

Book of Deuteronomy

DETERMINANT THRESHOLD

Part 1. The Linking Reciprocal, 27:1

#1 The most DETERMINANT THRESHOLD stands between the eternal & the temporal or between God & men or between the invisible & the visible or between absolute cause & effect.

#2 People of God exist in a sea of thresholds. Thresholds require decisions, require understanding, require obedience to revealed truth.

#3 “Then Moses and the elders of Israel charged the people, saying, “Keep all the commandments which I command you today”, v. 1.

#4 Revealed commandments cross the threshold between the will of God→ & the minds of en. Moses was ordering a change of the comprehension of reality. A DETERMINANT THRESHOLD had been put into time!

#5 The Lord put this DETERMINANT THRESHOLD in place & then provided a linkage between the two sides of the threshold. The word of God, the commandments, were expected to be obeyed (“Keep all the commandments”).

#6 The DETERMINANT THRESHOLD was put in place by God & then he provided the terms for linking the gulf. This is a RECIPROCAL LINKAGE: God→ gave commandments to link His will to people in time; & then people in time obeyed the revealed terms← linking behavior across the threshold back to God.

#7 The RECIPROCAL LINKAGE, →word of God←human personal obedience, overcomes the DETERMINANT THRESHOLD!

#8 Inherent in this text is a warning against mere FORMAL LINKAGE, where in the Lord issues commands & people accept their source, yet do not really obey them.

#9 Obedience becomes important because the word of God is important because the word of God is important! And the word of God is important because it is the only way to bridge the threshold between two worlds!

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DETERMINANT THRESHOLDS

Part 2. The Power of Supernatural Induction, 27:2-3

#1 “So it shall be on the day when you cross the Jordan to the land which the Lord your God gives you that you shall set up for yourself large stones and coat them with lime and write on them all the words of the law, when you cross over, so that you may enter the land...”, 2,3.

#2 HISTORICAL CONDITIONS ARE INDUCED BY THE LORD. HISTORICAL CONDITIONS ARE INDUCTIVE in just that way. Had supernatural induction not been the causal factor, kCanaan would have been beyond the reach of the Israelites.

#3 Entering into the “...land flowing with milk and honey...” was **CONDITIONAL**; the conditions were supernatural. The invasion of Canaan had a supernatural author!

#4 This means that the invasion, conquest & possession of the land was not rooted in the material circumstances, not rooted in military advantage, not rooted in geo-politics, not rooted in “The Great Man Theory” of history (charismatic leaders).

#5 The land was a gift to Israel; a gift from above. Invasion & possession of the land was rooted in God, alone.

#6 “...as the Lord, the God of your fathers, promised”, v. 3. The promises of God throw a canopy of supernatural power over all things temporal. Such power serves the purposes of God & eventually renders the fulfillment of His promises.

#7 Israel often failed to grasp that because of the promises of God made to them generations before, that the nation existed in a sea of **SUPERNATURAL INDUCTION!**

#8 Undressed stones assembled, coated with lime & inscribed with “...all the words of the law...” framed this truth of **SUPERNATURAL INDUCTION**.

#9 Revealed truths like that are not bound by time. Quite the opposite, **SUPERNATURAL INDUCTION** binds the sinews of time, forcing them to the shape of God’s will. This is called **ISOMORPHISM** (same shape) between the will of God & the shape of **HISTORICAL CONDITIONS**.

#10 **SUPERNATURAL INDUCTION** is presented as a perpetual force changing the shape of conditions & of circumstance on behalf of His people.

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Part 3: MOUNT EBAL & THE FULL SPECTRUM OF REALITY, 27:4-8

#1 A wall of undressed stones encased in lime (writing surface) was to be erected atop Mt. Ebal.

#2 "You shall write on the stones all the words of this law very distinctly," v. 8

#3 The written words of God legible on Mt. Ebal, served as a PUBLIC SYMBOL. From that space, Israel's attention was directed to the true causal agency over history, space & time. That is still the unchanging purpose of all biblical symbolism. There is no change there.

