land of Israel was full of adulterous and shameful things. They chased after their lovers in order to gain their benefit. They were induced by sins and forgot that God was their husband. God would punish her and block her path with thornbushes. He would take back the grain and new wine and strip everything away from her so she would expose her lewdness before the eyes of her lovers. God is a jealous God. We ought to love Him wholeheartedly and reject every enticement. If anyone does not love the Lord more than all his beloved, he is not worthy of Him.

**B. Defeat crime, ascribe to God forever, be given mercy and gain revival**

Defeat crime (Dt 13:12-18) – revive (Hos 2:14-23)

1.【Abandon detestable things】12-14 If the wicked men came to entice the people, just like Sheba incited a rebellion (2 Sa 20:1-2) to go and serve the other gods whom they did not know to confuse the truth of God and corrupt their faith, they had to investigate it thoroughly. If it had been proved that of this detestable thing, then they had to deal with it seriously without tolerance. (Gal 2:4-5)

※【Take lesson and be loved】14-15 After the people had been punished to reject the detestable wicked things and took the lesson before God, they would be loved, allured and comforted. She would be given back her vineyards and abundant favor. She would be given hope as in the days of her youth.

2.【Destroy evil】15-18 Since the wicked men had enticed God's people to turn from the true God and do detestable things, they would be burned completely to remain a ruin forever, never to be rebuilt. None of the condemned things should be found in their hands. We ought to utterly detest and resist sin to the point of shedding our blood.

※【Ascribe to God forever】16-20 When the chosen people had removed their evil, they would call God as their husband without calling Baals as their lord. God would remove the names of the Baals. When evil and false gods had been destroyed completely, God would betroth her in righteousness and love and they would belong to God forever. They would acknowledge the Lord was God.

3.【Promise to bless】18 God promised if the chosen people listened to the commands of God and did what was right in His eyes, He would turn from His fierce anger and bless them so they might increase in numbers.

※【Promise to revive】18-23 In that day God would turn back and make a covenant

with His people and everything. He would abolish battle and give them abundance, blessings upon blessings. The Gentiles called 'Not my people' would be shown mercy to be God's people, only if they would keep the Lord's Word. God would make everything work for the good of it to provide the grain, the new wine and oil. So they would be blessed to be planted on the land of God. Revival would come, the gospel would be widely spread and the kingdom would be established.

**Pro 16 / Rev 19:10 Main theme: Control one's temper, be righteous and humble, and lead men to worship God**

 **-Control temper / Worship God**

The angel did not allow John to worship him. He always stands at the position of a servant and leads men to worship the Lord. This chapter discusses on controlling one's temper

(1)【Pray for a humble heart】1-7 Be poor in the spirit and humble, and to weigh yourself with the words of the Lord. Then the kind spirit will speak kind words. Do not lead others to worship you but to worship God. Seek humbly and the sins will be atoned. Fear God, avoid evil and be guarded by God.

(2)【Pray for a righteous heart】8-17 God takes pleasure on those who speak His words. Then they will stand firm and be guarded. They will confess and intercede to stop the wrath of God.

(3)【Exhortation】18-26 Fall comes after pride and a haughty spirit. God will remember and reward those who are lowly in spirit and among the oppressed. Fear God and poured out the living water. Those who speak words of grace will save men.

(4)【Warning】27-30 Do not plot evil for the result is destruction.

(5)【Control one's temper and be greatly blessed】31-32 The wellspring of life come from the heart, so do good with a righteous and humble heart and God will bless greatly.

(6)【Every decision is from God】33 It does not depend on man's desire or effort, but on the Almighty God's mercy to achieve. So all the people of the land ought to look up and be obedient to serve the Lord and gain the true blessing of eternity.

**Central point of the wheels: Control one's temper, destroy the inducement, love God wholeheartedly and keep the Word firmly**

Dear Lord, may you let my heart be grabbed by you, nothing else to love and desire but to love you with a pure heart forever to repay your kindness!

**Dt 14 / Hos 3**

**Main theme: Humble to pay the price, lead men to turn from evil, obey the Word and return to God**

 **-Holy / Be redeemed**

Golden verses: Dt 14:1-2 Hos 3:5

A discussion on holiness and be redeemed – on one side was God chose Israel from among the nations to be his holy people and wanted them to separate the clean from unclean food. They should not eat any detestable thing so they might serve God in a holy way because God is holy. (Lev 11:45) On the other side was the Israelites were like a wife who committed adultery and belonged to others. God's love still waited for their return and promised they would be favored and return to the Lord in the last days and gain revival.

1. **Chew the Lord's words, set apart to be holy, and be redeemed by God**

Holy (Dt 14:1-18) – Be redeemed (Hos 3:1-3)

1.【The chosen people are holy to God】1-2 Israel was set apart by God from among all people. They were God's specially chosen people. So they could not learn from the customs of the foreign people to cut themselves or shave the front of their heads to show their sorrow for the dead. We ought to set apart completely from the customs of the heresy.

※【The depraved wife will return and be loved】1 Not only was Israel the chosen people of God, she was also the wife of God. God remembered the devotion of her youth and how she loved God as a bride. (Jer 2:2) However, they had depraved and abandoned their husband. God's love was not changed. He told the prophet to show his love to his wife again. This was a representation of God's love to His elect so they might be holy to God without being contaminated by the customs and impurity of the foreign nations.

2.【Chew the Lord's words and set apart to be holy】3-8 God set the rules for the people. Those animals which chew the cud and split the hoof are clean and can be eaten. Those which chew but do not have a split hoof or they split hoof but do not chew are ceremonially unclean and cannot be eaten. God wanted His people to train themselves to be godly through the behavior of the animals to learn to chew the Lord's words and understand, so they might be cleansed by His words and to set apart to be holy to hear and walk His Way to live out a holy life and a good testimony. (Jos 1:8; Ps 1:1-3)

※【Belittle God's words and turn to other gods】1 How could God's chosen people belittle His words and turn to other gods! They were just like an adulteress who loved the sacred raisin cakes and coveted in reward. But they were not satisfied with God. Thus they defiled themselves with sin. Their words did not tally with their action and lost the witness.

3.【Holy to God and not be defiled by sin】9-18 Of all the creatures living in the water that has fins and scales and can go upstream without drifting can be eaten. Those that do not have fins or scales, or being contaminated by sins and drift along or birds which covet carcasses are considered ceremonially unclean. The horned owls are hard-hearted to the young while the screech owls and the great owls love the dark. They are also ceremonially unclean. Only the birds that are clean and set apart to be holy to stay far from the ground and fly in the air can be offered and eaten.

※【No longer belong to others and be redeemed to God】2-3 The prophet paid fifteen shekels of silver to buy the adulteress to set apart to be holy and not be intimate with any man, lest they may go along in evil deeds. She had to wait for the prophet many days to show the suffering and punishment of being taken captive. Then she might abandon impurity and chew the words of the Lord to be holy to God and fly freely in the grace of God.

**B. Refine and return, give thanks and offer sacrifice, and seek God**

Give thanks (Dt 14:19-29) – Seek (Hos 3:4-5)

1.【Ought to set apart for the Lord】19-23 Any flying insects that swarm are unclean and cannot be eaten. This represents the believers who covet the secular and are unwilling to set apart to be holy to set the hearts on things above. (Col 3:1-2) God told His people to enter the good land to enjoy the possession He gave with flocks and herds, and to offer before God a tenth of their produce and their firstborn to learn to fear God.

※【Lest everything be stripped off】4 The captives had for long been subjugated without king or prince. Everything was stripped off and they no longer offered to the detestable sacred stones. Their result was tragic because they were ungodly, unsatisfied, ungrateful and depraved in their abundance.

2.【Give thanks and offer will be blessed】24-29 Moses encouraged the people to be grateful to offer their tithe to God and enjoy together with their family and the Levites in God's dwelling in their abundance.

※【Return, seek and be favored】5 After the chosen people were refined and returned, they would change their heart to seek their God and their king David. They would come trembling to the Lord and to His blessings. Christ will be their King. By that time, they would bring thank offerings to the house of God. (Jer 33:10-11) On one side was the whole family was favored and grateful and on the other side was the whole people was favored and grateful. They were willing to repay the great love of God!

**Pro 17 / Rev 19:11 Main theme: Do not contend; but for truth fight with Lord's words**

 **-Contend / Fight**

The Lord is the Word which is honesty and truth. He judges according to righteousness and fight not by flesh but through prayer by the Spirit of God. He rides on a white horse.

(1)【Do not contend and be away from evil】1-2 Abraham did not strive with his kindred and was given the whole land as possession.

(2)【Do not be a foolish person】3-15 A fool pays attention to a malicious tongue. He gloats over disaster and is hypocritical. He gives and takes bribe and thus confuses the right and wrong. He picks one's staggered point and sows discord. He repays evil for good and loves to strive. He sets his eyes on the ground and breaks the heart of God.

(3)【Do not pervert justice and speak too much】16-28 We ought to keep a tender and quiet heart to come before God for wisdom and see through everything. Do not be foolish to strive for everything on earth but to contend for the faith of the Lord and be faithful to guard it as a warrior of God, just like Stephen who martyred and was greatly rewarded.

**Central point of the wheels: Suffered thoroughly and be refined, be righteous and holy, and be redeemed to God**

Dear Lord, may you let me understand deeply your great love for the sinners so I may save the lost souls and follow you till the end!

**Dt 15 / Hos 4**

**Main theme: Blessed is he who cancels debt and is openhanded; stubborn and evil will be avenged**

 **-Do good / Do evil (Bless / Avenge)**

Golden verses: Dt 15:11 Hos 4:16

A discussion on doing good and doing evil – on one side we see that the year of cancelling debt was announced. Every creditor should cancel the loan he had made to his fellow Israelite without requiring their payment. The elect ought to keep the Word and do good, fear God and love men and they will be blessed by God. On the other side we see the Israelites, from the priests to the people, all abandoned God. They committed adultery and killed like a stubborn heifer. They were unwilling to take discipline and would be punished. This teaches us to deny ourselves to love men, be zealous to do good and prepare watchfully to welcome the coming of the Lord.

1. **Blessed is he who walks a path of love; to act wickedly will be punished**

Deny yourself (Dt 15:1-11) – Benefit yourself (Hos 4:1-9)

1.【Walk a path of love and be blessedgreatly】1-6 God had announced the year for canceling debts and we ought to take the mind of God to cancel any debt our brother owed us without his payment. Since God has forgiven our debts, we too ought to forgive our debtors. If we will keep God's Way of love, we will be greatly blessed by Him.

※【Do wicked often will fall together】1-5 Alas, God's people did not keep the Way of love. There was no faithfulness, no love and no acknowledgment of God. They were filled with adultery, stealing and murder. They would not cancel the debts of their brothers. As a result all creations were under curse and even the priests and prophets stumbled together. Only by keeping the Way of love will be blessed by God.

2.【Deny yourself and be openhanded will be blessed in everything】7-8 Do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. Rather be openhanded and deny yourself to lend whatever he lacks. Then you will be blessed in all things. Never be like the wicked servant who was shown mercy and tolerance to waive his debts. But he grabbed his fellow servant and forced him to pay back his debt. He was heavily punished. (Mt 18:23-35)

※【God will avenge if we fatten and benefit ourselves】6-9 The priests were selfish and benefited themselves only. They had ignored the law and rejected knowledge. They fed themselves on the meat of the offerings. They fattened and benefited themselves. They relished the wickedness of the people. Thus the more the priests increased, the more they sinned against God. They had no compassion on the people and would receive their retribution like the wicked servant.

3.【Harbor wicked thought】9-11 Be careful not to harbor this wicked thought that the year of canceling debts is near and show ill will toward your needy brother. Always be generous and God will bless you.

※【Filled with selfish thought】6-9 The priests ought to obey God's command and be generous to man. But they were covetous and filled with selfishness and wicked thoughts. Their result was rejected by God as His priests. Their glory was exchanged by disgrace. On one side was to love man and blessed by God while on the other side was showing ill will to others and received his retribution.

**B. Do not be stubborn, willing to be the slave of love and be holy to God**

The slave of love (Dt 15:12-23) – Stubbornness (Hos 4:10-19)

1.【Release your brother and let him go freely】12-18 If a fellow man is sold to you and has served you for six years, in the seventh year you must let him go free and supply him liberally from your flock, your threshing floor and your winepress, so he may leave abundantly. Do not forget that you were slaves in Egypt and God has redeemed you. Therefore we must love our neighbor as ourselves and have in mind the heart of God.

※【Controlled by sin to commit adultery and be let astray】10-12 God's people ought to obey to relieve his slavery brother. Instead they were bound by sins. Prostitution and the new wine took away their understanding. They even consulted a wooden idol and indulged in grace. They were unfaithful to God and controlled by sin. They became a slave to sin and committed adultery and were led astray from God. God is jealous and will not tolerate their perversion and idol worshiping. God is also merciful. He is anxious that they may be freed from the bondage of sin and gain freedom, abundance and no more be a slave.

2.【Willing to be the slave of love】16-17 If a servant is unwilling to leave and willing to stay as a slave because he loves his master and his family, then the master will take an awl and push it through his ear lobe into the door as a witness. He will be obedient forever to be a slave of love of the Lord. (Pro 8:34)

※【Willing to be the slave of sin】13-14 Unfortunately, the chosen people sacrificed on the mountaintops and burned offerings on the hills. They indulged in adultery and changed the grace of God into a license for immorality. Their daughters and their daughters-in-law also turned to prostitution and became slaves of sin. God would punish them and they would become a ruin. God's people ought to be willing to be His slave of love and obey forever to become a man freed by Christ. He shall be grateful and repay God's love for life without departing. (Gal 5:1)

3.【The firstborn with no defect shall be for God】19-23 All the firstborn of the flock and herd ought to be set holy to God. Any defect or serious flaw must not be sacrificed to God because the offering that pleases Him is pleasing and flawless. (Ro 12:1) God also tells them they may eat in their own towns except they may not eat the blood but to remember the Lord denied Himself and His precious blood of redemption.

※【Stubborn, commit adultery and is taken captive】15-19 Israel was originally the firstborn and ought to be set apart to God completely. But she was rebellious and adulterous like a stubborn heifer. She was lame and blind in the spirit and full of serious flaw. Thus she was captivated. The house of Judah ought to take warning due to the punishment of Israel without going to Gilgal to worship the gold calf. On one side was the flawless firstborn was gratefully offered to God and pleased Him. On the other side was the ungrateful Israel offered to the idols and was disgraced and taken

captive.

**Pro 18 / Rev 19:12 Main theme: Do not be unfriendly, do not be a man of many companions, humble and thirst for the name of the Lord**

 **-Thirst / The Lord's Name**

The Lord's Name is the Lord's Word. Unless He exhibits to man, no one will know Him.

(1)【The hindrance of gaining true wisdom and knowledge】1-24 An unfriendly man pursues selfish ends. He does not thirst for the sound judgment (the living water) of the Lord. He is partial and deprives justice. His heart is proud and evil in his lips. He sows discord and offends his brother. He worries for the worldly things and grieves in the spirit. He thirsts for man's compassion and is a man of many companions.

(2)【How to gain true wisdom and knowledge】1-24 (a) Ask humbly and persistently and it will be given to you. (b) Run to the Lord and gain wisdom and knowledge by faith and blood. (c) Do not be an unfriendly man but build up mutually for God's spiritual grace always pours in our gathering. But we must not be a man of many companions and do not be a friend of the world or to associate with the false prophet or the anti-Christ. (d) Have intimate fellowship with the Lord for He sticks closer than a brother. We must love the Lord above everything. The Lord's eyes search every heart, so seek Him honestly and you will find Him. If you gain the Lord, you will gain the crown and rich blessings. Therefore, make every effort to seek to know the Lord.

**Central points of the wheels: Know the Lord's Name, do not be stubborn, cancel others' debt and God will bless**

Dear Lord, I am willing to be your slave of love, willing to serve, to do good with love, and be generous to others to welcome your coming.

