

Deuteronomy ch 5-7

So far Moses has been rehearsing the history of Israel, to the new generation, all the previous generation that was 20 yrs of age or older when the Lord delivered them from Egypt are now dead and now they find themselves once again at the borders of the Promised Land. And so Moses is seeking to encourage them and build up their faith and their trust in the Lord so that they don't fail where their fathers did. But rather that they would enter into the fullness of all that God desires to give them, and Moses has basically taken them in review and showed them how they've (even on this side of the Promised Land) gone up against every type of person and situation that struck fear in their hearts, forbidding them from entering the Promised Land the 1st time. And yet God has shown Himself to be faithful to them and strong on their behalf defeating, giants and walled cities that were heavily guarded for them even on this side of the Jordan. And if God was destroying their enemies for them now, on this side of the Promised Land, how much more would He go before and fight for them when they entered to the Land that He had promised to them. Because God is faithful, and He always keeps His word. The bible tells us that God honors His word, above His name, but in order for Him to continue to bless them, and fight for them, Moses said that they needed to be careful to observe all that they had been commanded. That they not add to it, nor take away from it because God says what He means and means what He says. And not only were they to observe it themselves but they were also to be sure to teach God's word to their children and grandchildren, so that they might grow up in obedience (to God) as well, so that they might continue to receive the blessings of God in the land. Because just as sure as God brought them into the Land, if they begin to rebel against God, and serve other gods who in reality aren't gods at all, then God said that He would destroy them from out of the land and that they would be scattered among all the nations. Which as you know is exactly what happened, Israel was disobedient to God, they failed to keep God's word and as a result they were ultimately scattered out of their land and it wasn't until 1948 that they regained their homeland as a nation. And Moses told them that because of His bad witness to the nation in misrepresenting God to the people, that even though he pleaded with God, he wasn't going to get to cross over the Jordan to see the Promised Land. But rather he was made an example to the nation in how important that it is that we properly represent the God that we serve. And still today it is so important that we be open to the Holy Spirit changing us and molding us into the image of Jesus Christ more each day so that we might be accurate reflections of Him to a hurt and dying world around us. And may God help us to decrease more and more everyday that He might increase in our lives to the point of overflowing and spilling out of us to those around us that many might come to know Him in a personal way, because that's what it's all about. Moses also demonstrated to us that divine law of reaping what we sow, it's a spiritual law that's just as true in the spiritual as gravity is in the physical and there's no undoing it and so Moses had sown in rebellion and anger and was to reap the reward of not entering into the Promised Land.

Now in vs 13 of ch 4 Moses speaks of the 10 commandments that he received on the Mt and how they were written on 2 tablets of stone, in ch 5 he recites them again to this new generation. And if they didn't know them by chance up until this point, now they were accountable and with out excuse.

Vs1-

On this particular vs I believe the KJV does a little better job in their translation, it says this, "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them." And so automatically we see a 4 fold command that they were to obey and that we to are to obey in reality as it regards to the word of God.

#1 They were to hear the word, and that word "hear" means to understand or to perceive it, to consider it with the emphasis on obeying what you hear or perceive.

#2 They were to learn, so we see the forward aggressive progression here, not only were they to hear and understand it, but they were to learn it or be trained by it, being trained in how they were to interact with one another by the word of God.

#3 They were to "keep" it, which means that it was to be tucked down into their hearts and hedged about and guarded carefully. So that you don't violate your relationships with one another and with God. David put it like this, "*Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!*" Ps 119:11 They were to keep the word of God in their hearts and be mindful of it all the time.

And #4 They were to *do them*, again David said, "*How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.*" The gospel isn't an intellectual gospel, (though it can be) but more than that it's a practical gospel. Not only should it be in your head and in your heart, but it should also work its way down to your hands and feet and find it's way to your tongue and your lips as well. We spent a large portion of our time Sunday morning speaking on the fact that it's not enough to be a hearer only of the word of God, it doesn't matter how much of the bible you know or how many scriptures that you can quote to me. If it's not being worked out practically in your life it means nothing, and if it means anything it's to your detriment because to whom much is given much more is required. So as you and I come into a certain knowledge of the word of God, we become accountable for that and by not responding accordingly we're in reality growing ripe for judgment to fall on our lives. And we want to be those faithful and wise servants that have used what we've been entrusted with to the glory of God and the profit and furthering of His kingdom. And I'm not propagating a legal relationship with God, I'm speaking of a love relationship with God, Jesus said, "*if you love Me, keep My commandments.*" So we're not talking about legalism here, but that we should use wisdom in not violating our relationship with God who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Vs2

And those were the conditions, it was a conditional covenant based upon their obedience.