#4 From across the PRIMARY THRESHOLD the Almighty induced historical conditions. Men were given an understanding of their place in history; and that, to serve God. Israel had to live within historical conditions, but upon the foundation of revealed truth. That has implications for what is called The American Philosophy of Pragmatism. Pragmatic reasoning cannot displace revelation. That truth has never been amended nor rescinded.

#5 "...you shall build there an altar to the Lord your God..." v. 5. SUPERNATURAL MEANING was intended to blanket the land under God. The DETERMINANT THRESHOLD could never be forgotten nor even left far from personal contemplation.

#6 This threshold of great consequence was & still should be approached by the SUPERNATURAL RECIPROCAL. God reveals Himself across the threshold & men respond in obedience to it.

#7 Thereafter, Mt. Ebal would serve the purpose of reminding the people & otherwise confronting them with ABSOLUTE TRUTH.

#8 It rooted them in God, in eternity, in revealed truth. Reasoning & understanding, among the people of God, was to be fixed on the One beyond the land & outside of time.

#9 Mt. Ebal was a place of worship. A prescribed meeting place, in the middle of the threshold between two worlds.

#10. The FULL SPECTRUM OF REALITY, from the invisible→to the visible was presented or represented on that mountain. Israel then, & we today, live on that spectrum.

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Part 4: THE REGIME OF ENFORCED MEANING, 27:9-14

#1 There are thresholds of meaning. Israel as a people was to be the embodiment of the THRESHOLD OF REVEALED MEANING.

#2 “Then Moses and the Levitical priests spoke to all Israel, saying, ‘Be silent and listen, O Israel” This day you have become a people for the Lord your God’, v. 9.

#3 The reason for & the aim of life were revealed & absolute (not subject to temporal terms & their meanings). It was a matter of SUPERNATURAL PROCLAMATION. The THRESHOLD OF REVEALED MEANING provokes the move away from the self, from cultural habits, from previous society, from meaningless traditions, from unquestioned behavior.

#4 Such a threshold of meaning presents a revealed understanding of who they were. The fact of this threshold of consequence, accordingly, includes the structure of a BEFORE & an AFTER. Everything before is now meaningless & dead; everything after the threshold is different in content & meaning. What separates the BEFORE from the AFTER is the will of God, the word of God & the power of God.

#5 “You shall therefore obey the Lord your God, and do His commandments and His statutes which I command you today”, v. 10.

#6 Belief is demonstrated in SPIRITUAL IMMEDIACY. All things BEFORE are to be referred to the words of God.

#7 Moses charged the people: After crossing the Jordan, specified measures were to be taken; measures relative to revealed truth. Mount Gerizim was to be occupied by six tribes & would represent supernatural blessing, v. 12.

#8 Mount Ebal was to be equally manned & represented the consequent curses of life apart from obedience. Atop Mt. Ebal was the altar to deal with sin, v. 13.

#9 A DUALITY is formed. Every thought every behavior can be judged by human wisdom or it can be judged by the revelation (an example).

#10 Sobering, would be the occasion standing on Mt. Gerizim & Mt.Ebal. Frightening! The Almighty intends, in every when to ENFORCE REVEALED MEANING! That explains why obedience is so important. It is because the word of God is so important!

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Part 5: LIVING PROPOSITIONS FROM GERIZIM, 27:15-26.

#1 Events were structured to make a permanent impression. The words affirmed by the Levites atop Gerizim were never to be robbed of their inherent integrity.

#2 Israel was to grasp the SPIRITUAL REALITY that they lived in a sea of SUPERNATURAL LIVING PROPOSITIONS! Pertaining to LIVING PROPOSITIONS are powers & consequences. The nature of those words carries the hearer into the VALLEY OF DECISION.

#3 Being put into evidence here is a CASCADE OF IMPORTANCE: God is of supreme importance-->therefore, the word of God partakes of that importance→therefore, obedience to the Word partakes of that importance→therefore, thought, speech & behavior all become important.

#4 Revealed importance is not subjective nor is it contrived; it is constituted of LIVING PROPOSITIONS thrown across the DETERMINANT THRESHOLD between the eternal & temporal.

