



ENJOYING THE GOOD LIFE "Perils of the Good Life" Deuteronomy 8:1-20

No. 5721

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After the harrowing experiences of the exodus and the wilderness, the children of Israel were, no doubt, looking forward to life in the land of promise. But Moses knew that there are perils even in the good life.

I. Possibilities of the Good Life.

- A. The possibility of being an example. 7:6
 - 1. A holy people.
 - 2. A treasured possession.
- B. The possibility of being ensnared. 7:16, 25
 - 1. Condoning what God condemns.
 - 2. Desiring what God detests.

II. Perils of the Good Life.

- A. Obvious perils from the opposition. 7:22
 - 1. They can be handled.
 - 2. They won't go away. Note: "Little by little."
- B. Subtle perils from the self.
 - 1. The perils of self-interest. 7:2-4
 - a. Alien alliances that defeat God's purposes.
 - b. Alien attachments that destroy God's people.
 - 2. The perils of self-indulgence. 8:3
 - a. The "bread only" mentality.
 - c. The balance of bread and Word.
 - 3. The perils of self-sufficiency. 8:12-17
 - a. Prosperity can lead to pride.
 - b. Pride leads to a sense of power.
 - c. Power is blind to the One who provides.
 - 4. The perils of self-righteousness.
 - a. Seeing blessings as deserved...
 - b. Rather than recognizing they were donated.
 - 5. The perils of self-assertiveness. 9:7-29
 - a. The rebellious spirit. 9:7
 - b. The resistant attitude. 9:13

III. Procedures for the Good Life.

- A. Remember the past.
- B. Remember the principles.
 - 1. You are a holy people. 7:6
 - 2. You are dependent on divine grace. 7:7
 - 3. You don't live by bread alone. 8:3
 - 4. You didn't make it this far on your own. 8:17-18
- C. Remember the perils.
- D. Remember the praise. 8:10