Vs3-4

In other words the law didn't come 100yrs ago while we were still in Egypt, the law was given to them, from the Mt once they had been set free from the bondage of Egypt.

Vs5-6

Now Moses recites for them the 10 commandments and I'm not going to spend a lot of time expounding on them because we did that when we went through Exodus. And the tapes are available for that if you desire them, now they had been highly influenced by idolatry, because Egypt was just plagued (literally) with idolatry, and so the 1st thing that God commands them in vs 7 is.

Vs 7

So notice God's 1st warning or command wasn't against becoming atheistic, but rather polytheistic, that nothing else was to take greater or even equal status with the 1 true living God. God wasn't concerned with the fact that there might be someone who didn't believe that there was no God at all, David said that it is the fool that says in his heart that there is no God. That word "fool" means "insane", so the individual who says that there is no God is either insane, or they know better in their hearts and they're simply trying to excuse their accountability. They don't want to be held accountable for their lives and if you remove God then theirs no real accountability or absolutes and so it's all relative and I can do what I want. The fool says in his hear that there is no God.

Vs8-10

Now at 1st glance this may not seem to apply to us in that we're not really an idolatrous nation in the respect that overall I don't know of too many Americans that bow before little trinkets. There probably are some but for the most part we don't really do that as a nation, but a lot of people worship the golf-club, or the guitar, or that little thing that slips into our pockets or our purses known as the checkbook. And people serve these things, they become enslaved to them, and they begin to take top priority in their lives over their relationship with God. But the Lord your God is a jealous God and He desires to have the priority of your life and is worthy to hold that spot. And we spoke last week how God wants nothing to represent the likeness of even Himself lest we begin to worship that which represents Him. Ascribing some type of holiness to that object, rather than to Himself, God is a Spirit, and those who seek to worship Him must do so in spirit and in truth.

Vs11

Now this can obviously have a couple of inferences, the obvious being that of verbal exchange, people throw the name of God or the name of the Lord, or the name Jesus Christ around today like it's nothing. With out respect or reverence for who He is but more of an expression of frustration or surprise, or in some cases in place of a swear word or a cuss word. You need to be careful because God says don't do that. The other being that some people take the name of the Lord upon themselves by calling themselves Christians and yet living the life of a heathen, with out any real conviction or any true reverence for God and His Son Jesus Christ and so they have "in vain" taken the name of the Lord, we call them hypocrites, God says that person will not be held guiltless.

Vs12-15

Now this particular command wasn't passed on to the NT church, this was a covenant that God made with the nation of Israel. The NT teaches that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the Sabbath and that as we abide in Him we have perpetual rest, Jesus said come to Me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. And Heb 4:10 tells us, "*For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.*" Everyday is a Sabbath day in Christ, but we gather corporately on the 1st day of the week because that was the day that Jesus resurrected. On the Sabbath He was dead in the tomb, but on the 1st day of the week He was raised by the power of the Holy Spirit. And the bible tells us that "*the letter (or the law) kills, but the Spirit gives life.*"

Vs16

The 1st commandment with a promise, and Paul tells us very plainly that in the last days this particular command would be completely disregarded. 2nd Tim 3:2 explicitly says that one of the signs of the last days would be that people would be disobedient to parents.

Vs17

And Jesus said even being angry in your heart with out cause at another person is a violation of this, now this is not saying that God is against capital punishment, God instituted it. But it is not for you or me to take the law into our own hands or to kill someone in cold blood.

Vs18

Again not even are you to look on another individual with lust or you're a violator.

Vs19-20

Be honest in your dealings

Vs21

In other words be content with that which the Lord has allotted to you, and don't be getting your eyes on the material things that others have, keep your eyes on the eternal, not the temporal.

So, the 1st 4 commandments deal with our relationship to God, the last 6-with our relationship with our fellow man, in other words the totality of the law is summed up in this, love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your strength. And love your neighbor as yourself, you do those 2 things you'll have fulfilled the whole of the spirit of the law.

Vs22

Now Moses speaks of the fact that they were scared to hear the voice of God coming from the fire and all and they asked Moses to speak to the Lord and relay what God said to them and they would do it.

Vs28-29

This is God's cry and Gods lament over the people, Oh that they would always fear me and follow Me with their whole hearts and keep My word so that it might be well with them forever.

I'm certain that there are times that God laments over us, oh that they would keep My word, follow Me with their whole hearts so that I might do for them and through them all that I desire. 2 Chron 16:9 tells us that, "*the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.*" Oh that our hearts were loyal to Him, God could do such amazing things, but we limit God so much by getting out of that place where God can demonstrate His love for us and His power through us because of our own selfish wants and self centered goals and ideals. That's why Jude tells us to keep ourselves in the love of God because it's important that we be in harmony with the plan and purposes of God so that God might do that work. But we too often limit God because of our own flesh, may God help us to crucify our flesh along with it's passions and desires. Now, God tells them go back into their tents and He'll speak to Moses and Moses can relay His laws to the people.

