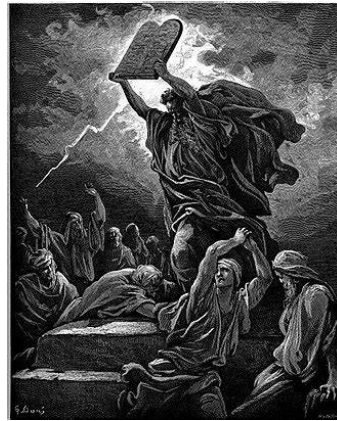


## Warning: Do Not Claim Your Own Righteousness!

(Deuteronomy 9:1-9)



Deuteronomy chapter 9 is a fascinating account as the Lord deals with His nation Israel prior to their entering the Promised Land. They would discover nations greater, taller, and stronger than themselves (vs. 1-2). Yet, God is greater than all of Israel's enemies and He would empower Israel to conquer them (v. 3). **God warns them not to think that their conquest of these people would be due to their own righteousness**; God would do it because of the wickedness of the heathen, and to keep His promises to the patriarchs (vs. 4-5).

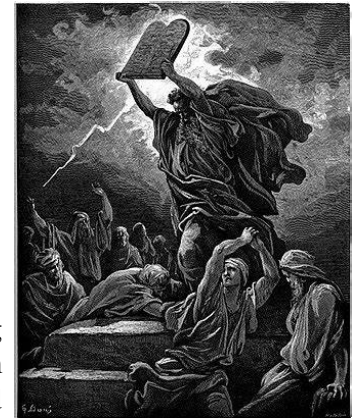
**The Lord then reminded them how wicked they had been:** 1) They were a rebellious people their entire 40 years in the wilderness (v. 7). 2) Israel received the Ten Commandments at Horeb (Sinai), yet they quickly broke God's law with their golden calf idolatry (vs. 8-21). God was so angered that He would have destroyed the nation, including Aaron, had it not been for the intercession of Moses (vs. 19-20, 26-29). 3) After the golden calf fiasco Israel continued to provoke the LORD to wrath (v. 22). 4) Kadesh-Barnea was a turning point where the people were unwilling to possess the land and, with the exception of Joshua and Caleb, refused to believe the Lord (v. 23). Because of their unbelief, they must die in the wilderness (Numbers 13-14).

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we must never think that our own righteousness is the reason we are enjoying the blessings of God. Every good thing we have is due solely to the grace (undeserved kindness) of God. The blessings that we have come from our great Intercessor, the Lord Jesus. The Apostle Paul did not point to his own righteousness: "And be found in Him, **not having mine own righteousness**, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ" (Phil. 3:9).

*George Zeller, [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)*

## Warning: Do Not Claim Your Own Righteousness!

(Deuteronomy 9:1-9)



Deuteronomy chapter 9 is a fascinating account as the Lord deals with His nation Israel prior to their entering the Promised Land. They would discover nations greater, taller, and stronger than themselves (vs. 1-2). Yet, God is greater than all of Israel's enemies and He would empower Israel to conquer them (v. 3). **God warns them not to think that their conquest of these people would be due to their own righteousness**; God would do it because of the wickedness of the heathen, and to keep His promises to the patriarchs (vs. 4-5).

**The Lord then reminded them how wicked they had been:** 1) They were a rebellious people their entire 40 years in the wilderness (v. 7). 2) Israel received the Ten Commandments at Horeb (Sinai), yet they quickly broke God's law with their golden calf idolatry (vs. 8-21). God was so angered that He would have destroyed the nation, including Aaron, had it not been for the intercession of Moses (vs. 19-20, 26-29). 3) After the golden calf fiasco Israel continued to provoke the LORD to wrath (v. 22). 4) Kadesh-Barnea was a turning point where the people were unwilling to possess the land and, with the exception of Joshua and Caleb, refused to believe the Lord (v. 23). Because of their unbelief, they must die in the wilderness (Numbers 13-14).

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we must never think that our own righteousness is the reason we are enjoying the blessings of God. Every good thing we have is due solely to the grace (undeserved kindness) of God. The blessings that we have come from our great Intercessor, the Lord Jesus. The Apostle Paul did not point to his own righteousness: "And be found in Him, **not having mine own righteousness**, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ" (Phil. 3:9).

*George Zeller, [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)*