

"Bar-None"  
Deuteronomy 4: 21 - 22  
September 19, 2010

**God Has Revealed Himself So That It Would Be Clear That There Is None Equal; Bar-None, (vs. 35)**

- Bar-None; There Is No Rival That Can Adequately Stand Against God's Sovereign Decree, (vs. 21 - 24)
  - God places a high premium on the purity of His possessions, (vs. 21)
    - Since purity must be modeled, God places a high premium on the purity of leaders, (vs. 21a): "They angered him at the waters of Meribah, and it went ill with Moses on their account, for they made his spirit bitter, and he spoke rashly with his lips." (Psalm 106:32-33)
    - Since purity is the ultimate expression of faith, God places a high premium on belief, (vs. 21b):
      1. Expressions of faith are impossible apart from a relationship with God - "And the Lord SAID to Moses and Aaron,
      2. Expressions of faith must be based on a trust in God & His nature - "Because you did not BELIEVE in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel,
      3. Our failure to express faith in this way will result in God's judgment - therefore you shall not BRING this assembly into the land that I have GIVEN them."
      4. Our failure to express faith in this way does not change who God is - These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel QUARRELED with the Lord, and through them he showed himself HOLY." (Numbers 20:12-13)
  - God will not allow rebellion to go unpunished, (vs. 22)
    - Rebellion against God's commands brings death, (vs. 22a):
      1. God's commands for His people are based on His authority - "TAKE the staff, and ASSEMBLE the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and TELL the rock before their eyes to YIELD its water.
      2. God's promises for His people are based on His word - So you shall bring water OUT of the rock for them and give DRINK to the congregation and their cattle."
      3. God's provision for His people is orchestrated through ordained obedience - And Moses TOOK the staff from before the Lord, as he COMMANDED him.
      4. Rebellion before the Lord begins when I see myself as sovereign - Then Moses and Aaron GATHERED the assembly together before the rock, and he SAID to them, "HEAR now, you rebels:
      5. Rebellion before the Lord begins when I operate out of my power - shall we BRING water for you out of this rock?"
      6. Rebellion before the Lord begins when I enact my plans, not God's - And Moses LIFTED up his hand and STRUCK the rock with his staff twice,
      7. Rebellion before the Lord cannot be gauged by God's giving provision - and water came OUT abundantly, and the congregation DRANK, and their livestock." (Numbers 20:8-11)
    - God's sovereign grace brings life, (vs. 22b):
      1. God's sovereign grace is family oriented - "And you, Solomon my son, KNOW the God of your father
      2. God's sovereign grace is all consuming - and SERVE him with a whole heart and with a willing mind,
      3. God's sovereign grace is the result of God's decrees - for the Lord SEARCHES all hearts and UNDERSTANDS every plan and thought.
      4. God's sovereign grace is made available to those who seek God - If you SEEK him, he will be FOUND by you,
      5. God's sovereign grace is withheld from those who reject God - but if you FORSAKE him, he will CAST you off forever.
      6. God's sovereign grace is bestowed upon those God has chosen - Be CAREFUL now, for the Lord has CHOSEN you to build a house for the sanctuary;
      7. God's sovereign grace will come to completion - be STRONG and DO it." (1 Chronicles 28:9-10)

- God will not permit any substitutes to be offered, (vs. 23)
  - God's grace is based upon solely upon our relationship with Him, (vs. 23a)
  - God's relationship with His people does not allow for any other affections, (vs. 23b)
- God will not tolerate any rivals to His nature, (vs. 24)