

Deuteronomy 8:7-18 *(The Message)*

In today's text Moses is talking to all the people who escaped from slavery in Egypt, travelled through the desert and the wilderness, and have finally made it to the edge of the Promised Land.

6-9 So it's paramount that you keep the commandments of God, your God, walk down the roads he shows you and reverently respect him.

God is about to bring you into a good land, a land with brooks and rivers, springs and lakes, streams out of the hills and through the valleys. It's a land of wheat and barley, of vines and figs and pomegranates, of olives, oil, and honey. It's land where you'll never go hungry—always food on the table and a roof over your head. It's a land where you'll get iron out of rocks and mine copper from the hills.

10 After a meal, satisfied, bless God, your God, for the good land he has given you.

11-16 Make sure you don't forget God, your God, by not keeping his commandments, his rules and regulations that I command you today.

Make sure that when you eat and are satisfied, build pleasant houses and settle in, see your herds and flocks flourish and more and more money come in, watch your standard of living going up and up—make sure you don't become so full of yourself and your things that you forget God, your God,

the God who delivered you from Egyptian slavery;

the God who led you through that huge and fearsome wilderness,

those desolate, arid badlands crawling with fiery snakes and scorpions;

the God who gave you water gushing from hard rock;

the God who gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never heard of, in order to give you a taste of the hard life, to test you so that you would be prepared to live well in the days ahead of you.

17-18 If you start thinking to yourselves, "I did all this. And all by myself. I'm rich. It's all mine!"—well, think again. Remember that God, your God, gave you the strength to produce

all this wealth so as to confirm the covenant that he promised to your ancestors—as it is today.