# Sealing the Covenant 5. Heed the warnings

# Deuteronomy 28:15-68

## Hard to read

## Used wrongly to condemn the world

### They’re warnings typical of Ancient Treaties

## List of 10 stark alternatives for God’s people

### These are the consequences for God’s people who break the deal after they have made it

#### It shows the seriousness of their decision to become God’s people

## The book has already warned God’s people “when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord” (6:11,12)

### “Don’t let this happen to you”

# God will judge according to your response

## The judgment is predicted

### This warning shows the mercy of God

#### He wants you to understand the consequences of your actions and your choices

## The judgment is extensive

### God will not change His mind because people offered to appease Him with a sacrifice

## The judgment is pervasive

### Every aspect of life will be touched

#### You don’t want to go there

#### The only way out of this is repentance

## The judgement is in the context of the alternatives

### God’s curses were a direct challenge to those who abandoned Him and followed Baal

# God’s judgment is avoidable

## These things would happen for a reason

### Disobedience

### Ingratitude

### Irreverence

## It led to:

### Confusion and restriction

### Feeling isolated and alone

### Powerlessness in difficulties

### Feeling oppressed and uncertain

## The passage is shouting “DON’T GO DOWN THIS ROAD”

### The NT tells us similar things

## If you’re there already…

### You may not be!

#### Remember Job

### But you may be…

#### Change direction and seek the God of Grace

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# The context

## God’s people looked at Baal worship and said ‘We will not be like them – we will serve God as He wishes’

### How does this statement reflect the Christian perspective of life?

### What choices have you made as a Christian to say ‘Not like that, but like this to honour Christ’?

#### How do those choices reflect the relationship you have with God?

#### How do those choices restrict what you do and accept?

#### What ‘punishments’ do you impose on yourself for breaking the choices you made?

#### What ‘punishment’ would you expect from God for breaking the choices you made?

# The self-imposed curses you put on yourself

## “If I ever do that… may I be…”

## “If I break this promise… you can…”

### Often people use this kind of terminology to demonstrate resolve

#### Is this something you do?

##### What kind of things are covered?

#### Would you expect the self-imposed punishment to be carried out?

## Why do you think commentary writers view these curses as ‘self-imposed’?

### What difference does it make to say that these curses are from the mouth of God?

# God as judge

## Does God have the right to judge people?

### Explain your answer

## If you make a promise and don’t keep it who has the right to complain?