

# Deuteronomy

## Lesson 16

### Chapter 27

#### IX. Moses' Summary of the Blessings and the Curses (27:1-28:68)

##### A. The Preparation for the Celebration (27:1-13)

###### 1. The Charge of the Elders (27:1-10)

###### a) The Stones on Mount Ebal (27:1-4)

As chapter 27 opens, we come to Moses' summary of the blessings and curses that must be declared in the ears of the Nation of Israel once on the other side of the Jordan River. With that, Moses gives instructions for the preparation for the celebration service by calling the elders to help him charge the people. He begins with the instruction concerning the setting of the stones on Mount Ebal. Chapter 27, verse 1. *"Then Moses and the elders of Israel charged the people, saying, 'Keep all the commandments which I command you today.' <sup>2</sup> So it shall be on the day when you cross the Jordan to the land which the LORD your God gives you, that you shall set up for yourself large stones and coat them with lime <sup>3</sup> and write on them all the words of this law, when you cross over, so that you may enter the land which the LORD your God gives you, a land flowing with milk and honey, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you. <sup>4</sup> So it shall be when you cross the Jordan, you shall set up on Mount Ebal, these stones, as I am commanding you today, and you shall coat them with lime."* (27:1-4).

Moses instructs the people to build a sort of monument with large natural stones on Mount Ebal. The task will not be difficult. Mount Ebal is naturally covered with large stones. Even though they were uncut, the stones were to be painted with lime. The lime coating was not a new concept to the Jews. In Egypt, it had long been used. The coating included water, salt, and lime. The coating was painted on the mud bricks in Egypt to protect them from erosion by the rains and winds. The coating would erode but at a much slower pace. The coating would last for about five years and then need to be applied again. This same lime plaster was found on a wall in a house on the east side of the Jordan near the intersection of the Jordan and Jabbok Rivers. In that eroding plaster, a partial record of the story of Balaam's interaction with Israel is found.

The lime coating on the stones provided a soft surface where the words of this law could be written before the mixture dried completely.

###### b) The Altar on Mount Ebal (27:5-8)

In addition to the placement of the stones engraved with the words of the law, Moses instructs the people to build an altar on Mount Ebal. Verse 5. *"Moreover, you shall build there an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of stones; you shall not wield an iron tool on them. <sup>6</sup> You shall build the altar of the LORD your God of uncut stones, and you shall offer on it burnt offerings to the LORD your God; <sup>7</sup> and you shall sacrifice peace offerings and eat there, and rejoice before the LORD your God. <sup>8</sup> You shall write on the stones all the words of this law very distinctly."* (27:5-8).

Today, at the top of Mount Ebal, the remains of a pagan altar stand. No doubt, years after taking the Promised Land, the pagan altar was built atop the original altar built by Israel for the celebration. Be that as it may, once Israel crosses the Jordan and builds the altar, the nation was to celebrate with burnt offerings. We know all we need to know about burnt offerings. The details of this offering can be found in Leviticus chapter 1. However, here we come to a lack of knowledge.



Remains of a Pagan Altar on Mount Ebal. The mountain was covered with large stones long before the arrival of the Nation of Israel.

We must ask the questions, where is the Tabernacle? Where is the Brazen Altar? Where is the water basin needed in the burnt offering? In the book of Joshua, we will learn that the Tabernacle complex will be carried across the Jordan River in the hands of the priests and Levites. Indeed, it will be carried to the base of Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim and set up for this celebration. Therefore, the procedures for the burnt offering will occur at the Tabernacle complex, yet, the animals of the offerings will not be placed on the Brazen Altar but placed on the stone altar at the top of Mount Ebal where the priests will burn them to ashes. The hides of the animals will be given to the priests as required.

The sacrifice of peace offerings will be made on Mount Ebal also. The sacrifice of peace offering is detailed in Leviticus chapter 3. The offering surely began at the Tabernacle, but the offerings were placed on the stone altar rather than the Brazen Altar. The sacrifice of peace offerings were voluntary, not required. They are a *thank you* offering to the LORD by an individual or a group of people. In that offering, the fat with entrails, two kidneys, loins, lobe of the liver were placed on the altar and burned to ashes. The hide would be given to the priests, and the rest of the animal's meat would be cooked nearby and eaten by the priests and the people. The sacrifice of peace offerings that day needed to be numerous enough to feed all the men and their families on the west side of the Jordan River. It is impossible to estimate the number of people that will be there for the celebration. When it occurs, the families of the men of Reuben, Manasseh, and Gad will be left on the east side of the Jordan to live in the cities taken from the destroyed Amorites. Shortly, we will discover that the men at the mount that day will about 611,630 souls, not including women and children.

