

Sermon: God Almighty, the Source of all our Blessings

Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:1-20

Date: 18th February 2018

Introduction

“Blessed Chinese New Year.” Two things of interest: First, the zodiac and its cultural significance.

Second, “Gods of wealth.” Let me just two of them. 1) Cai Bo Xing Jun (财帛星君)

2) South –West Chinese God of Wealth - Liu Hai (刘海)

Understanding a little about the Chinese culture helps in evangelism.

Way forward today

I. Look at the Deuteronomy passage

II. Covenantal relationship between Yahweh and the Israelites.

I) Yahweh the Provider

A) It was Yahweh who Provided for them in the Wilderness (vv 1-5)

Why the forty years wandering? (v.2)

The Lord God Almighty evidenced his presence and love for them as he provided and cared for them:

1. They had the miraculous manna from heaven.

2. He cared for them (v.4)

Illustration:

Chorus of hymn, “Count Your Blessings”

God provided for us when we were in the “wilderness” of our career and business.

B) God Will Provide for them in the Promised Land (vv 7-10)

The good land, “good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey...”

“Milk” will be reference to “the bountiful livestock” “Honey” a reference to fruit nectar, specifically date honey. (vv 7-9)

God give the good land. Let there be praise to God. Sing “Doxology”

Illustration

Israel still the land flowing with milk and honey

CNY – praise and thanksgiving – at “Lo Hei” sing the “Doxology”

C) They Must Never Forget their Provider (vv 11-18)

Warning: vv 11-13. Two things v.14

1. Do not become proud

2. Do not forget the Lord their God.

To avoid the above two, do the below two: (vv 15-18)

1. Take time to consider. Consider God miraculous provision in the past.

2. Take time to understand: a) Wrong understanding (v.17); b) Right understanding (v.18)

Illustration: John Wesley’s concern

Wesley was also very concern about what would happen to the people called Methodist when their material possession should increase. His sermon titles: “The Use of Money” (1744); “The Good Steward” (1758), “The Danger of Riches” (1780), and “On Riches” (1788). There is also the late and deeply disappointed sermon “On the Causes of the Inefficacy of Christianity” (1789), and the final, almost desperate sermon “On the Danger of Increasing Riches” (1790).

D) What happens should they Forget their Provider (vv 19-20)

Moses warned them that God will act against them – he will destroy them!

II) Covenantal relationship between God the Provider and the Israelites.

A) Renewal of Covenant at Shechem

The Lord God, Yahweh, called the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and entered into a covenantal relationship with them – He will be their God and they will be his people.

After Moses was taken away by God, Joshua took over leadership from Moses. He did a very important act, that is, to renew their covenant with Yahweh, the Lord God. In Joshua 24, we note how he went about this.

First he reminded them about God's blessings (v.13)

Next he challenged them to a decision (vv 14-15)

Their responses (vv 6,18,19). We too will serve the Lord.

B) The Israelites Broke the Covenant

Were they faithful to the covenant? They forgot God - Judges 2:10-13

What was the consequence? Judges 2: 15

The condition of stubbornness (Judges 19:2b)

God was against them

What a sad story of a people who forgot who is the God who had blessed them and provided for them.

Conclusion

We must not forget that it is the Lord God Almighty who has blessed us.

How do you view your abundance of material things?

Let us be guided by two thoughts:

1. All that we have comes from the Lord for the earth is the Lord's and everything in it. (Psalm 24:1).

Attitude of "Doxology" Be rich towards God not towards self!

2. Remember that we are but stewards: a) Bring our offerings; b) We are blessed to be a blessing.

Lesson in Song: Praise God Almighty

1. Let us lift our voices; give to God our praises;

He has greatly blessed us; He is God Almighty.

Chorus: Praise Him! Praise Him! Praise the Lord Yah!

All our blessings come from Him!

2. Let us never forget; there is only one God;

He is God Creator; Who gives life to mankind. (Chorus)

3. As we face our future; we have God Emmanuel;

Who is with us always; Let us learn to trust Him. (Chorus)

4. Come now God Almighty; come and touch our spirits;

Making us obedient; Your will always doing. (Chorus)

(Tune: "Kong Xi, Kong Xi, Kong Xi Ni"/ Date: 15/2/2018)