

## The Book of Deuteronomy

### DETERMINANT THRESHOLDS

Part 24: SUSPENDED IN LANGUAGE, 28.

#1 The famous physicist Niels Bohr observed that in regard to theoretical physics, "We are all suspended in language". He meant that physical understanding depends upon linguistic representations, how they are used & why they are used. Bohr was no believer, but he was more right than he knew.

#2 Moses fathomed the reach of this observation centuries before the modern theoretical physicists.

#3 The Book of Deuteronomy redundantly insists that the universe and everything within its embrace is SUSPENDED IN THE REVEALED LANGUAGE MANIFOLD.

#4 Israel was warned repeatedly about the disregard of this truth. Every difficulty, crisis, trial, tribulation, ordeal, as well as every benevolent circumstance are all SUSPENDED IN THE REVEALED LANGUAGE OF SCRIPTURE.

#4 Careful obedience to that language manifold, Deuteronomy espouses, determines the parameters of history & material conditions.

#5 Standing between Mt. Ebal & Mt. Gerizim the people of Israel were to grasp that every moment of their lives was dependent upon their reactions to this SUSPENSION IN REVELATION!

#6 On that foundation, then all the rules of human existence are changed. From Genesis chapter one forward, the words of God were the only universal context for nature & material forces.

#7 Those things, were from the beginning SUSPENDED IN REVEALED LANGUAGE. Pharaoh of the Exodus believed that the future of the enslaved Israelites would be set by the balance of temporal power.

#8 But, the PASSIVE/OPEN FUTURE was there, SUSPENDED IN THE DETERMINANT WORD OF GOD, awaiting a people of faith!

#9 "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 high above all the nations of the earth", 28:1.

#10 It leaves one breathless! Jesus' body, dead & entombed, yet SUSPENDED IN REVEALED LANGUAGE, rested there, no on believing that THE FUTURE IS PASSIVE & OPEN. And then the words: "GET UP, MY SON"!

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### DETERMINANT THRESHOLDS

Part 25: BEWARE THE UNBIDDEN FUTURE, 28:48-57.

#1 THE PASSIVE/OPEN FUTURE IS THE ENGINE OF GOD. It has no autonomy over men on its own. There are no such things as THE LAWS OF HISTORY. Some German philosophers were drawn to supposed historical necessity; some of that still prominent in the contemporary. (Socialism).

#2 The Lord is determinant over time & therefore, the future is PASSIVE & OPEN. History is purely RELATIONAL!

#3 Because of Israel's disobedience to the word of God, "therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in the lack of all things; and He will put an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you", 28:48.

#4 There were NO POLITICAL EXPLANATIONS for what was to happen. What would unfold had no HISTORICAL EXPLANATIONS. That future was the expression of the ANGER OF GOD; He sent them.

#5 Like an "eagle (who) swoops down", the enemy would show no mercy for "old" nor "young", v. 50 Consuming everything edible, inducing death by starvation, v. 51.

#6 Cities everywhere besieged, v. 52. Cannibalism was the last resort, v. 53-57. Adults consuming their own children (like abortion); no minimal decency demonstrated!

#7 All of that was the UNBIDDEN FUTURE! It was unendurable! THE PASSIVE/ OPEN FUTURE is or can be most frightening. The reason is, because the future obeys the will of God, even if we will not!

## The Book of Deuteronomy

### DETERMINANT THRESHOLDS

Part 26: PRECISE ILLOGIC, chapters : 27, 28.

#1 Trusting God to bestow upon us a PASSIVE/OPEN FUTURE sounds like a substantial & unnecessary risk. For that is a future (short term & long term) not logically produced by human direct efforts.

#2 We use logic all the time in temporal circumstances. We TRANSACT with other people & we, as well, TRANSACT with nature & with the universe of things.

#3 Logic is an element in our created nature, and it emerges from our EXPERIENCE with the temporal realities. We shall refer to this phenomenon as TRANSACTIONAL LOGIC.

#4 However, HUMAN TRANSACTIONAL LOGIC does not & cannot explain the biblical teaching about faith. It takes faith in God, trust in the power of God to relinquish the hold of TRANSACTIONAL LOGIC on the future.