### c) The Charge of the Levites (27:9-10)

Then the people heard Moses and the charge of the Levites. Verse 9. *“Then Moses and the Levitical priests spoke to all Israel, saying, ‘Be silent and listen, O Israel! This day you have become a people for the LORD your God.’<sup>10</sup> You shall therefore obey the LORD your God, and do His commandments and His statutes which I command you today.”* (27:9-10).

The essence of the charge was simple and can be boiled down to the words, *“You shall therefore obey the LORD your God, and do His commandments and His statutes which I command you today.”*

## 2. The Charge to the People (27:11-13)

### (1) Those to Stand on Mount Gerizim (27:11)

Moses then brought the charge to the people. He designated those to stand on Mount Gerizim at the celebration. *“Moses also charged the people on that day, saying,<sup>12</sup> ‘When you cross the Jordan, these shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin.’* (27:11).

The names listed here are six of the twelve original sons of Jacob. However, you will never find a tribe of Joseph mentioned in the Scripture. Nevertheless, Joseph was represented in the nation by two tribes, the descendants of his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh.

To estimate the number of men who will be standing on Mount Gerizim, we need to look in Numbers chapter 26. There we find a census of all the men who will cross the Jordan. Looking at that text, we discover that the men standing on Mount Gerizim will be approximately 303,700. These men will *“bless the people.”*

Tribe of	<i>Simeon</i>	<i>Levi</i>	<i>Judah</i>	<i>Issachar</i>	<i>Joseph</i>	<i>Benjamin</i>
Second Census of Men Numbers 26	<b>22,200</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>76,500</b>	<b>64,300</b>	Ephraim 32,500 Manasseh 52,700  Total <b>85,200</b>	<b>32,500</b>
Total on Mt Gerizim	<b>303,700</b>					

## (2) Those to Stand on Mount Ebal (27:13)

Moses also names those to stand on Mount Ebal. Verse 13. *“For the curse, these shall stand on Mount Ebal: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.”* (27:13).

Numbers chapter 26 tells us that about 307,930 men of these tribes will stand on Mount Ebal as representatives of *“the curse.”*

Tribe of	<i>Reuben</i>	<i>Gad</i>	<i>Asher</i>	<i>Zebulun</i>	<i>Dan</i>	<i>Naphtali</i>
Second Census of Men Numbers 26	<b>43,730</b>	<b>40,500</b>	<b>53,400</b>	<b>60,500</b>	<b>64,400</b>	<b>45,400</b>
Total on Mt Ebal	<b>307,930</b>					

## B. The Declaration for the Celebration (27:14-26)

To make sure the program takes place precisely as required, Moses dictates the declaration for the celebration, beginning with an instruction. Verse 14. *“The Levites shall then answer and say to all the men of Israel with a loud voice.”* (27:14).

Let us set the scene that is to occur when the nation arrives at the two mountains. The descendants of six tribes will stand on Mount Gerizim, the descendants of six tribes will stand on Mount Ebal. A group of Levites will stand in the valley between the two and speak the words of the curses. The curses are warnings that come right out of the laws found in Exodus, Leviticus, and thus far in Deuteronomy. The curses are a short summary of the laws concerning idols, parents, boundaries, stumbling-blocks, justice, morality with parents, animals, siblings, in-laws, neighbors, others, and the whole law. After each curse, all the people of the nation of Israel will reply with one word – Amen.

### 1. Concerning Idols (27:15)

Concerning idols, verse 15. *‘Cursed is the man who makes an idol or a molten image, an abomination to the LORD, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret.’ And all the people shall answer and say, ‘Amen.’* (27:15).

### 2. Concerning Parents (27:16)

Concerning parents, verse 16. *‘Cursed is he who dishonors his father or mother.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’* (27:16).

### 3. Concerning Boundaries (27:17)

Concerning boundaries, verse 17. *‘Cursed is he who moves his neighbor’s boundary mark.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’* (27:17).

