

Deuteronomy 7:1-11– God’s Glory is the Greatest Good (pt. 3) – Sermon Outline

Intro: How is God’s glory seen in His redeeming and glorifying His own special, chosen people?

Need: God’s redemption doesn’t just justify or sanctify, but glorifies His people! How can a holy God forgive sinful man is a profound question the cross especially answers. How can a glorious God give His glory to sinful man is a profound question which the resurrection, ascension, & return of Christ especially answer.

Theme: God’s redemptive glory is seen in punishing the wicked & glorifying His people.

I. God’s glory in preserving His people who love Him & punishing those who hate Him.

A. As noted last week, the Lord keeps His covenant love/mercy for 1,000 generations to those who love Him, but He repays to the face those who hate Him.

1. The LORD will destroy His own people if they hate Him and turn away. He did this with Israel in the wilderness, scattering their bodies in the desert even as the bodies of Pharaoh’s army were scattered on the seashore. Why? Because He will not give His glory to another.
2. Because salvation saves us not merely from the penalty of sin, hell, but from bondage to sin.
3. Christ redeems us for Himself, to give glory to God. Would a man choose a bride, or continue with her if she insisted on being unfaithful and impure? He would be a fool to do so.
4. The LORD is patient, even as a man is to an adulterous wife, but that patience has its limits if that man is wise and good, and so it is with the LORD. The Lord divorced Israel for apostasy, Jer. 3:8.
5. Hebrews 10 tells us those who refuse Him and reject Christ’s blood face even worse punishment than those who set aside God’s law under Moses. The LORD always repays to the face.
6. Christ preached more on hell than anyone, and said not all who calls on His name saying Lord, Lord, enters the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of His Father who is in heaven.
7. But in Jer. 3:12, we see the call to “Return, backsliding Israel” and “I will not cause My anger to fall on you, for I am merciful...I will not remain angry forever...only acknowledge your iniquity.”
8. Further, Jer. 31:31-34 shows God’s everlasting love and covenant to His people. The new covenant with the house of Israel and Judah will be such that He puts His law in our minds/hearts to keep it!
9. God ensures that the covenant promised to Abraham is fulfilled in Christ, and all the elect in Christ.
10. God does this, again, to show His power/glory, in redemption purchased in Christ’s blood.

B. His power and glory of justice is displayed in punishing the wicked/impenitent.

1. Prov. 16:4-5: *“The Lord has made all for Himself, Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom. Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; Though they join forces, none will go unpunished.”*
2. Psalms 5:4ff: *“You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You. The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity. You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; The Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man. But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy.” In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.”*

C. God’s mercy is far more abundant in this world, far more displayed, than His righteous wrath for sin.

1. Deut. 7:9, He keeps covenant and mercy for 1,000 generations, forever, to His faithful people.
2. He repays those who hate Him to their face, and in Deut. 5:10, the 2nd giving of the 10 commandments, as it was said the 1st time, “The LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the 3rd and 4th generation to those who hate Me.”
3. That’s severe judgment, but notice the balance. The faithful and their offspring are blessed forever!

4. You may say, well, my children are wayward, no Christian has seen all in their offspring be converted for multiple generations. Maybe, maybe not, but the issue is our unfaithfulness/disobedience, not His.
 5. God's grace and mercy is not unjust, because it redeems out of our bondage to sin to obey Him.
 6. His justice is not harsh or cruel, for it doesn't extend to the 1000th generation, & those who are greater sinners, rejecting greater light of the Gospel, are punished the worst in hell, Lk. 12:47.
- D. Deut. 7:11, "therefore [b/c God is faithful to His people but punishes those who hate Him] you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to do them."
1. Israel would fail and intermarry rather than kill the pagan nations in the Promised Land. They worshiped their idols on their altars, rather than destroy them as the LORD commanded.
 2. They would even sacrifice their own children to Moloch! Is it a true mercy of God to forgive such wicked people, keep them in the Promised Land? Canaan/the Promised Land is a picture of heaven, God's people dwelling in God's land with God, in all righteousness.
 3. Why couldn't Israel stay in the land? Because they were wicked, unholy, unfaithful, needing Christ.
 4. Christ has redeemed us to make us holy, so that we inherit heaven, the true Promised Land, along with the redeemed creation, in all holiness and righteousness. But the unholy cannot enter, Rv. 22:15
 5. Grace and mercy do not come at the expense of righteousness, they are the grounds for us to grow in righteousness and holiness, to be God's special, chosen, holy people, His holy nation.
 6. He redeems us out of our sins, and into His righteousness. This is His mercy and grace, it is a pure, holy, just mercy and grace. It is not twisted. It does not coddle sin. It kills it in the recipient of grace.
 7. It is true redemption. But many churches today teach a false Gospel that forgives without redeeming.
 8. Jer. 31, through Christ, the Law is written on His elect people's heart, and we will/do obey Him.
 9. We will not be like Israel of old, before Christ, mostly wayward. We will increase in faithfulness through the Spirit who leads us by His Word. We will keep His commandments, and thus keep God's covenant, and have His love and promises of salvation forever, 1000 generations.

