

**Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

**26**When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it,

<sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

<sup>3</sup>You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.'

<sup>4</sup>When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God,

<sup>5</sup>you shall make this response before the LORD your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous.

<sup>6</sup>When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us,

<sup>7</sup>we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders;

<sup>9</sup>and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

<sup>10</sup>So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God.

<sup>11</sup>Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

## **Matthew 23:1-12**

- 1 Jesus told the crowds and the disciples,
- 2 “The religious scholars and the Pharisees have succeeded Moses as teachers;
- 3 therefore, perform every observance they tell you to. But don’t follow their example; even they don’t do what they say.
- 4 They tie up heavy loads and lay them on other’s shoulders, while they themselves will not lift a finger to help alleviate the burden.
- 5 All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and wear huge tassels.
- 6 They are fond of places of honor at banquets and the front seats in synagogues.
- 7 They love respectful greetings in public and being called ‘Rabbi’.
- 8 But as for you, avoid the title ‘Rabbi’. For you have only one Teacher, and you are all sisters and brothers.
- 9 And don’t call anyone on earth your ‘Mother’ or ‘Father’. You have only one Parent – our loving God in heaven.
- 10 Avoid being called leaders. You have only one leader – the Messiah.
- 11 The greatest among you will be the one who serves the rest.
- 12 Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, but those who humble themselves will be exalted.”