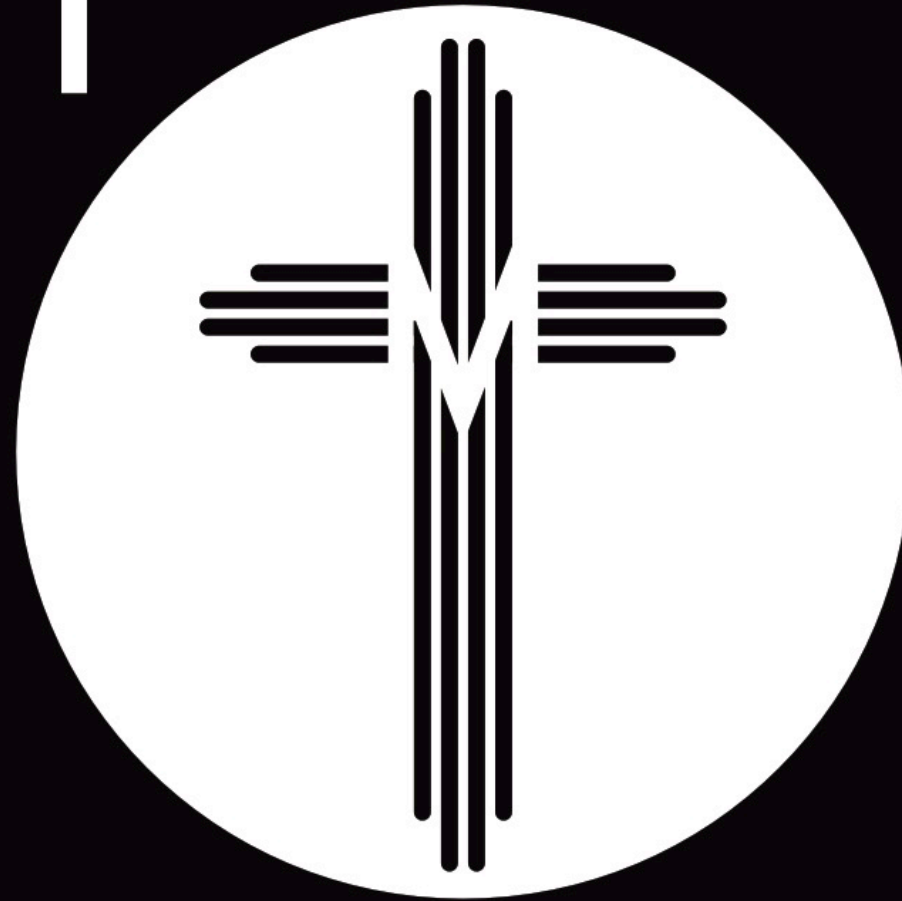


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TEACH  EQUIP  SEND

Deuteronomy 27

WE ARE ALL WITNESSES. 



WE ARE ALL WITNESSES. 



Deuteronomy 27:1-8



Joshua's Altar

Joshua 8:30-35

Mt. Gerizim
Blessings

Mt. Ebal
Curses

Shechem



Genesis 12:4-7

Mt. Ebal
Curses

Mt. Gerizim
Blessings

2000 ft.



We are all witnesses of God's fulfilled
promise to His people.

Deuteronomy 27:15-26

We are all witnesses to our failure
to keep the law.

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:10-14

Form Criticism

- Analysis of the Bible by tracing the history of its content of parables, psalms, and other literary

Suzerain Treaty (YHWH=Suzerain Israael= Vassal)

- Preamble- Identifies the parties involved in the treaty, the author, the title of the sovereign party, and usually his genealogy. It usually emphasizes the greatness of the king or dominant party.
- Prologue- Lists the deeds already performed by the Suzerain on behalf of the vassal. The suzerain would document previous events in which they did a favor that benefitted the vassal. This would show the Suzerian was merciful and giving, therefore, the vassal should obey the treaty. It discusses the relationship between them as a personal relationship instead of a solely political one. Most importantly in this section, the vassal is agreeing to future obedience for the benefits that he received in the past without deserving them.

Suzerain Treaty

- Stipulations- Terms to be upheld by the vassal for the life of the treaty; defines how the vassal is to obey.
- Provision for annual public reading-A copy of the treaty was to be read aloud annually in the vassal state for the purpose of renewal and to inform the public of the expectations involved and increase respect for the Suzerain.
- Divine Witness- These usually include the deities of both the Suzerain and the vassal, but put special emphasis on the deities of the vassal.

Suzerain Treaty

- Blessings and Curses- Blessings if the stipulations of the treaty are upheld and curses if the stipulations are not upheld. These blessings and curses were generally seen to be divine in nature.
- Sacrificial Meal- Both parties would share a meal to show their participation in the treaty.

Royal Land Grant Treaty (Deut. Chapter 27)

- Purpose was to give land from the King to a private party
- Boundary Stone or Marker (2 copies)
- Land area is described in detail
- Circumstances of land exchange described
- List of witnesses
- Curses - This is the most characteristic feature of ancient land grant treaties
- Tied the land to the kings law, the people and their god(s)

Suzerain Treaty vs. Royal Land Grant

- Israel obligated to YHWH
- YHWH wants future loyalty and obedience from Israel
- Curses are directed against the nation of Israel for disobedience
- Blessings are directed to nation of Israel for obedience
- YHWH obligated to Israel
- Promised land given out of YHWH's goodness
- Curses are directed at individuals who come against the terms of the land treaty
- The blessing is the promised land itself

(C.f. Hill, "The Ebal ceremony as Hebrew land grant?", *J.E.T.S.*, Dec. 1988, 399-406.)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

We are all witnesses to God's
amazing grace.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

We are all witnesses...

- To God's fulfilled promise to his people
- To our failure to keep the law
- To God's amazing grace



1 John 1:5-9

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