**Dt 16 / Hos 5**

**Main theme: Blessed is he who removes the yeast and repays the kindness; be wicked in grace will rot.**

 **-Be thankful / Ungrateful (Love the Lord / Led astray)**

Golden verses: Dt 16:13 Hos 5:15

A discussion on being thankful and ungrateful – on one side it concerned the Israelites ought to remember God's love of redemption and observe His feasts to remove the yeast and sacrifice. They would then offer with thanks and be blessed in rejoice. On the other side it concerned Israel and Judah were ungrateful. They rebelled, committed adultery and stumble. In their punishment they confessed and sought God and were given mercy. We ought not be ungrateful and led astray but to sacrifice our thank offering to repay His love.

1. **Remember the Lord's love, remove the yeast and observe His feasts and take away the spirit of prostitution**

Thankful (Dt 16:1-12) – Ungrateful (Hos 5:1-8)

1.【Remember the Lord's love】1-3 The people ought not to forget God's great love of redemption who led them out of Egypt with His powerful hand and observe the Passover in the month of Abib. They ought to sacrifice their offering and eat unleavened bread for seven days at the place the Lord chose as a dwelling for His Name to pursue holiness and to seek good and shun evil. They were to be grateful to God and observe the Passover for life. (Lk 22:14-20)

※【Ungrateful and rebellious】1-2 The royal family of the house of Judah and the priests were ungrateful and rebellious. They did not listen to God's words. Though they had left Egypt, they were deeply trapped in sins and did not turn away from them. Therefore the prophet declared judgment would come. They were deep in slaughter. They had let down God's love of redemption and were punished. In God's judgment, we ought to repent and confess, recollect the love of the Lord and observe the feast from the heart.

2.【Remove the old yeast】4-8 The purpose of observing the Passover and the feast of Unleavened bread is to let the people remember the love of the Lord and to recollect their wrong. Let no yeast be found for seven days because a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough. We need to get rid of the old yeast to be a new batch. (1 Co 5:6-8)

※【Remove the spirit of prostitution】3-4 Israel worshiped idols and committed adultery like the work of the yeast which could not be hidden from God. God saw this. They had to get rid of the spirit of prostitution completely like yeast and then they might know God and return to Him.

3.【Observe the feasts, offer sacrifice and be renewed by the Holy Spirit】9-12 When they observed the Passover, they had to eat the unleavened bread for six days and hold an assembly. To celebrate the Feast of Weeks, they had to offer the new grain offering to indicate the coming of the revival of the Pentecost. God promised to pour down the Holy Spirit so our lives may be renewed to spread the gospel widely and reap the harvest and be blessed greatly. We ought to have in mind the heart of God and rejoice together with the aliens, the orphans and widows. (Lev 23:15-16)

 ※【Arrogant and crafty will not be able to seek God】5-8 Due to arrogance, Israel sinned and stumbled and same happened to Judah. They were unfaithful to God. Though they went with their flocks and herds to seek God, they would not find Him. They ought to have offered the firstfruits but they gave birth to illegitimate children. Thus their fields would be devoured for God had turned against them. Therefore we must eat the unleavened bread and be humble to take lesson to remove evil, to deny ourselves and experience the Pentecost to be renewed by the Holy Spirit. Then we may find God. On one side we ought to keep the law and rejoice before God. On the other side we ought to blow the trumpet to warn that disasters will come and happiness will turn to sorrow!

**B. Righteous and be jealous, confess and seek, be thankful and rejoice**

Jealous (Dt 16:13-22) – Confess (Hos 5:9-15)

1.【God and men dwell together】13-15 After collecting the grain, the Israelites have to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles with their family, servants and the Levites. Even the liens, the orphans and widows may give thanks and rejoice to lead a life to dwell and be happy with God.

※【Turn to desolation】9 Ephraim would be laid waste on the day of reckoning. On one side was festive harvest, thanksgiving and rejoice. On the other side was sorrowful days would come because they turned from God. So how can they dwell with God?

2.【Blessed is he who is willing to follow God's will】16-17 Three times a year all the males of Israel have to observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles in the dwelling of God. They should not go empty-handed but to offer according to their ability. If they are willing to follow God's will, they will be blessed and rejoice.

※【Intent on pursuing idols will be judged】10-11 Judah's leaders violated God's command. They removed the boundary stones of others and God's wrath would come upon them. (Dt 19:14; 1 Ki 15:17-22) Ephraim ought to be willing to follow God's will and be godly to observe the feasts. However, they intended on pursuing idols and violated God's order. They were unwilling to serve God when they were rich. When judgment came, they were oppressed by the enemy. (Dt 28:47-48)

3.【Justice and justice alone】18-20 The judges and officials ought to judge the people according to justice. They should not pervert justice or show partiality and accept bribes because a bribe corrupts the heart. (Ecc 7:7) We ought to pursue justice and righteousness, and then we may live and inherit the good land.

※【Like a moth and rotten】12-14 Ephraim and Judah did not pursue justice and righteousness like a moth and a rot. They were attacked by the enemy but did not trust God wholeheartedly. Instead they relied on the foreign power of Assyria resulted in vain. Only God is the righteous judge like a lion and tear them away with no one to rescue.

4.【Hate the idols】21-22 Do not set any wooden poles to worship or erect any sacred stones for yourselves beside the altar of God. These are detestable to God. Workers should never lead men to themselves or be others' idols. We ought to lead men completely to God to worship Him. (Col 1:28; Rev 19:10)

※【Seek God's face】15 After they were bitterly refined to feel guilty and abandon all the idols to seek God earnestly, God would cease His wrath and return to them to be their only God. Those who seek God ought to exalt Christ and His cross forever to hate what God hates and love what God loves!

**Pro 19 / Rev 19:13 Main theme: Remove the folly, be diligent to seek the Word, obey the Word forever and proclaim it extensively**

 **-Do not swerve / Keep the Word**

The Lord is the Word. When the time comes, the Lord's Word will judge all people. He will trample on the enemies and their blood will spatter on His garments (Isa 63:1-4) to avenge for the redeemed people. Obey the Word is blessed and be wayward will be punished.

(1)【Obey the Word is blessed】1-29 We ought to obey the Lord's right path, the good Way and the Way of love. Rather be a poor man and walk blamelessly. Do not covet wealth and do evil. Do not give false testimony. Do not live in luxury and be lazy. Do not quarrel and be angry but have a compassionate heart to give away so more people

will receive the Lord's grace.

(2)【Fear God and keep the Word firmly】1-28 Do not swerve, but be guarded and gain great reward.

(3)【Turn from the Word and be punished】26-29 Those who stray or show contempt at the Lord's Word will be punished and beaten.

**Central point of the wheels: Remove the yeast and observe the feasts, keep the Word firmly without swerving**

Dear Lord, may you let me remember your love of redemption, keep your Word firmly and never swerve all my life!

**Dt 17 / Hos 6**

**Main theme: Remove evil and obey the Word, press forward to the goal; swerving will bring retribution**

 **-Remove evil / Seek good**

Golden verses: Dt 17:10 Hos 6:6-7

A discussion on removing evil and seeking good – on one side it concerned Moses taught the people to remove every detestable thing completely and to submit to the judgment of the judge. It also discussed on the requirement of selecting a king. On the other side it concerned the prophet rebuked the chosen people were wayward and sinned. He called them to make every effort to seek to know God and to pursue the good that God loved. We ought to remove evil and seek to do good, fear God and keep His Word and exalt Him forever as King.

1. **Remove the evil completely and make every effort to know God**

To deal with (Dt 17:1-13) – Pursue (Hos 6:1-7)

1.【God detests those with defect or flaw】1 God is a holy and jealous God! Do not sacrifice to the Lord an ox or a sheep that has any defect or flaw in it because this is detestable to God. (Lev 22L21-25; Jos 24:19) Similarly we ought to be pleasing and perfect to offer ourselves and what we have to God, and then we will be accepted. (Ro 12:1-2)

※【God cures those who are torn and injured】1 Due to sin the chosen people had defect and flaw. They were injured and torn by God. This was also due to God's love, so through the wounds, their sins might be cleansed. (Pro 20:30) Thus the prophet called to them to return to God for He would personally heal and bind up the wound as this was the time of God's favor and now was the day salvation. (2 Co 6:2)

2.【Be ruthless to deal with evil】2-7 If a man or woman is found violating the covenant and did evil in the eyes of God to worship all the heavenly array, then we must investigate it thoroughly if it has been proved this detestable thing. On the testimony of two or three witnesses, the man shall be put to death. The hands of the witnesses must be the first in putting him to death, and then the hands of all the people to remove evil together. In dealing with evil, we ought to resist to the point of shedding blood

※【Make every effort to seek to know God】2-3 God' people must remove detestable things completely. They ought to thirst for the truth, to deal with the old self and to make every effort to seek to know God. The tender mercy of God is like the rising sun which will come to us from heaven. His teaching will fall like abundant rain and spring rain to nourish the withered heart. (Dt 32:2) This also displays His nature of righteousness and unfailing love. Those who truly know God will hate evil and be brave to witness.

3.【Listen to God's judgment and remove evil】8-13 If there are any cases too difficult to judge, they ought to inquire of the priests, the Levites and the decisions of the judge and to do without turning aside. The man who shows contempt will be put to death. Then all the people will hear and be afraid and will not be rebellious again.

※【Listen to the prophet's words and seek to do good】4-7 God desires mercy and the acknowledgment of God. Alas, the love of Ephraim and Judah was like the morning mist and the early dew that disappeared. They were also like Adam who broke the covenant and were unfaithful. Therefore God cut them in pieces with His prophets. God's judgments flashed like lightning. We ought to humble to take lesson and take away our 'good' and pay attention to the judgment of God and the words of the prophets to pursue the mercy desired by God.

**B. Do not acquire for yourself too many of the three kinds, keep the Word firmly without violating**

For self (Dt 17:14-20) – Violate the covenant (6:8-11)

1.【Do not acquire too much of the three kinds for yourself】14-17 If the people request to set a king over them, be sure to appoint the king whom God chooses. The king must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or take many wives or accumulate large amounts of silver and gold. Pride, wealth and lust always have been a mortal wound for workers and leaders and must be absolutely forbidden. As Solomon did not take warning or take God's Word persistently and blindly requested for the 'three kinds', thus he depraved in grace.

※【Be blindly covetous and act wickedly】8-9 Israel was the prince of God. Their priests ought to set apart to be holy to serve God. But they banded themselves in parties to murder and commit crimes. They were blindly covetous and inquire for the 'three kinds'. They did evil wantonly and violated God's forbidden words. They did only for themselves and were unwilling to take warning. We ought to have the life of a king in Christ and not to go after lust again or covet the worldly satisfaction. Instead we shall pursue the Lord's Word and His love and the richness in the Holy Spirit.

2.【Obey the Word and be guarded】18-20 When the king takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll, a copy of the law as the rules for the kingdom (1 Sa 10:25) and read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere God and follow carefully all the words of the law. In this way he will reign a long time over his kingdom to avoid considering himself better than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left.

※【Be wayward and receive the retribution】10-11 Alas the chosen people took the laws of God behind them. They were wayward and gave to prostitution. They did detestable things and would receive their ending. The house of Judah did not take this

as their lesson and had the same result of captivity. If whoever is anointed as king but does not hold firm to the law and violates God's command, he will be repaid until he returns from captivity and keeps the Lord's Word only, then he will be guarded.

**Pro 20 / Rev 19:14 Main theme: Remove all the wickedness, be diligent to prepare the spiritual food and be the heavenly army of the Lord**

 **-Pure / The heavenly army**

The heavenly army is white and pure. They follow closely after the Lord. They ride on white horses. They do not rely on man's idea, the flesh or sorcery. But they contend and work by the Word, the Spirit and according to the pattern of the Lord's instruction. To be the faithful servant of the Lord and warriors needs the criteria from verses 1-30.

(1)Do not drink and be wanton, but set apart for the Lord and do not be infected with the secular

(2)Be far from contention; do not be boastful or self-righteous

(3)Be diligent and loyal, do not be a busy body and do not gossip

(4)Pursue the most just and righteous, be clean and upright like a child

(5)Possess spiritual eyes that can see and spiritual ears that can hear, the mouth can proclaim the living Word, full of spiritual wisdom to fight spiritual wars

(6)The footsteps are determined by the Lord; so do not turn to one's own way

(7)Can overcome evil with good with mercy and honesty

**Central point of the wheels: Be refined and pure, and make every effort to know the Lord and follow Him**

Dear Lord, may you let me understand You deeply, love what you love, hate what You hate and exalt You as King, to follow You in purity!

**Dt 18 / Hos 7**

**Main theme: Serve the Lord with one heart and be blameless before God; greed will bring disaster**

 **-Serve the Lord wholeheartedly / Do not be rebellious**

Golden verses: Dt 18:15 Hos 7:8-11

A discussion on serving the Lord wholeheartedly and do not be rebellious – on one side it concerned the priests and Levites were chosen by God to serve in His name forever. They ought to treat God as their inheritance and warn the people not to follow the evil customs of the foreign land when they arrived at the promise land. They also had to guard against the false prophets. On the other side it concerned Israel murdered and usurped. They were filled with bloodshed and violence. They also turned to the power of Egypt and Assyria like a cake which could not be turned over and were punished by God. This teaches us we ought to destroy every evil and then we may turn back to God and serve Him in a holy manner.

1. **Do not indulge in grace and serve God forever**

Serve the Lord (Dt 18:1-8) – Indulge (Hos 7:1-7)

1.【Serve the Lord forever in grace】1-5 The priests and the Levites were chosen by God to replace all the firstborn to be holy to God and serve Him. They had no allotment or inheritance with Israel. God was their inheritance. They enjoyed the firstfruits and the best offered by the people (Num 3:12-13) so they might unite with God and have no desire for the world but delight in God and live in God's abundance every day and serve Him faithfully forever.

※【Indulge and deprave in grace】1-3 God's people was supposedly be the kingdom of priests and served God with holiness. God longed that they might return after captivity and be healed. But they indulged and depraved in grace. They had monstrous crimes and could not be remedied. They practiced deceit. They formed bandits and were entangled in sins. They delighted the king and the princes and were greatly against God.

2.【Serve the Lord with one heart】6-8 If a Levite in all earnestness comes to the place God will choose, he has to move from his place of stay and serve together with his brothers. The more he is ready to deny for the Lord, the more he will gain from Him.

※【The desire for lust comes up】4-7 Their king and princes gave to festival. Their desire for lust came up and plotted to overthrow like a flaming fire. On one side was the Levites served God with one heart. While the other side was the princes lie in wait to sin and all the people colluded. They all fell and none of them called on God. No one served God but blindly indulged in lust and sinned. (1 Ki 15:8-15)

**B. Do not follow the evil customs and do not turn to men for rebellion brings disasters**

Follow evil customs (Dt 18:9-22) – Turn to men (Hos 7:8-16)

1.【Do not follow the evil customs】9-14 When the people enter the land promised by God, they must not learn from the detestable ways of the nations there to let the children in the fire, practice divination or sorcery, interpret omens, or engage in witchcraft or spiritist, lest they will be driven out together. Anyone who does these things is detestable to God. We ought to set apart our children and offer them to God and avoid any heresy or evil custom. God is Almighty. Get close to God and pursue the good way and be blameless before God. (Lev 18:1-5)

※【Do not turn to the foreign nations】8-11 The Ephraimites were like a flat cake not turned over. They mixed with the nations and did not set apart to be holy. They were easily deceived like a dove. The foreigners sapped their strength and they did not realize it. Their hair was sprinkled with gray but they did not notice. Running after the foreigners and imitating the evil customs of the nations are both detestable to God. Only God is everything to us. We ought to set apart to be holy to revere Him and trust in Him and learn from Abraham to be a blameless person before God due to faith.