### 4. Concerning Stumbling-blocks (27:18)

Concerning stumbling-blocks, verse 18. *‘Cursed is he who misleads a blind person on the road.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’* (27:18).

### 5. Concerning Justice (27:19)

Concerning justice, verse 19. *‘Cursed is he who distorts the justice due an alien, orphan, and widow.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’* (27:19).

## 6. Concerning Morality (27:23)

### a) With Parents (27:20)

Concerning morality with parents, verse 20. *‘Cursed is he who lies with his father’s wife, because he has uncovered his father’s skirt.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’*” (27:20).

### b) With Animals (27:21)

Concerning morality with animals, verse 21. *‘Cursed is he who lies with any animal.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’*” (27:21).

### c) With Siblings (27:22)

Concerning morality with siblings, verse 22. *‘Cursed is he who lies with his sister, the daughter of his father or of his mother.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’*” (27:22).

### d) With In-laws (27:23)

Concerning morality with in-laws, verse 23. *‘Cursed is he who lies with his mother-in-law.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’*” (27:23).

## 7. Concerning Neighbors (27:24)

Concerning neighbors, verse 24. *‘Cursed is he who strikes his neighbor in secret.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’*” (27:24).

## 8. Concerning Others (27:25)

Concerning others, verse 25. *‘Cursed is he who accepts a bribe to strike down an innocent person.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’*” (27:25).

## 9. Concerning Laws (27:26)

Concerning laws, verse 26. *‘Cursed is he who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’*” (27:26).

# Chapter 28

## C. The Acclamation at the Celebration (28:1-14)

### 1. The Elevation of Israel (28:1-6)

With the declaration of the celebration set for when the nation reaches Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal, Moses gives the reason for the acclamation at the celebration. The point Moses stresses in this passage is the height of admiration with the elevation of Israel if the people remain faithful to the LORD. Chapter 28, verse 1. *‘Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.’* <sup>2</sup> *All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the LORD your God:*” (28:1-2).

#### a) In Her Surroundings (28:3)

In her surroundings, Moses says in verse 3, *“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.”* (28:3).

#### b) In Her Lives (28:4)

In her lives, Moses says in verse 4, *“Blessed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock.”* (28:4).

#### c) In Her Produce (28:5)

In her produce, Moses says in verse 5, *“Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.”* (28:5).

#### d) In Her Travels (28:6)

In her travels, Moses says in verse 6, *“Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.”* (28:6).

## 2. The Enemies of Israel (28:7)

Moses then addresses the enemies of Israel and the futility of their attempts on a faithful Israel. Verse 7. *"The LORD shall cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they will come out against you one way and will flee before you seven ways."* (28:7).

## 3. The Exertion of Israel (28:8)

But life for Israel will require work. Moses speaks of the exertion of Israel. Verse 8. *"The LORD will command the blessing upon you in your barns and in all that you put your hand to, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God gives you."* (28:8).

## 4. The Establishment of Israel (28:9-10-12)

### a) With People (28:9-10)

The faithfulness of Israel will lead to the establishment of Israel with people. Verse 9. *"The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways."*<sup>10</sup> *"So all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will be afraid of you."* (28:9-10).

### b) With Prosperity (28:11)

The faithfulness of Israel will lead to the establishment of Israel with prosperity. Verse 11. *"The LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your beast and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you."* (28:11).

### c) With Product (28:12)

The faithfulness of Israel will lead to the establishment of Israel with the product. Verse 12. *"The LORD will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow."* (28:12).

## 5. The Esteem of Israel (28:13-14)

Then Moses announces the esteem of Israel. Verse 13. *"The LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you only will be above, and you will not be underneath, if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I charge you today, to observe them carefully,"*<sup>14</sup> *and do not turn aside from any of the words which I command you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them."* (28:13-14).

## D. The Caution at the Celebration (28:15-44)

### 1. The Curse of Israel's Disobedience (28:15)

In these previous words, Moses has spoken concerning the preparation of the celebration, the declaration of the celebration, the acclamation of the celebration, and now he speaks of the caution of the celebration. He will address it in the curse, cause, and conclusion of Israel's disobedience. First, the curse of Israel's disobedience. Verse 15. *"But it shall come about, if you do not obey the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:"* (28:15).

