

Second Mosaic Speech: General Covenant Stipulations – Part 3 (February 1406 BC)

Deuteronomy 9–11

Warning—Don't Allow Victory to Puff You Up. You are a Stubborn People!

9:1 "Hear, Israel, you *are* about to cross the Jordan today to go to dispossess nations larger and more numerous than you, great cities fortified with high walls,

2 a great and tall people, the sons of *the* Anakites, whom you know and *of whom you* have heard *it said*, 'Who could stand before the sons of Anak?'

3 You should know today that Yahweh your God is the one crossing ahead of you *as* a devouring fire; he will destroy them, and he will subdue them before you; so you will dispossess them, and you will destroy them quickly, just as Yahweh promised you.

4 "You shall not say to yourself when Yahweh your God is driving them out before you, saying, 'Because of my righteousness Yahweh brought me to take possession of this land'; but because of the wickedness of these nations Yahweh *is* driving them out before you.

5 *It is* not because of your righteousness and because of the uprightness of your heart *that you are* coming to take possession of their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations Yahweh your God *is* driving them before you, and in order to confirm the promise that Yahweh swore to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

6 "So you should understand that *it is* not because of your righteousness *that* Yahweh your God *is* giving you this good land to take possession of it, because you are a stubborn people.

Remember the Rebellion at Mount Sinai (see Exodus 32:1–20)

7 Remember, do not forget, that you provoked Yahweh your God in the desert, *and* from the day that you went out from the land of Egypt until you came to this place you were rebelling against Yahweh.

8 "And *remember* at Horeb you provoked Yahweh, and Yahweh became angry *enough* to destroy you.

9 When I went up the mountain to receive the stone tablets, the tablets of the covenant that Yahweh made with you, and remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights, I did not eat food and I did not drink water.

10 And Yahweh gave me the two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and on them *was writing* according to all the words that Yahweh spoke with you at the mountain, from the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly.

11 And then at the end of forty days and forty nights, Yahweh gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant.

12 And Yahweh said to me, 'Come *now*, go down quickly from this mountain because your people behave corruptly whom you brought out from Egypt, *for* they turned quickly from the way that I commanded them *to follow*; they have made for themselves a cast image.'

13 And Yahweh spoke to me, saying, 'I have seen this people, and look! They are a stubborn people.

14 Leave me alone, and let me destroy them, and let me blot out their name from under heaven, and let me make you into a nation mightier and more numerous than they!'

15 "And I turned, and I went down the mountain, as the mountain was burning with fire, and the two tablets of the covenant *were* in my two hands.

16 And I looked, and indeed you had sinned against Yahweh your God; you *had* made for yourselves an image of a calf *of* cast metal; you *had* turned quickly from the way that Yahweh had commanded *for* you.

17 And I took hold of the two tablets, and I threw them out of my two hands and smashed them before your eyes.

18 And *then* I lay prostrate before Yahweh, as earlier, forty days and forty nights; I did not eat food and I did not drink water because of all your sins that you committed, by doing evil in the eyes of Yahweh *and so* provoking him.

19 For I was in dread from *being in* the presence of the anger and the wrath *with* which Yahweh was angry with you *so as* to destroy you, [[Heb 12:21](#)] but Yahweh listened to me also at that time.

20 And with Aaron Yahweh was angry enough to destroy him, and I prayed also for Aaron at that time.

21 And your sinful thing that you had made, the molten calf, I took and I burned it with fire, and I crushed it, grinding it thoroughly until it was crushed to dust, and I threw its dust into the stream that flowed down the mountain.

Parenthesis—Reference to Other Instances of Rebellion

22 "And *also* at Taberah and at Massah and at Kibroth Hattaavah you provoked Yahweh to anger.

23 And when Yahweh sent you *out* from Kadesh Barnea, saying, 'Go up and take possession of the land that I have given you,' you rebelled against the command of Yahweh your God, and you did not believe him, and you did not listen to his voice.

24 You have been rebellious toward Yahweh from the day I have known you.

Sinai Narrative Resumed (see Exodus 32:30–35)

25 "And I lay prostrate before Yahweh through forty days, and through forty nights I prostrated myself, because Yahweh intended to kill you.

