



Carstairs-Bancroft United Church

September 10, 2021

DAILY ENCOURAGEMENT
DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC
By Rev. Maria Szabone Berces



Source: Our Daily Bread

Beloved Carstairs Bancroft United Church Members,

Today's Inspiration in one sentence

“Surely it is you who love the people; all the holy ones are in your hand.”

(Deuteronomy 33:3)

Did You Know?

- The Hebrew name of the book of **Deuteronomy** is *‘elleh haddebarim’* (“These are the words”) or more simply *‘debarim’* (“words”). The word “Deuteronomy” (meaning “repetition of the law”) arose from a mistranslation in the Septuagint (the pre-Christian Greek translation of the OT) and the Latin Vulgate.
- Deuteronomy is dated just before the Israelites entered Canaan, probably about 1406 BC.
- The book itself ascribes most of its content to Moses. At the same time, it seems clear that the narrative framework within which the Mosaic material is placed comes from another – and unknown – hand.
- The love relationship of the Lord to his people, and that of the people to the Lord as their sovereign God, pervade the whole book. Deuteronomy’s spiritual emphasis and its call to total commitment to the Lord in worship and obedience inspired references to its message throughout the rest of the Scripture.

(The NIV Study Bible; Deuteronomy)

Personal Insight

I look up to those people who are as diligent in their caring as Moses, and as Amy, the writer of the below meditation. They both took time and made sure that their loved ones learn about the blessings that are available and offered for them by the Almighty.

I appreciated quite a few important points and thoughts as I read this devotion. First, I believe that her sharing of the memories of adolescent struggles with her children was helpful and heartening in their development into a healthy adulthood. When we are brave enough to admit our stumbling steps as we mature, it can encourage those of our loved ones who might wrestle with similar questions. It tells them they are not alone in their uncertainties, and there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Second, it is important to know who we are. I think it is a key question consciously or unconsciously to all of us. We need to know our value and our talents in order to flourish. Being aware of our strengths and weaknesses can help us to become a better person. The Scriptures tell us that God knows it all, and offers us divine support to bring the best out of our potential. The greatest gift of life is when we allow our identity to be connected with the Holy One, and choose to belong to the Almighty. When we can acknowledge that it is true: *“I am God’s beloved child...”*

Grace and Peace to You All,

Rev. Maria



Resting Secure in God

Let the beloved of the Lord rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long.

Deuteronomy 33:12

READ Deuteronomy 33:1–5, 12

I wrote a letter to our children as each became a teenager. In one I talked about our identity in Christ, remembering that when I was a teenager, I felt unsure of myself, lacking confidence. I had to learn that I was God’s beloved—His child. I said in the letter, “Knowing who you are comes down to knowing Whose you are.” For when we understand that God has created us and we commit to following Him, we can be at peace with who He’s made us to be. And we also know that He changes us to be more like Him each day.

A foundational passage from Scripture about our identity as God’s children is Deuteronomy 33:12: “Let the beloved of the Lord rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long, and the one the Lord loves rests between his shoulders.” Just before Moses died, he proclaimed this blessing over the tribe of Benjamin as God’s people prepared to enter the land He’d promised them. God wanted them to always remember that they were His beloved and to rest secure in their identity as His children.

Knowing our identity as God’s children is equally important for everyone—teenagers, those in the middle of life, and those who have lived a long time. When we understand that God created us and watches over us, we can find security, hope, and love. – By **Amy Boucher Pye**

REFLECT & PRAY

Loving Father, You created me and You hold me close. Let my identity as Your child permeate my thoughts and actions. Amen.

How does knowing that you can “rest between his shoulders” increase your love for God? How does this deepen your understanding of who you are?

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

Moses’ blessing to the Israelites before his death follows the tradition of a father blessing his children before death (Genesis 49). He addresses each of the tribes as if they were individual sons. These individual blessings (Deuteronomy 33:6–25) are framed before and after with a poem of blessing addressed to all of Israel (vv. 1–5, 26–29). (Jeshurun, vv. 5, 26, means “the upright one” and refers to all of Israel.) Because Yahweh was their God, they were blessed—saved, secure, and strong. God was their warrior and king who defeats all foes (vv. 26–29) and rules His people through the law given to Moses (v. 4). – By **Monica La Rose**

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