

DEUTERONOMY CHAPTER 6 - The Greatest Commandment; Caution Against Disobedience

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvarv.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTRODUCTION TO DEUTERONOMY 6

The Book of Deuteronomy is not to be understood of a second, a new, or another law, **but of the law formerly delivered, but now repeated, and also more largely explained; to which are likewise added several particular laws, instructions, and directions; all which were necessary, on account of the people of Israel, who were now a new generation,** that either were not born, or not at an age to hear and understand the law when given on Mount Sinai; the men that heard it there being all dead, excepting a very few; and **these people were also now about to enter into the land of Canaan, which they were to enjoy as long as they kept the law of God, and no longer, and therefore it was proper they should be reminded of it; and besides, Moses was now about to leave them,** and having a hearty desire after their welfare, spends the little time he had to be with them, by inculcating into them and impressing on them the laws of God, and enforcing them on them, which were to be the rule of their obedience, and on which their civil happiness depended.

THE “SHAMMAH” AND THE MEZUZAH:

The Shammah was so important to the Jewish people that they put it on their doorposts – **Mezuzah**

In Hebrew, mezuzah (מְזוּזָה) actually means “doorpost” (plural מְזוּזוֹת, mezuzot). The mezuzah as it is known is actually piece of parchment, called a klaf, with specific verses from the Torah that often is then placed inside a mezuzah case, which is then affixed to the doorposts of a Jewish home. The mitzvah (commandment) of mezuzah is one of the core practices of Jews across religious observance and belief. Written on the parchment are 713 words from *Deuteronomy 6:4-9* and *11:13-21*. And you shall inscribe them upon the doorposts of your house and upon your gates, in order that your days and the days of your children shall increase, on the land with the Lord swore to your forefathers to give to them, as the days of heaven above the earth.



INTERPRETATION

Echad - A numeral denoting a compound unity - properly united, that is, one; or (as an ordinal) first: - a, alike, alone, altogether, and, any (-thing), apiece, a certain [dai-] ly, each (one), + eleven, every, few, first, + highway, a man, once, one, only, other, some, together

Gen 1:5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the **first day. (day one)**

Gen 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become **one flesh.**

Eze 37:17 Then join them one to another for yourself into **one stick**, and they will become one in your hand.

1Co 8:6 yet for us there is **one** God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

The Hebrew word, *yacheed*, speaks of an absolute unity or singularity. (*Gen 22:2* Then He said, "Take now your son, your **only** son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." & *Psa 25:16* Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, For I am **desolate** and afflicted.).

What Jesus said:

Mar 12:28-31 Then one of the scribes came,, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" [29] Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'HEAR, O ISRAEL, THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE. [30] AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' **This is the first commandment.** [31] And the second, like it, is this: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Mat 5:17 "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy **but to fulfill.**

Joh 5:30 I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

Joh 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Joh 15:10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

APPLICATION

DEUTERONOMY 6

You shall love the LORD your God.... This is the first and chief commandment in the law, the sum and substance of the first table of it; and includes in it, or at least has connected with it, knowledge of God, esteem of him, delight in him, faith and trust in him, fear and worship of him, and obedience to him, which when right springs from it. God is to be loved because of the perfections of his nature, and the works of his hand, of nature, providence, and grace; and because of the relations he stands in to men, and especially to His own people!

Deu 6:5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

It sums it up. You see, **if you love God with all your heart, soul and mind, you would:**

- **have no other gods** before Him,
- you would **not take His Name** in vain,
- you would want to do that which pleased Him,

That would be the supreme desire of your life. So all of the other prohibitions would be unnecessary.

It's all summed up in **just love God supremely.**

If you love your neighbor as yourself, you wouldn't steal from him, you wouldn't covet that which is his, you wouldn't lie about him, and so it's all right here. Loving God supremely and loving your neighbor as yourself. And in these, all the law, it's right here, all of the prophets, all of the writings of the book, summed up right here. Your problem is **the fact that you don't love God supremely** and **you don't love your neighbor as yourself.**

We have other loves that come into our life. The Bible speaks of the love of money, and there is the love of possessions, and the love of pleasure. Many other loves that become the supreme love of a person's life turns them away from God. They give first attention, first love to these other things. And so the prophets came and they warned the people about giving themselves over to pleasure. **Giving themselves over to sexual licentiousness.** Giving themselves over to the possessions. All the law and the prophets dealt with these issues.

