

FESTAL SUNDAY – 2nd SEPTEMBER 2018

I. GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER TOGETHER IN SACRED ASSEMBLY WITH JOY

A. David Leads a Festival of Thanksgiving (1 Chronicles 16)

¹ And they brought in the ark of God and set it inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and they offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before God. ² And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD

⁷ Then on that day David first appointed that thanksgiving be sung to the LORD by Asaph and his brothers:

⁸ Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! ⁹ Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! ¹⁰ Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! ¹¹ Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! ¹² Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered

³⁴ Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

B. We Do That Today – Praise and Thanksgiving!

Psalm 148

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! ² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts! ...

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! ¹² Young men and maidens together, old men and children! ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven. ¹⁴

II. GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER TOGETHER TO LOOK TO THE NEXT ERA – Deuteronomy Chapters 1-6

A. Context of Deuteronomy Chapters 1-6

- Israel had finished one important era – beginning a second
- It was time to reflect and review
- It was time to visualize the future and commit to it

B. Moses' Reflection and Review (Deuteronomy 1)

1. They made things harder for ourselves than they needed to! –

² It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea ³ In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses spoke to the people of Israel

2. Sometimes they were unnecessarily afraid:

²⁵ "And the spies took in their hands some of the fruit of the land and brought it down to us, and brought us word again and said, 'It is a good land that the LORD our God is giving us.' ²⁶ "Yet you would not go up, [you said] 'Our brothers have made our hearts melt, saying, "The people are greater and taller than we. The cities are great and fortified up to heaven. And besides, we have seen the sons of the Anakim there.'" ²⁹ [But] I said to you, 'Do not be in dread or afraid of them.'"

3. Sometimes they got ahead of God's leadership:

⁴² "And the LORD said to me, 'Say to them, Do not go up or fight, for I am not in your midst, lest you be defeated before your enemies.' ⁴³ So I spoke to you, and you would not listen; but you rebelled against the command of the LORD and presumptuously went up into the hill country."

4. Nevertheless, God led them to the right place:

^{2.2} "Then the LORD said to me, ³ 'You have been traveling around this mountain country long enough. Turn northward ⁴ and command the people, "You are about to pass through the territory of your brothers, the people of Esau, who live in Seir; and they will be afraid of you. So be very careful.... He knows your going through this great wilderness. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you. You have lacked nothing.'" "

C. The Lord Says It's Time for His people to Move Forward (Deuteronomy Chapter 2)

1. A new road to walk in repentance

²⁴ 'Rise up, set out on your journey and go over the Valley of the Arnon. Behold, I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land. Begin to take possession, and contend with him in battle. ²⁵ This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you on the peoples who are under the whole heaven, who shall hear the report of you and shall tremble and be in anguish because of you.'

2. Remembering God's Promises are very precise: He never forgets and always fulfills what he says he will do

⁸ "So we went on, away from our brothers, the people of Esau, who live in Seir, away from the Arabah road from Elath and Ezion-geber. " And we turned and went in the direction of the wilderness of Moab. ⁹ And the LORD said to me, 'Do not harass Moab or contend with them in battle, for I will not give you any of their land for a possession, because I have given Ar to the people of Lot for a possession.'"

D. Moses Visualizes the future with them – the Road Forward (Deuteronomy 4)

1. Listen and live

¹ "And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you."

2. Do not rewrite Scripture

² "You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you."

3. Take careful heed of your spiritual condition

⁹ "Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children – "

4. Serve God and not-man made idols

¹⁵ "Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, ¹⁶ beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female..."

5. What more can God do?

³⁷ "And because he loved your fathers and chose their offspring after them and brought you out of Egypt with his own presence, by his great power, ³⁸ driving out before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is this day, ³⁹ know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. ⁴⁰ Therefore you shall keep his statutes and his commandments, which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for all time."

E. The Covenant Words (Deuteronomy 5)

1. The Ten Commandments

2. Moses as their Mediator

⁸ "And the LORD heard your words, when you spoke to me. And the LORD said to me, 'I have heard the words of this people, which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken. ²⁹ Oh that they had such a heart as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever! ³⁰ Go and say to them, "Return to your tents." ³¹ But you, [Moses], stand here by me, and I will tell you the whole commandment and the statutes and the rules that you shall teach them, that they may do them in the land that I am giving them to possess.'"

[But the True Bread was not from Moses. For they ate of his bread and died. The True Bread is from the mediator Jesus Christ:

⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. (1 Timothy 2)]

F. Moses Calls the People to Re-commit Themselves to God and God's Covenant (Deuteronomy 6)

1. The Sum of the whole:

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

2. Bring the next generation with you:

⁶ "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates....

¹² "then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ...

²⁰ "When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the LORD our God has commanded you?' ²¹ then you shall say to your son, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.... ²⁴ And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. ²⁵ And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us.'"

III. WHERE FROM HERE, HOLY CROSS?

A. Grounded in the Word:

1. Attentive in Worship
2. Diligent in Learning
3. Daily in Devotions

B. Consistent in Our Commitment:

1. Our church, our life
2. Willing to be lead/willing to lead
3. Trusting in our tithe

C. Whole-heartedly living out the faith:

1. Loving God and his Mission
2. Loving people more than our institutions and traditions
3. Loving our family and friends in self sacrificial living