Vs32-33

Ch. 6

Vs1-5

Vs 4-5 make up what the Jews called the "Shema" and you'll find as you go through the book of Dueteronomy that the Lord Jesus was very familiar with this particular book and He quoted from it all the time. Probably more than any other O.T book, this is what He told the lawyer when he asked Him what was the greatest commandment, this is the primary thing that you can do, because if you're doing this, everything else will fall right into place. But if you're not doing this, then nothing will work out for you, but rather things will be falling apart in your life, if not physically then spiritually, and emotionally to say the least.

But in vs 4 we see a strong argument for the trinity, because in the Hebrew there are a couple of different words for the word one, 1 of which means an absolute unity, the other meaning a compound unity. The word (echeed) (spelled wrong) means an absolute unity. However the word “echaad” is the word that is used as a compound unity. We would say that we are one body made up of many members we are “echaad” a compound unity. Now that word “echaad” is the same word we see in vs 4, hear oh Israel the Lord our God, The Lord is “echaad”. Now if the word used there would’ve been “echeed” then it would’ve shipwrecked every argument for the trinity or the triune Godhead. However the Hebrew word here is the word for a compound unity even as we though we’re many make up one body, and in using that word it continues to support very strongly the biblical stand of God being represented in 3 persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and being only one God.

Vs6-9

And of course they did this with those small leather boxes that they strapped to their foreheads and all, they were call phylacteries. The point being that we are to be continually and perpetually mindful of God and His presence with us, and His word is to permeate our lives and our lifestyles. God was just saying hey let the main point of your conversations be about Me, and I like that, I love to talk about God and His goodness. And God always eaves drops on those conversations, and the bible speaks of the book of remembrance that God has that He keeps records of our conversations about Him.

Vs10-13

People don’t seem to have much problem depending on God when they’re in want, they pretty much have to or else they might not eat. But it’s when God begins to bless your life materially if He so chooses to that we get so tempted to forget God because after all I have everything I need, God is here issuing a warning against taking that position in your heart.

Vs14-16

Again when Satan was tempting Jesus out in the wilderness and took Him up on the pinnacle of the temple and said go ahead and jump God will send His angels to bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone, he was twisting scripture. And Jesus said, it is written, you shall not tempt the Lord your God, quoting from Duet 6:16.

Vs17-25

So God had them do all these things that would spark the curiosity of the children, Dad why do you strap those little boxes to your head, and mom why are these things written on our doorposts?

And one of the reasons that He did that was so that they might teach their children about Him, kids have a natural curiosity that God has placed there for a reason, and it's so that you might teach them. So try not to be annoyed by your children's constant sense of curiosity but rather utilize it and take the time to teach them about God and what He's done for you and what He desires to do for them. Because soon enough their grown up and you've had your chance and God will require an account of us as to how we dealt with and disciplined the children that He entrusted to us.

Ch.7

Now God tells them that He's going to go before them, and destroy nations and peoples that are bigger and greater than they are and when He does He wants them to utterly wipe them out. Not to befriend them or inter mingle with them or let their sons or daughters marry them. Even as God doesn't wanting you befriending the world and having relationships, dating and marrying nonbelievers, what fellowship has light with darkness?

Vs5

So don't tempt yourself or make provision for the flesh, but rather destroy those altars and those things that would seek to draw you away from God, why?

Vs6-7

So even as they were a treasure to God, so you are today and God hasn't chosen you because you're so special or because you're such a great person, but He's chosen you because He loves you. Rejoice in that God loves you, so He chose you to spend eternity with Him don't fight rejoice in it, we all know Jesus Christ (those of us who do) as a result of His sovereign choice. And even as you have right to choose whom you will and won't befriend so does God, don't place restrictions on Him that you don't want on yourself. And all you have to do to find out that your chosen as well is to give your heart to Jesus Christ if you don't want to do that then don't blame God, because He said whoever comes to Me I will by no means cast out. And since God has chosen you out of His love for you, what is your response to that, vs 11 tells us, it's obedience to Him.

Vs12-15

So God was promising to bless them based upon their obedience, His promise was conditional; they had to hear, keep, learn and do all that God commanded. And part of the law that they were to keep was the dietary and sanitary law that He gave them, and you see that as you read Ex and Lev. And He tells them that if they were to do those things they wouldn't be getting all sick and diseased as those in Egypt did, but rather all the other nations would be plagued by them.

Vs16-26