If you love God supremely and love your neighbor as yourself, you don't have to worry about anything else, **it's all wrapped up right there. You're alright.**

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

The Greatest Commandment:

*Deu 6:1 "Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe (31x) them in the land which you are crossing over to possess,
Deu 6:2 that you may fear (29x) the LORD your God, to keep (38x) all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.
Deu 6:3 Therefore hear (34x), O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you— 'a land flowing with milk and honey.'
Deu 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!*

Deu 6:5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Deu 6:6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

Deu 6:7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Deu 6:8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

The Hebrew is emphatic here. Moses called attention to *The Commandment*. In the following verses, God reduced the law to one ruling principle - one commandment which encompassed all the commandments.

v. 2 Israel's fate rested on their obedience to this one great commandment. If they obeyed their commandment, their life would be long and filled with blessing. If they did not obey they could expect to be cursed by God.

v. 3 Observe to do them, the commandments given them: that it may be well with thee; in body and estate: and that ye may increase mightily; not only in wealth and riches, but chiefly in numbers: as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee.

v. 4 *Hear, O Israel:* So begins the great Shema, which means “Listen”—recited throughout the world by every observant Jew every morning and every evening. *The LORD our God, the LORD is one:* The Hebrew word translated “one” is Echad, which refers to a compound unity. Echad is used in Genesis 2:24 with regard to Adam and Eve as well as in Exodus 26 to describe the curtains and coverings in the tabernacle. The Hebrew word translated “God” is Elohim, also a compound unity. El is singular. Elo is used for two. Elohim refers to three or more. “Hear, O Israel, the Lord your God, Elohim, is one compound unity.” Listen carefully to the Shema, and you’ll hear the Trinity.

v. 5 **The first and chief commandment in the law, the sum and substance of the first table of it.** God is to be loved because of the **perfections of his nature, and the works of his hand, of nature, providence, and grace; and because of the relations he stands in to men, and especially to his own people.** To love with a superlative love, **above all creatures whatever;** with the whole of the affections of the heart, with great fervency and ardor of spirit, in the sincerity of the soul, and with all the strength of grace a man has, with such love that is as strong as death.

v. 6 This great command must first be in our **heart**. Then it must be communicated to our **children**, the topic of our conversation, and should always be in front of us - as near as our hand or our forehead, as ever before us as our door posts and gates.

v. 7 Care and diligence are to be used, and pains taken, to instruct children, as soon as they are capable, in the knowledge of God, and of his commandments; that they are to love him, fear him, serve, and worship him; this is to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord

v. 8 By the time of Jesus the Jewish people based the practice of wearing phylacteries on this passage. Phylacteries are small boxes holding parchment with scriptures on them, held to the forehead or hand with leather straps. Jesus condemned abuse of the wearing of phylacteries among the Pharisees; they would make their phylactery boxes large and ostentatious as a display of greater spirituality (Matthew 23:5).

1 - To not only hear but to observe – to do – both to go into the land and to live their lives there. So this is for us to – to observe – to do!

2 - Notice the promise - if you **fear God** and **keep His commandments, your days and those of your children will be prolonged!**

3 - Be careful to do!

4 - We have one God – God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit!

5 - The first and greatest commandment is to love the Lord Your God with all your heart, soul and strength!

6 - God's words, His commandments, need to be in our hearts!

7 - We need to diligently teach them to our children!

8 - We also need to be reminded!

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Deu 6:9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Caution Against Disobedience

Deu 6:10 "So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build,

Deu 6:11 houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full—

Deu 6:12 then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Deu 6:13 You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name.

Deu 6:14 You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you

Deu 6:15 (for the LORD your God is a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.

Deu 6:16 "You shall not tempt the LORD your God as you tempted Him in Massah.

v. 9 This command leads to the Jewish practice of the *mezuzah*. This is a small container holding a passage of Scripture that is nailed to a doorpost.

v. 10 God planned to bring Israel into an abundant, prepared land. In this abundant blessing God had for Israel, there was an inherent danger: That they would forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

v. 11 *houses full of all good things which you did not fill*,.... Not only full of good, convenient, and rich household furniture, but of the fruits of the earth, of corn, and wine, and oil, and also, perhaps, of gold and silver. Also wells which they did not dig, which in those hot and dry countries were in much esteem, and of great worth; And productive trees, which Canaan abounded with much more than Egypt, where there were but few vines and olive trees, though of both these there were more where the Israelites lived than elsewhere.

v. 12 This cycle would be repeated through the history of Israel, especially in the time of the Judges. God would bless an obedient Israel, and they would prosper; they would begin to set their heart on the blessings instead of the LORD who blessed them; God would allow chastisement to turn Israel's focus back upon Him; Israel would repent and obey again, and God would again bless and obedient Israel and they would prosper.

v. 13 When we do this, the idea is not of a shrinking fear from an angry God. Instead, the idea of **fear** is more in the concept of an awe-filled respect, an inner repulsion at the idea of offending such a great, loving God who has done so much for us. This is the passage of Scripture Jesus quoted back to Satan when tempted by Satan to avoid the cross and win back the world, if He would only bow down and worship Satan.

v. 14 *You shall not go after other gods*,.... To serve and worship them, and swear by them. To go after them is to worship them, and this is to depart from the true God, and go after false deities: of the gods of the people which are round about you; the gods of the Edomites, Ammonites, Moabites, Philistines, and Egyptians; all of which had their peculiar deities.

v. 15 *For the Lord your God is a jealous God among you*,.... He was near to them, in the midst of them, His tabernacle being placed between their camps. He was a God jealous of His honor and glory in matters of worship, and would resent any affront given him in that way. There would be nothing more apt to stir up His wrath than idolatry: and destroy you and to be carried captive out of their own land, and to be scattered among the nations of the world, and be utterly destroyed.

v. 16 In *Exodus 17:1-7*, Israel tempted the LORD by doubting His love and concern for them. This was tempting or testing God regarding His love for Israel, something that is not only high-handed against the LORD (because we have no right to administer a test to the Almighty) but also disregarding His previous, and constant demonstrations of love and care for Israel (by demanding that God prove His love for them now by giving them what they want). Jesus quotes this in *Luke 4:12!*

9 - God's people were to be reminded by writing them on the doorposts (Mezuzah) of their gates.