26 And I prayed to Yahweh, and I said, 'Lord Yahweh, you must not destroy your people and your inheritance whom you redeemed in your greatness, whom you brought out from Egypt with a strong hand.

27 Remember your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; you must not pay attention to the stubbornness of this people, to their wickedness and to their sin,

28 lest *the people of the land* from which you brought us out from there say, “Because Yahweh was not able to bring them to the land that he promised to them and because of his hatred *toward* them, he has brought them out to kill them in the desert.”

29 For they *are* your people and your inheritance whom you brought with your great power and with your outstretched arm.’

The Covenant Renewed (see Exodus 34)

10:1 “At that time Yahweh said to me, ‘Carve for yourself two tablets of stone *just* as the former *ones*, and come up the mountain to me, and you shall make for yourself an ark of wood.

2 And I will write on the tablets the words that were on the former *tablets*, which you smashed, and you must put them in the ark.’

3 And *so* I made an ark of acacia wood, and I carved two tablets of stone like the former *ones*, and I went up the mountain *with* the two tablets in my hand. [*This ark was a temporary storage place for the Tablets of the Covenant until Bezalel made the permanent ark—see Exod 37:1.*]

4 And he wrote upon the tablets according to the first writing, the ten words that Yahweh spoke to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire on the day of the assembly, and Yahweh gave them to me.

5 And I turned, and I came down from the mountain, and I put the tablets in the ark that I had made, and they are there, *just* as Yahweh commanded me.

Parenthesis—Aaron’s Death and Succession, Tribe of Levi Set Apart to Yahweh

6 “And the Israelites journeyed from *the* wells of Bene-Yaqan *to* Moserah; there Aaron died and was buried, and Eleazar, his son, served as a priest in place of him.

7 From there they journeyed to Gudgodah, and from Gudgodah to Jotbathah, a land *flowing with* streams of water.

8 At that time Yahweh set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of Yahweh to stand before Yahweh, to serve him and to bless *the people* in his name until this day.

9 Therefore there was not for Levi an allotment or an inheritance *along* with his brothers; *rather* Yahweh *is* his inheritance *just* as Yahweh your God promised to him.

Sinai Narrative Concluded (see Exodus 34)

10 And I stayed on the mountain *just* as *during* the former forty days and forty nights, and Yahweh listened to me also on that occasion; Yahweh was not willing to destroy you.

11 And Yahweh said to me, ‘Come, continue your journey before the people, so that you may go and take possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give to them.’

Loving God and Loving Others

12 And now, Israel, what *is* Yahweh your God asking from you, except to revere Yahweh your God, to go in all his ways and to love him and to serve Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

13 to keep the commandments of Yahweh and his statutes that I am commanding you today for your own good.

14 Look! For to Yahweh your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that *is* in it.

15 Yet to your ancestors Yahweh was very attached, *so as to* love them, and *so* he chose their offspring after them, *namely* you, from all the peoples, as it is today.

16 So you shall circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stubborn.

17 For Yahweh your God, he *is* God of the gods and Lord of the lords, the great and mighty God, the awesome *one* who is not partial, and he does not take bribes.

18 *And he* executes justice for the orphan and widow, and *he is* one who loves *the* alien, to give to them food and clothing. [[Acts 10:34](#); [Rom 2:11](#); [Gal 2:6](#); [Eph 6:9](#)]

19 And you shall love the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.

20 Yahweh your God, you shall revere him, you shall serve him, and to him you shall cling, and by his name you shall swear.

21 He *is* your praise, and he *is* your God, who has done with you these great and awesome *things* that your eyes have seen.

22 With *only* seventy persons your ancestors went down to Egypt, but now Yahweh your God has made you as the stars of the heaven with respect to multitude.

Your Personal Experience of Yahweh’s Great Deeds Should Motivate You to Love Him

11:1 “And you shall love Yahweh your God, and you shall keep his obligations and his statutes and his regulations and his commandments always.