2.【Be accountable for not listening to God】15-19 God promised to raise up a prophet like Moses from among the people so he might tell them everything God commanded him. God's words are a fiery law. Anyone who does not listen to them, God will call him to account. This prophet was fulfilled on Jesus. (Ac 3:22-26)

※【God will punish those who turn to men】11-14 They insisted on their own and were unwilling to listen to the words of the prophet. They called on Egypt and ran after Assyria. God would place His net of judgment on them and beat them down like the

birds in the air. God wanted to rescue them but they were still rebellious and cheating. They ignored the words of the prophet and were not honest to call on to God. God would call them to account. They were finally destroyed.

3.【Speaking presumptuously of God's name will be destroyed】20-22 If a prophet presumed to speak in God's name anything He had not commanded him to say, God would not hold him guiltless. (Exo 20:7) Whatever he proclaimed but did not take place or come true, do not be afraid for he would be put to death.

※【Plotting and rejecting will bring disaster】15-16 Though God trained them, they plotted evil against Him. Their leaders would fall by the sword for their insolent words. The false prophet misused God's name. They were stubborn and rebellious like a faulty bow. Whoever did not turn to God would be destroyed and be ridiculed by people; even God's name was greatly disgraced. We ought to distinguish every falsehood with the truth by the Holy Spirit and see through their plot to reject God and do not be let astray or be afraid!

**Pro 21 / Rev 19:15 Main theme: Turn your heart after the Lord, remove evil and do good, and be greatly empowered**

 **-Turn the heart / Power**

Out of the Lord's mouth comes a sharp sword to pierce our heart. He who obeys God's Word till the end will have an iron scepter to crush the nations. He has great power to tread the enemies and lead all people to turn to God. We ought to turn from evil, do good firmly and then God will be with us and we will contend in triumph.

(1)【Let our heart turn according to the Lord's words】1-2 Do not consider yourself as right.

(2)【Act with righteousness and justice】3-31 Do not be haughty and quarrel, do not be crafty when guilty, or to give and take a bribe. We ought to be clean and upright to judge fairly.

(3)【Be diligent to prepare】3-31 Pursue righteousness and mercy, save up treasures to be prepared for the day of battle. Do not be hasty.

(4)【Guard the mouth and tongue】3-31 Make every effort to train to be godly and be a blameless man without giving false testimony.

(5)【Give without sparing】3-31 Be filled with the Lord's mind and love. Do not be sluggard and care only for self-pleasure.

(6)【Give thought to the ways】3-31 Obey God's will and do not be double-minded. In this way, God will preside and be victorious.

**Central point of the wheels: Do not follow evil, turn according to the Lord, serve Him forever and be filled with power**

Dear Lord, may you let me pursue righteousness, mercy and turn according to your words to remove all wickedness and serve You in a holy way!

**Dt 19 / Hos 8**

**Main theme: Men's work** **is empty, enter the City of refuge and keep the covenant and flourish**

 **-Enter the city of refuge / Remove the idols**

Golden verses: Dt 19:3 Hos 8:11-12

A discussion on entering the city of refuge and removing the idols – on one side it concerned God commanded the people to set up the city of refuge when settling in the good land for guarding all those who killed unintentionally so they might flee there to save their life. On the other side it concerned the chosen people worshiped evil and idols. They went to foreign nations and resulted being pursued by the enemies and were punished. This exhibited God's great love for them, so as to press them to escape to God. He is our refuge. (Heb 6:18-20) We ought to keep ourselves from idols. The gold calf represents every evil and the power of the idols. Through generations the kings worshiped evil and brought the people into sin. We enter the city of refuge so we may smash every detestable idol.

1. **Enter the city of refuge, smash the calf lest the enemies will pursue**

Escape into (Dt 19:1-10) – Break in pieces (Hos 8:1-7)

1.【Obey to guard the good land】1-3 When God cut off the enemies so the people might live on the good land as their inheritance, He ordered to set aside three cities of refuge and to build roads so those who killed unintentionally might flee there to be guarded and not be killed. This exhibited God's deep love. He did not wish anyone who killed unintentionally to die and to guard the good land lest it might be defiled by innocent blood because the Lord God dwelled among them. (Num 35:33-34)

※【Violate the covenant and lose the good land】1-2 The prophet was ordered to blow the trumpet to warn the chosen people. An eagle was over the house of the Lord because the people had broken the covenant. They violated God's law and shed innocent blood. Thus they lost the good land. The people obeyed to set aside the city of refuge to guard the good land given by God. The chosen people called for help in their distress. But they did not truly repent. They did not run into the shelter, so how could they know God?

2.【Enter the city of refuge quickly】4-7 A person who kill unintentionally is a like man who goes with his neighbor to fell a tree. However, the head flies off and hits his neighbor and kills him. This man may quickly go to one of these cities lest the avenger of blood might overtake him. In fact he does not deserve death for he has no malice aforethought on his neighbor. Once a worker is out of touch with God like losing the power, or becomes a stumbling block to others unconsciously, or misleads others and delays many souls, or even he works and sins simultaneously like Samson who indulged in lust and implicated his people, thus harming himself and others and becomes an unintentional killing. These people ought to run to the city of refuge to avoid being killed just like the woman who gave birth had to flee to the desert and run to the Lord and hide. Then she would be guarded to escape the persecution of the dragon. (Rev 12:13-14)

※【To avoid being pursued】3-4 The Israelites rejected what was good. They set up kings and princes by themselves. They made idols with silver and gold and placed the stumbling blocks before the people. Thus they were pursued by the enemies. This was due to the love of God so through suffering, they might escape to the shelter. Christ is our city of refuge so there is peace if we run to Him. (Jn 16:33)

3.【Set up the city of refuge】8-10 God's promise is forever faithful. It will be fulfilled as how it was said. Only if the chosen people love Him and walk always in His ways, He promised to set aside three more cities so those who kill unintentionally may enter to avoid death. This reveals God's mind and love. He does not want even one innocent to fall. God has plans for His promised inheritance so as to guard the good land forever not to be defiled to be a dwelling for the Lord.

※【Break the calf in pieces】5-7 Samaria loved idols. She loved what their hands had made (Ac 7:41) and God was angered so all the man-made calf was broken. They toiled in vain to sow the wind and reap the whirlwind. All was swallowed up by the foreigners. God had prepared the city of refuge for those who killed unintentionally so as to break the temptation of the calf and the power of sin. Through praying and reading the Bible in the spirit so those who kill unintentionally may retreat deeply before the Lord to hear the judgment and break the 'world' and 'idol' in the heart lest we will labor after the wind and come to nothing and be abandoned by God.

**B. Value the Lord's words, do not go up to men and do not frame others**

Unrighteous (Dt 19:11-21) – Ungodly (Hos 8:8-14)

1.【Do not frame others】11-21 ※【Do not go up to men】8-10

2.【Observe the laws solemnly】15-21 ※【Violate the laws】11-14

**Pro 22 / Rev 19:16 Main theme: Humble to carry the cross, obey to gain the good name and be exalted**

 **-Humble / Good name**

As the Lord made himself nothing and obedient, even to die on the cross, thus God exalted him to the highest place that at the name every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth. How to gain the good name: 1-29

1. Fear God, be humble at heart, endure in everything and stop being rash and easily angered
2. Hide deeply in the Lord, be watchful to remove evil and do not fall into the pit of sin
3. Be good in educating, full of mercy, bring the bread of life to the poor and be diligent and bold to work
4. Be careful to accept the Lord's words everyday, keep them in the heart and have them ready on the lips, be a close friend with the Lord and keep a pure heart full of counsel and knowledge to accomplish His mission
5. Do not be enthusiastic in a muddled manner outside the Lord to strike hands in pledge
6. Be contented on what the Lord has given, do not move the boundary stone or invade others' boundary

**Central point of the wheels: Escape to the Lord, remove the idols, be humble to keep the Word and let the Lord being the King**

Dear Lord, may you save me to break away from the temptation of the gold calf and to love you wholeheartedly. You are the city of refuge and I will exalt your name forever!

**Dt 20 / Hos 9**

**Main theme: Consecrate and trust in God will overcome; be wicked and rebellious will bring destruction**

 **-Trust in God /Abandon God (overcome the enemy / be taken captive**

Golden verses: Dt 20:3-4 Hos 9:10

A discussion on trusting in God and abandoning God – on one side was Moses announced to the people the rules for going to war so they might trust in God and obey His instructions to destroy the enemies and gain the land boldly by faith. On the other side was the chosen people abandoned God after entering the good land. They committed adultery and became a defeated army and were withered to the root. They brought severe punishment from God and resulted to captivity. We ought to be courageous to keep the Word and be a good soldier of Christ to overcome the inner and outer enemies.

1. **Put off all entanglements and contend by God; abandon God brings punishment**

Announce (Dt 20:1-9) – Warn (Hos 9:1-7)

1.【Trust in God and do not be afraid】1-4 Israel was the fighting warrior of God. Though the enemies were stronger than they, they ought not to be afraid for the Lord promised to be with them and contend for them. Only trust in God and He will rescue.

※【Ought to tremble in abandoning God】1-2 Israel was the wife of God, but she had abandoned Him and committed prostitution at every threshing floor like a prostitute loved wages. God did not bless anything they did. Thus everything was lacking. When we contend, we must not be afraid but trust in God. But the people sinned and did detestable things and ought to be afraid. How could they be jubilant like the other nations?

2.【Be free from entanglements and be a warrior】5-9 Before the battle started, the officials had to declare to the army whoever had built a new house or planted a vineyard or became pledged to a woman, or any kind of entanglement or was afraid or fainthearted could not go to the battle. He could go home lest he might die in battle. A good soldier of Christ ought to prioritize God's will and not be involved in civilian affairs. He should consider all things rubbish and be willing to sacrifice for the kingdom of God and be brave to face it. Then he will gain his reward. (2 Ti 2:3-5)

※【Entangled by sin and become a slave】3-7 The prophet prophesied Ephraim would not remain in the land of the Lord. They would be forced to eat unclean food in the captive land. Thorns would overrun their tents and they were unable to escape from the disastrous punishment. They knowingly knew the days of reckoning were at hand but did not repent. They were involved in sins and the fighting warrior of former days became a sinner of slavery! The good soldiers of Christ will not be involved in sin but have a suffering spirit. They will be free from all entanglement and abandon everything to press forward.

**B. Obey to destroy the enemies and gain the land; do not obey but commit adultery and become withered**

Destroy the enemies (Dt 20:10-20) – Be abandoned (Hos 9:8-17)

1.【Obey to attack the enemies and enjoy abundance】10-15 God told the Israelites that when they go to war, they first ought to make an offer of peace to their enemies and preach peace to them. (Eph 2:17) If they refused to make peace, spiritual power would be used to demolish the anti-God stronghold to destroy the sinful power to take captive the thought of men. Then they might enjoy the fruit of victory. (2 Co 10:3-5)

※【Do wickedness and worship evil will become withered】8-16 Hosea was the watchman of God's people. Though he was framed and shown hostility, he was strong to proclaim the message of God. He was not afraid and worthy of a good soldier of the age. Ephraim was deeply corrupted and did much evil. They closed their heart against God and became His enemy. They consecrated themselves to the shameful Baal and thus their glory flew away like a bird. They set their king and worshiped evil. All their wickedness was in Gilgal. Woe to them for God had abandoned them. On one side was obedience to attack the enemy and enjoyed the abundance. On the other side was doing evil and worshiping wickedness, thus the root was withered. Only by setting the root on the words of the Lord may we flourish forever! (Ps 92:12-13)

2.【Obey and gain the land for inheritance】16-20 The people obeyed God's order to contend and destroyed the enemies completely on the cities which God gave them, lest they would learn all the detestable things from the nations and sin against God. When they lay siege to a city for a long time, they could not destroy the trees that bore fruit. Only with those which did not bear fruit, they might cut with an axe to build siege works. This shows God is considerate and cares for them. They would be blessed if they had been obedient.

※【Rebel and become wanderers among the nations】17 Ephraim was rebellious and did not listen to God. Thus God would reject them. They would fail before their enemy and be driven out of the good land and wander among the nations. How blessed are the people if they will obey to gain the land and be guarded by God.

**Pro 23 / Rev 19:17 Main theme: We ought to listen to the warnings to remove all greediness lest we become the supper for the birds**

 **-Greediness / The supper for the birds**

The Lord's words are like the sun of righteousness that can shine and heal those who fear Him. Do not covet anything on earth lest we may become the great supper for the birds and be devoured by the evil one. We ought to remove all greediness, love the Word and proclaim it to satisfy the Lord's heart to avoid being harmed by the enemies 1-29

(1)【Remove the greediness】Do not crave for delicacies, wealth, benefit and sleep. Further we must avoid sex lest we may fall into the pit of the adulterous woman who will poison you like a viper and die in unconsciousness.

(2)【Pay attention to the Lord's words】Pay the price to advance deeply to seek the truth and hold on to the end.

(3)【Lead others to righteousness】Discipline a child and speak upright words. Let your heart turn to God and your eyes delight in the narrow path of the Lord. Deny yourself and lead men to righteousness to comfort the Lord's heart. You will be richly rewarded by doing all this.

**Central point of the wheels: Do not be covetous, do not abandon God, die to the flesh and be a warrior**

Dear Lord, I need to cast at your Word, and consider everything as rubbish. You are the surpassing greatness so I may overcome my flesh and be your warrior!

**Dt 21 / Hos 10**

**Main theme: Value men's blood, walk righteously and flourish; be evil will be punished**

 **-Walk righteously /Remove evil**

Golden verses: Dt 21:3-5 Hos 10:12

A discussion on walking righteously and removing evil – on one side it concerned the decrees of murdering, prisoner of war, and family which exhibited the righteousness and mercy of God. He wanted to remove every evil from Israel. On the other side it concerned the prophet denounced the Israelites for being wicked and worshiping evil. They would invite God's punishment. This teaches us we ought to plant righteousness and reap unfailing love.

1. **Do not make sacred stones, love the soul of men, confess and intercede**

Confess (Dt 21:1-9) – Commit sin (Hos 10:1-6)

1.【Love men's soul】1-3 When the Israelites found someone innocently slain in the field of the good land given by God, they had to find someone accountable. They had to measure the slain to the nearest town. Then the elders of the town had to bear the guilt and take a heifer that had never been worked and never worn a yoke. This represents the atonement of Christ. God's heart does not want anyone to perish. A man's life is more precious than the whole world, so how can He allow any souls be lost or being killed innocently!

※【Worship idols】1-3 Israel was a spreading vine and fruitful. He ought to have saved many souls to glorify God. But they had indulged in grace and greatly misled. As their fruit increased, they built more altars and sinned greatly. God does not want an innocent man be slain. But they adorned sacred stones without having regard to men's lives. They had changed the grace of God into a license for immorality and trapped the innocent people in sins. Therefore, God would demolish the idols lest they might defile the good land given by God.

2.【Confess and be forgiven】4-9 If anyone was killed, the sin of shedding innocent blood would be on them, thus defiling the good land. (Num 35:33-34) They had to break the heifer's neck. The elders of the town had to wash their hands and pray over the heifer. They had to confess and intercede, and then the sin of shedding innocent blood would be forgiven.

※【Sin and be put to shame】4-6 Israel would mourn like the poisonous weed due to the disastrous punishment had come because they cheated and broke the covenant. They loved the idolatrous priests and the people who worshiped the calf. They took the calf as tribute to Assyria but this did not save them. They were unwilling to confess and ask for forgiveness. Thus there were disgraced due to their counsel.

**B. Plant righteousness, remove the stain of sin and harvest love**

Righteous (Dt 21:10-23) – Wicked (Hos 10:7-15)

1.【Acquit of sin】10-14 God told the people that when they go to war or, if they saw a beautiful woman among the captives and wanted to take her as a wife; they had to first remove every foreign customs and sins to be holy. Then they might take her as their wife.