10 & 11 - Be careful when things are going well, when you're prospering and your plate has been filled – that you remember who is your complete Provider!

12 - Don't forget where the Lord has brought you from!

13 - Nearly 30 times we're told to fear the Lord in the Book of Deuteronomy. Do you fear the Lord?

14 - Idolatry – We're told not to go after other gods! What other gods are in your life right now?

15 - Our God is a jealous or a zealous God. He doesn't want us to be hurt by going after any other gods!

16 - We are not to tempt – test, try or prove – the Lord our God!

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Deu 6:17 You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you.

Deu 6:18 And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land of which the LORD swore to your fathers,

Deu 6:19 to cast out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has spoken.

Deu 6:20 "When your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God has commanded you?'

Deu 6:21 then you shall say to your son: 'We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand;

Deu 6:22 and the LORD showed signs and wonders before our eyes, great and severe, against Egypt, Pharaoh, and all his household.

Deu 6:23 Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers.

Deu 6:24 And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day.

Deu 6:25 Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us.'

INTERPRETATION

v.17 You shall diligently keep the commandments.... Not only the Ten commandments, but all others: and His testimonies, and His statutes, which He has commanded you; those of a judicial and ceremonial kind.

v.18 This theme is constantly repeated. Under the Old Covenant, Israel's blessing was based on their obedience. When they obeyed they would be blessed; when they disobeyed they would be cursed.

v.19 To cast out all your enemies from before you,.... This the Lord promised, and as it seems with an oath, that He would do for them; drive out their enemies, and make way for the settlement of them in their country: as the Lord had spoken; see *Gen 15:18*.

v.20 Often, the apostasy which comes from prosperity afflicts the next generation more than the present. They grow up *expecting* such prosperity and blessing, without understanding the repentance and walk with God which led to the prosperity.

v.21 Therefore, it was essential for Israel to teach and warn their children, so that the blessings given to one generation would not become a curse to the next generation. The key to the teaching was the simple recounting of Israel's testimony - how God saved them from the bondage of Egypt. Parents need to relate to their children how *they* came to a personal relationship with Jesus, so the children understand that *they* must come to the same relationship.

v.22 ... showed signs and wonders, Meaning the ten plagues, which were signs of the power of God, marvelous works, great, above the power of nature, and very severe or "evil" (y); very distressing to the Egyptians; for they came and lay heavy upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes.

v.23 brought us out By means of those miraculous plagues, even out of a state of bondage and misery: and in order that he might bring us in, to give us the land which He swore unto our fathers; to bring them into the land of Canaan, give it to them, and put them in the possession of it; and so fulfil his promise and his oath made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

v.24 Do you fear the Lord? I believe there is a huge lack in the body of Christ in our day because people don't fear God. "It's a fearful thing," the writer of Hebrews said, "to fall into the hands of the living God" (10:31). God's hands are loving and tender to be sure—but He will also chasten and discipline His wayward children. And the repercussions and scars of sin go on and on and on.

v.25 If one will obtain true righteousness through the law, it is simple (though not easy): observe all the commandments. But if you are lacking in observing any commandment, then you need the atonement of a Perfect Sacrifice - Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Maybe these commandments, statutes, and judgments seem confining and restricting, but these words are given that it might be well with us now and eternally.

Righteousness - Cf. Romans 4:1-13; Mt. 5:16-17;

APPLICATION

17 - We are to be diligent in keeping God's commandments!

18 - In every part of our lives, we are to do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD. He then promises that it may be well with you!

19 - He also promises to drive out all our enemies!

20 & 21 - When our children ask about God, we are to tell them of all that He has done for us. That He has never, once, failed to keep His promises to His children!

22 & 23 - We are to remind our children of God's faithfulness through the ages – of His phenomenal deliverance of Israel from the bondage of slavery in Egypt –and delivering all believers from the bondage of sin!

24 - Do you fear the Lord? Do you do what is right in His sight, out of your love for Him?

25 & Summary - Israel was commanded to keep all the commandments. We can't completely do that, certainly not in our own strength! Only Jesus Christ was able to do that! But we can, knowing who God is enables us to act towards Him rightly. And because of our great love for Him, and by the leading of the Holy Spirit, we can become more and more Christ like! God is so good – all the time! He's good; we're not!!

I WILL SERVE THEE

*I will serve Thee because I love Thee, You have given life to me
I was nothing before You found me, You have given life to me
Heartaches, broken pieces, Ruined lives are why You died on Calvary
Your touch was what I longed for You have given life to me (2X)*

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