

THE CHALLENGE OF BELIEF

I. Introduction

Welcome to another study session in Deuteronomy. Our lesson today is Deuteronomy 7:12-26 where we see how belief in the Lord is the key to many things. Belief is always associated with obedience, of course, as faith is with works so we are not talking about an academic or purely theoretical subject. The earlier part of the chapter emphasizes the relationship of God and His people and the second part outlines how the nation can be blessed in honoring God. Obedience ought to grow from love ~~but~~ the blessings it produces are a powerful inducement to follow it as a way of life. Well, there is a lot that works against it as well but in this passage, the emphasis is on the positive: the law of God is the basis of Israel's faith, the love of God is the foundation for its living. Verses 12 through 26 need no further outlining and we proceed to the text.

II. Discussion

7:12.....the "if" of the KJV may be better a "when"...and note the response of God to obedience.

7:13.....God's love will lead to abundant blessing

7:14.....Israel will stand out as a favorite

7:15.....The Lord will remove the reproach of Egypt and the plagues that touch unbelief.

7:16.....and Israel will have victory in the land

7:17.....But if they (you) think the job is too big...

7:18.....your hesitation will be answered by the facts of remembrance and reassurance.

7:19.....the Lord will continue to execute powerfully

7:20.....He will discomfit the enemy

7:21.....God among you is your strength

7:22.....He will give victory in a reasonable progression

7:23.....And will \empower eventual success

7:24.....no one can withstand Him

7:25.....but dislodge the pagan images!