※【Entangled by sin】7-11 The king of Israel would float away because of his numerous sins. Their high places were filled with thorns and thistles. Even those captive women had to remove theirs sins and be cleansed, but Israel was unwilling to confess and turn from sin. Instead they were self-deceptive to ask the mountains and hills to cover them. Since the days of Gibeah they had been sinning (Jdg 19:1-20) and they were unwilling to take lesson till now. They thought disasters would not come upon them and were perfunctory. They were unwilling to turn from sin and thus been entangled by sins. They were subjugated and taken captive living in days of misery. Only by consecration in long period of captivity may we cleanse ourselves from sin and return to God and be His wife.

2.【Be righteous and remove the sins】15-21 If a man has two wives and at the time of dividing his inheritance, he cannot be partial and gives the rights of the firstborn to the son of the wife he loves. (2 Ch 11:18-22) He just has to be righteous to give double share of his property to the firstborn of his unloved wife. If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who is a profligate and a drunkard, and does not listen to the punishment of the parents, he has to be brought to the elders of the town and be beaten to death. God hates those who act unjustly.

※【Break up the unplowed ground】12 The prophet invoked the chosen people to break up the unplowed ground. Those who were husbands and parents too ought to be righteous and remove their sin, and then they might reap the fruit of unfailing love. This teaches us we need to remove all partiality, selfish love, unrighteousness and idols.

3.【Be redeemed by the Lord to turn from the curse】22-23 If a man is guilty of a capital offense, he is to be hung on a tree and be cursed before God. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law on the cross so we may be justified freely by faith. (Gal 3:13; Ro 3:21-24) We ought to nail our flesh and our old self together on the cross with Christ! God ordered we must bury the body that same day lest we may defile the good land given by God.

※【How can we be saved by our behavior】13-15 They had planted wickedness and reaped evil because they had depended on their own strength and on many warriors but not on the redemption of God. How could they be saved? Sufferings and disasters came, and all their fortresses would be devastated. They would finally be completely destroyed. (Eph 2:8-9)?? On one side was to bury the old self while on the other side was subjugation and captivity. Both are for completely cleansing the good land, till we are thoroughly refined and experience the resurrection after death and be redeemed to return.

**Pro 24 / Rev 19:18 Main theme: Do evil will gain retribution; those who are diligent to seek the Word and bold to save men will be rewarded**

 **-Good reward /Bad reward**

Whoever does evil will gain retribution and become the feast devoured by the evil one. We ought to pay attention to 1 – 34:

(1)【Prepare diligently】Do not be lazy and learn from Elijah not to envy wicked men or

associate with them. Follow straight on the words of the prophet and gain a double portion of the spirit and enter abundance. Further do not consider yourself yet to have taken hold of it but receive from the Lord the honey from the comb every day and proclaim the message of the age and provide food timely.

(2)【Be bold to save men】Those who are full of God's love, who risks death to grab and save, and to prop up those who fall will be richly rewarded.

(3)【Do not be partial】Rebuke the wicked and be God's honest preacher. In this way, you will avoid disasters but be rewarded. But the wicked will be recompensed.

**Central point of the wheels: Remove evil, prepare diligently, consider God's love and grab to save men**

Dear Lord, may you let me consider your love for the sinners, to prepare diligently and grab to save the lost souls!

**Dt 22 / Hos 11**

**Main theme: Experience God's great love, lead men to return and be faithful to the Lord**

 **-Stray / Return (virginity/ adultery)**

Golden verses: Dt 22:9 Hos 11:10

A discussion on straying and returning – on one side we ought to experience God's love. When we see our brother's ox or sheep straying, do not ignore it but take it back to him. It also concerned the wives ought to have the proof of virginity and to remove all adultery from Israel. On the other side it concerned the chosen people though had forsaken God; He still had mercy on them and would not abandon them. He led them like a prodigal son. We too ought to be full of God's heart and love, and lead many prodigal sons to return.

1. **Lead the straying back, be drawn by love and set apart to the Lord**

Stray (Dt 22:1-12) – Be wayward (Hos 11:1-5)

1.【Lead back the straying】1-4 If you see your brother's ox or sheep straying, be sure to obey God's law to love others as you love yourself and take it back to him. Whatever your brother loses or you see your brother's donkey or his ox fallen on the road, help him get it to its feet and do not ignore it or be indifferent. We ought to imitate the good Samaritan who took pity on the man who was beaten by the robbers and took care of him as much as you wish. (Lk 10:30-37; 15:3-7)

※【Call back the wayward】1-3 When Israel was a child, he was called and loved. God took them by the arms and healed them. But they did not understand God's great love. The more the prophets called them, the further they went from them. They sacrificed and burned incense to the Baals. They all, like sheep, have gone astray and turned to their own way. The prophet took the mind of God and paid the price of love to lead them back.

2.【Revealed God's love】6-8 God's love is meticulous and shown everywhere so the people may ensure to keep it and be merciful, just like our Father is merciful. If you come across a bird's nest with the young and the egg, do not take both the mother with the young. Be sure to let the mother go, then you may go well with long life. When you build a new house, make a parapet around your roof to avoid the guilt of bloodshed if anyone may from fall from the roof.

※【Ties of love】4 God's love never changes! He led His rebellious people return with cords of human kindness (Ps 23:3-4). He also used His parapet of unfailing love and faithfulness to protect them on every side like men lifted the yoke from their neck to feed them. From these we see God's painstaking care and love! God's children ought to exhibit God's love any time!

3.【Set apart to be holy without mixed up】5, 9-12 God is a holy God! He detests anyone who mixes the apparel of a woman with a man. There should be a difference between a woman and a man to be fit for the decency of a believer. Do not plant two kinds of seed in the vineyard. Do not plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together and do not make your garments mixed with wool and linen. This shows we ought to set apart to be holy in our living and work. Do not mix with the secular and imitate the way of the Gentiles.

※【Not willing to be holy and choose to be wayward】5 Though the prophet called them to return to God, they would not set apart to be holy and mixed with the nations. The prophet pointed out that they would not be successful in seeking the help from Egypt. Thus Assyria captured them and ruled over them. After captivation, they would hold to the holy Word of God and be completely set apart to love God in a pure manner.

**B. Keep the virginity, do not be led astray, experience God's love and return quickly**

Virginity (Dt 22:13-20) – Come trembling (Hos 11:6-12)

1.【Not virginal will be killed】13-22 The rules of the virginity of a wife is to protect a virgin wife from harm so the husband cannot slander her and give her a bad name. They also let a wife who violates her virginity be punished. If a wife does not have the proof of her virginity, men of her town will purge the evil by stoning her to death. In God's laws, wives violating the marriage is not acceptable.

※【God's compassion is aroused】6-9 God's people insisted to be wayward and would not return to God. They still followed their plan like an unchaste wife deserting her husband. Thus swords would come and they would be devoured by their enemies. But God's love surpasses the law! (Deu 24:1-4) How could He give up his wife and let Israel be like the result of Admah and Zeboiim? (Gen 19:29) God's heart was changed and His compassion was aroused. After they were thoroughly embittered and refined, God would receive them.

2.【Scream and be rescued】23-30 If a man sleeps with a virgin pledged to be married, both of them will be killed. Though she was in a town, she did not scream for help and was willing to be humiliated. If a man in the country raped a girl pledged to be married, only the man would be killed because the betrothed girl screamed and there was no one to rescue her. We are promised to Christ and ought to avoid sexual immorality to be a chaste virgin and always be watchful to wait for the Lord's coming! (2 Co 11:1-3; 1 Th 4:3-4)

※【Come trembling and be saved】10-12 God's love is as strong as death! We must be keep from idols and flee from sexual immorality, (1 Co 6:18; 1 Jn 5:21) and turn to

God with one heart. God promised to the elect when they cry in their distress, He would roar like a lion and His people would follow Him. They would be rescued from the enemies and their power of prostitution to come trembling and forever belong to God.

**Pro 25 / Rev 19:19 Main theme: Control our heart, be righteous and humble, and be compassionate to deal with the enemy**

 **-Control our heart / Deal with the enemies**

The enemies gathered to contend with the Lord and those who follow Him. God's children ought to prepare according to the Lord's words and fight. Do not pass to others or copy for others but know without acting and become a defeated army. Those who believe and follow the Lord will overcome. 1 -28

(1)【Ought to consecrate and humble】To understand God's hidden matter and deeply know His mind

(2)【Be a faithful messenger】Do not bring hastily to court, but be careful to preach the Lord's words. Be patient consistently, pray and wait, and use wisdom and gentleness to persuade men.

(3)【Be self-controlled full of God's love】Mourn with those who mourn, love your enemy and help according to his need, then we will gain God's reward.

(4)【Do not accept men's honor】Seek your praise only from the Lord.

(5)【Be bold for the truth】Do not give way and do not be afraid of death but stand firm in the truth by the Lord.

**Central point of the wheels: Control our heart, overcome the flesh, lead men to be pure to return**

Dear Lord, due to your great love which brought me from straying, I am willing to consider your heart to seek the lost sheep and be your warrior!

**Dt 23 / Hos 12**

**Main theme: Keep away from everything impure, love and be just to wait for God's grace**

 **-Holy /Return to God (Away from evil / Be contrite for your sin)**

Golden verses: Dt 23:14 Hos 12:6

A discussion on be holy and return to God – on one side it concerned the Lord's assembly and camp ought to be holy. Whoever was unholy shall not enter them. God moves about in our camp and therefore we have to keep away from everything impure. On the other side it concerned the prophet rebuked Ephraim who relied on foreign power like pursuing the east wind. He appealed to them to return to God which exhibited God's everlasting love. This teaches us we ought to learn from Jacob to be contrite, be face to face with God and fulfill our vows quickly.

1. **Shun all evil, refine and return, love and be just**

Fulfill the vow (Dt 23:1-14) – Return to God (Hos 12:1-6)

1.【Cannot enter God's assembly if unholy】1-8 On every feast day, the people will have an assembly of the Lord. This assembly is a holy assembly. Those who separate from God, or whose root is not proper and even the Moabites and Ammonites, representing no mercy, belonging to the mere natural instincts or the false prophets, may not enter the assembly. The people cannot seek a treaty of friendship with them as long as they live. Only those who set apart to be holy with pure heart and clean hands may enter God's assembly and be close to Him. (Jas 4:7-8)

※【After being contrite we will meet God】1-5 Ephraim lied and was violent. They did not unite with God but made a treaty with Assyria. They coveted the benefits of the world and were unwilling to set apart to be holy like pursuing the east wind. They would receive the punishment. In the womb Jacob grasped his brother's heel. After he was being dealt with, he struggled with God. He overcame and begged for his favor. When he was contrite, he saw God face to face. But his descendants grasped the world relentlessly like eating the wind. They could not enter God's assembly and see His face.

2.【Keep away from everything impure】9-14 When God's army go to war, they must keep away from everything impure. If by chance they are defiled, they are not clean and must wash with water. (Eph 5:26) Then they may enter the camp. God moves about in the camp to protect them. Everything indecent must be covered up. God will turn away if there is anything indecent.

※【Ought to return to God】5-6 Israel is God's people. We ought to remember His name of renown and keep away from everything impure to turn to Him. God is a loving and just God. We ought to maintain love and justice, and wait for God. Then we will be protected, be a fighting warrior and overcome.

**B. Remove anything detestable, fulfill the vow quickly, do not be crafty to grab the world**

Fulfill the vow (Dt 23:15-23) – Return (Hos 12:7-14)

1.【Love others as yourself】15-16 If a slave has taken refuge with you, do not hand him over to his master but receive him with a compassionate heart. Remember that we too had been slaves in Egypt. Let him free without oppressing him and obey the Lord's way of love to love others as yourself.

※【Benefit oneself at the expense of others】7 Ephraim was a dishonest merchant. He harmed others to benefit himself and loved to defraud. They turned from God's way of love. They only loved wealth and became a slave to money and evil. On one side was to receive the runaway slave and let him enjoy freedom. On the other side was in bondage and became a slave to sin.

2.【God detests female and male prostitutes】17-18 No Israelite man or woman is to become a shrine prostitute. Their earning cannot be brought into the house of the Lord to pay their vow. It will not be accepted because the house of the Lord is most holy.

※【God hates boasting and self-righteousness】8 Ephraim became boastful and self-righteous when he was wealthy. They thought they had labored for themselves and there was no iniquity or sin. God's house is holy so how can it become a robber's den? Dishonest scales and adulterous wages are detestable to God!

3.【Do not take advantage and earn interest】19-20, 24-25 Do not charge your brother interest, whether on money or food or anything else that may earn interest. If you enter your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat all the grapes you want. If you enter your neighbor's grain field, you may pick kernels with your hands. But do not be greedy to take on more. If you firmly obey God's most holy and loving way, you will be blessed in the good land!

※【Worthless sacrifice for sinning】9-11 Israel was rescued by God out of Egypt. God taught and warned them through the prophets. But they sacrificed to the calf and grasped the world relentlessly. They were filled with worthlessness. They coveted on benefits and violated God's command. They were selfish and cared only for themselves. As a result, their altar became piles of stones. They were finally taken captive and drifted about again.

4.【Fulfill the vow quickly】21-23 If you make a vow to the Lord, do not be slow to pay it. God will certainly demand it of you and you will be guilty of sin. Whatever your lips utter and you vow freely to God, do not break your word and be sure to do it. You ought to be like Hannah who paid her vow timely and sacrificed her son to God all his life. How blessed. (1 Sam 1:22-28) "Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High." (Ps 50:14)

※【Return to fulfill the vow】12-14 Ephraim was blindly wicked and did not give thanks and pay his vow to God. He had bitterly provoked the Lord to anger and the guilt of bloodshed was left upon him. They had to suffer the reward. Their predecessor Jacob fled to Aram to serve to get a wife. After he was refined by God, he returned quickly and paid his vow. Similarly, after their descendants had been taken captive and refined, they would be grateful to God and pay their vow.

**Pro 26 / Rev 19:20 Main theme: Remove every folly, lest you will go to the fiery lake of burning with the beast**

 **-Folly / Fiery lake of burning coal**

The beast belongs to the flesh and does not have spirit. It is the controlling instrument of Satan. Our old body was a scourge. The false prophets think that godliness is a means to financial gain. They lead men astray to worship the beast. Their result is to go down the fiery lake of burning. This chapter discusses the folly 1-28:

1. The folly rise and harm many. They misuse God's words. They speak but cannot act. They cannot be relied on. They are hired men and care only for wages. They are entangled by sin and act foolishly. They act and re-act thinking themselves wise. They plot evil, fix their eyes on the environment, and show consideration for the flesh. They are lazy to work for the Lord but love to be a busy body. They flatter to please and pass on words to arouse dispute. They use craftiness to cover up and resent against men.
2. The folly is the beast and the false prophet. Their result will be beaten and punishment. They harm themselves and others.

**Central point of the wheels: Do not be foolish, remove all evil, return to God and overcome the temptation**

Dear Lord, may you make me be holy and away from evil, be after your own heart and lead thousands of sinners to return to you and be your warrior!

**Dt 24 / Hos 13**

**Main theme: Great blessing for those who are virginal and generous; swerving and arrogant bring calamity**

 **-Generous / Rebellious**

Golden verses: Dt 24:19 Hos 13:4

A discussion on generosity and rebellion – God commanded all sorts of regulations for teaching the chosen people to maintain holiness for the couples and their families. They will be greatly blessed if they have mercy on the afflicted and the aliens and be generous to people. However, Ephraim after gaining the high position became rebellious in grace and sinned. He served the idols and was torn by God. This is our warning.

1. **Do not be arrogant and ungrateful, love God wholeheartedly and have compassion on men**

Be divorced (Dt 24:1-9) – Tear (Hos 13:1-8)

1.【How can we divorce and re-divorce】1-6 If a man marries a woman and finds something indecent about her, he may give a certificate of divorce and send her from his house. If the second husband dislikes her and writes her a certificate of divorce, or if he dies, then her first husband, who divorced her, is not allowed to marry her again after she has been defiled. This is detestable to God, lest the land given by God to them be defiled. This does not only show the holiness of a married couple, but also reveals God's requirement of holiness and chastity of the chosen people. (2 Co 11:2-3)

※【How can we sin more and more】1-3 Though Ephraim was exalted in Israel as the firstborn with great honor and power above all and when he spoke, men trembled, they sinned more and more as they served Baals and made idols for themselves and kissed the calf-idols. They turned from God like a wife departed from her husband and had a second husband. She got divorced and divorced. Likewise she provoked God's anger and defiled the good land. They would be like chaff blown away by a swirling wind and be no more.

