

# Tearing Down Walls

*Tearing Down Walls is Determined by what walls I have built against surrendering my all to Him.*

*This is the victory over every obstacle.*

Duet. 26:16-19

Dr. Paul Cannings

## A. Commit to Be A Doer (vs.16):

### 1. This day:

a) Today” (דוֹהַ) means both the original day on which Moses spoke these words and each subsequent day when the ceremony of covenant renewal was held. [\[1\]](#)

b) Deuteronomy is addressed to the new generation destined to possess the Land of Promise – those who survived the forty years of wilderness wandering. This is a book concerning God’s people being challenging, after witnessing the death of an entire generation, to completely obey Him. God is preparing his people to enter the land and worship Him with their gifts which are the produce of the land that God has prepared for them (This is in fulfillment of Leviticus 23:9).

2. The Lord your God – The Lord who has all authority, power and desires a relationship with us is also supreme, the Creator, who sovereignly rules the earth and is to be revered and feared, because He is our salvation.

3. Commands you – The One who is supreme and is to be revered and feared appoints all Israel to have an inner commitment to obey what He has ordered them to do.

4. Statues – Because of our reverence and fear of God we are to carefully obey His written Word as dictated in the scriptures.

5. Ordinances; Judgment - Because the Lord is all powerful and God is the supreme creator who rules the earth, anything pertaining to His governmental structure must be revered.

6. Keep: Guard – Like David in Psalm 119:9-11 we must maintain these principles in our hearts (our minds, with a commitment to make it our lifestyle) so that we are careful to apply them each day as the Lord instructs us to do so. These are principles that are provided from the past that are completed for everything we presently need.

a) “But My people would not heed My voice, and Israel would have none of Me. So I gave them over to their own stubborn hearts, to walk in their own counsels. Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways! I would soon subdue their enemies, and turn My hand against their adversaries.... He would have fed them also with the finest of wheat; and with honey from the rock I would have satisfied you” (Ps. 81:11–14, 16, nkjv).<sup>[2]</sup>

7. To do, Deal - We must, because of our past commitment, be careful to do not just what the Lord says, and fear Him, but to also intentionally create in ourselves such a strong desire it stimulates us to be obligated to do what He says.

8. All our heart – Doing what the Lord says must be an expression that comes from the deepest innermost parts of our lives so it drives us to live in wisdom and understanding.

a) The constant danger was that the people did not receive God’s Word into their hearts but only heard it with their ears and then forgot it. Like the Jewish people in Jesus’ day, they had ears but could not hear (Matt. 13:13–15). A mere casual acquaintance with the Word isn’t sufficient. If God’s Word is to nurture us and change us so that God can bless us (Ps. 1:1–3), we must devote ourselves to it, heart and soul. God had claimed Israel for His own people and promised to bless them if they obeyed Him (Deut. 26:18), and Israel had declared that Jehovah was their God and that they would obey Him (v. 17). There was no doubt that God would keep His promises, but would Israel keep their promises?<sup>[3]</sup>

9. All our soul, mind – With each breath and for the preservation of life we must with commitment obey the written Word of God.

a) Soul - Indicates total involvement and commitment. The phrase is applied not only to how the Lord's people should seek Him, but also to how they should fear (revere) him, live in obedience to Him, love and serve Him (6:5; 10:12; 11:13; 15:3; 30:6), and, after forsaking Him, renew their allegiance and commitment (26:26; 30:2, 10). (NASU)

## **B. Tear Down Doubts and Fears to the Obedience of Christ (vs. 17):**

1. You have today declared: said – Israel, with complete commitment verbally responded to Moses what they were thinking after hearing these concluding Words from Moses.

a) The first two confessions looked forward to the time when Israel would be settled in their land and reaping the harvests. This confession brings us back to the plains of Moab where Moses was equipping the younger generation to enter the land. “This day” (vv. 16–18) and “today” were words Moses used frequently as he addressed the people (2:25; 4:26, 39; 6:6; 7:11; 8:1, 18; 10:13; etc.). It was indeed a solemn time when Moses reiterated the law and reviewed the nation's history. The future of the nation depended on the people receiving, understanding, and obeying the Word of God that Moses was sharing with them. [\[4\]](#)

2. The Lord to be your God – Our commitment to these words means that we are intentionally committing for the Lord who has all authority, power and desires a relationship with us, to now rule supreme, sovereign over every decision that is made each and every day.

3. You would walk in His ways – To walk in His ways is to intentionally work to establish a lifestyle that consistently abides within the divine will of God. This

stimulates a transformation within us so that we develop a character that is righteous in the sight of God.

a) Knowing God's law is not the purpose of getting His laws. His purpose is to learn how to have a very powerful and productive relationship with Him (1 John 1:1-4). This is how we become His disciples and demonstrate our love for Him (John 13:34-35).

