

Third Mosaic Speech: A Way Back from Apostasy (February 1406 BC)

Deuteronomy 29:2–30:20

An Exhortation to Covenant Renewal

29:2 And Moses summoned all of Israel and said to them, “You saw all that Yahweh did before your eyes in the land of Egypt and to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land;

3 *that is*, the great trials that your eyes saw, *and* those great signs and wonders.

4 But Yahweh has not given to you a heart to understand, or eyes to see, or ears to hear, *even* to this day. [[Rom 11:8](#)]

5 And I have led you forty years in the desert; your clothes *have* not worn out on you, and your sandal has not worn out on your foot.

6 You have not eaten bread, and you have not drunk wine and strong drink, so that you may know that I *am* Yahweh your God.

7 And *when* you came to this place *then* Sihon the king of Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, came out to meet you for battle, and we defeated them.

8 And we took their land and gave it as *an* inheritance to the Reubenites and to the Gadites and to *the* half-tribe of Manasseh.

9 And you must diligently observe the words of this covenant, so that you may succeed in all that you do.

The Significance and Scope of the Covenantal Renewal

10 “You *are* standing today, all of you, before Yahweh your God, your leaders, your tribes, your elders, and your officials, all the men of Israel,

11 your little children, your women and your aliens who *are* in the midst of your camp, from the choppers of your wood to the drawers of your water,

12 in order for you to enter into the covenant of Yahweh your God, and into his oath that Yahweh your God *is* making with you today,

13 in order to establish you today to himself as a people and *so that* he may be for you *as* God, *just* as he promised to you and just as he swore to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

14 “Now I am not making this covenant and this oath with you alone.

15 But with whoever is standing here with us today before Yahweh our God, and with whoever is not standing here with us today.

Warning Against Disobedience

16 For you know how we lived in the land of Egypt and how we traveled through the midst of the nations that you traveled through.

17 And you have seen their detestable things and their idols of wood and stone, silver, and gold that *were* among them,

18 so that there is not among you a man or a woman or a clan or a tribe whose heart turns today from *being* with Yahweh our God to go to serve the gods of these nations, so that there is not among you a root sprouting poison and wormwood. [[Heb 12:15](#)]

19 And then when he hears the words of this oath, then he will assure himself in his heart, saying, ‘Safety shall be mine even though I go in the stubbornness of my heart,’ thereby destroying the well-watered *land along* with the parched.

20 Yahweh will not be willing to forgive him, for *by then* the anger of Yahweh will smoke, and his passion against that man and all the curses written in this scroll will descend on him, and Yahweh will blot out his name from under heaven.

21 And Yahweh will single him out for calamity out of all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant written in the scroll of this law.

22 “And the next generation, *that is*, your children who will rise *up* after you, and the foreigner who will come from a distant land, when they will see the plagues of that land and its diseases that Yahweh has inflicted upon it, will say,

23 ‘All its land is brimstone and salt left by fire, none of its land will be sown, and it will not make plants sprout out and it will not grow any vegetation; *it is* as the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Adman and Zeboiim, which Yahweh overturned in his anger and in his wrath.’

24 And all the nations will say, ‘Why has Yahweh done such a thing to this land? What *caused* the fierceness of this great anger?’

25 And they will say, ‘*It is* because they abandoned the covenant of Yahweh, the God of their ancestors, which he made with them when he brought them out from the land of Egypt.

26 And they went and served other gods and bowed down to them, gods whom they did not know them and he had not allotted to them.

27 So the anger of Yahweh was kindled against that land to bring upon it all the curses written in this scroll,

28 and Yahweh uprooted them from their land in anger and in wrath and in great fury, and he cast them into another land, just as it is today.’

29 “The hidden *things* belong to Yahweh our God, but the revealed *things* belong to us *to know* and to our children forever, *in order* to do all the words of this law.”

A Way Back from Apostasy

30:1 “And then when all of these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse that I have set before you and you call them to mind among the nations there where Yahweh your God *has* scattered you,

2 and you return to Yahweh and you listen to his voice according to all that I am commanding you today, *both* you and your children,

with all your heart and with all your inner self,

3 and Yahweh your God will restore your fortunes, and he will have compassion *upon* you, and he will again gather you together from all the peoples where Yahweh your God scattered you there.

4 “*Even* if you are outcasts at the end of the heavens, *even* from there Yahweh your God shall gather you, and from there he shall bring you back.

5 And Yahweh your God will bring you to the land that your ancestors had taken possession of, and he will make you successful, and he will make you more numerous than your ancestors.

6 “And Yahweh your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring to love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your inner self so that you may live.

7 And Yahweh your God will put all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, *on* those who harassed you.

8 And you will again listen to the voice of Yahweh, and you will do all his commandments that I *am* commanding you today.

9 And Yahweh your God will make you prosperous in all your undertakings, and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground abundantly, for Yahweh will again rejoice over you, *just* as he rejoiced over your ancestors.

10 *He will do this* if you listen to the voice of Yahweh your God by keeping his commandment and his statutes written in the scroll of this law *and* if you return to Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your inner self.