#5. Biblically defined faith, constitutes a SPIRITUAL TRANSACTION WITH THE ALMIGHTY. "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 high above all the nations of the earth", 28:1.

#6 The PASSIVE/OPENFUTURE depends upon one causal factor: the will of God. TRANSACTIONAL LOGIC has nothing to do with that future.

#7 Numerous biblical examples demonstrate that one cannot live by faith while relying upon TRANSACTIONAL LOGIC. The extent of all biblical examples of faith, equate that kind of faith with what we shall call PRECISE ILLOGIC (not logical).

#8 Biblical faith has nothing to do, whatsoever, with HUMAN TRANSACTIONAL LOGIC. PRECISE ILLOGIC displaces confidence in all things human. In this world, believers are called to rely upon the Almighty to the exclusion of HUMAN TRANSACTIONAL LOGIC.

#9 There is superior trust in God that inspires the PRECISE ILLOGIC of thought, speech & behavior.

## The Book of Deuteronomy

### DETERMINANT THRESHOLDS

Part 27: BIBLICAL CASE FOR PRECISE ILLOGIC, chapters 27, 28.

#1 Trusting the Lord, the Bible & the power of God with our future (immediate, near or protracted) has nothing to do with HUMAN TRANSACTIONAL LOGIC. It is a pure act of biblical faith: which is a PRECISE ILLOGIC (not logical). We consider it PRECISE because it is stipulated everywhere in Scripture.

#2 Abraham offered up Isaac (Genesis 22; Hebrews 11) as a sacrifice in spite of TRANSACTIONAL LOGIC; the dead & the disintegrated do not rise. Abrahamic Faith is an example of PRECISE ILLOGIC; wherein outcomes depend not upon human wisdom & experience but strictly upon the will of God!

#3 On the basis of FAITH AS PRECISE ILLOGIC, Abraham received his son back from the dead. But that made no sense to believe until Isaac was restored.

#4 A man of biblical faith applies PRECISE ILLOGIC TO NATURE regardless of his/her experience with it. HUMAN TRANSACTIONAL LOGIC insists upon that which is LOGICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.

#5 After the 40 day reconnaissance of Canaan by the 12 spies (Numbers 13,14), a faithless representation, dependent upon TRANSACTIONAL LOGIC was put into evidence by 10 of those men.

#6 The promised conquest of Canaan, they thought to be, a logical impossibility.

#7 Bad diagnoses, apparent & impending disasters of every kind, losses of every type, pain, intractable suffering & other things, leave us with very vivid impressions (IMPRESSIONISM). We are impressed by the constant changeability, by the susceptible rhythms of life, by the evanescence of human life.

#8 Yet the Bible leads us to reason beyond IMPRESSION! As a matter of faith, one must determine whether or not God can & will be trusted with the future; in other words with our well-being. The people of God were required to "cast the die"!

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### DETERMINANT THRESHOLDS

Part 28: THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE, CHAPTERS 27, 28.

#1 Moses was addressing in these chapters the ever present PROBLEM OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE.

#2 Everything about human experience is PROBLEMATIC. It is desirable (some of it), it can be painful (some of it), it is exacting (a great deal of it), it is dangerous (often), it carries one into the future (all of it), it is captivating (much of it), and God makes His absolute claim on it (every particle of it).

#3 The PASSIVE/OPEN FUTURE is exactly about human experience. Scripture has always presented HUMAN EXPERIENCE AS PROBLEMATIC & from the very beginning, Genesis 3:1-24.

#4 “But it shall come about if you do not obey the Lord your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you”, 28:15.

#5 HUMAN EXPERIENCE is not to be lived on the footing of humanistic terms. Since the FUTURE IS PASSIVE/OPEN, then, FUTURE HUMAN EXPERIENCE is all of that too.

#6 The Israelites, new to the land, were instructed to treat HUMAN LIVED EXPERIENCE as extremely PROBLEMATIC!

#7 Here are the words with which Moses entreated his people... “If you are not careful to observe all the words of this law which are written in this book, to fear this honored and awesome name, the Lord your God, then...”, 28:58, 59.

