



# **The Goodness and Severity of God**

Deuteronomy 32



# INTRODUCTION

*24 After Moses finished writing in a book the words of this law from beginning to end, 25 he gave this command to the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord: 26 “Take this Book of the Law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God. There it will remain as a witness against you. 27 For I know how rebellious and stiff-necked you are. If you have been rebellious against the Lord while I am still alive and with you, how much more will you rebel after I die! - Deuteronomy 31.*



# INTRODUCTION

*28 Assemble before me all the elders of your tribes and all your officials, so that I can speak these words in their hearing and call the heavens and the earth to testify against them. 29 For I know that after my death you are sure to become utterly corrupt and to turn from the way I have commanded you. In days to come, disaster will fall on you because you will do evil in the sight of the Lord and arouse his anger by what your hands have made.” 30 And Moses recited the words of this song from beginning to end in the hearing of the whole assembly of Israel: - Deuteronomy 31.*



# 1. A call to listen to God our Rock

*1 Listen, you heavens, and I will speak;  
hear, you earth, the words of my mouth.*

*2 Let my teaching fall like rain  
and my words descend like dew,  
like showers on new grass,  
like abundant rain on tender plants.*

*3 I will proclaim the name of the Lord.  
Oh, praise the greatness of our God!*

*4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect,  
and all his ways are just.*

*A faithful God who does no wrong,  
upright and just is he – Deut. 32:1-4.*

Sometimes  
God lets you  
hit rock  
bottom so  
that you  
realize  
that God  
is the  
rock at  
the bottom.





## 2. Charges against the People

*5 They are corrupt and not his children;  
to their shame they are a warped and  
crooked generation.*

*6 Is this the way you repay the Lord,  
you foolish and unwise people?*

*Is he not your Father, your Creator,  
who made you and formed you? – Deut.  
32:5-6.*



### 3. Remember God's Benefits

*7 Remember the days of old;  
consider the generations long past.  
Ask your father and he will tell you,  
your elders, and they will explain to you.*

*8 When the Most High gave the nations their  
inheritance,  
when he divided all mankind,  
he set up boundaries for the peoples  
according to the number of the sons of  
Israel – Deut. 32:7-8.*



## 4. The People's Disobedience

*15 Jeshurun grew fat and kicked;  
filled with food, they became heavy and  
sleek.*

*They abandoned the God who made them  
and rejected the Rock their Savior.*

*16 They made him jealous with their foreign  
gods*

*and angered him with their detestable  
idols – Deut. 32:15-16.*



## 5. Curses for such Disobedience

*19 The Lord saw this and rejected them  
because he was angered by his sons and daughters.  
20 "I will hide my face from them," he said,  
"and see what their end will be;  
for they are a perverse generation,  
children who are unfaithful.  
21 They made me jealous by what is no god  
and angered me with their worthless idols.  
I will make them envious by those who are not a people;  
I will make them angry by a nation that has no  
understanding – Deut. 32:19-21.*



# 6. The Impotence of False Gods

*36 The Lord will vindicate his people  
and relent concerning his servants  
when he sees their strength is gone  
and no one is left, slave or free.*

*37 He will say: "Now where are their gods,  
the rock they took refuge in,*

*38 the gods who ate the fat of their sacrifices  
and drank the wine of their drink offerings?*

*Let them rise up to help you!*

*Let them give you shelter! – Deut. 32:36-38.*



# 7. The Lord's Judgment

*39 'Now see that I, even I, am He,  
And there is no God besides Me;  
I kill and I make alive;  
I wound and I heal;  
Nor is there any who can deliver from My  
hand. – Deuteronomy 32:39.*



# 7. The Lord's Judgment

The highway of history is paved with God's mercy and grace. But there are billboards all the way along, posted so that men may know that God at any moment has a right to take their lives." (MacArthur p. 84 of The Ultimate Priority).