Choose Life!

11 “For this commandment that I *am* commanding you today *is* not too wonderful for you, and it *is* not *too* far from you.

12 It is not in the heavens so that you might say, ‘Who will go up for us to the heavens and get it for us and cause us to hear it, so that we may do it?’

13 And *it is* not beyond the sea, so that you might say, ‘Who will cross for us to the other side of the sea and take it for us and cause us to hear it, so that we may do it?’

14 But the word is very near you, *even* in your mouth and in your heart, so that you may do it. [[Rom 10:6–9](#)]

15 “See, I am setting before you today life and prosperity and death and disaster;

16 what I am commanding you today *is* to love Yahweh your God by going in his ways and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his regulations, and then you will live, and you will become numerous, and Yahweh your God will bless you in the land where you are going.

17 However, if your heart turns aside and you *do* not listen and you are lured away and you bow down to other gods and you serve them,

18 I declare to you today that you will certainly perish; you will not extend your time on the land that you are crossing the Jordan to go there to take possession of it.

19 I invoke as a witness against you today the heaven and the earth: life and death I have set before you, blessing and curse. So choose life, so that you may live, you and your offspring,

20 by loving Yahweh your God by listening to his voice and by clinging to him, for he *is* your life and the length of your days *in order for you* to live on the land that Yahweh swore for your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them.”

Yahweh Commissions Joshua as Israel’s Next Leader (February 1406 BC)

Deuteronomy 31:1–23

I Will Not Go With You, But Yahweh Will

1 And Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel.

2 And he said to them, “I am *a* hundred and twenty years old today; I am not able to go out and to come *in any* longer, and Yahweh said to me, ‘You may not cross this Jordan.’

3 Yahweh your God *is about to* cross before you; he will destroy these nations before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua *will be* crossing before you, *just* as Yahweh promised.

4 And Yahweh will do to them *just* as he did to Sihon and to Og, kings of the Amorites, and to their land, which he destroyed with them.

5 And Yahweh will deliver them to you before you, and you shall do to them according to every commandment that I have commanded you.

6 Be strong and be courageous; you should not be afraid, and you should not be in dread from their presence, for Yahweh your God *is the one* going with you; he will not leave you alone and he will not forsake you.” [[Heb 13:5](#)]

Moses Publically Encourages His Successor

7 Then Moses summoned Joshua, and he said to him in the presence of all Israel, “Be strong and be courageous, for you will go with this people into the land that Yahweh swore to their ancestors to give to them, and you will give it to them as an inheritance.

8 Yahweh *is the one* going before you; he will be with you, and he will not leave you alone, and he will not forsake you; you shall not be afraid, and you shall not be discouraged.”

Moses Arranges for the Law to Be Read Every Seven Years

9 So Moses wrote this law, and he gave it to the priests, the descendants of Levi, the *ones* carrying the ark of the covenant of Yahweh, and to all the elders of Israel.

10 Then Moses commanded them, saying, “At the end of seven years, in the time of the year for canceling debts during the Feast of Booths,

11 when all Israel comes to appear before Yahweh their God at the place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing.

12 Assemble the people, the men and the women and the little children and your aliens that are in your towns, so that they may hear and so that they may learn and they may revere Yahweh your God, and they shall diligently observe all the words of this law.

13 And *then* their children, who have not known, they *too* may hear, and they may learn to revere Yahweh their God all the days that you live on the land that you *are* crossing the Jordan to get there to take possession of it.”

Yahweh Commissions Joshua

14 Then Yahweh said to Moses, “Look, you are about to die; call Joshua and present yourselves in *the* tent of assembly, so that I may instruct him.” So Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves in *the* tent of assembly.

15 And Yahweh appeared in the tent in a column of cloud, and the column of the cloud stood at the entrance of the tent.

16 And Yahweh said to Moses, “Look, you *are* about to lie *down* with your ancestors, and this people will arise and they will play the prostitute after the foreign gods of the land to which they are going.

17 And my anger shall flare up against them on that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall become as prey, and disasters and troubles shall find them, and they shall say on that day, ‘*Is it* not because our God is not in our midst *that* these disasters have found us?’

18 But I will certainly hide my face on that day, because *of* all of the evil that they did because they turned to other gods.

19 “And so then write this song for yourselves and teach it to the Israelites; put it in their mouth, so that this song may be for me as a witness against the Israelites.

20 For when I bring them into the land that I swore to their ancestors, a land flowing with milk and honey, they will eat their fill, and they will become fat, and *then* they will turn to other gods, and they will serve them, and they will spurn me, and they will break my covenant.

21 And then many disasters and troubles will come upon them, and this song will give evidence before them as a witness, because it will not be forgotten from *out of* the mouth of their descendants, for I know their inclination that they *are* having today before I have brought them into the land that I swore.”

22 And Moses wrote this song on that day and taught it *to* the Israelites.

23 Then he told Joshua the son of Nun, and said *to him*, “Be strong and be courageous, for you shall bring the Israelites into the land that I swore to them, and I will be with you.”

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