The curses will overtake the unfaithful Israel in its surrounding, produce, lives, travel, exertion, health, environment, war, death, sore, thinking, marriage, livestock, children, labor, body, government, reputation, needs, esteem, and prosperity.

#### a) In Her Surrounding (28:16)

In her surroundings, Moses says in verse 16, *"Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country."* (28:16).

#### b) In Her Produce (28:17)

In her produce, Moses says in verse 17, *"Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl."* (28:17).

#### c) In Her Lives (28:18)

In her lives, Moses says in verse 18, *"Cursed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock."* (28:18).



**d) In Her Travel (28:19)**

In her travel, Moses says in verse 19, *“Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.”* (28:19).

**e) In Her Exertion (28:20)**

In her exertion, Moses says in verse 20, *“The LORD will send upon you curses, confusion, and rebuke, in all you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken Me.”* (28:20).

**f) In Her Health (28:21-22)**

In her, health Moses says in verse 21, *“The LORD will make the pestilence cling to you until He has consumed you from the land where you are entering to possess it.”* <sup>22</sup> *The LORD will smite you with consumption and with fever and with inflammation and with fiery heat and with the sword and with blight and with mildew, and they will pursue you until you perish.”* (28:21-22).

**g) In Her Environment (28:23-24)**

In her environment, Moses says in verse 23, *“The heaven which is over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you, iron.”* <sup>24</sup> *The LORD will make the rain of your land powder and dust; from heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed.”* (28:23-24).

**h) In Her War (28:25)**

In her war, Moses says in verse 25, *“The LORD shall cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you will go out one way against them, but you will flee seven ways before them, and you will be an example of terror to all the kingdoms of the earth.”* (28:25).

**i) In Her Death (28:26)**

In her death, Moses says in verse 26, *“Your carcasses will be food to all birds of the sky and to the beasts of the earth, and there will be no one to frighten them away.”* (28:26).

**j) In Her Sore (28:27)**

In her sore, Moses says in verse 27, *“The LORD will smite you with the boils of Egypt and with tumors and with the scab and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed.”* (28:27).

**k) In Her Thinking (28:28-29)**

In her thinking, Moses says in verse 28, *“The LORD will smite you with madness and with blindness and with bewilderment of heart;”* <sup>29</sup> *and you will grope at noon, as the blind man gropes in darkness, and you will not prosper in your ways; but you shall only be oppressed and robbed continually, with none to save you.”* (28:28-29).

**l) In Her Marriage (28:30)**

In her surroundings, Moses says in verse 30, *“You shall betroth a wife, but another man will violate her; you shall build a house, but you will not live in it; you shall plant a vineyard, but you will not use its fruit.”* (28:30).

**m) In Her Livestock (28:31)**

In her livestock, Moses says in verse 31, *“Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you will not eat of it; your donkey shall be torn away from you, and will not be restored to you; your sheep shall be given to your enemies, and you will have none to save you.”* (28:31).

**n) In Her Children (28:32)**

In her children, Moses says in verse 32, *“Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, while your eyes look on and yearn for them continually; but there will be nothing you can do.”* (28:32).

**o) In Her Labors (28:33-34)**

In her labors, Moses says in verse 33, *“A people whom you do not know shall eat up the produce of your ground and all your labors, and you will never be anything but oppressed and crushed continually.”* <sup>34</sup> *You shall be driven mad by the sight of what you see.”* (28:33-34).

### **p) In Her Body (28:35)**

In her body, Moses says in verse 35, *"The LORD will strike you on the knees and legs with sore boils, from which you cannot be healed, from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head."* (28:35).

### **q) In Her Government (28:36)**

In her government, Moses says in verse 36, *"The LORD will bring you and your king, whom you set over you, to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods, wood, and stone."* (28:36).

### **r) In Her Reputation (28:37)**

In her reputation, Moses says in verse 37, *"You shall become a horror, a proverb, and a taunt among all the people where the LORD drives you."* (28:37).

### **s) In Her Needs (28:38-42)**

In her needs, Moses says in verse 38, *"You shall bring out much seed to the field but you will gather in little, for the locust will consume it."*<sup>39</sup> *You shall plant and cultivate vineyards, but you will neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes, for the worm will devour them."*<sup>40</sup> *You shall have olive trees throughout your territory but you will not anoint yourself with the oil, for your olives will drop off."*<sup>41</sup> *You shall have sons and daughters but they will not be yours, for they will go into captivity."*<sup>42</sup> *The cricket shall possess all your trees and the produce of your ground."* (28:38-42).