2.【Remove the evil and be holy to go forward】7-9 If a man kidnaps his brother and sells him as a slave, the kidnapper must die. Those false brothers who secretly slipped in to make God's children as slaves are also evil. We ought to imitate Paul not to give in to them for a moment. (Gal 2:4-5) Miriam was jealous and spoke against Moses. She caught leprosy and was confined for seven days and brought trouble to the whole camp without moving. We must take this as our lesson from others' mistakes to be careful to purge the evil, then we may go forward.

※【Be arrogant, ungrateful and turn back】4-8 When Israel was brought out of Egypt, only the Lord was their God and there was no Savior. But when they were satisfied, they became proud and forgot about God just like catching leprosy. The jealous God will be like a lion and devour them. After the people had purged their evil, they went forward in a holy manner. Ephraim was proud and did evil. Their live turned back and were greatly punished.

**B. Blessed is he who is generous to others; rebellious and set up a king and bears the consequence of sin**

Blessed (Dt 24:10-22) – Bear the consequence of sin (Hos 13:9-16)

1.【Blessed is he who obeys to act righteously】10-15 God's people ought to obey the Word and act righteously to love others as oneself and be generous to others. No matter what your poor brother has loaned from you, do not go into his house to get what he has pledged. Return his cloak to him by sunset so that he may sleep in it. Then he will thank you.

※【Ungrateful, be wayward and be punished】9 Israel was ungrateful, wayward and against God. He did not love God and he was not compassionate. He would be destroyed and receive his judgment without mercy. (Jas 2:13) Only through bitter punishment, they would become humble and have mercy on men.

2.【Deny yourself to love others】16-18 God wants His people to deny themselves and love others, and to have compassion on the fatherless and widow. Do not deprive justice. Fathers shall not b put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their fathers. Do not forget that we had been in Egypt as slaves but were redeemed by God.

※【Set up a king for oneself】10-14 Israel learned from the foreign nations and requested God to give them a king. They did not want God to be their king. Their old self became the king and everything for self. As a result, their king did not have the least compassion on the distress of the people. He could not rule them or save them. Thus God dethroned the king in His anger and disasters came like pains in childbirth. God promised to redeem them from everlasting destruction. God's love never changes nor repent. Those who are redeemed by God ought to exalt Him as King and deny themselves to love others.

3.【Blessed is he who is generous to others】19-22 God's mind is on the aliens, the fatherless, the widow and the afflicted. Therefore we ought to obey God's order to have regard for them and care for their hardship. When we harvest or beat the olives from the trees, or harvest the grapes, leave the remains for them. You will be blessed if you fear God, obey the Word and be generous to others. (Ps 128:1; 146:9)

※【Only cares for oneself and bears the consequence of sin】15-16 Even though Ephraim thrived among his brothers, he only cared for himself. He did not care for others and soon turned to nothing. The east wind came and their well was dried up. All the treasures he stored up for himself were plundered. They would bear their guilt because of their rebellion. God is righteous. They were not compassionate to the fatherless and widow. Thus their pregnant women and little ones were not shown mercy and were killed tragically.

**Pro 27 / Rev 19:21 Main theme: The Lord's words destroy the remaining evil, trust in Him and be faithful in the assignment and there will be surplus in grace**

 **-Abundant grace / Destroy evil**

The sword from the Lord's mouth killed the rest of the enemies. Following evil will gain retribution. God's Word is sharper than any double-edged sword and can purify the filth of the heart and the soul. We ought to remove all remaining evil, be faithful to the Lord's assignment and avoid being punished but gain reward.

(1)【Ought to remove the evil】1-27 Whoever boasts or praises oneself, be angry or jealous, values human relationship, be hypocritical and complacent, disconnects with the Christ but not willing to return, be simple and underestimate the enemy, be a busy body or bless presumptuously must remove the above evil.

(2)【Be watchful and faithful to the Lord's assignment】1-27 Be sure to examine and give careful attention to the herd the Lord has assigned you. Be alert to watch and look after his master. The Lord's grace is abundant and sufficient.

**Central point of the wheels: Take lesson and remove the evil, love God and love men and be faithful to His assignment**

Dear Lord, may you let me be firm to keep your Word, be generous to others, humble to take lesson, remove all remaining evil and glorify your name!

**Dt 25 / Hos 14**

**Main theme: Return and confess, destroy the enemies and seek righteousness, and take root and bear fruit**

 **-Righteousness / Revival**

Golden verses: Dt 215:4 Hos 14:4-6

A discussion on righteousness and revival – on one side it teaches the Israelites ought to be just and fair in judgment and behavior. Those who act wickedly are detestable to God. On the other side it concerned the chosen people took their lesson and returned to revive and bear fruit after being flogged by God. We ought to consider God's mind to deny ourselves to love others, to build up the family for the elder brother, to exalt God's name and lead men to the Lord to glorify His name.

1. **Take lesson and return, carry on the brother's name and build up the family**

Take lesson (Dt 25:1-10) – Return to God (Hos 14:1-5)

1.【Be flogged and take lesson】1-3 The judges will judge by righteousness, acquitting the innocent and condemning the guilty. So the guilty man will lie down and have him flogged in his presence with the number of lashes his crime deserves but not more than a set number. This reveals the love of our Father God. The purpose of the discipline is to let men take lesson and turn from evil, to repent and be blessed. (Pro 29:15)

※【Ought to return to God】1-2 Israel was the prince of God. He was punished by God due to his evil. God disciplined him but only with justice. (Jer 30:11) He called them to return to taken lesson humbly, confess and be blessed. He would receive them graciously. Then they would not fall down.

2.【Being cared by God】4 Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain. God will not only have regard on the ox, He also has regard for the workers who serve Him. By laboring faithfully, they will enjoy God's abundance and be grateful to praise Him. (1 Co 9:7-11)

※【Being favored and return】2-3 God's mind was all the more on the captivated people, so they might be blessed to return with offer of their lips as sacrifices of bulls. After they were restored, they no longer sought help from Assyria and Egypt or served other gods. They would be shown mercy and give thanks to praise God. (Heb 13:15)

3.【Build up the family】5-10 The Israelites ought to keep the land of their own tribes without losing. (Num 36:9) If the brothers live together and one of them dies without a son, the others shall take the widow and marry her to fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to establish the family, lest the name of the dead brother be blotted out and his land be lost. (Ru 4:5-6) If he is selfish and unwilling to do it like Onan, the second son of Judah (Gen 38:8-10), he will be disgraced and be named as The Family of the Unsandaled and even be punished. We ought to take the heart of the Lord to deny ourselves to preach the Word, exalt the Lord's name and to build the church which is to establish our family for our elder brother Christ.

※【Demolish completely】4-5 Israel was stubborn and wayward like the Family of the Unsandaled. He was unwilling to deny himself to obey the Word, nor did he keep God's possession, causing subjugation and complete destruction. Now God's anger had turned away and would heal his waywardness so they would be loved and restored to take root in God. Everything would be renewed and their home be re-established.

**B. Righteous and just, obey the Word and remove evil, revive and bear fruit**

Remove evil (Dt 25:11-19) – Revive (Hos 14:6-9)

1.【Do not act wickedly】11-16 If two men fight and the wife of one of them comes to rescue her husband using an abusive way to harm the other party viciously, her hand shall be cut off without pity. The Israelites are the people of God. Whether personally or in the house, there should not be two differing measures. We must have accurate and honest weights and measures, so that we may live long in the land God gives us. Those who act wickedly are detestable to God.

※【Refine and revive】6-8 Israel turned justice into bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground causing subjugation and captivity. (Am 5:7) After they were refined and restored, they loved righteousness and cut themselves off from wickedness. They would be revived to grow young shoots and flourish to bear fruit. After they have returned, they had nothing to do with idols and delighted in the Lord. God would be their satisfaction. They would serve the Lord wholeheartedly and be blessed like green pine tree with long life.

2.【Overcome the flesh】17-19 Remember firmly the Amalekites are the great enemy of the flesh. When you were weary and weak, they came to cut off those lagging behind. Always be watchful and set the mind on the Spirit. Trust in the Spirit to overcome the flesh and blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven and contend with them for all generations. (Ro 8:1-13)

※【Wise and discerning】9 The ways of the Lord are right. Who can understand? Only by dealing with the flesh, overcoming the Amalekites and those who fear God and shun evil are wise. Not only do they understand everything, but they can also keep and obey. The wicked do not set their mind on the Holy Spirit. They are willing to be the captive of the Amalekites just like King Saul was not willing to obey completely to destroy the Amalekites. (1 Sa 15:1-9) They will fall down. Only David was godly and obeyed the Word. He destroyed evil completely like a righteous man who cannot be uprooted. (Pro 12:3)

**Pro 28 / Rev 20:1) Main theme: Do evil to harm others will be punished; act righteously to save men is blessed**

 **-Do good / Punish**

The angel was holding an instrument of torture in his hand. The wicked's day of punishment is near. We ought to hate evil and sin and make every effort to become blameless, to grab to save men by the Lord lest people will go down the pit.

(1)【Hate evil and sin】1-28 Confess your sins, turn from evil and hate evil; hate ill-gotten gain, do not be a companion of gluttons, do not oppress or rule over others, do not act crooked or perverse ways, do not chase fantasies, do not show partiality and do wrong, do not flatter others, do not be greedy and trust in oneself.

(2)【Make effort to become blameless】1-28 Seek God continuously, be filled with truth and knowledge, keep the Lord's words, pray according to the Lord's words and set your mind on Him, trust in the Lord and be bold, contend with the wicked for the truth, be full of God's love to show mercy and rescue men.

(3)【Always maintain the fear】1-28 Do not be complacent and trust in oneself due to rich grace, continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

**Central point of the wheels: Be righteous and turn from evil, return and revive**

O Lord Jesus, may you fill the churches with righteousness and justice, love and honesty so they will be favored and revive to lead the lost to return.

**Dt 26 / Joel 1**

**Main theme: Be grateful and pass the favor forward will be greatly blessed; indulge in grace will be disastrous**

 **-Grateful / Indulge**

Golden verses: Dt 26:1-2, 4 Joel 1:19

A discussion on being grateful and indulging – Moses encouraged the people to give thanks and sacrifice to repay God's great love of redemption after entering the good land. They ought to rejoice with the Levites, the aliens, the fatherless and the widows. While Joel the prophet rebuked the chosen people for indulging in grace. They were wayward and ungrateful and thus encountered disaster and wail. He appealed to them to be contrite and implore God before the disasters came. This is also to warn the church of the final days. The day of the Son of Man is near and we ought to be watchful and grateful to serve God.

1. **Give thanks, sacrifice and rejoice; indulge in grace will mourn**

Rejoice (Dt 26:1-11) – Mourn (Joel 1:1-12)

1.【Give thanks and sacrifice】1-4 After the people were blessed to gain the land, they had to take some of the firstfruits of their produce to the dwelling of God and give them to the priest to be placed before the altar of God. Every abundance comes from God and we should be grateful to offer to satisfy God's heart to repay His love. (1 Ch 29:14-16)

※【Ungrateful and indulge】1-5 After the people of God had lived long in the good land, they were not grateful in their abundance. Instead they became ungrateful and indulged in their dream life and failed in God's grace. They had disheartened God! Thus the serious problem of locusts came which made the land desolate. The prophet called the elders and the inhabitants to listen to God's words to humble, be contrite and tremble.

2.【Recall God's grace and rejoice together】5-11 They had to count God's grace and recall their predecessors were chosen by God. When they went down to Egypt as aliens, they cried out to God due to their hard labor and was answered. God delivered them out of Egypt with His mighty hand and led them to a land flowing with milk and honey. Then they gave thanks to God and offered their firstfruits. They enjoyed God's blessings together with the Levites, the aliens and their family.

※【Is not grateful and mourn together】6-12 Now disasters came to the ungrateful people and all their produce were snatched away. Thus the drunkards ought to wake up and weep. Numerous enemies like locusts came to plunder. How happy it is when the people recall God's grace. But those who are ungrateful will mourn for their desolation.

**B. Obey the Word with all your heart, be contrite before God and be blessed without disasters**

Obey the Word (Dt 26:12-19) – Contrite (Joel 1:13-20)

1.【One blessing after another】12-15 When you have finished setting aside a tenth of your produce in the third year, the year of the tithe, you shall give to the Levite and the afflicted, so they may enjoy God's grace together. In this way we may repay God's grace, to set our heart on God, be grateful and love others. The people obey God's order to give away the offering and plead God to look down to bless them and their land, so they will receive one blessing after another.

※【The curses come】13-14 The people robbed the offering of God and did not obey to care for the aliens and the fatherless and widows. Thus they lost the blessing and curses came. (Mal 3:8-12) Therefore the priests and the leaders first ought to put on sackcloth, declare a holy fast and come before God to weep and mourn. On one side was one blessing after another and asked God for blessings. On the other side was curses came and they mourned before God.

2.【Obey the Word with all your heart and gain a good name】16-19 If the people observe the decrees and laws with all their heart and with all their soul and declare this day that the Lord is their God, God promised He will declare they are His people. He will set them in praise, fame and honor high above all the nations He has made!

※【Disregard the Lord's Word and is cursed】15-20 Alas, the day of the Lord is near. Destruction from the Almighty has come. As they did not obey the Word with all their heart and they did not value God's word more than their food, thus their food was cut off and joy and gladness from the house of God had stopped. On one side was God's people gained fame and honor high above all nations. On the other side was shame and disgrace without fame and honor among the nations. (Job 23:12; Am 8:11)

**Pro 29 / Rev 20:2 Main theme: Know and have control over your enemies, be humble and diligent to obey the Word, and deny yourself to save men**

 **-Obey the Word / Control over the enemy**

The wicked uses all kinds of styles to persecute, tempt, induce, and deceive to harm men.

We ought to know him, bind him and withstand him by faith in the Lord and the power of the throne. How to escape from the wicked's trap? 1-27:

Discern the plot of the wicked, make sure to turn from evil and obey the Word, love wisdom, pursue righteousness and humility, do not listen to smooth words, do not contend and be angry, judge by the truth, give lessons to the posterity, do not take share in other's sin, witness for truth without closing your mouth, do not be afraid of men but trust in God, hate what He hates, walk righteously and do not be afraid to be hated by the wicked

**Central point of the wheels: Be contrite and take lesson, give thanks and sacrifice and overcome Satan**

Dear Lord, I am willing to know your favor, give thanks and repay your kindness all my life. To be bold to do good by You, to overcome the wicked and love you deeply!

**Dt 27 / Joel 2**

**Main theme: Return to God with one heart, keep the Lord's words firmly and be blessed without disasters**

 **-Keep the Word firmly / Gain revival (Turn from evil / Contrite)**

Golden verses: Dt 27:2-3 Joel 2:28-32

A discussion on keeping the Word firmly and gaining revival – on one side it concerned that whoever did not walk according to the laws were cursed. (Gal 3:10) But today if we obey the Word in grace and by the Holy Spirit, we will be favored and blessed. (Gal 3:10-14) On the other side it concerned the prophet appealed to the chosen people to confess and then the revival which God promised would come.