#5 CURSED: Idolatry of human artifice. Even done in secret, it is known to God, v. 15. CURSES: Children who dishonor their parents. The family is fractionated, v. 16. CURSES: Land grabbers who move boundaries for profit, v. 17. CURSED: Those who take advantage of the handicapped for sport or profit, v. 18. CURSED: The practice of incest, v. 20. CURSED: Those who practice bestiality, v. 21. CURSED: Those men who indulge in incest with their sister, v. 22. CURSED: The one who indulges intimacy with his mother-in-law. Treachery, v. 23. CURSED: Clandestine physical assaults on one's neighbor, v. 24. CURSED: to be bribed to corrupt justice? V. 25. CURSED: The one who disobeys the "...words of this law...", v. 26.

#6 These LIVING PROPOSITIONS ARE GIVEN TO DISPLACE THE SELF, THE POWER OF THE FLESH, MOTIVES OF SELF-GRATIFICATION & TO INHIBIT THE SINFUL NATURE OF MEN.

#7 There is a threshold between REVEALED ETERNAL LIVING PROPOSITIONS & THE LIFELESS UNIVERSE OF UNBRIDLED HUMAN WILL.

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DETERMINANT THRESHOLDS

Part 6: PROMISSORY OBEDIENCE & THE PASSIVE FUTURE, 28:1,2.

#1 “Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the Lord your God being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the Lord your God will set you above all the nations of the earth,” v. 1.

#2 Anything that is promissory deals with the future. But this test addresses a future not conceived by man nor generated by rational efforts.

#3 It is a future, both immediate & long term, generated by SUPERNATURAL POWER. It is a designated future, given, by the Almighty, in response to the wholehearted obedience of a believer.

#4 Everything, therefore, about the law of God immediately becomes a test of faith. Everything. The future, it is believed, is important because one’s well-being in the future is comprehended as a function of the present along with conscious human planning & effort toward proposed outcomes.

#5 Moses presents a dramatic set of ideas: FIRST: THERE IS A PRIMARY PERSONAL FOCUS. The primary focus is one’s relation to God. “Careful” obedience to the revealed terms of conduct secures the approval of God. SECOND: Deuteronomy delivers a PRESCRIBED PERCEPTION OF TIME. All of time is to be ceded over to the Lord!

#6. This calls for maximum trust in God & in the word of God. Inarguably, the word of God contradicts the findings of NATURAL DATA. Which has to do with the relation between objects in time. That relation is not to be understood as determinant.

#7 Obedience sets the precondition of a PASSIVE FUTURE. It is passive before the power of God! “All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the Lord your God:” v. 2.

#8 SUPERNATURAL DEVELOPMENTS “...will come upon you and overtake you...” The future is detached from direct human efforts & is grasped as RELATIONAL. The relation of God to time is not left to human intuition, it is revealed.

#9 SPIRITUAL ADVANCEMENT PRECEDES HISTORICAL CONDITIONS! Men, starting in Genesis 3, have generally discredited this revealed truth.

#10 Scripture assures the believer, that the relation of God to the future is that of SUPERNATURAL POWER.

#11 How one reads the Bible is exactly how one understands the future.

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DETERMINANT THRESHOLDS

Part 7: THE PASSIVE FUTURE & RULES FOR READING THE WORD OF GOD, 28:3-14

#1 SUPERNATURAL BLESSINGS: "All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the Lord your God" (v.2)... "Blessed shall you be in the city and blessed shall you be in the country", v. 3. SUPERNATURAL BLESSING is no less than the SUPERNATURAL CONDITIONING of personal & collective historical circumstances. Historical conditions have never been, are not now, nor ever will be CLOSED SYSTEMS! All temporal experience is triadic (composed of 3 parts) in structure. The power of God → comes to bear (the index action) → upon natural phenomena. Such blessings represent the invisible source, the causal relation & the object upon which they rest. Human personal experience belongs to the PASSIVE FUTURE. "Blessed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock", v. 4. In SUPERNATURAL BLESSINGS eternal causation → directly affects nature & apparently, in great detail. There is no question that the future of those who "obey the Lord your God" is strictly PASSIVE before the Almighty. Rationalized reading of the Bible overrules just such revealed truth as the PASSIVE FUTURE. The promise of & the power of SUPERNATURAL BLESSINGS, necessarily, require the PASSIVE FUTURE. Scripture must be read in search of revealed truth, not as an echo of the past. The word of God is insistent that the relation between God → & time, materiality, nature is direct & causal. Careful obedience to revelation is the precondition for SUPERNATURAL BLESSINGS.