4. Keep; Guard – Like David in Psalm 119:9-11 we maintain these principles in our hearts so that we are careful to apply them each day as the Lord instructs us to do so. We must not allow our emotions, stresses that arise in our day to day lives to cause us to forget the need to obey the Lord.

5. Statues – Because we are to have a lifestyle of dependency on God's Word we must be careful to obey His written Word as dictated in the scriptures.

6. His commandments – Our lifestyle should respect the fact that this is the Lord's last will and testament so that as we walk in specific situations we do so within His divine will because we reverence and respect for His authority and power.

7. Ordinances; Judgment - Because the Lord is all powerful and God is the supreme creator who rules the earth, anything pertaining to His governmental structure must be revered.

## **C. Experience His Victory and Bring Him Glory (vs. 18-19):**

1. Lord – The Lord who has all power is setting the agenda for all His people and expects everyone to respect authority.

a) "Fear" in this phrase has the sense of reverential trust in God that includes commitment to his revealed will (word). (NASU)

2. You have today declared; said – The Lord, with complete commitment verbally communicates through His servant Moses what His expectations are concerning His people.

3. Treasurer possession – The Lord has acquired Israel unto Himself from the time of Abraham so that Israel is His privately own nation. This is the same for the New Testament church as is stated in 1 Peter 2:9-10.

a) He spoke of Israel as God’s “treasured possession” (Deut 7:6; *sěgullâ*, as here). This same technical term appears in Deut 14:2 as an appellation of the covenant people, a people also called “a people holy to the Lord your God” (*‘am qādôš ... lădônai ‘ēlōheykâ*), exactly as here in v. 19. The connections between this passage and the entire thrust of chaps. 5 through 26 could not be clearer. [\[5\]](#)

b) We are His ‘treasured possession’. This is explained in two ways in the NT that I can recall: We are bought so we are possessed with the H.S. and we are His possession (1 Cor. 6:19-20; Eph. 1:14; 1 Pet. 2:9-10).

4. As He promised; speaking – What the Lord is saying is specifically being stated toward Israel as it relates to them entering into the Promised Land. This message is based on the past covenants that were put in place and continues for us today.

5. Keep; Guard – Like David in Psalm 119:9-11 these principles must become our determination like it was also for Daniel.

6. His commandments – Our lifestyle should respect the fact that this is the Lord’s last will and testament so that as we walk in specific situations we do so within His divine will. This is because we have reverence for His authority and power.

7. He will set you high above – The One who has all authority and power commits to generously elevate His people to be overwhelming supreme over all nations.

8. Has has made – Because God is the creator of all things He is the One who, out of nothing, established all nations. What He accomplished in the past continues today in its completeness.

9. Praise – God establishes Israel above all other nations so that Israel would publicly display His glory. Those who are exposed to who God is and what He has accomplished for Israel would become so delighted they would express joy when they observe His workings with Israel (Rahab learning about the power of God brought Him glory all the way to the birth of Christ).

10. Fame – What God accomplishes His promises it magnifies His powerful ability which in turn exposes His powerful might which establishes His reputation throughout the earth.

11. Honor - God’s beautiful, glorious manifestations of His works rises above all other gods so that He is renowned throughout the earth.

a) In a similar manner, the Lord has lifted up the people of His church, separating them from the nations and regarding them as a holy people (1 Pet. 2:9).<sup>[6]</sup>

12. Shall be consecrated – God not only establishes Israel for His glory He promises to endlessly set Israel aside as a nation only unto Himself to be holy and devoted to all He has called them to be and to do.

a) It is true that Israel’s selection as a “kingdom of priests” and a “holy nation” carried with it a heavy responsibility. Their faithful discharge of that responsibility would, however, result in the greatest privilege and honor.<sup>[7]</sup>

13. The Lord your God – The Lord our God who has all authority, and his supreme so He can accomplish everything He says.

14. He has spoken – God has communicated in a manner that is so dynamic everyone has the opportunity to hear Him.

15. He has spoken – In order for our relationship with God to be holy, so that it brings Him honor, praise, sustaining His reputation among us and the world, we must keep His Word pure.

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- [1] Christensen, D. L. (2002). [Deuteronomy 21:10–34:12](#) (Vol. 6B, p. 646). Word, Incorporated.
- [2] Wiersbe, W. W. (1999). [Be equipped](#) (p. 125). Chariot Victor Pub.
- [3] Wiersbe, W. W. (1999). [Be equipped](#) (p. 125). Chariot Victor Pub.
- [4] Wiersbe, W. W. (1999). [Be equipped](#) (pp. 124–125). Chariot Victor Pub.
- [5] Merrill, E. H. (1994). [Deuteronomy](#) (Vol. 4, p. 337). Broadman & Holman Publishers.
- [6] Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). [Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary](#) (p. 260). T. Nelson Publishers.
- [7] Merrill, E. H. (1994). [Deuteronomy](#) (Vol. 4, p. 338). Broadman & Holman Publishers.