1. **Listen to the command and sacrifice, be contrite and return to God will be blessed without disasters**

Listen quietly (Dt 27:1-12) – Be contrite (Joel 2:1-14)

1.【Keep the Lord's words in mind】1-4 Moses commanded the people to set up some large stones and coat them with plaster, then write on them all the words of the law after they had entered the good land given by God. Keep the Lord's word in mind and listen to God's command, then they may forever enjoy the peace and prosperity in the land flowing with milk and honey. (Isa 48:18-19)

※【Pay attention to the warning】1-11 The day of the Lord is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it? They ought to blow the trumpet in Zion to warn the people. There would be the locusts like an army coming by a thundering trend. The earth would shake and the sky trembled. The sun and moon would darken to awake the sinful people. Only by keeping the Lord's words in your mind and pay attention to God's warning, then you may stand up. Even the locusts will run like warriors, so those who keep the Lord's words should be stricter to keep the Lord's Word to march in line and be God's ever victorious warrior.

2.【Sacrifice, rejoice and be favored】5-12 After the people had entered the good land, the people of the six tribes ought to stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people. They were to build an altar to the Lord at the place where they set the stones to imitate their predecessors Abraham to call on God's name (Gen 12:7-8). There should not be any human act on it. They should offer their burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to God and be joyous before Him.

※【Rend the heart and seek grace】12-14 God cried to His people to weep and rend their heart to return to Him wholeheartedly like coming to God's altar to think of His great love of redemption to be contrite and favored. God's love is abundant. He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing. On one side was to give thanksgiving offering, enjoy together and be blessed. On the other side was to offer a sacrifice of broken and contrite heart which God would not despise. (Ps 51:17)

**B. Be contrite and approved, Outpours the Holy Spirit and keep the Word by grace**

Turn from evil (Dt 27:13-26) – Revive (Joel 2:15-32)

1.【Take lesson and turn from evil will be free from the curse】13-19 The other six tribes ought to stand on the Mount Ebal to declare the curses. The Levites ought to cry aloud to the people that those who set up secretly a detestable idol, dishonor his father or his mother, move his neighbor's boundary stone, lead the blind astray on the road, and withhold justice will be cursed. All the people shall say 'Amen'. We ought to take lesson by the Holy Spirit to turn from evil to avoid the curse.

※【Be contrite and consecrate, then blessing will come】15-20 We ought to blow the trumpet in Zion to declare a holy fast, gather the people and call a sacred assembly, so all male and female, old and young will be contrite and consecrate. God will be jealous to take pity on His people and reply to give abundantly so they will be satisfied and never become an object of scorn. God will drive out the enemies for them and let their enemies be recompensed for their great evil. On one side was to take lesson and turn from evil to avoid the curse. On the other side was to be contrite and consecrate, so the curse would turn to blessing.

2.【Keep the Word by grace】20-26 Any kind of sexual immorality or adultery, or act of incestuous behavior, to kill his neighbor secretly, to accept a bribe to kill an innocent person are all outrageous, renouncing the holy law of God and His nature of righteousness and unfailing love. They will be cursed. No one is justified by observing the law. Thank God, that we may stand firm in His Word to avoid the curse by trusting in the Holy Spirit and in the grace of Christ.

※【Gain revival by the Holy Spirit】21-32 After the people are contrite and consecrated, God works for the benefit of it to send autumn and spring rains. God promised to pour out the Holy Spirit and the great revival comes. Everyone will keep the Word by grace. Whoever calls on God will be saved. In Zion there will be survivors, that are those who keep the Lord's Word firmly and are called to serve Him forever. All Israel will be saved and God's promise will be fulfilled. (Ro 11:25-26)

**Pro 30 / Rev 20:3 Main theme: Listen carefully to the oracle, seek the Word, guard against the enemies, and save men quickly**

 **-Seek the Word / Guard against the enemies**

The wicked one would be locked and sealed. In due time, it would be set free. We ought to have the wisdom to prepare according to the Lord's words to guard for the future:

(1)【Be humble to read the Lord's words】1-6 Know that we are ignorant, so seek unceasingly without adding or subtracting the Lord's words according to our own idea.

(2)【Seek compassion and righteousness】1-20 Do not slander others, do not be self-deceiving our haughty, do not be covetous, exalt the Lord's words, seek to know the mystery of the gospel deeply and to see through the scheme of the wicked.

(3)【Take notice of the four kinds of horrifying matters】21-23 a) a servant who becomes a king as darkness is in control; b) a fool who is full of food as the false prophets are blocking the way; c) an unloved woman who is married; how can the false church (infiltrated by anti-Christ and the heresy) become the bride of the Lamb and be caught up; d) a maidservant who displaces her mistress (Gal 4:22-31) - man's philosophy and the basic principles of the world replaced the Word of God. (Col 2:18-23)

(4)【Learn from the four things】24-28 Learn from a) the ants who store food for winter; b) the coneys who make their home in the crags which is to listen to the Lord's words and act (Mt 7:24); c) the locusts advance together in ranks, that is they exalt the Lord as their head and preach by detachments; d) a lizard grasps with its hands and lives in the king's palace, he keeps the Word firmly and dwells in the Lord.

(5)【Be bold and faithful】29-31 Be bold as a lion, be faithful and forceful as a greyhound, shun evil to follow good like a he-goat who runs in the front pressing forward without fear. They follow the Lord victoriously.

(6)【Fear and tremble】32-33 This is not by exalting yourself but working out the salvation with fear and trembling.

**Central point of the wheels: Be contrite and revive, keep the Word and guard against the enemies**

Dear Lord, may you let me rend my heart, be renewed by the Holy Spirit to keep your Word firmly, be diligent and watchful to prepare and wait for your coming!

**Dt 28 / Joel 3**

**Main theme: Rebellious will be disastrous; return and grace overflows and the enemies will face their retribution**

 **-Listen to the command / Rebel (Blessed / Retribution)**

Golden verses: Dt 28:1-2 Joel 3:16

A discussion on listening to the command and rebellion – on one side it concerned Moses seriously warned the people of God that listening to the commands would be blessed while disregarding them would be cursed. On the other side it concerned Joel the prophet solemnly announced the Most High God's final judgment towards the nations and the future revival of Zion. This is also to warn the churches of the final days to be watchful to keep the Word and to prepare to receive the second coming of Christ.

1. **Listen to the commands and be blessed; rebellious will be disastrous and going against God will be judged**

Be blessed (Dt 28:1-26) – Receive the due (Joel 3:1-8)

1.【Pay attention to listen to the commands will be blessed】1-6 If the people fully obey God's words and follow carefully, they will be blessed before Him! God will set them high above all the nations on earth. Their children and their livestock will be blessed. Their livelihood and in and out will always be blessed. All these blessings will follow them.

※【Listen to return and the enemies will receive their due】1-2 As God's chosen people despised His words, they were taken captive out of their nation. But the prophet foretold that in those days and at that time God would restore them, that was to return to the way of life, then they might avoid the disaster and be blessed. God would judge against the nations and take vengeance on them because they scattered His people among them and divided up His land.

2.【Keep the Word and go smooth】7-14 God promised the people if they will keep His commands without turning aside and without following or serving other gods, He will grant their enemies be defeated before them. Their barns and on everything they put their hand to will be blessed. He will send rain in season so they will prosper abundantly. He will also establish them as His holy people.

※【Go against God and bring disasters】3-6 Tyre, Sidon and all regions of Philistia were against God. They betrayed God's children and took their silver and gold and finest treasures. Their sins were numerous. (Mt 25:1-46) God would speedily return on their own head what they had done. God would gather all nations to rouse the warriors to prepare for war. The Mighty One would come to judge the nations who were against God. The people will be blessed with abundance if they keep the Word. Whoever rejects the Lord and does not accept His words, that very word will condemn him at the last day. (Jn 12:48)

3.【Rebellious without listening will be cursed】15-26 If the people are disobedient and do not listen to God's words, all the curses will follow them. Their children and livestock , and their livelihood and in and out will be cursed. God will plague them with diseases. Infectious diseases will come one after another. They will encounter all sorts of disasters of drought and the sword, and be defeated before their enemies. They will become troublesome to all the kingdoms of the earth because they did evil and turned from God.

※【Refine and return, and then the enemies will receive their due】7-8 God's people were sold as slaves and suffered all kinds of hardship. God would rouse them out of the places to which they were sold so they might be refined to return. They would then listen and be blessed and not be cursed. God would also repay their enemies showing God is righteous, jealous and a God who takes vengeance.

**B. Refine and revive, God be our refuge and the foreign nations will be punished**

Rebel (Dt 28:27-68) – Take lesson (Joel 3:9-21)

1.【Infectious disease-ridden】27-35 God will use the diseases He brought on Egypt to attack them so they will be afflicted with sores from the soles of their feet to the top of their head and cannot be cured. They will also be oppressed and become mad and powerless to lift a hand. This is because they violated God's command. (Exo 15:26)

※【Call after thoroughly suffered】9-11 God would judge the nations. First He would rouse them to come for war. Hardship and the diseases were to force God's children to cry out to God and He would grant favor to rescue. The prophet called the Mighty One of the Lord to come. Christ comes to judge the nations and rescue the people of the great tribulation.

2.【Disperse the captive】36-58 As the people did not listen to God's words, they and their king would be driven to a nation unknown to them to serve gods of wood and stone. Their produce would be devoured by the locusts because they did not serve God joyfully and gladly in the time of prosperity. Thus God made them be forced to serve their enemies. They would even be besieged by their enemies. Due to hunger, they ate their children. All these curses will follow until they are destroyed.

※【Return and revive】12-18 When the land is full of sins, God will judge the nations. But He will let His elect return. When the day of the Lord is near, He will roar from Zion and recompense the nations. The sun and moon will be darkened, and the earth and the sky will tremble. The chosen people will take lesson in distress and no longer be rebellious. All the curses will turn away. God will be a refuge for His people and their stronghold. He will dwell among them and Jerusalem will be holy; never again will foreigners invade them. Israel will revive. The mountains and hills will flow with milk and run with water. A fountain will flow out of God's house. The living water of the Holy Spirit will water the land. (Eze 47:1-5)

3.【Be wayward and suffer disastrously】59-68 The laws were made to let the people revere the glorious and awesome name of God. If they are wayward and do not fear God, He will send fearful plagues on them. They will be abandoned by God to return to the world. They will be sold as slaves but no one will buy them.

※【Return and God dwells in us】19-21Egypt and Edom were violent to God's people. Due to innocent blood was shed, God would not pardon. They would become desolate and a desert waste. Judah and Jerusalem will be inhabited forever. God will dwell in Zion among His people to cure their waywardness. He will love them willingly and forgive their iniquity so they will never be a slave to sin. God will dwell with them forever.

**Pro 31 / Rev 20:4 Main theme: Be watchful and do not be led astray, be faithful and diligent in work, come to life and reign**

 **-Noble things / Reign**

A woman with noble things refers to a mature life that can breed and educate children. She prefers to die and not to worship idols. She loves the Lord wholeheartedly and closely follows those of the Lord. She has a part in the first resurrection and reigns with the Lord.

(1)【Pay the price to deliver and educate】1-9 To pay the price of child birth, prayer and nurturing for the posterity. Exhort them not to please the sinful nature lest they may reap destruction. Do not set your mind on the flesh to eat and be drunk resulting in forgetting the laws of God. We ought to speak up to pray and preach the Word to save all the afflicted.

(2)【Work diligently day and night】10-31 Pursue diligently to be holy from inside and

outside. Be willing to work and provide food timely. Be filled with the truth and power by the Lord to build up the house of God. Be watchful day and night. Open your arms to the poor unceasingly. Bring the household to take root in the Lord. Get prepared so there is no need to worry about the future. Be holy, honored and control oneself. Do not turn to worthlessness. Be honest to serve the Lord and lead many to know Him. With such a noble woman, it is better than to have seven sons. (Ru 4:15) She is priceless in the eyes of God.

**Central point of the wheels: Listen to the command and be blessed, take lesson and revive, come to life and reign together with the Lord**

Dear Lord, may you let me be refined, unite with you, be filled with the Holy Spirit to work diligently and be your bride!

**Dt 29 / Am 1**

**Main theme: Be sure to keep the covenant and do not be self-deceiving, to sin repeatedly will be punished**

 **-Do not be self-deceiving / Do not sin repeatedly**

Golden verses: Dt 29:29 Am 1:2

A discussion on do not be self-deceiving and do not sin repeatedly – on one side it concerned God made a covenant with the chosen people again through Moses so as to warn them that if they were rebellious and sinned, they would be taken captive to the foreign nations. If they were contrite and returned, they would be accepted. But they ought not do evil and be self-deceiving, lest they would be up-rooted. On the other side it concerned Amos denounced the sins of the foreign nations so as to warn the chosen people. The five anti-God nations referred to our flesh and old self also committed for three sins and even for four. Thus we had to confess and will be given mercy and deliverance!

1. **Listen to the command and keep the covenant will be prosperous; to sin repeatedly will be punished**

Keep the covenant (Dt 29:1-9) – Sin repeatedly (Am 1:1-5)

1.【God made the covenant so do not be ungrateful】1-6Before the people gained the land, God ordered Moses to set a covenant with the people apart from the covenant of the Mount Horeb. Moses gathered the people to remind them not to forget God had led them out of Egypt and His deeds and abundant grace for forty years in the desert. They had personally saw them. But their heart was still calloused, their ears dull and their eyes closed. They did not know the Lord was their God. (Isa 6:9-10)

※【God warned and we ought to turn back】1-2 Jeroboam reigned two years before the earthquake. Amos the prophet received the oracle and warned the people disasters would come. God was angered and He roared from Zion. He prophesied the fertile pastureland would turn to desolate and mourning. The rich Carmel top would wither. This was because they broke the covenant and were ungrateful. They did not know their Lord God like a branch broke away from the tree. This is to remind the chosen people to return to make a covenant with God without forgetting Him.

2.【Keep the covenant and listen to the command will be prosperous】7-9 The people's journey in the desert was not only full of God's abundant grace, they also defeated the two kings east of Jordan under the leading of Moses. They took their land and experienced God fought for them. God ordered them to keep the covenant and obey, then they would go well in everything and be blessed.

※【sin repeatedly and be punished】3-5 For three sins of Damascus, even for four, he would be cut off because they used sledges with iron teeth to injure the chosen people. God would destroy the luxurious pleasures of the palace of Aram. On one side was to keep the covenant and obey and enjoy everlasting joy. On the other side was committing sins and doing wicked. Though they enjoyed for a while, disastrous punishment would come in an instant.

**B. Do not be self-deceiving, do not be hurting, remove the evil root lest we will be cursed**

Self-deceiving (Dt 29:10-29) – Hurting (Am 1:6-15)

1.【Obey God's covenant】10-13 Moses gathered the leaders and the people to stand before God so they might obey their covenant with God and His oath. In this way, God would set them as sons and be their God as He promised.

※【Do not violate the covenant】6-8 Gaza (the Philistines) sinned repeatedly and took captive of God's people and sold them to Edom. God would indeed turn His hand against them. The chosen people suffered and were taken captive because they also sinned repeatedly against God and abandoned His covenant. The remnants of Philistia would be destroyed but God would still show favor to His people.

2.【Be stubborn and self-deceiving invite curses】14-21 God swears to make the covenant, with its oath, with the chosen people for all generations so they will fear God and keep the oath forever and not to follow the detestable idols of the nations to swerve to serve them. God is afraid that there is evil root that produces bitter poison so they will persist in going their own way and bring disaster to others but still boast and be self-deceiving that they are safe. God will not forgive and result in curses.

※【Hurting and benefit oneself will be punished】9-10 Tyre sinned repeatedly. He sold the chosen people to Edom for a benefit. He was selfish and haughty. He oppressed others by his wealth. God would punish him. Those who are stubborn and self-deceiving will be cursed. Therefore we ought to seek the fire of the Holy Spirit to burn out completely our inner greedy poisonous and bitter root. (Isa 4:3-4)

3.【Abandon God's covenant then God is angered】22-26 God will send disasters and plague on those who turn away from God to serve other gods. The whole land will be a burning waste of salt and sulfur and nothing planted just like the result of the towns of Sodom and Gomorrah. All nations will be overwhelmed.

