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|  | **LightHouse Ranch****Bible Study**  |

***False Teachers***

**Deuteronomy Chapters 12-13**

 **I. Remember Balaam**

 **II. Destroy the High Places**

 **III. Do Not hearken to False Teachers**

 **IV. The Kingdom is the Subject of Jesus’ Ministry**

 **V. Israel’s Leaders Reject the Kingdom**

 **VI. True and False Teachers of Today**

**Concerning the people when Paul arrived at Berea:**

**Acts 17:11** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

**False Teachers**

**I. Remember Balaam**

Remember Balaam? Balaam was a prophet/soothsayer through whom God spoke prophetical messages and for profit, Balaam wanted to please the King of Moab, Balak, and for profit desired to curse the Israelites who God had blessed. Balak, King of Moab, had seen, “*all that Israel had done to the Amorites”*, and was now afraid the same thing would happen to his country. (Numbers 22-24) Balaam paid a big price, after being used of God to deliver the prophetic messages, Balaam became, if he was not already, a false teacher; as he, loving the wages of unrighteousness, counseled Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel seducing the old generation away from the LORD (Numbers 32:8; Joshua 13:22). But the LORD turned it into a blessing for the new generation of Israelites who did not participate in the error of Balaam. (Micah 6:5)

We will study today about false teachers during the time of Moses, in Jesus’ personal ministry on earth, and in this age in which we live currently. Is the knowledge of false teachers an important study for today? The LORD thinks so as He places it consistently in both the Old and New Testaments for our study. Let me list just four reasons I think the knowledge of false teachers it is of most importantance to a follower of Christ:

1.) The children of Israel with Moses and Joshua are examples and the things that happen to them are ensamples for those of us today in the last days (I Corinthians 10)

2.) Peter (II Peter 2:15), Jude (Jude 11), and the book of Revelation (Revelation 2:15) speak of the way, the error, and the doctrine of Balaam respectively all able to “cast a stumblingblock before God’s people”.

3.) Jesus teaches us in the book of Matthew it was the false teachers of Israel during his ministry on earth that caused many to reject their own Messiah and His Kingdom bringing judgment on the nation.

4.) II Peter 2 among other New Testament epistles teach of the danger to the Christian from false teachers.

**Let’s see what the chapters 12 and 13 of Deuteronomy have to say about false teachers first:**

**II. Destroy all the High Places**

**Statutes and Judgments to observe in the land**

**Deuteronomy 12:1** These *are* the statutes and judgments, which ye shall observe to do in the land, which the LORD God of thy fathers giveth thee to possess it, all the days that ye live upon the earth.
**Deuteronomy 12:2** Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree:
**Deuteronomy 12:3** And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place.
**Deuteronomy 12:4** Ye shall not do so unto the LORD your God.

**The place which the LORD your God shall choose**
**Deuteronomy 12:5** But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, *even* unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come:
**Deuteronomy 12:6** And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks:
**Deuteronomy 12:7** And there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee.

**A different economy than East of Jordan – (Type of “His Rest” (Kingdom** Hebrews 4:1-11**)
Deuteronomy 12:8** Ye shall not do after all *the things* that we do here this day, every man whatsoever *is* right in his own eyes.
**Deuteronomy 12:9** For ye are not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance, which the LORD your God giveth you.

**But when you go over Jordan**
**Deuteronomy 12:10** But *when* ye go over Jordan, and dwell in the land which the LORD your God giveth you to inherit, and *when* he giveth you rest from all your enemies round about, so that ye dwell in safety;

**The Place which the LORD shall choose to cause His name to dwell there**
**Deuteronomy 12:11** Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:
**Deuteronomy 12:12** And ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God, ye, and your sons, and your daughters, and your menservants, and your maidservants, and the Levite that *is* within your gates; forasmuch as he hath no part nor inheritance with you.
**Deuteronomy 12:13** Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest:
**Deuteronomy 12:14** But in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.

**Not to eat the unclean - but can eat the clean – as of “wild” that before could not have been sacrificed****Deuteronomy 12:15** Notwithstanding thou mayest kill and eat flesh in all thy gates, whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee: the unclean and the clean may eat thereof, as of the roebuck, and as of the hart.

**But do not eat the blood – Life of the flesh is in the blood**
**Deuteronomy 12:16** Only ye shall not eat the blood; ye shall pour it upon the earth as water.

