

## Take Care of the Garden that God Has Given You (By Rev. Anthony Menzel, March 7, 2021)

### Deuteronomy 7.1-5

**7** “When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, **2** and when the Lord your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them *and* utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. **3** Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. **4** For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the Lord will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. **5** But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their *sacred* pillars, and cut down their [a]wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.

Change is not always gradual...

It can come suddenly...

Sometimes we suffer because of other people’s mistakes...

### Daniel 1:1-7

**1** In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. **2** And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of [a]the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god. **3** Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king’s descendants and some of the nobles, **4** young men in whom *there was* no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who *had* ability to serve in the king’s palace, and whom they might teach the language and [b]literature of the Chaldeans. **5** And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king’s delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of *that time* they might serve before the king. **6** Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. **7** To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel *the*

*name* Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

Daniel and his friends served the Lord, but they were still taken away from Israel in captivity...

They were castrated...

By definition, a eunuch cannot have a family or relations once they become a eunuch...

I look at people who want to tear down the United States of America...

My question is-What alternative are you offering to the current system?

Do you want to fix this system, or totally destroy what we currently have and start over?

Do you understand what starting over means-none of the comforts we currently enjoy, not just restaurants and malls but even AC and possibly even heat?

Are you willing to give up medical and other government benefits?

People who have always grown up in the US or who have no ties to poorer countries often do not appreciate what we currently have here...

It's easy to be an idealist when you have clean, running water; food to eat; the ability to go to an emergency room...

It's not so easy when your children are dying of hunger or cold or lack of medical care...

People are often looking at other people's blessings, too...

But we should be really careful before we make big decisions...

While God can forgive us for our mistakes, the consequences of our mistakes can be irreversible...

### **Deuteronomy 24:1-4**

**24** "When a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some [a]uncleanness in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts *it* in her hand, and sends her out of his house, **2** when she has departed from his house, and goes and becomes another man's *wife*, **3** *if* the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts *it* in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife, **4** *then* her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his wife after she has been defiled; for that *is* [b]an abomination before the Lord, and you

shall not bring sin on the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance.

We cannot go back to a person we have divorced...

That really displeases God...

So before we make a decision we will end up really regretting, we have to be prayerful and really make sure that we are doing what God wants...

There are areas of my life in which I have been going around in the desert, and I am really tired of that desert...

The only way to get out is by doing things God's way...

It may seem to take longer, but being immersed in His Will is the only way into the Promised Land...

### **Numbers 14:39-45**

**39** Then Moses told these words to all the children of Israel, and the people mourned greatly. **40** And they rose early in the morning and went up to the top of the mountain, saying, "Here we are, and we will go up to the place which the Lord has promised, for we have sinned!"

**41** And Moses said, "Now why do you [m]transgress the command of the Lord? For this will not succeed. **42** Do not go up, lest you be defeated by your enemies, for the Lord *is* not among you. **43** For the Amalekites and the Canaanites *are* there before you, and you shall fall by the sword; because you have turned away from the Lord, the Lord will not be with you."

**44** But they presumed to go up to the mountaintop. Nevertheless, neither the ark of the covenant of the Lord nor Moses departed from the camp. **45** Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who dwelt in that mountain came down and attacked them, and drove them back as far as Hormah.

The Israelites tried to enter the Promised Land in their own strength, and doing so simply didn't work...

To enter, they had to go through God's discipline as a consequence of their disobedience...

### **Joshua 5:2-15**

**2** At that time the Lord said to Joshua, "Make flint knives for yourself, and circumcise the sons of Israel again the second time." **3** So Joshua made flint

knives for himself, and circumcised the sons of Israel at [c]the hill of the foreskins. **4** And this *is* the reason why Joshua circumcised them: All the people who came out of Egypt *who were* males, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way, after they had come out of Egypt. **5** For all the people who came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness, on the way as they came out of Egypt, had not been circumcised. **6** For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people *who were* men of war, who came out of Egypt, were [d]consumed, because they did not obey the voice of the Lord—to whom the Lord swore that He would not show them the land which the Lord had sworn to their fathers that He would give us, “a land flowing with milk and honey.” **7** Then Joshua circumcised their sons *whom* He raised up in their place; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way.