※【God does not allow injuring our brothers】11-12 The Edomites were just as wayward and abandoned God. They stifled all compassion, raged continually and his fury flamed unchecked. He pursued his brother with a sword. God would consume their fortresses so they would become forever desolate like Sodom was burned. Though Israel had sinned, God would not allow Edom to injure them such cruelly. All persecution to the chosen people will be punished.

4. 【Do evil and hurt oneself】27-29 If the people violate God's covenant, His anger will burn against the land so all the curses written in the book will be brought to them. In His wrath he will uproot them from the land and thrust them into another land. The secret things belong to God, but for the things He revealed, He clearly warned us to ensure to keep the covenant with trembling and obey all His order. Then we may avoid the disasters and be blessed.

※【Hurt others and hurt oneself】13-15 The Ammonites sinned repeatedly. They were brutal and cruel. Their ways were vicious. They persecuted the chosen people and robbed God's possession to extend their borders. God would destroy their fortresses so their king and officials would be exiled. All those who do evil will harm themselves. They persecuted God's people and instead hurt themselves.

**Ecc 1 / Rev 20:5 Main theme: It is worthless for the world. There is true blessing if we are diligent for resurrection.**

 **The world is empty / Resurrection**

(1)【Worldly matters are worthless】1-4 The wisest king of the generation had enjoyed all the worldly splendor and pleasure but could not escape his death. The result is meaningless.

(2)【We ought to accept the true light】5 The Lord is the righteous sun, the true light. If we accept the Lord, we have eternity and if we revere the Lord's name (the Word), we will be healed. (Mal 4:2) Then our body and spirit will be strong.

(3)【We ought to plead for the Holy Spirit】6 The Holy Spirit is like wind. It is granted to those who seek. (Jn 3:4-8)

(4)【Flow into the Lord's river of love】7 If we always obey the Lord's Word, we will enter the Lord's river of love. (Eze 47:3-12) Then we will be fruitful.

(5)【Die to the worldly matters】8-14 Being named as a teacher, if he does not always die to the world, to himself and to everything or if he does not live with the Lord by faith, (Eph 1:17-22) he can only preach to others, but he himself will be disqualified for the prize.

(6)【There is nothing new on earth】9-10, 15 What is twisted cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted. But those who believe and obey the Lord's words will always see God does new things and great things for them. With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible! The worst of sinner turns to a saint, something comes out of nothing and death turns to life.

(7)【Worldly wisdom is a chasing after the wind】16-18 The more worldly wisdom and knowledge, the more trouble and sadness. If we have the true wisdom to fear God, we will be the sure foundation for our time, a rich store of salvation and resurrect with reward.

**Central point of the wheels: Do not be self-deceiving, do not waste your time, overcome and come to life is blessed**

Dear Lord, I am willing to trust in your great power to destroy my inner enemies, to be watchful to keep the covenant, and wait for the resurrection to enjoy the everlasting joy!

**Dt 30 / Am 2**

**Main theme: Richly blessed for returning and obeying the Word; we cannot escape the punishment if we are wicked**

 **-Return to God / Abandon God (Obey the Word / Be wayward)**

Golden verses: Dt 30:6 Am 2:14-16

A discussion on returning to God and abandoning God – on one side it concerned if the chosen people would return to God and listen to His words with all their heart and all their soul, then when they were banished among the nations, God promised to gather them back and bless them again. On the other side it concerned Judah and Israel sinned and abandoned God repeatedly and they were also punished like the other nations. The purpose of punishment was to refine them so they might be forced to return to God in suffering. Moses called heaven and earth and set before us life and death, blessings and curses to teach us to choose life, to love God and obey would be blessed.

1. **Blessed is he who return to God with all his heart; do evil and abandon God will invite anger**

Love God (Dt 30:1-10) – Abandon God (Am 2:1-8)

1.【Take lesson and return will be favored】1-3 If the people are scattered among the nations and they take to heart on all the blessings and curses to obey with all their heart and with all their soul, God will have compassion on them as He promised and restore them from all the nations. This shows God has set the covenant with them with an everlasting love.

※【Be taught repeatedly but do not change will be destroyed】1-3 Moab is always against God. He burned the bones of Edom's king to lime which was extremely jealous and cruel. God would destroy her ruler and consume her fortresses. The people returned and were blessed. God had turned the curses to blessings. Moab was brutal and harmed others, so he would be cursed by God. This shows God will judge the world in righteousness. (Ps 9:8)

2.【Return and love God】4-6 God promised even if the people have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, He will gather them and bring them to the land that belonged to their fathers. Their numbers will grow. God will circumcise their hearts not to be induced by the idols but to love God with all their heart and all their soul.

※【Sin and abandon God】4-5 Judah had rejected the law of God and was led astray by false gods. They sinned repeatedly. God also consumed them so their impurity might be refined after captivity like the return of the Prodigal son to understand deeply the love of the Father God to return and love God wholeheartedly.

3.【Blessed is he who returns and obeys the command】7-10 When the people returned and obeyed God's words with all their heart and with all their soul, God promised to make the most prosperous in all the work of their hands and be delighted by God. He would put all the curses on their enemies.

※【Covetous and adulterous will be punished】6-8 Israel sinned repeatedly. They were oppressive and greedy. They abandoned God's commands. Father and son used the same girl and profaned God's holy name. They would be punished. When the returned people rejected all adultery and obeyed, they would be blessed. God is righteous in all His ways!

**B. Keep the Lord's words at heart, do not be induced, be ungrateful will be disastrous**

Warning (Dt 30:11-20) – Be punished (Am 2:9-16)

1.【Love God and obey the Word】11-16 Christ is the end of the law. He is the Word. Only if men will confess with their mouth and believe in their heart, the Word is near us. It is not too difficult to keep. (Ro 10:9-10) To love God and obey the Word, then the numbers will grow and God will bless to gain possession of the land.

※【Ungrateful and be wayward】9-12 Israel ought to recall without forgetting God's work; how He brought them out of Egypt and destroyed the Amorites. With unfailing love of care, He led them forty years in the desert and finally made them gain the land. God also raised up prophets and Nazirites. But they were ungrateful and wayward. They commanded the prophets not to prophesy. We ought to remove our ingratitude and rebellion from our heart, to love God, obey His Word and write His words in our heart.

2.【Worship other gods will be destroyed】17-20 If the people are being drawn away from God's Word to worship other gods, they will certainly be destroyed. Moses called heaven and earth at his deathbed and set before them life and death, blessings and curses. If they choose life, they may live.

※【It is hard to escape the sin for abandoning God】13-16 The people were greedy and corrupt. They abandoned God's words and hated the prophets. God would crush them with a heavy cart so they would be caught by sin without escape. Even the warrior and the fleet-footed soldier could not save themselves. They could not stand their ground. Only those who revere God and obey His Word will be as bold as a lion. They choose a way of life that God loves, a path of blessing! If we choose a path of death, we may not dwell in the good land like a wicked man flees though no one pursues. (Pro 28:1)

**Ecc 2 / Rev 20:6 Main theme: To labor for self is chasing after the wind; to labor for the Lord is blessed**

 **-For self / For the Lord**

(1)【It is in vain to be for self】1-23 King Solomon searched for himself joy on earth. He built houses and stored a lot of gold and silver. He had many wives and concubines. They ate and drank and enjoyed in the flesh. He also had great wisdom and accomplished a lot. But he did not have any peace day and night. He labored and wearied his heart. The result was trouble. He could not escape death and all he gained was given to others. How meaningless!

(2)【Deny yourself for the Lord and be blessed in resurrection】24-26 If we cast away the world and follow the Lord, our body seems to suffer. We eat the scroll and our mouth tastes as sweet as honey. We rescue the nations and our heart will be full of joy. We follow the Lord and drift without a definite place of stay, but we are filled with rest in the Lord. By the Lord, we may do greater things than Him. (Jn 14:12) Even if we die for Him,

our deeds will follow us and we shall receive great reward from the Lord. Blessed are those who have part in the first resurrection and serve the Lord in a holy manner. They will reign with the Lord and He will be delighted.

**Central point of the wheels: Return to the Lord's Word, fight evil and deny yourself, come to life and reign**

Dear Lord, may you let me love you in a pure way, overcome evil, save men'ssouls,wait for the resurrection and reign together with You!

**Dt 31 / Am 3**

**Main theme: Be in one heart with God and bold to give warning, and grab to save the lost sheep**

 **-Warning / Attack crime**

Golden verses: Dt 31:26 Am 3:7-8

A discussion on warning and attacking crime – on one side it concerned Moses exhorted Joshua and the elect to be courageous to enter the promise land of God and take inheritance at his deathbed. They also ought to value the Book of the Law and be deeply warned, lest they swerved to other gods and provoked God's anger. On the other side it concerned Amos the prophet took the order to attack the Israelites and warn them they would receive more severe retribution if they violated God. The two servants of God were in one heart with God and walked with Him. They were instructed with God's mystery and became the spokesmen of His will.

1. **The encouragement before gaining the land. The warning before the judgment**

Obey the Word (Dt 31:1-6) Take lesson (Am 3:1-8)

1.【Be courageous to gain the land for God goes with them】1-6 Moses was still faithful at his deathbed. He inculcated and encouraged the people that God would lead them forward to gain the land and destroy their enemies like destroying the two kings east of Jordan. Therefore we ought to be strong and courageous without fear. God promised to go with them and would not leave them nor forsake them.

※【Be ungrateful and sinned thus God attacked】1-2 Faced with the sinful people, Amos proclaimed God's words of judgment boldly and sternly. The Israelites were chosen among the nations and God brought them out of Egypt. But they were ungrateful and wicked. God would punish them for their sin. With God's presence, the people gained the land boldly. But now they were ungrateful and sinned. They would lose the good land and suffer His attack.

2.【Is called and entrusted】7-8 Moses summoned Joshua and encouraged him to be strong and courageous in the presence of all Israel for he would lead the people into the land that God swore and inherit them. God Himself would go before them and be with them. He would contend for them.

※【Is bestowed with the mystery】3-8 Alas, God's people did not agree with God. Then how could they walk together? God's servants and the prophets were in one heart with God and walked with God. They were given the mystery to lead them. Through them God declared His warning to the people. Joshua was humble all his life. He was the aide of Moses. Now he was called for this assignment to walk with God in one heart and be courageous to obey God's will.

3.【Learn the law】9-16 Moses gave the written law to the priests and the sons of Levi who carried the ark of the covenant and the elders. He commanded them to read to the people - men, women, old and young in the year for canceling debts, during the Feast of Tabernacles to teach them to learn to revere God and obey His Word. God summoned Moses and Joshua to stand in the Tent of Meeting and appeared in a pillar of cloud. God foretold that the people would break the covenant and abandon God after they had gained the land. They would also follow the foreign gods to commit adultery.

※【Offend the law】3-8 After the chosen people entered the good land, they indeed sinned and offended the law. They broke the covenant and abandoned God. How could they walk with God in one heart? They worshiped idols and committed adultery. When the judgment comes, God will send disasters. On one side was to learn the law to revere God, obey the Word and be blessed. On the other side was to offend the law and snare awaited them.
**B. Take warning and do not deviate, do not take lesion and God demolish**

Warn (Dt 31:17-30) – Demolish (Am 3:9-15)

1.【Take warning and do not swerve】17-23 The people forsook God and prostituted themselves. God became angry and hid His face from them. Disasters would come upon them. God wanted Moses to write a song to teach the people in order to warn them and witness their evil.

※【Disregard God's warning】9-12 The town of Samaria was full of great unrest and oppression! They hoarded plunder and looted in their fortresses. As a result, their place was also plundered. They were complacent and indulging. They disregarded God's warning. They listened but did not act. They turned to their own way and were finally taken captive. The shepherd could save from the lion's mouth only two leg bones and a piece of an ear. Their deliverance was like a burning stick snatched from the fire. (Zec 3:2; 1 Co 3:15) The two servants of God had the mind of God to snatch and save the dying sheep. They warned the people of God so they might listen and act, act and be firm, then they might avoid the disaster and be blessed.

2.【Do wicked and will be disastrous】24-30 Moses placed the Book of the Law beside the ark of the covenant to testify against the people. He warned them again not to rebel against the Lord. Moses called heaven and earth to warn them. If they turned from God's Word to do wicked, in days to come, disaster would fall upon them.

※【Sin and God demolishes】13-15 God testified against the house of Jacob again. He would punish the sins of the altars of Bethel and cut off the horns of the altar, that was the power which trapped them in the sin of the gold calf. They were complacent and sinful. They did not value God's Book of the Law. Thus God would tear down their houses of luxurious pleasure. Similarly, the curses written on the Book of the Law of Moses will come to those who continue to sin and who do not take warning so they will suffer disasters and be torn down.

**Ecc 3 / Rev 20:7 Main theme: In due time the enemies will come out; through trials and be willing to do good for the rest of your life**

 **-Do good / The enemies come out**

(1)【In due time the evil one will come out】1-11 But this will only be for a period. Therefore we ought to be always on the watch and pray to overcome by the Lord and stand firm in the truth.

(2)【Endure and wait for God promised there is a time】12-15 During the time of waiting, do good by God and delight in Him, go on to maturity, to grieve for yourself and for others, and plead for forgiveness and revival.

(3)【Believe firmly to the end】16-22 Though the wicked and those who lead people astray will become more and more evil, we deeply believe the Lord has saved us. Now He saves and in future He will save us. By that time we will see the Lord's gracious words be fulfilled.

(4)【Stand firm in trials】16-22 The wicked is released in order to test us so we may know that we are weak and corrupt like that of the animals. But due to God's compassion and rescue, we may be saved from the pit. Therefore we should never be proud or be self-righteous, but tremble in fear to accomplish what the Lord entrusts us.

**Central point of the wheels: Walk with God, take lesson and gain the land and be watchful to do good**

Dear Lord, may you let me be attentive and trembling, be watchful to do good, be courageous to obey your will and lead men to gain your everlasting life!

**Dt 32 / Am 4**

**Main theme: Keep the warning in the heart, exalt God as holy and be prepared to meet the Lord**

 **-Warning and lesson / Return to God**

Golden verses: Dt 32:10-12 Am 4:12-13

A discussion on warning and lesson, and returning to God – on one side it concerned Moses obeyed God's will to compose a song at his deathbed to warn the people, lest they might encounter disasters and were destroyed after entering the good land. On the other side it concerned Amos rebuked the chosen people for their severe crime that they would be heavily punished so they might return to God and be prepared to meet Him. This exhibited that God is not only righteous to punish evil, but He also loves them with everlasting love toward the people He chooses.

1. **Deprave in grace, pretending and self-deceiving ought to listen to the teaching**

Deprave (Dt 32:1-20) – Self-deceiving (Am 4:1-5)

1.【Ought to listen to the teaching】1-6 May heaven and earth hear the words of God. His words fall like rain. We ought to hear God's teaching and know the name of the Lord. He is the Rock. His works are perfect and all His ways are just. But the redeemed people have acted corruptly. They were foolish and unwise. How did they repay the Lord? Moses wrote this song to teach the people.

※【Ought to listen to the rebuke】1 The noble women of Israel lived on the rich hill enjoyed their complacency and pleasure like the cows of Bashan. They were rebuked by the prophet. They allowed their husbands to oppress the poor and indulged in drinking. They depraved in grace. They disregarded the hardship of the poor and forgot Moses' song of warning. They acted corruptly and were extremely foolish and unwise.

2.【Recall God's grace】7-14 The people ought to recall God's salvation of generations long past. Jacob was His allotted inheritance. In the barren and howling waste of the desert, God shielded him and cared for him. Like an eagle hovered over its young, He carried them on His pinions. God alone led them and gave them abundance to enjoy the full grace of God.

※【Let down God's grace】2-3 The chosen people did not recall God's grace. Instead they indulged in grace. God had sworn by His holiness that the time would surely come and they would be taken away with hooks through breaks in the wall. They would suffer their result due to oppression and of failing God's grace. Their result would be tragic!