**Do not eat the tithe within thy gates**

**Deuteronomy 12:17** Thou mayest not eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil, or the firstlings of thy herds or of thy flock, nor any of thy vows which thou vowest, nor thy freewill offerings, or heave offering of thine hand:

**Eat the tithes, offerings, vows, and firstlings in the place which the LORD chooses****Deuteronomy 12:18** But thou must eat them before the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that *is* within thy gates: and thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God in all that thou puttest thine hands unto.

**Take heed and do not forsake the Levite**
**Deuteronomy 12:19** Take heed to thyself that thou forsake not the Levite as long as thou livest upon the earth.

**What if the place which the LORD chooses for sacrifice is a long way away?**
**Deuteronomy 12:20** When the LORD thy God shall enlarge thy border, as he hath promised thee, and thou shalt say, I will eat flesh, because thy soul longeth to eat flesh; thou mayest eat flesh, whatsoever thy soul lusteth after.
**Deuteronomy 12:21** If the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to put his name there be too far from thee, then thou shalt kill of thy herd and of thy flock, which the LORD hath given thee, as I have commanded thee, and thou shalt eat in thy gates whatsoever thy soul lusteth after.
**Deuteronomy 12:22** Even as the roebuck and the hart is eaten, so thou shalt eat them: the unclean and the clean shall eat *of* them alike.

**Deuteronomy 12:23** Only be sure that thou eat not the blood: for the blood *is* the life; and thou mayest not eat the life with the flesh.
**Deuteronomy 12:24** Thou shalt not eat it; thou shalt pour it upon the earth as water.
**Deuteronomy 12:25** Thou shalt not eat it; that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, when thou shalt do *that which is* right in the sight of the LORD.
**Deuteronomy 12:26** Only thy holy things which thou hast, and thy vows, thou shalt take, and go unto the place which the LORD shall choose:
**Deuteronomy 12:27** And thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, the flesh and the blood, upon the altar of the LORD thy God: and the blood of thy sacrifices shall be poured out upon the altar of the LORD thy God, and thou shalt eat the flesh.

**Observe and do all these commandments that it may go well with** **thee** -
**Deuteronomy 12:28** Observe and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest *that which is* good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God.

**Do not be snared by following the nations which thou succeedest**
**Deuteronomy 12:29** When the LORD thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land;

**Do not inquire after their gods**
**Deuteronomy 12:30** Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou inquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise.

**Deuteronomy 12:31** Thou shalt not do so unto the LORD thy God: for every abomination to the LORD, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.

**Do not add to or diminish from My Word**
**Deuteronomy 12:32** What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

**III. Do Not hearken to false teachers**

**Deuteronomy 13:1** If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,
**Deuteronomy 13:2** And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;
**Deuteronomy 13:3** Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

**Walk after the LORD, fear Him, obey His voice, serve Him, Keep His commandments, cleave unto Him****Deuteronomy 13:4** Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

**Put to death the prophet that speaks to take you away from God** – **Know God’s Commandments**
**Deuteronomy 13:5** And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn *you* away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

**Even if this false teacher is a member of your family**
**Deuteronomy 13:6** If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which *is* as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers;

**Capital punishment for that false teacher**
**Deuteronomy 13:7** *Namely*, of the gods of the people which *are* round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the *one* end of the earth even unto the *other* end of the earth;
**Deuteronomy 13:8** Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him:
**Deuteronomy 13:9** But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people.
**Deuteronomy 13:10** And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.
**Deuteronomy 13:11** And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you.
**Deuteronomy 13:12** If thou shalt hear *say* in one of thy cities, which the LORD thy God hath given thee to dwell there, saying,
**Deuteronomy 13:13** *Certain* men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known;

**One must know God’s Word to discern between false and true teachers****Deuteronomy 13:14** Then shalt thou inquire, and make search, and ask diligently; and, behold, *if it be* truth, *and* the thing certain, *that* such abomination is wrought among you;
**Deuteronomy 13:15** Thou shalt surely smite the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, destroying it utterly, and all that *is* therein, and the cattle thereof, with the edge of the sword.
**Deuteronomy 13:16** And thou shalt gather all the spoil of it into the midst of the street thereof, and shalt burn with fire the city, and all the spoil thereof every whit, for the LORD thy God: and it shall be an heap for ever; it shall not be built again.
**Deuteronomy 13:17** And there shall cleave nought of the cursed thing to thine hand: that the LORD may turn from the fierceness of his anger, and shew thee mercy, and have compassion upon thee, and multiply thee, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers;

**Keeping all of God’s Commandments is right in the eyes of the LORD**
**Deuteronomy 13:18** When thou shalt hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep all his commandments which I command thee this day, to do *that which is* right in the eyes of the LORD thy God.

