

HONORING GOD'S SERVICE

I. Introduction

Welcome to another of our studies in the Book of Deuteronomy. We are now in chapter 12 at verses 17-32 and seeing that the services (and servants) of God must be honored by His people. Israel's faith is not a "do it yourself" faith but a "this is what the Lord wants" faith and the practice of that faith is defined by His love and His law. Every effort is made to stress the heart nature of the faith. We sometimes miss that because the externals are sketched so practicably. But if the order does not proceed from love, it will not accomplish much. Now, in our study, the people of Israel are given some instruction about the practice of worship with the constant emphasis that it will be well with them if they do what God says, and it will not be well if they do not do what God says. We divide this passage of text like this:

12:17-28....provision for yourself and God
29-32....avoiding the pagan rites

II. Discussion

- 12:17.....the tithe or the freewill offering must not be kept for yourself...and this relates to anything vowed as well.
- 12:18.....the offerings must be celebrated in the Lord's presence by all who take part and all can rejoice thereby.
- 12:19.....and in the giving of the offerings one must remember the Levites..they are the servants of God who have no land of their own (territorial land).
- 12:20-22..food provided for yourself at your option..must be clean.. this is not an offering
- 12:23-25..but be sure you do not eat the blood..the blood is the very life and you cannot eat it. Verse 25 emphasizes the truth that when you do things right it will go well with the settlement.
- 12:26-28..the holy things or consecrated items are taken to the holy place..there is no exception to this
- 12:29....."when"...the land is secured
- 12:30.....do not be led into the trap of following pagan practices that existed in the land previously. I will discuss this sort of temptation.