### **t) In Her Esteem (28:43)**

In her esteem, Moses says in verse 43, *"The alien who is among you shall rise above you higher and higher, but you will go down lower and lower."* (28:43).

### **u) In Her Prosperity (28:44)**

In her prosperity, Moses says in verse 44, *"He shall lend to you, but you will not lend to him; he shall be the head, and you will be the tail."* (28:44).

Looking ahead into the Scripture and the story of Israel, we see at the death of King Solomon a division of the nation into two kingdoms. The north kingdom will quickly be cursed by all that Moses has just prophesied. The south kingdom will follow after the destruction of the northern kingdom and be destroyed with these curses. What will be the cause of the fulfillment of these prophetic words from Moses? Disobedience.

## **2. The Cause of Israel's Disobedience (28:45-48)**

### **a) Disobedience in Commands (28:45-46)**

The cause of Israel's disobedience will be in her disobedience in commands. Verse 45. *"So all these curses shall come on you and pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you would not obey the LORD your God by keeping His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you."*<sup>46</sup> *They shall become a sign and a wonder on you and your descendants forever."* (28:45-46).

### **b) Disobedience in Service (28:47-48)**

The cause of Israel's disobedience will be in her disobedience in service. Verse 47. *"Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things;"*<sup>48</sup> *therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in the lack of all things; and He will put an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you."* (28:47-48).

## **3. The Consequence in Israel's Disobedience (28:49-57)**

### **a) The Dispatch of a Far Nation (28:49-50)**

From the cause of Israel's disobedience, we face the consequences of Israel's disobedience with the dispatch of a far nation to overtake the nation. Verse 49. *"The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as the eagle swoops down, a nation whose language you shall not understand,"*<sup>50</sup> *a nation of fierce countenance who will have no respect for the old, nor show favor to the young."* (28:49-50).

### (1) The Food of a Far Nation (28:51)

The dispatched nation will deplete the storehouse of Israel. Verse 51. *“Moreover, it shall eat the offspring of your herd and the produce of your ground until you are destroyed, who also leaves you no grain, new wine, or oil, nor the increase of your herd or the young of your flock until they have caused you to perish.”* (28:51).

### (2) The Besiege of a Far Nation (28:52)

The unfaithful Israel will see the besiege of a far nation on their Promised Land. Verse 52. *“It shall besiege you in all your towns until your high and fortified walls in which you trusted come down throughout your land, and it shall besiege you in all your towns throughout your land which the LORD your God has given you.”* (28:52).

## b) The Despair of Israel’s Nation (28:53-57)

### (1) Change in the Nation’s Thinking – Cannibalism (28:53)

With the dispatch of a far nation, we turn to the despair of Israel’s nation. In desperation, there will be a change in the nation’s thinking – cannibalism. Verse 53. *“Then you shall eat the offspring of your own body, the flesh of your sons and of your daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, during the siege and the distress by which your enemy will oppress you.”* (28:53).

### (2) Change in the Man’s Thinking – Cannibalism (28:54-55)

In desperation, there will be a change in the man’s thinking – cannibalism. Verse 54. *“The man who is refined and very delicate among you shall be hostile toward his brother and toward the wife he cherishes and toward the rest of his children who remain,”* so that he will not give even one of them any of the flesh of his children which he will eat, since he has nothing else left, during the siege and the distress by which your enemy will oppress you in all your towns.” (28:54-55).

### (3) Change in the Woman’s Thinking – Cannibalism (28:56-57)

In desperation, there will be a change in the woman’s thinking – cannibalism. Verse 56. *“The refined and delicate woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground for delicateness and refinement, shall be hostile toward the husband she cherishes and toward her son and daughter,”* and toward her afterbirth which issues from between her legs and toward her children whom she bears; for she will eat them secretly for lack of anything else, during the siege and the distress by which your enemy will oppress you in your towns.” (28:56-57).

The fulfillment of this despair of Israel’s nation began in the Northern Kingdom capital of Samaria as found in 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 6:24-32. Here is a short, truncated, synopsis of the Scripture text.

