

# Guided by a cloud 26 (Exodus 13:21-22)

We have been harvesting our fruit trees over the last week and now have an abundance of apples and pears. At this time of year many churches would normally be celebrating a harvest festival and giving thanks for God's provision in our lives. It is good to be reminded that we have a God who cares for us and provides for us. In Deuteronomy chapter 8 Moses paints a picture of God's provision but he also reiterates God's laws to the people and encourages them to remain faithful to their God. Verses 7-9 *"For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper".*



## Worship time

[Over all the Earth](#)

[Blessed be your name](#)

[King of kings, Majesty](#)

Read Deuteronomy 8:1-18

Moses doesn't want the Israelites to get complacent about all they have and gives them some strategies to guard against this possibility. The first strategy is to **remember** where they've come from and how God brought them

through hard times. In verse 2, he says *"Remember the long way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness"*, and in verse 14 he goes on *"...do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness...and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know"*.

Then in verse 10 Moses tells them to **praise the Lord your God**. Thankfulness is a habit that needs to be cultivated. The phrase 'they're never happy unless they're complaining' comes to mind. Sometimes it can be far too easy to be grumpy with what's happening and forget the blessings that we have. It's not just about thanking God for the food we eat but making a habit of pausing each day to thank Him for all he has done and continues to do for us. As we do that, thankfulness becomes part of us.

The final strategy Moses gives the Israelites is **to keep God's commandments**. In verse 11 he says *"Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today"*. The Law Moses was commanding the Israelites to obey was much bigger than the Ten Commandments. It includes not just laws about personal morality but also laws about building a just society. For example, going back to harvest, when gathering your crop in you had to leave some grain standing at the edges so that the poor could glean a living from it. Also, every fifty years the Year of Jubilee was celebrated. In this year all debts were to be forgiven and all slaves set free.

As we reflect on the harvest going on around us this morning we can take time to remember what God has done for us, we can praise Him for the blessings he has poured on us and by following His commandments we can help those in need around us.

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you" 1Peter 5:7