

Handout 1: Deuteronomy Lesson 13

These are the words of the covenant which Yahweh ordered Moses to make with the Israelites in Moab, in addition to the covenant which he made with them at Horeb.

Deuteronomy 28:69/29:1

Moses' homilies of covenant renewal on the Plains of Moab have two focus points:

1. Recalling the events of the past and the ratification of the covenant with Yahweh at Mt. Sinai.
2. The anticipation of events in the future when God will fulfill His promises to the Patriarchs, and the Israelites will take possession of the Promised Land.

When those future events take place, it will be necessary for the Israelites to again renew their commitment to the Sinai Covenant in the land God has given them. Notice that the word *torah*, meaning Moses' teaching on the Law, is used five times in this section of the renewed covenant treaty dealing with the covenant Sanctions (Dt. 27:3, 8, 26; 28:58, 61).

The command to hold a covenant renewal ceremony near Shechem in the Promised Land:

1. It was a historically and theologically significant site for the Israelites because God first appeared to Abram/Abraham at nearby Shechem (Gen 12:6-7a).
2. It was at Shechem that God first promised Abram the land to his descendants (Gen 12:7b).
3. At Shechem Abram built his first altar for Yahweh in the land of Canaan (Gen 12:7c).

Comparing the ratification ceremony at Sinai and the renewal ceremony near Shechem:

1. Both ceremonies are associated with mountains (Ex 19:16; 24:4; Dt 11:29-30; 27:4).
2. Moses was commanded at both ceremonies to erect upright stone masseboth (pillars): at Sinai God wrote the Decalogue on two stone tablets and 12 upright stone pillars represented the 12 tribes, but at the renewal ceremony in Canaan the people must inscribe the law on large, whitewashed, upright stones as witnesses to the renewal and as a permanent record of the Law (Ex 24:4; Dt 27:4, 8).
3. At both ceremonies, Moses was commanded to build an altar of undressed stones upon which whole burnt offerings and communion offerings were to be presented to Yahweh (Ex 20:25; 24:4; Dt 27:6-7).
4. At both ceremonies the people bound themselves to the acceptance of the commands and obligations of the Sinai covenant (Ex 24:3, 7; Dt 27:15-26).
5. The ceremonies ended with the consumption of a sacred meal in the presence of Yahweh (Ex 24:9-11; Dt 27:7).

The Hebrew the word "Amen" is an acrostic formed from the first letter of three Hebrew words: *El Melech Ne'eman*, "The Lord is a trustworthy King" (Talmud: Shabbat 119b). The word appears for the first time in the Book of Numbers (5:22), and in the Book of Revelation, Jesus is called "The Amen," (Rev 3:14) identifying Jesus as "The Trustworthy King" to whom the New Covenant people of God owe their allegiance.

Handout 2: Deuteronomy Lesson 13

Prophecies in Deuteronomy 28:33-68	Prophecies Fulfilled by the Romans
<p><i>49 Against you Yahweh will raise a distant nation from the ends of the earth like an eagle taking wing: a nation whose language you do not understand, a nation grim of face, with neither respect for the old, nor pity for the young.</i></p>	<p>In 66-62 BC, Roman general Pompey began his campaign in the east, conquering Pontus, Bithynia and the Greek Seleucid kingdom of Syria. In 63 he besieged and conquered Jerusalem, beginning Roman domination of Judah, which became the Roman province of Judea. The imperial eagle was the symbol of Rome. An eagle statue was placed above the Temple entrance by Herod the Great (Josephus, <i>Antiquities of the Jews</i>, 17.6.2-3).</p>
<p><i>51 He will eat the yield of your cattle and the yield of your soil until you have been destroyed; he will leave you neither wheat, nor wine, nor oil, nor the young of your cattle, nor increase of your flock until he has made an end of you.</i></p>	<p>As with their other provinces, the Romans stripped Judea of its resources to feed its empire.</p>
<p><i>52 He will besiege you inside all your towns until your loftiest and most strongly fortified walls collapse, on which, throughout your country [land], you have relied. He will besiege you inside all the towns throughout your country [land], given you by Yahweh your God.</i></p>	<p>In 66 AD the Jews revolted against Rome. In 67AD four Roman legions descended upon Judea, besieging and destroying any town that resisted, beginning in the Galilee.</p>
<p><i>53 During the siege and in the distress to which your enemy will reduce you, you will eat the offspring of your own body, the flesh of the sons and daughters given you by Yahweh your God.</i></p>	<p>Josephus wrote an account of the Jews eating their children during the Roman siege (<i>The Wars of the Jews</i>, 6.3.4 [201-208]).</p>
<p><i>You will be torn from the country [land] which you are about to enter and make your own. 64 Yahweh will scatter you throughout every people, from one end of the earth to the other; there you will serve other gods made of wood and stone, hitherto unknown either to you or to your ancestors. 65 Among these nations there will be no repose for you, no rest for the sole of your foot ...</i></p>	<p>Almost a million Jews were sold into slavery throughout the Roman Empire. Josephus: ... <i>and because the very soldiers grew weary of killing them, and because they hoped to get some money by sparing them ... and sold the rest of the multitude, with their wives and children, and every one of them at a very low price, and that because such as were sold were very many ... the number of those sold was immense (The Wars of the Jews, 6.8.2)</i> <i>Now the number of those that were carried captive during this whole war was collected to be ninety-seven thousand; as was the number of those that perished during the whole siege eleven hundred thousand (The Wars of the Jews, 6.9.3).</i></p>