3.【Deprave in grace】15-20 Jeshurun grew fat. In abundant grace he abandoned the God who made him and rejected the Rock His Savior. They depraved in grace and worshiped other gods. They sacrificed to demons and did detestable things. They were perverse and provoked God's anger. God would hide His face from them.

※【Pretending and self-deceiving】4-5 The prophet rebuked the Israelites for their falsehood and self-deception. They indulged in grace. Thus God let them go to Gilgal and sin and brag about their offerings at their discretion. They sinned yet more and were just as depraved like their predecessors. They were corrupt and lying, and provoked God's wrath.

**B. Ought to take lesson deeply and be prepared to meet God**

Take lesson (Dt 32:21-52) – Prepare (Am 4:6-13)

1.【Severe punishment】21-35 The people angered God with their worthless idols. Thus God would consume them with fire in His anger. God would heap calamities upon them so they would encounter hunger, pestilence, beasts and sword. He would also scatter them. Disasters would quickly come upon them.

※【Still will not return to God】6-11 Due to the adultery of the chosen people, God attacked them with hunger, blight, mildew, plagues and sword. But still they did not return to Him. God overthrew them like Sodom and Gomorrah so they were like a burning stick snatched from the fire. Yet they did not return to God. They did not have wisdom nor did they reflect on what might happen. This is the portray of the church of the final days. We ought to be humble to take lesson and turn from evil completely to come back to God. (Heb 9:27)

2.【Take warning in disasters】36-52 God's love towards the chosen never changes! When God saw their distress, He relented and turned to avenge on their enemies to deliver them so they might know there was no other god apart from Him. We ought to take the warnings of Moses to heart for this is life. If we are careful to obey, our days will be long. God told Moses to go up to Mount Nebo to view the good land of Canaan which God would give to the Israelites as their possession. But he would not enter it.

God is righteous and this is due to His great love.

※【Be prepared to meet God】12-13 Due to God's unfailing love, Israel was not completely destroyed. God called them to prepare to meet Him. He who forms the mountains, and creates the wind, whose name is the Almighty God instructs His words to them so they may take warning. We ought to take God's words as our life and obey in trembling to avoid disasters and be blessed. "For in just a very little while, He who is coming will come and will not delay!" (Heb 10:37) Though Moses had for once did not exalt God as holy and thus could not enter Canaan, he silently obeyed without any complaint to prepare to meet God. In our punishment, we ought to take warning to turn from evil, do good and prepare watchfully to meet God.

**Ecc 4 / Rev 20:8 Main theme: The enemies gather to contend; do not fall into the trap and unite with the Lord**

 **-Contend / Unite**

Satan came out and wanted men to contend and injure one another. God's children ought to have doors and bars in their heart and do not fall into the trap.

(1)【Need to learn from the Lord】1-3 Be willing to accept the oppression and come before God only for strength and continue to do good.

(2)【Do not be led astray by vanity】4-6 Do not drill yourself in the worldly achievement that brings jealousy. Be contented with the food and clothing we have but we must open wide our mouth towards the Lord.

(3)【Do not labor but seek for wealth】7-8 Do not be a miser but offer your wealth to the Lord for the gospel work and receive your reward from Him.

(4)【Do not be ungrateful but lead more people to righteousness】9-16 Be a delight and remembrance to God and men, like David and Paul who never forget what they were. If we indulge and be selfish in grace, we will invoke God and men's anger like Solomon.

(5)【Be united for the Lord】9-16 God's children ought to gather (Mic 5:1) to read the Bible and pray to understand the original and the spiritual meaning of the Scripture. We also need to know God's mind and plan so we may be in one heart in the truth and deal with the enemies. First, we have to pray for everyone (1 Ti 2:1-4). Through prayer and the might of the Lord to preach the gospel extensively to grab to save the souls and accomplish His work.

**Central point of the wheels: Take the warning, overcome together and be prepared to meet God**

Dear Lord, may you let me take the lesson deeply, overcome the enemies in one heart by the precious sword of the Holy Spirit, be watchful to prepare to meet your coming!

**Dt 33 / Am 5**

**Main theme: Great blessing for seeking the Word and hate evil; wail for serving the Lord in a phoney way**

 **-Obey the Word / Seek (remove evil / seek good)**

Golden verses: Dt 33:8-11 Am 5:14

A discussion on obeying the Word and seeking – on one side it concerned Moses the man of God blessed the various tribes at his deathbed. He emphasized that they ought to obey the fiery law given by God as their inheritance, and then they would be blessed. On the other side it concerned Amos' lament for the Israelites. This teaches us to seek righteousness, remove evil and pursue good before God's judgment comes so He may be full of compassion in His days of anger.

1. **Accept God's words, deny oneself to obey the Word and seek for righteousness**

Obey the Word (Dt 33:1-14) – Seek (Am 5:1-13)

1.【Accept God's words】1-5 God came down to Mount Sinai and proclaimed the fiery law to the people which was the standard of their behavior and their life. They would be blessed if they obeyed. Moses the man of God blessed the tribes of Israel at his deathbed and gave them as their possession. At the feet of God, they all bowed down and received the instruction. God loved them and was their king!

※【Abandon God's words】1-5 Amos the prophet wrote a lament for the people. Why would they fall, never to rise again and why did they lose all the blessings of God? It was because they despised God's words and would not leave their sin of the gold calf in Bethel and Gilgal. They would be defeated before their enemies. Bethel and Gilgal would be taken captive and turn to nothing. On one side was the blessings of the man of God while on the other side was the lament of the prophet.

2.【Sin but be contrite and favored】6-7 Due to indulgence in sexuality Reuben lost his rights as firstborn. (1 Ch 5:1) The people of his tribe were destroyed in the rebellion of Korah. May their men not be few due to God's compassion. Though Judah depraved and sinned, he was favored before God as he confessed and turned from sin. He was the strongest of his brothers and a ruler came from him. (1 Ch 5:2) God would hear his cry and be his help against his foes.

※【Seek righteousness and live】6-9 The chosen people casted righteousness and darkened day into night. But God still wanted them to seek Him just like Judah confessed and was blessed. Do not seek Bethel and Gilgal for idols, then God will turn blackness into dawn, otherwise they will be swept like fire with no one to quench it.

3.【Obey the Word and overcome and be blessed】8-14 By nature Levi was cruel and liked to kill. (Gen 34:25-29) Later on, their descendants denied themselves to obey. They were jealous and defeated crime. Thus they were chosen by God to set apart to be holy to serve before Him. They were godly and obeyed His will. God blessed them and He smote those who rose up against him. (Exo 32:26-29) Joseph suffered and was tested. But he feared God and overcame till the end by Him. He was originally not the firstborn. But as he had a different spirit, the rights of the firstborn and doubled the possession were given to him. He was given all the blessings in heaven.

※【Hate the prophet and be punished】10-13 The chosen people had heinous sins. They trampled on the poor and forced them to give grain. They took bribes and deprived the poor. More important was they hated the prophets and despised those who told the truth. On one side was to deny themselves to obey the Word and God blessed them. On the other side was being selfish and wayward. So God sent disasters. God will also punish all who attack God's servants so they may not rise again.

**B. Overcome by grace, be righteous to remove evil lest we will be taken captive**

Overcome (Dt 33:15-29) – Be righteous (Am 5:14-27)

1.【Overcome and be favored】15-17 Joseph had a different spirit and he was separated from his brothers. He had the favor of the Lord. His horns were like the horns of a wild ox, a victorious horn which could gore the nations even those at the ends of the earth. He is our example of victory after suffering.

※【Seek good and live】14-15 The prophet cried to the people to seek good, not evil and they might live. Then God promised to be with them. In the trials Joseph hated evil and loved good. Later on he became the ruler of all Egypt and maintained justice. He provided food to all the world. If the people would do the same, God promised to show mercy on the remnant of Joseph.

2.【Act justly and gain inheritance】18-25 Zebulun and Issachar were promised the abundant treasures of the seas. They would rejoice, whether in going out or in their tents. God made Gad enlarged his domain. He carried out God's righteous will and judgments. Naphtali was abounding with the favor of God. He inherited southward to the lake. Asher also enjoyed God's abundance. He gained strength in his days by God.

※【God hates acting falsely】16-24 Israel did not act righteously so there was wailing in all the streets. Woe to them for the day of the Lord was near. They fled from a lion only to meet a bear. They rested their hand on the wall only to have a snake bite them. They acted falsely. God hated their religious feasts and offerings. He did not listen to the music of their harps. They had forsaken righteousness and justice. How could they be blessed? Therefore the prophet cried, 'but let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!' Then they would be blessed with abundance in their days.

3.【Trample the enemies】26-29 Israel was the beloved Jeshurun of God. He would live in safety alone in a land of grain and new wine. The eternal God rode on the heavens showing His everlasting arms to help them and to destroy their enemies. Who was like him, a people saved by God and helped by Him to trample the enemies?

※【Be taken captive to the foreign land】25-27 Israel had not departed from the idols forty years since they were in the desert. They abandoned the eternal God. He would no more be their refuge but scattered them to the nations. They were once saved and trampled the enemies. Now God withdrew His arm so their descendants would be trampled by their enemies and be destroyed. Everything was ruined!

**Ecc 5 / Rev 20:9 Main theme: Listen with respect and willing to act, do not be covetous, and heaven and earth will work for the good of it**

 **-Listen with respect / God helps**

Do not be afraid to be surrounded by the throng of enemies and contend with the Lord. The favored saints receive help from heaven for heaven and earth work for the good of it. To be loved by the Lord we ought to:

(1)【Listen closely and truly act】1-7 First of all, be quiet to hear the Lord's words like Mary. Then you may do what the Lord thinks as beautiful. Prayer is after God's heart

and words may benefit others without offering a fool's sacrifice. Really do what you have heard from the Lord will gain the promised blessings. Those who do not value the Lord's Word and do not revere Him will fall in the desert.

(2)【Do not be surprised by the evil things】8-9 Only if we will obey the Word and pray, the Most High God will watch over and defend your cause.

(3)【Do not covet on the worldly wealth】10-17 Worldly riches can only bring grievous evil to man and anger without peace. We ought to listen to the Lord's words and store our wealth in heaven. Be zealous to do good and we will gain joy and peace.

(4)【Imitate those who love the Lord】18-20 No matter where they are, in riches or in poverty, they have no worries. Whether death or life, make it our goal to please God (2 Co 5:6-10) like Daniel, Paul, etc. They suffered a lot but they often saw God's glory and all things worked for the good of them.

**Central point of the wheels: Fear God and obey the Word, seek righteousness and be blessed and rejoice**

Dear Lord, may you let me fear God and obey the Word all my life, seek righteousness, hate evil and love good, overcome the tests, and be blessed and rejoice!

**Dt 34 / Am 6**

**Main theme: Deny yourself and be faithful to your consignment, then God exhibits His great power; be complacent will be disastrous**

 **-Be loyal / Be complacent (humble / indulge)**

Golden verses: Dt 34:6 Am 6:12

A discussion on being loyal and complacent – on one side it concerned Moses was loyal to God all his life. He had completed his assignment and saw God peacefully. He is worth to be called God's faithful servant, a close friend and a son of God of the generation. He is our example of learning. Joshua was filled with the spirit of wisdom and continued leading the people. On the other side it concerned the house of Israel was complacent and indulging. They were violent and did evil, and were thus punished. This is also our warning.

1. **Do not be complacent, do not indulge, be faithful to the Lord's assignment and ascend the peak**

Ascend the peak (Dt 34:1-6) – Deprave (Am 6:1-7)

1.【Ascend the spiritual peak】1-5 Moses obeyed to climb Mount Nebo to the top of Pisgah. God showed Moses the whole of Canaan which God promised in oath. Moses valued God's will. He silently obeyed and humbly accepted His punishment. He could not enter the good land. But his life had reached the spiritual top and he entered the land of flowing milk and honey. He had inherited the everlasting possession.

※【Deprave in the spirit】1-3 Though Israel was the foremost nation and looked strong and noble, they worked violence in the land given by God and thought the evil day was far. Therefore the prophet wailed that woe to those who were complacent in Zion and Samaria. Though Moses could not enter Canaan, he had entered the heavenly glorious land. On one side was to climb the spiritual peak. While on the other side was the spirit depraved and went downhill.

2.【Be loyal for life】5-6 Moses was absolutely faithful in all God's house. He was faithful till the end and accomplished what God had entrusted him. He rested from his labor and met God peacefully. His deeds followed him. God loved His servant. He personally buried him and hid him. No one knows where his grave was.

※【Perfunctory】1-7 Woe, the evil day of God is near. But the chosen people were complacent and indulged in feasting and invented music. In the day of slaughter, they had fattened themselves and did not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. Therefore the prophet prophesied they would be the first to go into exile and their feasting and lounging would end. Moses chose to be mistreated along with God's people rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He suffered to preach all his life. He spared no effort in the performance of his duty and was faithful till death. (Heb 11:24-27)

**B. Do not love impracticality, and undertake the mission**

Entrust (Dt 34:7-12) – Disastrous (Am 6:8-14)

1.【Undertake the mission】7-9 Moses was blessed by God. When he died, his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. The Israelites grieved for him and remembered their great leader. (Heb 3:2-5; Rev 14:13) Joshua silently followed Moses all his life and was his aide, several decades was like a day. Now he was chosen to undertake the great task to be the successor of Moses. Moses laid his hands on him and he was filled with the spirit of wisdom. He took up the great task and the people listened to him.

※【Be handed to the enemies】8-11 The house of Jacob coveted on the worldly riches and pleasure. God would deliver up their fortresses to their enemies. They were complacent and depraved. This was detestable to God. Joshua had long been through trials. He became the new leader and was delighted by God. On one side was full of the Holy Spirit and God established. On the other side was great evil reached the top and God destroyed.

2.【Be a friend of God】10-12 Since then, no prophet has risen like Moses whom God knew face to face. God took him as His friend with great intimacy. In the Most Holy Place God spoke with him face to face and he spoke to God. He deeply knew the will of God and was discerned in the spirit. He did all kinds of miracles in Egypt and all the land and performed the awesome deeds in the sight of all Israel. (Num 7:89; 12:6-8)

※【Be an enemy of God】12-14 The chosen people abandoned righteousness and justice. They loved fantasies. They were boastful and haughty. They thought they had the strength and did not know they were like horses running on the crags. If they did not rein in at the brink of the precipice and turn back to God to be close to Him, God would stir up a nation against them. Moses was the friend of God. How blessed it was to see God face to face! The people were against God. Thus God hid His face from them. Their result was tragic!

**Ecc 6 / Rev 20:10 Main theme: Pursue vanity will suffer everlasting punishment; trust and follow the Lord gain everlasting blessing**

 **-Everlasting punishment/Everlasting blessing**

Worldly people incline to superficiality and to be led astray is a great evil:

(1)【Only for self in honor】1-2 Men are selfish and do not awake in their nobility bestowed by God and repay Him. As a result, they cannot enjoy what they have gained and a stranger enjoys them.

(2)【It is valueless if we have many descendents and have long life but live in sin】3-6
What is the benefit to him who has a hundred children and lives a thousand years but in worthlessness. He lives in darkness and has no peace in his heart.

(3)【It is worthless if we have the wisdom of the world and put effort for the mouth】7-9 If a man has the worldly wisdom and spends efforts for his mouth, yet he is not satisfied. What advantage has a wise man over a fool? Because they will both go to the grave after death. If we have the wisdom to revere God and obey His word all our live, we will have the sure salvation promised by God. (Heb 2:2-4)

(4)【Do not turn to superficiality but obey the will and do good】10-12 Men are created by God and are saved by the Lord's precious blood. We should not turn to meaningless things but obey to keep the will to glorify God and benefit men. The Scripture clearly tells us - do good, rise in resurrection and be rewarded but punishment comes to those who are led astray to do evil.

**Central point of the wheel: Do not be led astray, do not spend time in vain, die to the flesh and be faithful to the Lord's assignment**

Dear Lord, may you give me a spirit to suffer, be faithful to what you entrust, not be complacent and waste my time, overcome the temptation and obey your will to act.