

**Message #10****Deuteronomy 5:1-33**

It does not matter what the field of study or occupation, but new students need to learn the basic fundamentals. If you are going to study a language, you will need to start by learning the alphabet. If you are going to join the military, you will have to go through basic training. You will need to learn the basics. If you are going to fly a plane, you will have to go through some basic instruction. If you are going to work at a job, you will need some type of indoctrination concerning that job. No matter what the field of study, new students need to learn the basic fundamentals.

This was certainly true when it came to this new generation of Israel who were just about to go into the Promised Land. This was a new generation of believers and they were about to go on a new amazing adventure. They were about to cross the Jordan River and go into the Promised Land and this new generation needed to be reminded of some basics.

**MOSES BEGINS BY REMINDING ISRAEL OF SOME BASIC THINGS SHE NEEDS TO CAREFULLY LEARN, OBSERVE AND OBEY SO THAT THE PEOPLE COULD EXPERIENCE A GREAT LIFE FILLED WITH THE BLESSINGS OF GOD.**

In **verse 1** we read that Moses summoned all Israel to hear what he had to say. Men, women and children needed to hear what he had to say. Moses is an old aged man of God who will soon be gone and he wanted everyone to listen to the word of God so they could receive God's blessings.

In fact, **verse 1** begins by saying, "Hear, O Israel," which is a nice grammatical way of saying "Listen very carefully God's people to what I am going to say." A. C. Gaebelain said, in Deuteronomy Moses challenges God's people to hear some 30 times; to learn some seven times, to keep some 39 times and to observe over 100 times. He wanted this generation to carefully hear God's word and obey it.

What he specifically says he wants them to listen to are the "statutes" (huqqim) and "ordinances" (mishpatim) of God. The word "statutes" refers to the decrees God has inscribed and the word "ordinances" refers to righteous rules that govern life.

What this means is these are some rules that God has given to His people to follow to help them govern themselves so He can bless them. This is the way Israel is to function as they live out their days of life in the Promised Land.

Moses wanted God's people to carefully listen to the word of God and apply it so God could give them the fullness of His blessings. Moses begins with seven reminders for them to have:

**REMINDER #1 – God has made a covenant with Israel. 5:2**

When we were at Mt. Horeb (Sinai), God specifically made a covenant with us as a nation. There is no other nation on this earth that had that blessing.

Everything in this text is aimed straight at national Israel. We may make application, but it is for Israel. Israel is the only nation in the world that came into existence as a result of a covenant made by God (Genesis 17:4).

**REMINDER #2** – God did not make this Mosaic covenant even with our fathers. **5:3**

Now the things Moses would stress in this development of this part of the Mosaic covenant was, as Dr. Thomas Constable said, an upgrade of the Mosaic covenant for these people about to enter the Promised Land.

What Moses wants these people to realize is that they are very special to God. They were the nation who actually had God make a covenant with them at Horeb and this generation would have additional guidelines and blessings that their forefathers did not have.

**REMINDER #3** – God actually spoke to this nation face to face. **5:4-5**

Moses says this was an awesome and rare moment. God actually appeared in a fire and spoke to this nation (Deut. 4:33).

As we pointed out last time, if there is a fire on the mountain, people are told to evacuate; they are not told go to the burning mountain and God will speak with you. But God did for Israel.

Moses said that moment occurred when I was standing between you and God and you were too afraid to go up the mountain, so I was your representative (Ex. 19:16-24; 24:1-2).

**REMINDER #4** – God spoke words to me that I declared to you. **5:6-21**

Much of what we will see here is a development of the 10 commandments first given in Exodus 20. Moses just doesn't repeat the 10 commandments, he says different things. What that teaches us is that those commandments for the people were not just rigid, mechanical, repetitious commandments or legal codes. These were to be guidelines that God's people were to consult and follow as they lived life. These were principles they were to follow.

Now all of the commandments, with the exception of the Sabbath Day commandment, are restated in N.T. Grace Age books of the Bible. The Sabbath Day commandment is actually forbidden in the Church Age and we are not to keep it (Rom. 10:4; Col. 2:14-17). We worship God on the first day of the week, which is Sunday and not the Sabbath Day. There is no such thing as a "Christian Sabbath."

Moses reminds the people, who were about to enter the Promised Land, of certain guidelines for them to implement. Moses said when we as a nation were at that mountain, I was standing there and you were there; God Himself declared 15 specific messages to you that I heard and so did you.

