

was okay) *For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing.* ⁴ *When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus,* ⁵ *you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.* **(1CR 5.3-5)**

AP: Ultimately, God calls us to take the sin of the multitude seriously: to investigate and to resist the temptation of **the leading of the multitude**. This sadly can happen in the church, as well—as gradually, the church can find themselves accepting false teachings and rejecting the patterns of New Testament teaching. We see sin accepted, and it can be tempting to join in. But God calls for us to resist sin amongst His people: even when it's accepted by the multitude.

1CR 5.6-8 ~ *Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?* ⁷ *Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.* ⁸ *Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

CONCLUSION (DT 13.16-18)

Today, you can go online and find articles written telling you exactly the ideal and correct amount of bullets, clothes, food, and other supplies you need to optimize your trip on the Oregon Trail. If only the real people had been able to have such information! By some estimates, as many as 30,000 people died on the Oregon Trail—roughly 1 in 10. Unfortunately, when riding out into the unknown, they could never be aware of what would be waiting for them.

But that was not true of the Jewish people. Moses knew what was coming, and what would most likely cause God's people to be lost: **their own human curiosity**, the **false words of false prophets, friends and relatives** influencing and tempting them away, and **the leading of the multitude** away from truth and from God. If only they could keep these things in mind, they'd be rewarded!

DT 13.16-18 ~ *You shall gather all its spoil into the midst of its open square and burn the city and all its spoil with fire, as a whole burnt offering to the Lord your God. It shall be a heap forever. It shall not be built again.* ¹⁷ *None of the devoted things shall stick to your hand, that the Lord may turn from the fierceness of his anger and show you mercy and have compassion on you and multiply you, as he swore to your fathers,* ¹⁸ *if you obey the voice of the Lord your God, keeping all his commandments that I am commanding you today, and doing what is right in the sight of the Lord your God.*

But sadly, it wasn't to be. The Jewish people would fall for each and every one of these temptations. And before we get to feeling too full of ourselves, so do we! We are tempted by our own **curiosity**, fall to the **false words of false prophets**, follow the leading of **friends, relatives, and the multitude**. And just as the Jews faced God's judgment for their failings, so will we.

RV 2.2-5 (The Church in Ephesus) ~ *"I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.* ³ *I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.* ⁴ *But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.* ⁵ *Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.*

INVITATION

#652 [EXP-OTH]
07/26/2025

How the Saved are Lost – Part 2

PC Pchd

DT 13.6-18

QUESTION: How are the saved lost?

TRN TO DT 12

INTRODUCTION

AMERICAN HISTORY/Westward Expansion/Oregon Trail – Defined

Many of you are likely like me: with your primary experience with **"The Oregon Trail"** being at a school computer worried that you or someone in your party would be found to have dysentery. But personal event born out of the principle of **"Manifest Destiny"** and westward expansion was a unique American experience—with thousands of families striving to strike out into the untamed west in hopes for a better life in a better land.

ILL—Buying Supplies (would try to figure out the exact best number of bullets, clothing, food, and medicine; if you didn't get the right amount, you'd end up dead) I got the **"game over"** screen countless times. But it's sobering to realize how many people would have literally gone out on this journey unprepared—left dead and often, unburied, on the side of the trail—due to their failure to purchase what they needed and prepare properly.

BACKGROUND

The Jewish people were standing ready—about to enter into the Promised Land, at last. However, Moses knew the secret: they hadn't properly prepared themselves. It's for that reason that he took the time to straighten them out and to strengthen them: first reminding them of what God had done for His people in **DT 1-5** and spending the next six chapters calling for them to obey Him.

Would they obey? Would they be victorious, or would they reject their God?

This question was clearly in the back of Moses' mind, only made worse at the realization that they would have to do it without him. He seemed to worry that they might not take it seriously. And so, he began with a call to them to march into the promised land, taking the land from the wicked nations who occupied it.

DT 12.1-3 ~ *"These are the statutes and rules that you shall be careful to do in the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth.* ² *You shall surely destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree.* ³ *You shall tear down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and burn their Asherim with fire. You shall chop down the carved images of their gods and destroy their name out of that place.*

As Moses pictured the future, his heart fluttered at the thought of the Jewish people taking hold of a portion of the promise: *Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.* ² *And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.* ³ *I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."* **(GN 12.1-3)** But his heart began to sink: **would they remain victorious? Or would they slip back to their old life?**

One of the greatest moments of every church is when we present the invitation, and people respond: when they accept God's message, repent of their sins, and

submit in faith in baptism. When they rise from the waters, so does our heart: a soul has been saved! The angels in heaven are rejoicing! But then, the water dries, the smiles fade, and we all return to **“real life”**. And we begin to wonder: **will they remain victorious? Or will they slip back to their old life?**

This morning, we discussed how Moses warned the Jewish people that, as they prepared to march into the promised land, they had to prepare themselves to resist falling: specifically, he warned of the danger of **their own human curiosity** leading them to follow the patterns and practices of the pagan nations and of the danger that came **through the false words of false prophets**, who’d try to trick them and lead them to reject the truths of God and His scripture that they should already know.

