

TAKE POSSESSION OF THE LAND!
A study in Deuteronomy
AMEN Bible Study 2010-2011

MEN, REMEMBER YOUR CALLING: FEAR THE LORD
Deuteronomy 5:22-6:3

November 4, 2010

5:22 I. God has given His covenant in great glory.

A. He spoke His Word.

“These words the Lord spoke...with a loud voice...and he wrote on two tablets of stone....”
cf. Hebrews 1:1-4; Matthew 7:28, 29; John 7:46

B. He displayed His glory.

“...out of the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness....”
cf. Hebrews 12:18-29; John 5:36; 10:25, 38; 14:11; 15:24; 12:20-43

:23-31 II. God has given His faithful covenant mediator.

:23-26 A. God’s nearness inspires reverent fear.

“...God has shown...we have heard...” *“...this great fire will consume us...”*
“If we hear the voice of the Lord our God any more, we shall die. For who is there of all flesh that has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of fire as we have, and has still lived?”
cf. Exodus 3:6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 2:9; Matthew 17:6; Mark 16:8; Revelation 1:17

:27 B. Our reverent fear seeks a mediator.

“Go near and hear...and speak to us...and we will hear and do it.”
cf. Job 9:33; Deuteronomy 18:18

:28-31 C. God is pleased.

“I have heard...they are right....”

:29 1. He commends our motive.

“Oh that they had such a mind as this always, to fear me....”

The Fear of God - There are over 150 references to the fear of God in the Bible. The fear of God is the appropriate human reaction to the revelation of God, for He is great and glorious and awesome in His being and in His works. Our fear of God consists of our amazement, our adoration, and our submission to God. It does not consist of slavish, untrusting, or begrudging fear. The fear of God enables us to enjoy God and life itself, because:

1. It is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom. cf. Proverbs 1:7; 9:10
2. It is the fountain of life. cf. Proverbs 14:27
 - a. our walk cf. Exo 20:20; I Peter 2:17; Acts 9:31; Isa 11:1-3; II Cor 7:1; Romans 3:18
John Calvin: *All wickedness flows from a disregard for God...since the fear of God is the bridle by which our wickedness is held in check, its removal frees us to indulge in every kind of licentious conduct.*
 - b. our work cf. Ephesians 6:5; Colossians 3:22; Proverbs 15:16-17
 - c. our witness cf. Ezekiel 1:28; Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 10:26-33; Luke 5:1-11; II Cor 5:11
 - d. our worship cf. Malachi 1:6-14; Psalm 96:4; Hebrews 12:28, 29
 - e. our wives cf. Proverbs 31:30; Ephesians 5:21

- :30, 31** 2. He grants our request.
 “Return to your tents.” “But you, stand here by me...”
 cf. I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 9:15; 12:24; I John 2:1; WCF, VIII

5:32-6:3 III. Our mediator calls us to loyal covenant life.

- :32-33, 6:2** A. Loyal obedience to His commandments
 “You shall be careful therefore to do as the Lord your God has commanded you.”

- :32** 1. With no exceptions
 “You shall not turn aside to the right or to the left.”

- :32** 2. In every way
 “You shall walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you.”

- 6:2a** 3. With reverent fear
 “...that you may fear the Lord your God...”

- 6:2b** 4. Through the generations
 “...you and your son and your son’s son...”

- 6:2c** 5. All the time
 “...all the days of your life...”

- :33, 6:2-3** B. Loyal faith in His promises

- :33** 1. Life
 “...that you may live...”
 cf. John 20:30, 31

- :33, 6:3** 2. Good life
 “...and that it may go well with you...”
 “...and that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey.”
 cf. John 10:10

- :33, 6:2** 3. Long life
 “...and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.”
 “...and that your days may be long.”
 cf. John 5:24; 6:47; Psalm 31:19