

Home at Last!

Veritas Class

February 21, 2016

Deuteronomy 27:1-8

A. Introductory Matters

B. Making Sense of 27:1-8

1. The Opening Appeal for Fidelity (v. 1)

- a. For the first time the narrator introduces Moses’s speech with “command.”
- b. For the first time since 5:23 we see the elders involved.
- c. While this chapter will not involve more Torah, it assumes fidelity to the previous covenantal instructions.
- d. What follows involves instructions for a one-time event.

2. The Rituals on Mount Ebal (vv. 2-8)

27:2-3	27:4-8
And it shall be [that] -----	And it shall be [that]
<i>on the day you cross over the Jordan</i> -----	<i>when you have crossed over the Jordan,</i>
to the land that YHWH your God is giving you,	
<i>you shall set up large stones,</i>	<i>you shall set up these stones,</i>
	concerning which I command you today,
	on Mount Ebal,
<i>and you shall plaster them with plaster,</i> -----	<i>and you shall plaster them with plaster,</i>
	and there you shall build an altar to YHWH your God,
	an altar of stones.
	You shall wield no iron tool on them;
	you shall build an altar to YHWH your God of uncut stones.
	And you may offer burnt offerings on it to YHWH your God,
	and you may sacrifice peace offerings
	and you may eat there,
	and you may celebrate before YHWH your God,
<i>and you shall write on them</i> -----	<i>and you shall write on the stones</i>
<i>all the words of this Torah,</i> -----	<i>all the words of this Torah very plainly."</i>
when you cross over to enter	
the land that YHWH your God is giving you,	
a land flowing with milk and honey,	
as YHWH, the God of your fathers, has promised you.	

a. Panel A (vv. 2–3)

(1) The Context of the Rituals (vv. 2a, 3b)

(a) The Time (“on the day you cross the Jordan”)

(b) The Location (“in the land”)

- The land as gift
- The land as a desirable home
- The land as fulfillment of YHWH’s word.

(2) The Nature of the Ritual (2b–3a)

(a) The Erection of Stone Monuments (v. 2b)

(b) The Plastering of the Pillars (v. 2c)

(c) The Transcription of the Torah (3a)

b. Panel B (vv. 4–8)

(1) The Location of the Ritual

(2) The Nature of the Ritual (vv. 5–7)

(a) Set up stones.

(b) Coat them with lime.

(c) Construct an altar of uncut stones.

(d) Offer whole burnt offerings and peace offerings (שְׁלָמִים and עֹלֹת).

(e) Eat in the presence of YHWH.

(3) The Climax of the Ritual

But what did they write on the stones?

Why did they write it on plaster?

B. The Archaeology of Ebal