**IV. The Kingdom is the Subject of Jesus’ Ministry**

We may remember that John the Baptist was sent by God to prepare the way for the Messiah to begin His ministry here on earth (Matthew 3:1-3 He began by stating

**Matthew 3:2** And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
**Matthew 3:3** For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Jesus also began right away with His Kingdom ministry:

**Matthew 4:17** From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

In chapter 10, Jesus sent His disciples out to spread this message of the Kingdom.

**Matthew 10:5** These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not:
**Matthew 10:6** But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
**Matthew 10:7** And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

In chapter 13, a major division in the book, Jesus described the kingdom with important parables such as: A Sower went forth; The Wheat and the Tares; Leaven, The Pearl of Great Price, etc.

**V. The Political and Religious leaders Reject the Kingdom – They had become False Teachers**

Jesus, instructing His disciples, taught them to beware of false teachers, the very descendants of people in whom the LORD had entrusted the local Law and religious authority while they were in the wilderness with Moses. These leaders had much authority over the people, and were authorized to stone people to death at the gate for infractions of the Law. Many of the leaders of the Jews in the New Testament had become false teachers who were transgressing the commandment of God by their tradition (The making of commentaries different from scriptural teaching and reiterating their own writings as the Law, as well as, making the commandment of God of none effect by their tradition. Matthew 15:1-20).

Jesus, then makes a point that it is not who one is, one’s position or ability that makes one acceptable to God; but it is faith (Knowing that God will do what He said Romans 4:16-22) as He demonstrated by healing the Canaanite woman’s daughter because of the mother’s great faith. (She knew Jesus could heal her daughter even if they were Canaanites)

Jesus, after feeding the 5,000, spoke to the generation of both the Pharisees and the Sadducees now tempting Him by asking for a sign (He had been performing miracles and healing the sick as had been prophesied) called them “*an adulterous and wicked generation*”, letting them know that no sign shall be given except the sign of the prophet Jonas. (prophesying His death and resurrection) (Matthew 16:4)

The Pharisees and Sadducees were now offended by Jesus’ teaching (Matthew 15:12-20). The Pharisees, Sadducees, Lawyers, Scribes, and Herodians now had rejected the Gospel of the Kingdom, and Jesus teaches that these false teachers were “*The blind leading the blind, and both will land into the ditch*” signifying these false teachers will take unsuspecting followers with them to destruction. Fast forward to chapter 23, Jesus will say of these false teachers:

**Matthew 23:13** But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.
**Matthew 23:14** Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.
**Matthew 23:15** Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

It now should be obvious to everyone that these false teachers needed to be replaced; and In chapter 16, Jesus teaches that He will build His church in which the gates of hell shall not prevail. In a short time Jesus will be crucified.

In Matthew 18-21, Jesus deals with the false teachers and then rides into Jerusalem, (as had been prophesied by Zechariah 9:9); cleansed the temple of the moneychangers, and then cursed the fig tree, (all of these events signified that Israel was ripe for judgment).

Jesus warns the false teachers concerning the results of their hypocrisy and false doctrines, with the news that He has already taught His disciples in chapter 16.

**Matthew 21:42** Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

**Matthew 21:43** Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.
**Matthew 21:44** And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

Jesus prophesies to the crowd and His disciples, speaking of these false teachers, “Behold, your house is left unto you desolate”, Jesus prophesied: Matthew 23

Jesus, in chapter 24, speaking of Solomon’s temple, “…There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” This destruction caused by people following false teachers.

**VI. True and False Teachers of Today**

Peter, in his 2nd epistle chapter 1, tells us how to have an entrance into the Kingdom II Peter 2:1-11

But, in chapter 2, Peter warns us today of false teachers in this church age – “*privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the LORD that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*”

II Peter 2

The false teaching of today are not of Moses’ seat or of the Pharisees, Sadducees, or Scribes as before, but their damnable teachings sneak into our assemblies and the denial of the real Jesus is not immediately known to the unsuspecting as Paul declares in II Corinthians 11, but deceive people unaware that their teaching is actually not about the real Jesus, but another Jesus that may sound like the real thing, but it corrupts the mind of those who do not, like the Bereans, match with the Scripture. (Acts 17:10-12)

**II Corinthians 11:3** But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
**II Corinthians 11:4** For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*.