

Study 44: The Song of Moses, Part 7 Deuteronomy 28-32

We left off at:

Deut 32 43 Rejoice, you nations, with his people
[and let all the angels worship him],¹
for he will **avenge the blood of his servants;**
he will take vengeance on his enemies
and make atonement for his land and people.

Rev 6:10 [The martyred saints] called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?”

Rev 18:20 “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!” [NKJV]

Rev 19:2 says God “has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. **He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.**

God promised that if Israel obeyed His covenant, they would be blessed, but if they broke it, they would be cursed:

Deut 28 53 Because of the suffering your enemy will inflict on you during the siege, you will **eat the fruit of the womb**, the flesh of the sons and daughters the Lord your God has given you. **54** Even the most gentle and sensitive man among you will have no compassion on his own brother or the wife he loves or his surviving children, **55** and he will not give to one of them any of the flesh of his children that he is eating. It will be all he has left because of the suffering your enemy will inflict on you during the siege of all your cities. **56** The most gentle and sensitive woman among you—so sensitive and gentle that she would not venture to touch the ground with the sole of her foot—will begrudge the husband she loves and her own son or daughter **57** the afterbirth from her womb and the children she bears. For in her dire need she intends to eat them secretly because of the suffering your enemy will inflict on you during the siege of your cities.

Josephus records:

There was a certain woman that dwelt beyond Jordan, her name was Mary.... She was eminent for her family and her wealth, and had fled away to Jerusalem with the rest of the multitude, and was with them besieged therein at this time. The other effects of this woman had been already seized upon...and removed.... What she had treasured up besides, as also what food she had contrived to save, had been also carried off by the rapacious guards, who came every day running into her house for that purpose. This put the poor woman into a very great passion, and by the frequent reproaches and imprecations she cast at these rapacious villains, she had provoked them to anger against her; but none of them, either out of the indignation she had raised against herself, or out of commiseration of her case, would take away her life; and if she found any food, she perceived her labors were for others, and not for herself; and it was now become impossible for her any way to find any more food, while the famine pierced through her very bowels and marrow, when also her passion was fired to a degree beyond the famine itself [because of] the necessity she was in. She then attempted a most unnatural thing; and snatching up her son, who was [an infant], she said, “O...miserable infant! for whom shall I preserve [you] in this war, this famine, and this sedition? As to the war with the Romans, if they preserve our lives, we must be slaves. This famine also will destroy us, even before that slavery comes upon us. Yet are these seditious rogues more terrible than both the other. Come on; be...my food, and be...a fury to these seditious varlets,² and a by-word to the world, which is all that is now wanting to complete the calamities of us Jews.” As soon as she had said this, she slew her son, and then roasted him, and ate...half of him, and kept the other half...concealed. Upon this, the seditious came in presently, and smelling the horrid scent of this food, they threatened her that they would cut her throat immediately if she did not show them what food she had gotten ready. She replied that she had saved a very fine portion of it for them, and...uncovered what was left of her son. Hereupon they were seized with a horror and amazement of mind, and stood astonished at the sight, when she said to them, “This is [my] own son, and what [has] been done was [my] own doing! Come, eat of this food; for I have eaten of it myself! Do not...pretend to be either more tender than a woman, or more compassionate than a mother; but if you [are] so scrupulous, and do abominate this my sacrifice, as I have eaten the one half, let the rest be reserved for me also.” After which those men went out trembling, being never so much [frightened] at any thing as they were at this, and with some difficulty they left the rest of that meat to the mother. Upon which the whole city was full of this horrid action immediately.... So those that were thus

¹ Masoretic Text; Dead Sea Scrolls (see also Septuagint).

² A varlet is a rascal, rogue, or scoundrel (an unprincipled, dishonorable person; villain).

distressed by the famine were very desirous to die, and those already dead were esteemed happy, because they had not lived long enough either to hear or to see such miseries [*The Wars of the Jews* 6:3:4 – edited to update some of the language].

Deut 28 64 Then the Lord will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship other gods—gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your ancestors have known. 65 Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the Lord will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart. 66 You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life. 67 In the morning you will say, “If only it were evening!” and in the evening, “If only it were morning!”—because of the terror that will fill your hearts and the sights that your eyes will see. 68 **The Lord will send you back in ships to Egypt on a journey I said you should never make again. There you will offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you.**

Josephus says:

[As for those] that were deserting; ...a great number of them were slain.... They were all received by the Romans, because Titus himself grew negligent as to his former orders for killing them, and because the very soldiers grew weary of killing them, and because they hoped to get some money by sparing them; for they...sold...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, and the buyers were few...[*The Wars of the Jews* 6:8:2].

[One of Caesar’s friends] slew all those that had been seditious...but of the young men he chose out the tallest and most beautiful, and reserved them for the triumph; and as for the rest of the multitude that were above seventeen years old, he put them into bonds, and sent them to the Egyptian mines.³ Titus also sent a great number into the provinces, as a present to them, that they might be destroyed upon their theatres, by the sword and by the wild beasts; but those that were under seventeen years of age were sold for slaves [*The Wars of the Jews* 6:9:2].

Deut 32 44 Moses came with Joshua son of Nun and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people. 45 When Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel, 46 he said to them, “Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. 47 They are not just idle words for you—they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”

48 On that same day the Lord told Moses, 49 “Go up...to Mount Nebo in Moab, across from Jericho, and view Canaan, the land I am giving the Israelites as their own possession. 50 There on the mountain that you have climbed you will die and be gathered to your people, just as your brother Aaron died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people. 51 This is because both of you broke faith with me in the presence of the Israelites at the waters of Meribah Kadesh in the Desert of Zin and because you did not uphold my holiness among the Israelites. 52 Therefore, you will see the land only from a distance; you will not enter the land I am giving to the people of Israel.”

Were types and shadows important to the Lord? Moses, who ruined a type because he disobeyed the Lord (striking the rock repeatedly when he was only supposed to *speak* to it – Num 20:7-12), the Lord said he would not be allowed to lead the people into the Promised Land. That, too, is a type and shadow of a New Covenant reality, demonstrating that the Old Covenant could not provide anyone entrance into the true Promised Land of heaven. There had to be a different leader, and a second covenant (“Deuteronomy” means “second Law”). Joshua, who was a type of Christ, led the people in.

³ Whiston notes: “See the several predictions that the Jews, if they became obstinate in their idolatry and wickedness, should be sent again or sold into Egypt for their punishment, Deuteronomy 28:68; Jeremiah 44:7; Hosea 8:13; 9:3; 9:4, 5; 2 Samuel 15:10-13....”