II. God's glory in glorifying His redeemed people with His Name when Christ returns:

- A. This love and salvation culminates at the end of history, at the marriage supper of the Lamb.
1. Christ is presently washing us with the water of His Word, to present us spotless, Eph. 5:26-27.
 2. His love for us is such that the unveiling of His Church in spotless purity is the apple of His eye; His chief delight is in us, His redeemed people! We are trophies of His glory, of His great work in Christ.
 3. We are new creations in Christ, and that new creation, that redemptive work of Christ, is what the Father loved first and most. The glorying between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the highest love.
 4. The Godhead loves one another, glorifies and magnifies one another, and that love spills over to His elect bride, the True Israel of God united to Christ in true faith, who are loved by the Lord, in the Lord.
- B. His loving His glory most brings you into His glory, lovingly clothing you in His own glory, for His glory!
1. Isa. 61:1-3, partially quoted by Christ in Luke 4:18-19, who declares it is fulfilled in Him that day: *"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; **That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.**"*

2. Christ's purpose, in fulfillment of prophecy, is to preach the good tidings/Gospel so that His people are called trees of righteousness, not because of their free will, but the planting of the Lord, who first implanted His Word and Spirit in their hearts to regenerate them, so that He is glorified, not His us.
 3. And yet, because He is glorified in us, His glorifying Himself, paradoxically, is His glorifying us!
 4. **Isa. 61:9-11:** *Their [the elect/redeemed] descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, And their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, That they are the posterity whom the Lord has blessed." I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its bud, As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.* Righteousness and praise spring forth because He makes His people holy/righteous!
 5. **Note Revelation 19:6-8:** *"And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."* His works in us which we do in Him, not Christ's works imputed to us when we were counted righteous at our justification.
- C. The holy city/heavenly Jerusalem is actually God's pure, holy, redeemed people (Rev. 21:9-22:5):
1. *The angel says, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he who talked with me had a gold reed to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city is laid out as a square; its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed: twelve thousand furlongs. Its length, breadth, and height are equal. Then he measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel. The construction of its wall was of jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass. The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.*
 2. The walls, the foundation and its precious jewels, all of that is describing God's people, holy to the Lord, pure and beautiful. The streets paved of gold are a description of the glory of God's people, glory which He has worked in them through His Son and Spirit. It is His glory, and their glory. A true marriage! Remember, the angel is showing John the bride, the Lamb's wife, who is "having the glory of God"! This radiant glow of God's people is there's, because God is with them, in them, upon them.

3. V. 22ff: *But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, **for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light** [in all things Christ has the pre-eminence, including the pre-eminent glory in heaven in the sight of God's people/all things, Col. 1:18].*
 4. *And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.*
 5. *But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. [the wicked in their sin are indeed punished by God].*
 6. *And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.*
 7. **They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads** [when we pray hallowed by thy name, in the end, the Lord will be so hallowed in we His people, that His name will be on our foreheads – we will be glorious and perfectly glorify, perfectly hallow, God's name for all to see as God's purchased people].
 8. *There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.*
 9. *God's glory adorns us, God's love for His own glory brings us by His love into His own glory, and makes us glorious in union with Christ the Son. Thus we see Him face to face, and His name, His glory, is on our foreheads. And also, therefore, not only He, but we, shall reign forever and ever.*
 - D. **We are the chief display of God's glory through human history. The work that Christ accomplished is the glorification of His bride. As such, as His glory, we are in a real sense Christ's crown jewel.**
 1. We adorn the LORD and His work. Can you fathom this? The wicked perish, but we alone are His crown, His bride, His city, filled with His glory, bearing His name, ruling and reigning with Him forever.
 2. This simultaneously exalts us to the highest heights for all eternity, and humbles us to the lowest depths. Because our exalted glory is something given to us, when we were wretched sinners.
 3. We are a glorious, spotless bride, but because of His work for us, in us, and upon us.
- III. **CONC:** As man was the crown of God's creative work before He rested, so man renewed in Christ is the crown of God's redemptive work, in which He rests forever in us, and we in Him, in eternal marriage/union. As God said at creation all was good, He now looks at His new creation and says, glory!
- A. In glory, for all eternity, He will wear His people as His crown; His people could not be more exalted, and He could not be more glorified. For we are a crown, but it is a crown He Himself fashioned!
 - B. The Christian is created in Christ Jesus for good works, good works which are the works of God in us.
 - C. We are clothed in fine linen, clean and bright, the fine linen of our own righteous acts, Rev. 19:8.
 - D. And yet, those righteous deeds are God's work in us. When He wears us as a crown displaying His glory, He crowns Himself with His own glory, for those united to Christ are His glory.
 - E. And so as His glory, we give Him all the glory, for He alone has done it, & as we saw before, He will give His glory to no other. For by giving us His glory, He gives His glory to Himself. For we are one with Christ, body and soul. Oh how great a salvation, oh how glorious a redemption! Let us pray.