

**PLEASE NOTE** - The references below are taken from the 86-21 Index. Many verses have additional references that have not been included due to time & space. We are encouraged to do additional personal research.

(Deuteronomy 11:9) 9 and so that you may live long in the land that Jehovah swore to give to your forefathers and their offspring, a land flowing with milk and honey.

\*\*\* it-1 p. 1135 Honey, Honeycomb \*\*\*

A Land of Milk and Honey. The description of Palestine as “a land flowing with milk and honey,” often repeated in the Scriptures, is apt, for not only was the land well supplied with the product of bees but also with the syrup of fruits.

\*\*\* w07 8/1 p. 29 par. 13 Are You “Rich Toward God”? \*\*\*

13 When Jehovah bestows blessings on his people, he always gives them the best. (James 1:17) For example, when Jehovah gave the Israelites a home, it was “a land flowing with milk and honey.” Although the land of Egypt had also been described that way, the land that Jehovah gave the Israelites was different in at least one vital respect. It was “a land that Jehovah your God is caring for,” Moses told the Israelites. In other words, they would prosper because Jehovah would be looking after them. As long as the Israelites remained faithful to Jehovah, they were richly blessed by him and enjoyed a way of life that was visibly superior to that of all the nations round about. Yes, it is Jehovah’s blessing that “makes rich”—Numbers 16:13; Deuteronomy 4:5-8; 11:8-15.

(Deuteronomy 11:16) 16 Be careful not to let your heart be enticed to go astray and worship other gods and bow down to them.

\*\*\* w19 June pp. 3-4 pars. 5-6 “Look Out That No One Takes You Captive!” \*\*\*

5 Jehovah explained to his people that their circumstances had changed. Then he added the following warning, which at first glance may seem

unrelated to the subject of agriculture: “Be careful not to let your heart be enticed to go astray and worship other gods and bow down to them.”

(Deut. 11:16, 17) Why did Jehovah warn against worshipping false gods while he was speaking about learning new farming methods?

6 Jehovah knew that the Israelites would be tempted to learn some local farming techniques from the pagan people around them. Of course, their neighbors were much more experienced than the Israelites were, and God’s people could learn some useful skills from them, but there was a danger. The thinking of those Canaanite farmers was affected by their belief in Baal. They viewed Baal as the owner of the sky and the giver of rain. Jehovah did not want his people to be deceived by such false beliefs. However, time and time again, the Israelites chose to worship Baal.

(Deuteronomy 11:27) 27 the blessing if you obey the commandments of Jehovah your God that I am commanding you today,

\*\*\* wp20 No. 3 p. 11 Blessings for Those Who Obey God \*\*\*

The prophet Moses said that if we obey God’s commandments, we will receive God’s blessing. (Deuteronomy 10:13; 11:27) We do not obey God because we fear his punishment. God’s beautiful qualities motivate us to obey him because we love him and want to avoid doing something that may sadden him. “This is what the love of God means, that we observe his commandments.”—1 John 5:3.

(Deuteronomy 12:16) 16 But you must not eat the blood; you should pour it out on the ground like water.

\*\*\* w00 10/15 pp. 30-31 Questions From Readers \*\*\*

Occasionally, a doctor will urge a patient to deposit his own blood weeks before surgery (pre-operative autologous blood donation, or PAD) so that if the need arises, he could transfuse the pa-

tient with his own stored blood. However, such collecting, storing, and transfusing of blood directly contradicts what is said in Leviticus and Deuteronomy. Blood is not to be stored; it is to be poured out—returned to God, as it were. Granted, the Mosaic Law is not in force now. Nevertheless, Jehovah's Witnesses respect the principles God included in it, and they are determined to 'abstain from blood.' Hence, we do not donate blood, nor do we store for transfusion our blood that should be 'poured out.' That practice conflicts with God's law.

\*\*\* w00 10/15 p. 30 Questions From Readers \*\*\*

What if a man killed an animal for food? God said: "He must in that case pour its blood out and cover it with dust." (Leviticus 17:11, 13) Jehovah repeated this command again and again. (Deuteronomy 12:16, 24; 15:23) The Jewish Soncino Chumash notes: "The blood must not be stored but rendered unfit for consumption by pouring it on the ground." No Israelite was to appropriate, store, and use the blood of another creature, whose life belonged to God.

\*\*\* w00 10/15 p. 30 Questions From Readers \*\*\*

Professor Frank H. Gorman writes: "The pouring out of the blood is best understood as an act of reverence that demonstrates respect for the life of the animal and, thus, respect for God, who created and continues to care for that life."