In truth, the battle was far from over. And while the Israelites would fight against the nations of Canaan, we fight *against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.* (EH 6.12b) As we continue our look at Moses’ warning, we see the final two threats that Moses warned the people of Israel against. And much like the first two, the warnings are still valid and strong for us, today.

BD1: Because of Friends and Relatives (DT 13.6-11)

BKGRND: Moses had provided a task: stand against the false prophets. These false prophets are not described, but I imagine as they heard the call, they felt courageous. We often find it relatively easy to stand against the anonymous enemy. **But what about when the enemy comes a bit too close to home?**

DT 13.6-11 ~ “If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son or your daughter or the wife you embrace or your friend who is as your own soul entices you secretly, saying, ‘Let us go and serve other gods,’ which neither you nor your fathers have known, ⁷some of the gods of the peoples who are around you, whether near you or far off from you, from the one end of the earth to the other, ⁸you shall not yield to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him, nor shall you conceal him. ⁹But you shall kill him. Your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. ¹⁰You shall stone him to death with stones, because he sought to draw you away from the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ¹¹And all Israel shall hear and fear and never again do any such wickedness as this among you.

EX: If you read this passage, and your heart doesn’t hurt at it, I urge you to read it again. Moses was making a very troubling call: a call that one’s faith in their God was to be thicker than even blood. If your brother, your son, your daughter, your wife, or your closest friend would call you away from God, you need to cut them off—even to the point of bringing them before the judgement of the Elders of the nation. This seems, somehow, even more severe. But brethren: it’s no more severe than the command against the false prophets we discussed this morning. It’s literally the same thing. **So, why repeat it?** Because Moses understood that one of the keywords that God’s people fall is **because of friends and relatives**.

ILL—Family First (most of us have heard or said this ourselves; and compared to the rest of the world, they should come first) But God’s point through Moses is that there is one thing that outranks even your brother, your sister, your son, your daughter, your wife, or your closest friend: your God.

B.III—Solomon and His Wives—1KN 11.1-8 (wisest king; married foreign wives with foreign gods) *For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. ⁵For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom*

the abomination of the Ammonites. ⁶So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not wholly follow the Lord, as David his father had done. (1KN 11.4-6)

AP: Moses mentioned the need to protect oneself against the temptation that comes **because of friends and relatives** because he understood something we’ll see throughout Scripture and our own lives: how difficult it is for us to stand for truth when those we love stand against it. When that time comes, we cannot provide special protection or separate standards for them. We need to stand for God and for truth and not for those close to us. For in truth, supporting them in their sin and in their error doesn’t really stand with them at all: it stands against their best interests—the salvation of their souls.

LK 14.25-27 ~ *Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.*

BD2: The Leading of the Multitude (DT 13.12-18)

BKGRND: **But what if we’re outnumbered? What if a large crowd of people turn away from God? Can I follow their example, then?** Bit by bit, Moses is eliminating all the excuses—and as we come to the close of the chapter, he closes the last one by pointing to the final thing that commonly leads people away from God—the **leading of the multitude**.

DT 13.12-13 ~ “If you hear in one of your cities, which the Lord your God is giving you to dwell there, ¹³that certain worthless fellows have gone out among you and have drawn away the inhabitants of their city, saying, ‘Let us go and serve other gods,’ which you have not known,

EX: Whether dozens, hundreds, thousands, or millions of people turn against God, God’s call is the same: *You shall not fall in with the many to do evil, nor shall you bear witness in a lawsuit, siding with the many, so as to pervert justice, (EX 23.2)* **We wonder: how does a whole city away from God?** The answer is implied: by not properly dealing with the first who fell to **human curiosity** and **false prophets**. By failing to resist those smaller and more intimate temptations, the whole city fell. And in those moments, God’s call was strong and terrifying: to turn against the whole city—to not permit them to continue in their error, further leading your nation away.

DT 13.14-15 ~ *then you shall inquire and make search and ask diligently. And behold, if it be true and certain that such an abomination has been done among you, ¹⁵you shall surely put the inhabitants of that city to the sword, devoting it to destruction, all who are in it and its cattle, with the edge of the sword.*

EX: It’s interesting that Moses points out here the importance of investigating the matter more closely in **vs. 14**. The assumption here was that these were unrighteous and godless people who were out of your direct circle—outside of your family and your city. Rather than just jumping to conclusions, he calls for them to *inquire and make search and ask diligently*. I’m reminded of **MT 18.15-18** ~ “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

B.III—Sexual Immorality in Corinth—1CR 5.1-2 (man was sleeping with his step mom; the church chose to accept it; the overwhelming majority, acting like this