

Sermon Notes | Choose Your Structure of Worship - Deuteronomy 27 - 28

I. God Wants a Covenant (Relationship) with You (27:1)

"Now Moses and the elders of Israel commanded the people, saying, 'Keep the whole commandment that I command you today.'" (Deut. 27:1)

Deuteronomy's Structure: Three Sermons from Moses

- 1st: **History** (Deut. 1-4:43) – Past
- 2nd: **Law** (Deut. 4:44-26:19) – Present
- 3rd: **Covenant** (Deut. 27-33) – Future

Two Covenants in View:

- **Abrahamic Covenant** – "Saved" by God's faithfulness (Unconditional)
- **Mosaic Covenant** – "Blessed" through obedience (Conditional)

Why This Conditional Mosaic Covenant?

1. As a Deterrent

2. For the Nations to Know God

- Deut. 28:1 – "...high above all nations of the earth..."
- Deut. 28:10 – "And all the peoples of the earth shall see... the Lord..."
- Deut. 28:37 – "...an object of horror... among all the nations..."

II. God Wants You to Participate in that Relationship (27:2-26)

A. Centered on God's Word (27:2-8)

"And on the day you cross over the Jordan to the land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall set up large stones and plaster them with plaster. And you shall write on them all the words of this law..." (vv. 2-3)

"...And you shall build an altar to the Lord your God of uncut stones... and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God." (vv. 5-7)

B. Communal (27:9-14)

"Keep silence and hear, O Israel: this day you have become the people of the Lord your God." (v. 9)

"When you have crossed over the Jordan, these shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people... and these shall stand on Mount Ebal for the curse..." (vv. 12–13)

C. Creedal (27:15–26)

"And the Levites shall declare to all the men of Israel in a loud voice..." (v. 14)

"And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'" (repeated after each curse)

The Twelve Curses (vv. 15–26):

1. Idolatry (v.15)
2. Dishonoring parents (v.16)
3. Property theft (v.17)
4. Injustice toward the vulnerable (vv.18–19)
5. Sexual immorality and incest (vv.20–23)
6. Violence and corruption (vv.24–25)
7. Failure to uphold the law (v.26)

"In individualistic cultures, we pick and choose what religion we like. More than that, we sometimes combine parts of different denominations or religions to make something entirely new—whatever works for us personally. For the early Christians, however, creeds were meant to be used by groups—not just a summary of what everyone in the group agrees upon but a promise made and kept as a group."

—Justin S. Holcomb, *Know the Creeds and Councils*

III. There Are Consequences for the Choices We Make (Deuteronomy 28)

A. Blessings if They Obey (28:1–14)

"If you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God... the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth." (v.1)

Blessings Include:

- Blessed in city and field (v.3)
- Fruitful womb, livestock, and land (v.4)
- Full baskets and bowls (v.5)
- Protected in warfare (v.7)
- Established as God's people (v.9)
- Prosperity and provision (vv.8–11)
- Open heavens (v.12)
- Leadership and influence (v.13)

B. Curses if They Disobey (28:15–68)

"But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God... cursed shall you be..." (v.15)

Curses Include:

- Cursed in city and field (vv.16–17)
- Barren womb, livestock, and land (v.18)
- Confusion and frustration (v.20)
- Plague and disease (v.21)
- Closed heavens (v.23)
- Oppression and captivity (vv.29, 36)
- Destruction and horror (v.37)
- Loss of all things (v.31–33)
- Hunger and exile (vv.47–48)
- Cannibalism and collapse (vv.53–57)

"Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things..." (v.47)

New Testament Reflections

1 Corinthians 10:6–7

"These things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did..."

Galatians 3:10

"Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law..."

Galatians 3:13

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us..."

Matthew 5:3-6

"Blessed are the poor in spirit... those who mourn... the meek... those who hunger and thirst for righteousness..."

Liturgical Confession:**We confess:**

- Cursed is the person who does not know the Christ. → *Amen*
- Cursed is the one who pretends to know the Christ. → *Amen*
- Cursed is the person who is his own Christ. → *Amen*
- Cursed is the person who strives for their own kingdom. → *Amen*

We believe:

- Blessed is the one who has seen His face. → *Amen*
- Blessed is the one who no longer hides their sin. → *Amen*
- Blessed is the one who is utterly dependent. → *Amen*
- Blessed is the one who forsakes their kingdom for His. → *Amen*

Big Idea: Choose Your Structure of Worship

Discussion Guide | Choose Your Structure of Worship - Deuteronomy 27 - 28

Read Deuteronomy 27:1–8

- How strongly do you feel that God actually wants a relationship with you?
- On a scale of 1–5, how engaged are you in participating in your relationship with God?
- What would it look like to structure your worship around God's Word?

Read Deuteronomy 27:9–26

- How communal is your worship of God?
- What promises are you making to God *as a group*?

In Deuteronomy 28, we see:

A. Blessings if They Obey (28:1–14)

B. Curses if They Disobey (28:15–68)

- What consequences have you seen in your life from obedience or disobedience to Christ?

Read Galatians 3:10

- How does Christ affect the blessings and curses of following the Law?