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DEUTERONOMY 9:1 Hear, Israel! You are to pass over the Jordan this day, to go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and fortified up to the sky,

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The people are informed that they shall shortly pass over Jordan, and that God shall go over before them, to expel the ancient inhabitants, Deu 9:1-3. They are cautioned not to suppose that it is on account of their righteousness that God is to give them that land, Deu 9:4-6. They are exhorted to remember their various provocations of the Divine Majesty, especially at Horeb, Deu 9:7-14; and how Moses interceded for them, and destroyed the golden calf, Deu 9:15-21. How they murmured at Taberah, Deu 9:22; and rebelled at Kadesh-barnea, Deu 9:23; and had been perverse from the beginning, Deu 9:24. An account of the intercession of Moses in their behalf, Deu 9:25-29.

Verse 1

Thou art to pass over Jordan this day - הַיּוֹם *haiyom*, this time; they had come thirty-eight years before this nearly to the verge of the promised land, but were not permitted at that day or time to pass over, because of their rebellions; but this time they shall certainly pass over. This was spoken about the eleventh month of the fortieth year of their journeying, and it was on the first month of the following year they passed over; and during this interim Moses died.

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DEUTERONOMY 9:2 a people great and tall, the sons of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you have heard say, "Who can stand before the sons of Anak?"

DEUTERONOMY 9:3 Know therefore this day, that the LORD your God is he who goes over before you as a devouring fire. He will destroy them, and he will bring them down before you. So you shall drive them out, and make them perish quickly, as the LORD has spoken to you.

DEUTERONOMY 9:4 Don't say in your heart, after the LORD your God has thrust them out from before you, saying, "For my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land"; because the LORD drives them out before you because of the wickedness of these nations.

DEUTERONOMY 9:5 Not for your righteousness, or for the uprightness of your heart, do you go in to possess their land; but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD your God does drive them out from before you, and that he may establish the word which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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Verse 5

For the wickedness of these nations - So then it was not by any sovereign act of God that these people were cast out, but for their wickedness; they had transgressed the law of their Creator; they had resisted his Spirit, and could no longer be tolerated. The Israelites were to possess their land, not because they deserved it, but first, because they were less wicked than the others; and secondly, because God thus chose to begin the great work of his salvation among men. Thus then the Canaanites were cut off, and the Israelites were grafted in; and the Israelites, because of their wickedness, were afterwards cut off and the Gentiles grafted in. Let the latter not be high-minded, but fear; if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he spare not thee. But let it be

remembered that this land was originally their own, and that the present possessors had no legal right to it.

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DEUTERONOMY 9:6 Know therefore, that the LORD your God doesn't give you this good land to possess for your righteousness; for you are a stiff-necked people.

DEUTERONOMY 9:7 Remember, and don't forget, how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you left the land of Egypt, until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD.

DEUTERONOMY 9:8 Also in Horeb you provoked the LORD to wrath, and the LORD was angry with you to destroy you.

DEUTERONOMY 9:9 When I had gone up onto the mountain to receive the stone tablets, even the tablets of the covenant which the LORD made with you, then I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water.

DEUTERONOMY 9:10 The LORD delivered to me the two stone tablets written with the finger of God. On them were all the words which the LORD spoke with you on the mountain out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.

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#### Verse 10

Tables of stone - See the notes on Exo 31:18, Exo 32:15 (note), and Exo 32:16.

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DEUTERONOMY 9:11 It came to pass at the end of forty days and forty nights, that the LORD gave me the two stone tablets, even the tablets of the covenant.

DEUTERONOMY 9:12 The LORD said to me, "Arise, get down quickly from here; for your people whom you have brought out of Egypt have corrupted themselves. They have quickly turned aside out of the way which I commanded them. They have made a molten image for themselves!"

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#### Verse 12

Thy people - have corrupted themselves - Debased themselves by making and worshipping an Egyptian idol. See on Exodus 32 (note).

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DEUTERONOMY 9:13 Furthermore the LORD spoke to me, saying, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people.

DEUTERONOMY 9:14 Leave me alone, that I may destroy them, and blot out their name from under the sky; and I will make of you a nation mightier and greater than they."

DEUTERONOMY 9:15 So I turned and came down from the mountain, and the mountain was burning with fire. The two tablets of the covenant were in my two hands.

DEUTERONOMY 9:16 I looked, and behold, you had sinned against the LORD your God. You had made yourselves a molten calf. You had turned aside quickly out of the way which the LORD had commanded you.

DEUTERONOMY 9:17 I took hold of the two tablets, and threw them out of my two hands, and broke them before your eyes.

DEUTERONOMY 9:18 I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sin which you sinned, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

DEUTERONOMY 9:19 For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure with which the LORD was angry against you to destroy you. But the LORD listened to me that time also.

DEUTERONOMY 9:20 The LORD was angry enough with Aaron to destroy him. I prayed for Aaron also at the same time.

DEUTERONOMY 9:21 I took your sin, the calf which you had made, and burnt it with fire, and crushed it, grinding it very small, until it was as fine as dust. I threw its dust into the brook that descended out of the mountain.

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Verse 21

I took your sin, the calf which ye had made - See this fully explained Exo 32:20 (note).

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DEUTERONOMY 9:22 At Taberah, and at Massah, and at Kibroth Hattaavah, you provoked the LORD to wrath.

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Verse 22

At Kibroth-hattaavah - See the note on Num 11:34.

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DEUTERONOMY 9:23 When the LORD sent you from Kadesh Barnea, saying, "Go up and possess the land which I have given you," you rebelled against the commandment of the LORD your God, and you didn't believe him, nor listen to his voice.

DEUTERONOMY 9:24 You have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you.

DEUTERONOMY 9:25 So I fell down before the LORD the forty days and forty nights that I fell down, because the LORD had said he would destroy you.

DEUTERONOMY 9:26 I prayed to the LORD, and said, "Lord GOD, don't destroy your people and your inheritance, that you have redeemed through your greatness, that you have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

DEUTERONOMY 9:27 Remember your servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Don't look at the stubbornness of this people, nor at their wickedness, nor at their sin,

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Verse 27

Remember thy servants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob - As if he had said: "These are their descendants, and the covenant was made with those patriarchs in behalf of these." God bestows many blessings on comparatively worthless persons, either for the sake of their pious ancestors, or on account of the religious people with whom they are connected; therefore union with the Church of God is a blessing of no common magnitude. The reader will find the grand subject of this chapter explained at large in the notes on Exodus 31 and 32, to which he is particularly desired to refer.

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DEUTERONOMY 9:28 lest the land you brought us out from say, 'Because the LORD was not able to bring them into the land which he promised to them, and because he hated them, he has brought them out to kill them in the wilderness.'

DEUTERONOMY 9:29 Yet they are your people and your inheritance, which you brought out by your great power and by your outstretched arm."

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