**8** So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed. **9** Then the Lord said to Joshua, “This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal[e] to this day.

**10** Now the children of Israel camped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight on the plains of Jericho. **11** And they ate of the produce of the land on the day after the Passover, unleavened bread and [f]parched grain, on the very same day. **12** Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.

### **The Commander of the Army of the Lord**

**13** And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, “Are You for us or for our adversaries?”

**14** So He said, “No, but as Commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.”

And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, “What does my Lord say to His servant?”

**15** Then the Commander of the Lord’s army said to Joshua, “Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand *is* holy.” And Joshua did so.

In this passage, we see how the people had to go around in the desert for 40 years, including people like Moses, Joshua, and Caleb, who hadn't sinned...

Moreover, the children of the people who sinned also had to walk around in the desert because of their parents' mistakes.

We also see that the Lord is not on anyone's side except for his own...  
If we want His support, we must follow Him...

So what is the solution to this difficult situation...

We see injustice and evil all around us...

Do our part to make a change...

Through prayer and doing our best to live right before God

## **2 Chronicles 7:13-22**

**13** When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, **14** if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. **15** Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer *made* in this place. **16** For now I have chosen and [d]sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and [e]My eyes and [f]My heart will be there perpetually. **17** As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, and do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, **18** then I will establish the throne of your kingdom, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail *to have* a man as ruler in Israel.'

**19** "But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods, and worship them, **20** then I will uproot them from My land which I have given them; and this house which I have [g]sanctified for My name I will cast out of My sight, and will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples.

**21** "And *as for* this [h]house, which [i]is exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and say, 'Why has the Lord done thus to this land and this house?' **22** Then they will answer, 'Because they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and embraced other gods, and worshiped them and served them; therefore He has brought all this calamity on them.' "

Thankfully we can also still do our part to make change by voting, signing petitions, making choices regarding where and what we buy,

There is another piece of living right...

That is appreciating what we have...

Praising the Lord Jesus for it is just the start...

Romans 1:18-32

**18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who [d]suppress the truth in unrighteousness, **19** because what may be known of God is [e]manifest [f]in them, for God has shown *it* to them. **20** For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and [g]Godhead, so that they are without excuse, **21** because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22** Professing to be wise, they became fools, **23** and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like [h]corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. **24** Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, **25** who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

**26** For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their [i]women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. **27** Likewise also the [j]men, leaving the natural use of the [k]woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

**28** And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; **29** being filled with all unrighteousness, [l]sexual immorality, wickedness, [m]covetousness, [n]maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, **30** backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, **31** [o]undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, [p]unforgiving, unmerciful; **32** who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Not being thankful can lead us to fall away from the Lord Jesus...

But true appreciation of our blessings goes beyond just being thankful...  
True appreciation involves taking care of what God has given us...

Genesis 2:15

**15** Then the Lord God took [d]the man and put him in the garden of Eden to [e]tend and keep it.

God gave us the world in order for us to tend it or take care of it, not to destroy it...

The same is true of our families...

Proverbs 17:6

**6** Children's children *are* the crown of old men,  
And the glory of children *is* their father.

Psalms 127:3-5

Behold, children *are* a heritage from the Lord,  
The fruit of the womb *is* a reward.

**4**

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,  
So *are* the children of one's youth.

**5**

Happy *is* the man who has his quiver full of them;  
They shall not be ashamed,  
But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

Do we value the time we have with our children?

Do we give them the same attention we would want if we were children again?

What you sow, you reap...

Are you treating your elders the way you want to be treated when you get older?

**Galatians 6:7**

**7** Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

## **1 Timothy 5:4-8**

**4** But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is [a]good and acceptable before God. **5** Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. **6** But she who lives in [b]pleasure is dead while she lives. **7** And these things command, that they may be blameless. **8** But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Our churches....

## **Galatians 5:13-15**

**13** For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **14** For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **15** But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

Our nations...