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DETERMINANT THRESHOLDS

Part 8: THE PASSIVE FUTURE & RULES FOR READING THE WORD OF GOD, 28:3-14.

#2 RESOLVED UNCERTAINTY: Time is relative to the will of God & the power of God. Understanding is, in consequence, relative to revealed truth & not the other way around. One reads the Bible to search for the sense of things & not mere devotional relief. "Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in and blessed shall you be when you go out", v. 5,6. Deuteronomy reports that certainty is not a function of circumstance, rather certainty is rooted in God. Inherent in this text is the WARNING AGAINST MISPLACED CERTAINTY. Human efforts cannot resolve this pernicious state of affairs which we experience as uncertainty. It is the PASSIVE FUTURE that enables the RESOLUTION OF UNCERTAINTY! Some believers contend that one cannot fully obey revelation without dangerously disregarding the future. Therefore, the Bible has to be read within the framework of common sense. Many believers, if not most are convicted that God can act on our behalf; the question is: Will He? There is the lethal form of certainty. "Too much faith" is an unnecessary extreme. One must be "reasonable", "realistic", "pragmatic", it is said. But behind those utterances is the curse of unbelief! If the future is not passive before God, then, the word of God must be read within the controlling governance of human wisdom. That will not do! However, God is not reasonable by human standards. Believers are expected to trust their livelihoods ("baskets" & "kneading bowls") to the Almighty without reserve. Even the inadvertent ("when you come in...go out") is PASSIVE before the Lord. SUPERNATURAL BLESSINGS declare & shape THE PASSIVE FUTURE! If we can believe it!

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Part 9: THE PASSIVE FUTURE & RULES FOR READING THE WORD OF GOD, 28:3-14.

#3 THE ONLY REAL NATIONAL SECURITY IS SPIRITUAL. "The Lord shall cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you; they will come out against you one way and will flee before you seven ways", v. 7. Military superiority of the enemy is thereby pronounced irrelevant. The strength of enemy arms will not be decisive in the PASSIVE MILITARY FUTURE. Deuteronomy assures the Israelites that their enemies will turn hostile & will attack them, but they will be defeated. Although, most certainly, their enemies would make provisions against military catastrophe. Strategic & tactical preparations would acquit them nought. Their defeat would be SUPERNATURAL. Those bringing undeserved but calculated peril upon a faithful Israel would attack "one way" demonstrating a coherent order of battle, yet would be forced to flee in disintegration & chaos. The people of God were told that national security was not geopolitical, military nor relative to material magnitudes. To the contrary, the security of the nation was SUPERNATURAL, INVISIBLE & IMMATERIAL. It resided in the personage of the Lord Himself. Believers, in that period or any other are always under threat & in apparent peril. If that sense of menace is tied to a future dependent upon human action, then, anxiety is one of the expected outcomes. PROMISSORY OBEDIENCE is precedent to any anticipation of security in the ebb & flow of personal circumstance.

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DETERMINANT THRESHOLDS

Part 10: THE PASSIVE FUTURE & RULES FOR READING THE WORD OF GOD, 28:3-14.

#1 AN ORGANIC FUTURE is the promise. “The Lord will command the blessing upon you in your barns and in all that you put your hand to, and He will bless you in the land which your God gives you”, 28:8.

#2 Described here is no DEVELOPMENTAL FUTURE, where human design, strategies & corresponding efforts are utilized to force or attain the desired outcome.

#3 Moses presents the promise of a PERSONAL FUTURE ORGANIC TO THE WILL OF GOD, THE WORD OF GOD & THE POWER OF GOD. The PASSIVE FUTURE is an ORGANIC FUTURE made so by SUPERNATURAL BLESSINGS. This means that the PASSIVE ORGANIC FUTURE is “conditioned” by the power of God & not rationally developed.