**Message #1** - God is our God who brought us out of Egypt. **5:6**

I don't want to gloss over this because it is critical chronology.

Before God gave us His word and before God challenged us to obey, He saved us. Do not miss this. **Any relationship with God starts with God's salvation and election and not our obedience.** God chose this nation, God saved and delivered this nation and then He gave the people His word to obey.

**Message #2** - We are to have no other god before God. **5:7**

As you live life, do not ever have any other god but the God who saved you. He is to be first in life and nothing is to be above Him or before Him. He is the only God. No other god is to be worshipped except the God of the Bible. No other god is to be loved and honored except the God of the Bible.

**Message #3** - Do not make an idol. **5:8**

Any man-made representation of God is humiliating to God and slanders God and blasphemes God. No sinful, finite man can make something that will tangibly represent God.

**Message #4** - Do not worship or serve any idol. **5:9**

This is such a critical issue that God again challenges people to not worship or serve any God but Him. God is a jealous God. As Alan Redpath said, God is not jealous of us, He is jealous for us. He wants our worship in view of the fact He saved us. God will cause sad consequences to hit families who hate God and serve idols.

In these first messages God really drives home the subject of idolatry. Is that really a threat for us in the Church Age? It must be because John the Apostle wrote in the last part of the first century "Little children guard yourselves from idols" (I John 5:21).

**Message #5** - God will show mercy and love to those who love Him and obey Him. **5:10**

The specific kind of loving-kindness and mercy about which God is speaking here is a special grant as His people live their lives. Those who love Him and obey Him will discover God will do wonderful things with them and for them.

**Message #6** - Do not take the name of the LORD your God in vain. **5:11**

The first messages dealt with idolatry, which is visual; this message deals with speech that is verbal. No one who takes God's name in vain will ever be blessed by God. There is to be a reverence and an awe and a respect for the name of God. Hallowed be His name! People are not to speak lightly of God's name, Jesus' name or Christ's name. One commentator observed there are at least three ways God's is used in vain:

- 1) It is used in vain in profanity.
- 2) It is used in vain in frivolity.
- 3) It is used in vain in hypocrisy.

**Message #7** - Observe the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. **5:12**

This is a national mandate for Israel. We do not observe the Sabbath Day. In fact, Colossians 2:16-17 says the Sabbath Day was a shadow of the reality who is Jesus Christ (Heb. 4:9-10). Jesus Christ is the reality in whom we cease from works and rest. So we worship on the first day of the week, Sunday, which was the day he arose.

**Message #8** - Do all your work for six days. **5:13**

Under Law for Israel, the pattern is you work first and then enter into the rest day. Under Grace for the Church, you enter into rest first and then you work second. This is why we worship on the first Day of the week and then we go to work on Monday.

**Message #9** - Remember the seventh day is a Sabbath rest day. **5:14-15**

As we mentioned this is the only commandment not restated for the Church by Jesus Christ or the Apostles. But there is something interesting to see here for Israel. When Israel carried out the Sabbath Day, it was to be a day that included all genders of people and all classifications of people. Husbands, wives, sons, daughters, male servants, female servants and even the animals were to have a day of rest. It was to be a day of rest and reflection, in which Israel remembered how God brought them out of the land of Egypt (**v. 15**). So it wasn't a day to go to church.

**Message #10** - Honor your father and mother. **5:16**

The Hebrew verb "honor" (kebed) is a piel stem verb. William Gesenius writes this about the Piel Stem: "The fundamental ideal of the Piel, to which all various shades of meaning in this conjugation may be referred, is to **busy oneself eagerly with the action** indicated by the stem" (*Gesenius Hebrew Grammar*, p. 141). The word "honor" (kebed) actually means to give honor to someone in the sense of giving great, heavy, enormous weight to something (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 381).

Now with this verb being in the Piel stem, what God told His people is that I want you to eagerly busy yourself with action that gives great honor and weight to the value of your father and mother. God says if you want Me to bless you, then you actively and eagerly do this.

This fact is stressed many times in the New Testament, including in the Church Epistles. So this is something God wants His people to do all the time (Matt. 15:4, 6; Mark 7:10; 10:19; Eph. 6:2).

**Message #11** - Do not commit homicidal murder. **5:17**

God created man in His own image (Gen. 1:26-28), so to murder someone is to kill an actual creative revelation of God. God is the One who gives life and God is the One who determines when the life will end. For someone to kill someone else is to put himself in a position of God over that person, and this includes someone who commits suicide. Suicide is murder.

