

A Time for Mirth

“And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.”

Nehemiah 8:12

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

- **Let's learn Deut 28:47 very well ... then give thanks!**
- **This is Moses' final warning to Israel before dying.**
- **Thanksgiving is a duty from Genesis to Revelation.**
- **Our nation's Thanksgiving Day is one week away.**
- **God's blessing on your life depends on your thanks.**

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

- This verse starts with a warning about thanksgiving.
- Serve God joyfully ... or serve your enemies in pain!
- He will put a yoke of iron on your neck to destroy you.
- Ten terrible verses follow describing His punishment.
- Thanks for asking. Yes, let's look at the 10 verses.

Deuteronomy 28:48-49

48 Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

49 The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

Deuteronomy 28:50-51

50 A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young:

51 And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee.

Deuteronomy 28:52-53

52 And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the LORD thy God hath given thee.

53 And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee:

Deuteronomy 28:54-55

54 So that the man that is tender among you, and very delicate, his eye shall be evil toward his brother, and toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the remnant of his children which he shall leave:

55 So that he will not give to any of them of the flesh of his children whom he shall eat: because he hath nothing left him in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee in all thy gates.

Deuteronomy 28:56-57

56 The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter,

57 And toward her young one that cometh out from between her feet, and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and straitness, wherewith thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates.

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

- You asked and saw 10 verses of severe warning.
- Our verse starts with a warning about thanksgiving.
- Serve God this way ... or serve your enemies in pain!
- He will put a yoke of iron on your neck to destroy you.
- You will experience your destruction if unthankful.

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

- **This word is another word for obedience and worship.**
- **What does God require of us that is hard? Nothing!**
- **His yoke is easy, and His burden is light (Matt 11:30).**
- **His commandments are not grievous, but profitable.**
- **If you give up everything ... you get Mark 10:28-30!**

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

- **LORD = Jehovah = I AM THAT I AM = only true God!**
- **He is worth serving without any blessings at all!**
- **But He is not just the only God ... He is our God!**
- **He is not just our God ... He is our Father in heaven!**
- **He has adopted and blessed us above all others!**

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

- **Kings expected servants to be joyful ... what of God?**
- **He knows He has blessed us ... so He expects joy!**
- **Ezra directed great mirth and feasting (Neh 8:8-12)!**
- **Joy is a command of this great God (Phil 4:4; I Thes 5:16).**
- **Are you happy serving God ... especially in thanks?**

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

- **Inspired repetition is not to be lightly discounted.**
- **Joyfulness outside should reflect heart gladness!**
- **We want both ... glad heart ... and joy bursting forth!**
- **Only one is hypocrisy or selfishness. Think about it!**
- **How lifted up is your heart and gushing your praise?**

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

- **Love these words ... for Israel? ... much more for you!**
- **God gave Canaan – cities, houses, wells, vineyards, etc.**
- **Who would want their lifestyle compared to our own!**
- **You have been given far more than any Israelite ever.**
- **You have more than any generation or nation ever.**

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;

- **The Pilgrims celebrated thanksgiving for abundance!**
- **But it is a shame to even think of theirs as abundance!**
- **No matter how we view it ... we have real abundance!**
- **Anything mankind has wanted ... we have more of it!**
- **Everything man has pursued ... we have more of it!**

How Will Deuteronomy 28:47 Affect You?

- How joyful and glad are you right now?
- How much zeal will you put in Thanksgiving?
- What will you do to show great joyfulness?
- What will you do to make others glad in heart?
- If you must excel others, do it by thanksgiving!

How Will Deuteronomy 28:47 Affect You?

And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household.

Deuteronomy 14:26

For Further Study

- **America's Thanksgiving Day ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/holidays/thanksgiving.php>
- **Thanksgiving PP presentation ...** www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/ThanksgivingPP.pdf
- **Thanksgiving Proclamations ...** <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/today/decline-of-a-nation.php>.
- **Thanksgiving sermon outline ...** www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/thanksgiving.pdf
- **Where Are the Nine? sermon outline ...** www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/where-are-the-nine.pdf
- **Murmuring and Complaining sermon outline ...** www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/murmuring.pdf

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