#4 “The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways”, 28:9.

#5 This PASSIVE FUTURE is not achieved; it is, instead, bestowed by the Almighty. It grows from an ORGANIC RELATION TO THE WORD OF GOD & PERSONAL OBEDIENCE TO ITS TERMS!

#6. “a holy people” is devoted to God & that can only be generated by individuals with the collective growing out of that aggregate. Belief in God & trust in His word precedes obedience, which precedes & is the precondition for the PASSIVE FUTURE.

#7 Human proclivity tends to great concern for the future & a distinct preference for a well chosen & comfortable outcome. However, Deuteronomy projects that time, in general, & history is to be recognized as RELATIONAL. The future is PASSIVE before & ORGANIC to one’s RELATION TO GOD!

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DETERMINANT THRESHOLDS.

Part 11: THE SUPERNATURAL WITNESS, 28:10-11.

#1 “So all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they will be afraid of you”, 28:10.

#2 Israel, in part, was forced into history, and in the face of a highly improbably state of affairs. Their very existence, as a people, was rooted in the power of God, in the phenomenon of the miraculous.

#3 Israel was put in place, in time, in history as a SUPERNATURAL SYMBOL. Their being & behavior were to represent their invisible, yet quite real relation to the Almighty. Israel was “...called by the name of the Lord...” That INDEX between God and His people was created by the Lord to stand as a SUPERNATURAL WITNESS.

#4 Witnesses attest to origins, to relations, to ways of life, all relative to the eternal spiritual reality.

#5 Israel had enemies & those enemies were held in check by a type of fear; “...and they will be afraid of you”. Why? Because to attack Israel, as per their relation to God, was reasoned to be an attack upon God, Himself.

#6 That state of fear was founded upon an organic understanding of the relational reality linking Israel to God.

#7 Current Chinese governance does not respect the revealed fact that an attack upon the Bible & upon biblical faith in God is regarded by the Almighty as a direct attack by policy upon the Lord Himself. They are writing their own bible, fully sinicized”, (made more Chinese, they say). “The Lord will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your beast and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you”, v. 11.

#8 “prosperity”, fecundity: human, animal, agricultural were all PASSIVE. That future was a SUPERNATURALWITNESS to the power of God.

#9 Rationalism & naturalism would have to be displaced by revealed truth!

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DETERMINANT THRESHOLDS.

Part 12: THE SUM TOTAL OF UNDERSTANDING, 28:12-14.

#1 “The Lord will open for you His good storehouse, the heaven, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand, and you shall lend to many nations but you shall not borrow”, 28:12.

#2 The “...work of your hand...”, that is, human efforts, are not sufficient, nor can their fruits compare with the “blessings” enriching the obedient.

#3 Moses eliminates better management & better production efforts as causal. The key to this is the linkage of the power of God-->to human efforts. Sufficiency & abundance are rooted there.

#4 Obedience to the commands of the Lord, is the true capitalization of material existence. Deuteronomy by-passes economic theories. The creation of large surpluses is generated supernaturally.

#5 Most startling is the understanding that ECONOMIC THEORIES ARE PASSIVE. Israel was not designed to become a debtor nation; to the contrary, with all their surplus, they could capitalize the pagan nations. It was the favor of God & uniquely so, that was driving economics.

#6 More heretical, the acquisition of wealth is, as well, a PASSIVE REALIZATION. Obedience to the will of God is a supernatural embrasure put around the human activity of the obedient. Such results have no natural explanation. Economic explanations are to be transcended.

#7 Equally arresting is the proclamation of v. 12, that METEOROLOGY will be put to the increase of the people of God. Weather is “...His good storehouse, the heavens...” From that storehouse, blessings flow, by command of the Lord; redemption by rain, weather, meteorology.

#8 Just as easily, those same physical forces could spew out floods, droughts, tornadoes, hurricanes & other aerial effects. Physics is PASSIVE. All of this moves us toward THE SUM TOTAL OF UNDERSTANDING.