In a suicide a person decides to kill or murder himself or herself. Homicidal murder is condemned in the Church Age (Rom. 13:9; James 2:11; I Pet. 4:15).

**Message #12** - Do not commit adultery. **5:18**

Adultery may be defined as having a sexual relationship with someone who is married to someone else. This commandment is to be taken seriously by God's people in every dispensation. In fact, the writer of Hebrews says that God will specifically judge one who commits adultery (Heb. 13:4). Moses warns of it here. Paul warns of it in Romans 13:9. James warns of it in James 2:11. Immorality will never lead to the blessings of God.

**Message #13 - Do not steal. 5:19**

Again this point is stressed in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. To steal something is to take something that belongs to someone else. One may steal through swindling, pilfering, embezzling, robbing or just taking something. Paul specifically told New Testament Grace Age believers to not steal ever again (Ephesians 4:28). In this verse there are three ways to get things: 1) Steal; 2) Work; 3) Gift.

Now what most of God's people don't realize is that one way God's people may steal from God's perspective is to not give Him what is His. In other words, to not give God the offerings He deserves actually robs Him (Malachi 3:8-10).

**Message #14 - Do not lie against your neighbor. 5:20**

A neighbor is someone within the community with whom you live. God never wants His people to be liars. He will never bless people who bear false witness. God wants His people speaking the truth and not lies (Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9-17). Lying is evil. Now there are various ways people may lie. They may lie by telling a lie. They may lie by keeping quiet and not setting the record straight. Being a liar is not a light matter in the sight of God.

**Message #15 - Do not covet anything your neighbor has. 5:21**

**What is most interesting about this commandment, which is different from the commandments in Exodus 20, is the inclusion of coveting the neighbor's field.** Israel was about to go into the Promised Land and coveting a field would become a very real threat.

**Now the thing that is so different about covetousness is that it is more of a private sin rather than a public sin.** One may covet something and it is no big deal because no one knows. Well there is One who knows. God knows. In fact, Paul says that covetousness can cost one an inheritance (Eph. 2:5). God wants His people thankful for what He has given them, not covetous of what He has given someone else.

**Verse 22** says these were the words that God revealed and actually spoke to us at the mountain. And then He stopped and added no more and wrote them down on two tablets and gave them to me. These words are straightforward, simple and clear.

**REMINDER #5 – You responded to these words you heard from God. 5:23-27**

When you heard the voice of God from the midst of darkness as the fire was burning, you came near to me—all your leaders, including your tribal heads and elders.

**Response #1 - You said God has shown us His glory and greatness. 5:24a**

That is certainly true. Fire burning on a mountain and the presence of God there.

**Response #2** - You said we have actually heard the voice of God. **5:24b**

This also is certainly true; they heard the booming voice of God.

**Response #3** - You said we have seen a glimpse of God's glory and yet we live. **5:24c**

This was also certainly true. Actually this was one point in time when they had a fear of God.

**Response #4** - You said if we hear the voice of God any longer we will die. **5:25-26**

Now wait a minute. You are starting to drift here. I am not certain where they got this idea. God said they were not to come up the mountain or they would die (Ex. 19:21), but He did not say they would die because they heard His voice. Although we will say this, they at least had a tremendous reverence for God when this happened.

**Response #5** - You spoke to me and said you go hear God and then tell us what He says. **5:27**

They invented the idea that God was going to kill them so they said to Moses you go and then come back and tell us what God says.

**REMINDER #6** – God heard and responded to what you said to me. **5:28-30**

God says to Moses, I heard every word they spoke to you and their reverence for me and their desire to recognize you are the mediator is a good thing. This was impressive.

**Verse 29** gets at the real crux of the matter. God said I really wish they had a heart that truly feared Me and would want to obey Me. If they would just fear Me and implement these simple commandments, all would be well for them and their families forever.

Then God told Moses to go tell the people to go back to their tents.

**REMINDER #7** – God spoke to me and told me what to tell you. **5:31-33**

**Message #1** - God spoke to me all His commandments, statutes and judgments. **5:31a**

**Message #2** - God told me that I was to teach them to you. **5:31b**

**Message #3** - God told me that you were to observe what I teach you when you are in the land. **5:31c**

**Message #4** - God told me that you are to precisely observe what He has commanded. **5:32**

Do not turn to the right or left. Stay focused on the word of God.

**Message #5** - God told me that if you will walk in obedience you will have a blessed life and a long life. **5:33**

This is simple instruction. It is basic instruction. The problem is Israel will not obey it. How about us?