*Now it came about after this, that Ben-hadad king of Aram gathered all his army and went up and besieged Samaria. ... As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall a woman cried out to him, saying, “Help, my lord, O king!” ... And the king said to her, “What is the matter with you?” And she answered, “This woman said to me, ‘Give your son that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.’”<sup>29</sup> So we boiled my son and ate him; and I said to her on the next day....*

The same occurred during the fall of the Southern Kingdom capital of Jerusalem. Ezekiel 5:9-10 says the following.

*And because of all your abominations, I will do among you what I have not done, and the like of which I will never do again. Therefore, fathers will eat their sons among you, and sons will eat their fathers; for I will execute judgments on you and scatter all your remnant to every wind.*

Jeremiah recorded the cannibalism after the fall of Jerusalem twice in his book of Lamentations 2:20 and 4:10.

*See, O LORD, and look! With whom have You dealt thus? Should women eat their offspring ....*



*The hands of compassionate women boiled their own children; They became food for them because of the destruction of the daughter of my people.*

#### **4. The Conclusion of Israel's Disobedience (28:58-68)**

##### **a) Israel Must Face the LORD's Directive (28:58-62)**

###### **(1) Plagues Written in the Book (28:58-59)**

What will be the conclusion of Israel's disobedience? Israel must face the LORD's directive to experience the plagues written in the book. Verse 58. *"If you are not careful to observe all the words of this law which are written in this book, to fear this honored and awesome name, the LORD your God," then the LORD will bring extraordinary plagues on you and your descendants, even severe and lasting plagues, and miserable and chronic sicknesses.*" (28:58-59).

###### **(2) Plagues Not Written in the Book (28:60-62)**

###### **(a) Until Destroyed (28:60-61)**

But Israel will not just face the plagues written in the book; she will also face the plagues not written in the book until destroyed. Verse 60. *"He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt of which you were afraid, and they will cling to you. <sup>61</sup> Also every sickness and every plague which, not written in the book of this law, the LORD will bring on you until you are destroyed."* (28:60-61).

###### **(b) Until Depleted (28:62)**

Israel will face the plagues not written in the book until depleted. Verse 62. *"Then you shall be left few in number, whereas you were as numerous as the stars of heaven, because you did not obey the LORD your God."* (28:62).

##### **b) Israel Must Face the LORD's Delight (28:63)**

Israel must face the LORD's directive, and it must face the LORD's delight. Verse 63. *"It shall come about that as the LORD delighted over you to prosper you, and multiply you, so the LORD will delight over you to make you perish and destroy you; and you will be torn from the land where you are entering to possess it."* (28:63).

##### **c) Israel Must Face the LORD's Decision (28:64-68)**

###### **(1) To Take Away Her Home (28:64)**

Then Israel must also face the LORD's decision to take away her home. Verse 64. *"Moreover, the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth; and there you shall serve other gods, wood and stone, which you or your fathers have not known."* (28:64).

###### **(2) To Take Away Her Rest (28:65)**

Then Israel must face the LORD's decision to take away her rest. Verse 65. *"Among those nations you shall find no rest, and there will be no resting place for the sole of your foot; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing of eyes, and despair of soul."* (28:65).

###### **(3) To Take Away Her Assurance (28:66-67)**

Then Israel must face the LORD's decision to take away her assurance. Verse 65. *"So your life shall hang in doubt before you; and you will be in dread night and day, and shall have no assurance of your life. <sup>67</sup> In the morning you shall say, 'Would that it were evening!' And at evening you shall say, 'Would that it were morning!' because of the dread of your heart which you dread, and for the sight of your eyes which you will see."* (28:66-67).

###### **(4) To Take Away Her Freedom (28:68)**

Then Israel must face the LORD's decision to take away her freedom. Verse 68. *"The LORD will bring you back to Egypt in ships, by the way about which I spoke to you, 'You will never see it again!' And there you will offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but there will be no buyer."* (28:68).

By 586 BC, all of Israel will be unfaithful, all of the curses listed in Moses' prophecy will have been fulfilled. The proof is found in the rest of the history and prophecy books of the Bible yet to be written in the centuries to come.

Moses will now summarize the Covenant given at Moab, his last duties, and his departing blessings.