2 And you shall realize today that *it is* not *with* your children who have not known and who have not seen the discipline of Yahweh your God—his greatness, his strong hand, and his outstretched arm,

3 and his signs and his deeds that he did in the midst of Egypt to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and to all *of* his land,

4 and what he did to the army of Egypt and to their horses and to their chariots, *and* how he made the water of the Red Sea flow over them, when they pursued after them, and so Yahweh has destroyed them, as is the case today,

5 and what he did to you in the desert until you came up to this place,

6 and what he did to Dathan and to Abiram, the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben, how the earth opened its mouth wide and swallowed them, their households and their tents, and all *of* the living creatures that *were* in their possession *and that were* following along with them in the midst of all *of* Israel.

7 The fact of the matter is, your own eyes have seen all *of* the great deeds of Yahweh that he did.

Yahweh Intends Canaan's Unique Agricultural Environment to Encourage Obedience

8 "And you must keep all *of* the commandments that I *am* commanding you today, so that you may have strength and *you may* go and *you may* take possession of that land to which you are crossing to take possession of it,

9 so that you may live long on the land that Yahweh swore to your ancestors, to give *it* to them and to their offspring, a land flowing with milk and honey.

10 For the fact is *that* the land that you are about to go into to take possession of it *is* not like the land of Egypt, *from* which you have come out of, where you sow your seed and you give water by *your* foot, as in a vegetable garden.

11 But the land that you *are* about to cross into to take possession of it *is* a land of hills and valleys, *and* by the rain of the heaven it drinks water,

12 a land that Yahweh your God *is* caring for it; continually the eyes of Yahweh your God *are* on it, from the beginning of the year up to the end of *the* year.

13 "And it will happen *that* if you listen carefully to my commandments that I *am* commanding you today, to love Yahweh your God, and to serve him with all *of* your heart and with all *of* your soul,

14 then 'I will send the rain for your land in its season, early rain and later rain, and you will gather your grain and your wine and your olive oil.

15 And I will give vegetation in your field for your livestock, and you will eat your fill.'

16 Take care so that your heart is not easily deceived, and you turn away, and you serve other gods, and you bow down to them.

17 And *then* the anger of Yahweh will be kindled against you, and he will shut up the heavens, and there shall not be rain, and so the ground will not give its produce, and you will perish quickly from the good land that Yahweh *is* giving to you.

Keep Yahweh's Words Before You

18 "And you shall put these, my words, on your heart and on your inner self, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be as an emblem between your eyes.

19 And you shall teach them to your children by talking about them when you sit in your house and when you travel on the road and when you lie down and when you get up.

20 And you shall write them on the doorframes of your house and on your gates,

21 so that *they* may multiply your days and the days of your children on the land that Yahweh swore to your ancestors to give *it* to them as long as heaven endures over the earth.

22 Yes, if you diligently keep all this commandment that I *am* commanding you to observe it, by loving Yahweh your God by walking in all his ways and by holding fast to him,

23 then Yahweh will drive out all *of* these nations before you, and you will dispossess nations larger and more numerous than you.

24 Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, it shall be yours; your boundary shall be from the desert and Lebanon from the river, the river Euphrates, on up to the western sea.

25 No one can take a stand against you; your dread and your fear Yahweh your God will put on the surface of all the land where you tread, *just* as he promised to you.

Blessing and Curse

26 "See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse:

27 the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of Yahweh your God that I *am* commanding you today,

28 and the curse, if you *do* not listen to the commandments of Yahweh your God, but *rather* you turn from the way that I *am* commanding you today to go after other gods that you have not known.

29 "And it will happen *that* when Yahweh your God has brought you to the land that you are going to, to take possession of it, then you shall pronounce the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal.

30 (Are they not beyond the Jordan, toward the west, in the land of the Canaanites living in the Jordan Valley, opposite Gilgal beside the terebinth of Moreh?)

31 For you are *now* about to cross the Jordan to go to take possession of the land that Yahweh, your God, *is* giving to you, and you will take possession of it and live in it,

32 and you must diligently observe all the rules and the regulations that I *am* setting before you today."