#8 THERAPEUTIC NIHILISM, is the idea that lie is what it is & one must see it through to the end. Let it run its course. So ONE’S EXPERIENCE is simply EXISTENTIAL but not necessarily PROBLEMATIC, in the Deuteronomic Sense. But the Lord is quite firm in His “law”.

## The Book of Deuteronomy

### DETERMINANT THRESHOLDS

Part 29: THE GRAND REVERSAL, 28: 58-68.

#1 Necessarily, the PASSIVE/OPEN FUTURE. "If you are not careful to observe all of the words of this law which are written in this book, to fear this honored and awesome name, the Lord your God", v. 58.

#2 Written, revealed propositional truth ("words") displaces the self, personal experience, the social, the cultural & the natural as fixed points for reasoning.

#3 THE TOTAL MAN; body & mind will confront the Almighty & those systems will come under direct SUPERNATURAL POWER.

#4 EPIDEMIOLOGY: Disobedience to "the words of this law", is incommensurable with human biology. No one "sees" the relation between the two. But revelation declares that disobedience is PRELUDE TO/PRE-CONDITION FOR "...extraordinary plagues..."; "lasting", "miserable", "chronic sickness", v. 59. No natural explanation are sufficient.

#5 Epidemiology, our health in general are, therefore, PASSIVE/OPEN SYSTEMS. "...every sickness and every plague which, not written in the book of this law, the Lord will bring on you until you are destroyed" (v. 60,61), means that any kind of pathology can be forced into the PASSIVE/OPEN FUTURE. No natural solutions. The Lord's enemies were to be depleted, v.62.

#6 MENTAL STATE: Deportation (v. 64) would have grievous mental consequences. "...no rest...trembling heart...failing of the eyes...despair of the soul...life shall hang in doubt..." "dread night and day" ...no assurance of life..."dread" ..., v. 65-67.

#7 Combine SUPERNATURAL EPIDEMIOLOGY with a SUPERNATURALLY INDUCED CATAclysmic MENTAL STATE is hell on earth!

#8 THE IMMORTAL ENEMY: "It shall come about that as the Lord delighted over you to prosper you, and multiply you, so the Lord will delight over you to make you perish and destroy you; and you will be torn from the land where you are entering to possess it", v. 63.

#9 THE PASSIVE/OPEN FUTURE IS QUIT CONDITIONAL. There is no such thing as UNCONDITIONAL LOVE!

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### DETERMINANT THRESHOLDS

Part 30: EXISTENTIALISM, chapters 27, 28.

#1 Existentialism does not explain human experience as problematic in the DEUTERONOMIC SENSE.

Frequently one hears of one circumstance or condition as being existential (as in existential threat). It is measurable.

#2 But the Book of Deuteronomy presents HUMAN EXPERIENCE AS PROBLEMATIC. Israel would reject the "laws" of God, & in their place they would substitute MEASURABLE EXISTENTIAL EXPERIENCE!

#3 EXISTENTIAL EXPERIENCE became their idol or the exclusive focus of life. THE PROBLEM; Biblical faith, as per Deuteronomy, was not just different, not just an alternative. It was in fact (& is in fact) a SUPERIOR & HIGHER ORDER OF THOUGHT, LANGUAGE & CONSEQUENT BEHAVIOR. The Israelite's were expected to understand that, to believe that.

#4 There is nothing strange about this. Human beings are naturally enamored with EXPERIENCE. And so it will always be, unless we take pains to correct it.

#5 EXPERIENCE is endowed by existentialism with a huge range of EXPLANATORY POWERS. By it we become convinced of things that are not so.

#6 EXPERIENCE is a given, but it must be put downstream from the "words" (28:58) of God.

#7 Israel, against all instruction to the contrary, did not believe that BIBLICAL FAITH was a SUPERIOR HIGHER ORDER OF THOUGHT, LANGUAGE & BEHAVIOR.

#8 Believers in the contemporary period might be fervent, sentimental, passionate & intense. Yet not be convinced of the SUPERIOR/HIGHER ORDER NECESSITY OF THE "WORDS" OF GOD.

#9 AN IGNOMINIOUS END: "The Lord will bring you back to Egypt in ships, by the way about which I spoke to you. 'You will never see it again!' And there you will offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but there will be no buyer", 28:68.