

Deuteronomy 5

Verses 1 – 5

Now Moses summoned all Israel and said to them:

“Listen, Israel, to the statutes and ordinances which I am speaking today for you to hear, so that you may learn them and be careful to do them. ² The Lord our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. ³ The Lord did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, all of us who are alive here today. ⁴ The Lord spoke with you face to face at the mountain from the midst of the fire, ⁵ *while* I was standing between the Lord and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the Lord; for you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up on the mountain.

Listen, Israel, to the statutes and ordinances so that you may learn them and be careful to do them.

See Deut. 4:9

⁹“Only be careful for yourself and watch over your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons

This isn't something you can do by going to church a few hours a week.

This takes some real effort

It takes thoughtful reflection, prayer, personal bible study, and persistence.

The Lord our God made a covenant with us at Horeb

In the bible a covenant is an agreement between God and His people in which both sides agree to act in a certain manner.

God promised to provide land, children, long life, and his presence.

The people promised to obey his laws.

A covenant was always conditional in the sense that if either party reneges, the covenant was nullified.

The Lord did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, all of us who are alive here today

There was a clear distinction between this covenant with the people of Israel and the one made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The covenant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was made between God and each of these men at some point during their life. (1900 to 1700 BC)

The covenant with the people of Israel (as a nation) was done with great signs & wonders at Sinai in 1446 BC.

See Exodus 20:18-19

Verses 6 – 10

⁶‘I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

⁷‘You shall have no other gods besides me.

⁸‘You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. ⁹ You shall not worship them nor serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, inflicting the punishment of the fathers on the children, even on the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, ¹⁰ but showing favor to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

We covered the 10 commandments in Exodus 20 therefore the comments here will be supplementary in nature.

⁷‘You shall have no other gods besides me

⁸‘You shall not make for yourself a carved image

As a nation, the Israelites struggled with these two commandments more than any other commandment.

From the time of the Judges (1350bc) to the Babylonian captivity (586bc), about 800 years, idol worship was widespread and often ignored.

The deportation to Babylon cured the Jewish people of that sin.

Verses 11 – 15

¹¹ ‘You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the one who takes His name in vain. ¹² ‘Keep the Sabbath day to treat it as holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. ¹³ For six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁴ but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the Lord your God; you shall not do any work *that day*, you or your son or your daughter, or your male slave or your female slave, or your ox, your donkey, or any of your cattle, or your resident who stays with you, so that your male slave and your female slave may rest as well as you. ¹⁵ And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out of there by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to celebrate the Sabbath day.

¹¹ ‘You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain

¹² ‘Keep the Sabbath day to treat it as holy, as the Lord your God commanded you

All of the 10 commandments have been brought over to Christianity except for one.

There is no N.T. commandment to remember, or keep, the Sabbath day.

See Colossians 2:16 - 17

Verses 16 - 19

¹⁶ ‘Honor your father and your mother, just as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well for you on the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

¹⁷ ‘You shall not murder.

¹⁸ ‘You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁹ ‘You shall not steal.

¹⁶ ‘Honor your father and your mother

See Ephesians 6:1-3

Paul says this is the 1st commandment with a promise

¹⁷ **‘You shall not murder.**

¹⁸ **‘You shall not commit adultery.**

¹⁹ **‘You shall not steal.**

These commandments have been expanded to include more than just the overt action that is specified.

The condition of the heart that brings these acts about is the real problem.

Hating your brother, lust of the flesh, and desire of the eyes needs to be addressed to avoid the sins mentioned here.

Verses 20 – 21

²⁰ **‘You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**

²¹ **‘You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor desire your neighbor’s house, his field, his male slave or his female slave, his ox, his donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.’**

You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, house, field, slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor

The parable of the talents teaches us that God has given each of us gifts in differing amounts.

Knowing this, we should be content with what we have and develop it to be as productive as possible for God’s kingdom.

Each person will give an account to God concerning his gifts & how he used them.

We should never covet the spiritual gifts that other Christians have been given.

Since we have different gifts in varying degrees, and it all comes from God, we should never compare ourselves with others.

Paul wrote 3 chapters concerning this matter.

See 1 Cor. 12 thru 14

Verses 22 – 27

²² “These words the Lord spoke to your whole assembly at the mountain from the midst of the fire, *from* the cloud, and *from* the thick darkness, with a great voice, and He added nothing more. He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me. ²³ And when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you approached me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders. ²⁴ You said, ‘Behold, the Lord our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire; we have seen today that God speaks with mankind, yet he lives. ²⁵ Now then, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the Lord our God any longer, then we will die! ²⁶ For who *is there* of humanity who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we *have*, and lived? ²⁷ Go near and listen to everything that the Lord our God says; then speak to us everything that the Lord our God speaks to you, and we will listen and do *it*.’

These words the Lord spoke to your whole assembly and He added nothing more

Moses is recounting what had happened 39 years ago

God spoke the 10 commandments to the whole community but the rest of the law was spoken to Moses, who then repeated it to the people.

He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me

God wrote the 10 commandments on the tablets and gave them to Moses

Now then, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the Lord our God any longer, then we will die!

See Exodus 20:18-19

¹⁸ *And all the people were watching and hearing the thunder and the lightning flashes, and the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it all*, they trembled and stood at a distance.*

Having experienced (seeing and hearing) the physical signs that took place the people had a healthy fear (respect) for God.

Go near and listen to everything that the Lord our God says; then speak to us everything that the Lord our God speaks to you, and we will listen and do *it*.'

No doubt, the event they had just experienced had a definite effect on them and the people responded by saying; they will do what God had commanded.

Unfortunately, the effect of this moment wore off quickly.

Verses 28 – 33

²⁸ “Now the Lord heard the sound of your words when you spoke to me, and the Lord said to me, ‘I have heard the sound of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They have done well in all that they have spoken. ²⁹ If only they had such a heart in them, to fear Me and keep all My commandments always, so that it would go well with them and with their sons forever! ³⁰ Go, say to them, “Return to your tents.” ³¹ But as for you, stand here by Me, that I may speak to you all the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which you shall teach them, so that they may follow *them* in the land which I am giving them to possess.’ ³² So you shall be careful to do just as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right or to the left. ³³ You shall walk entirely in the way which the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and that it may be well for you, and that you may prolong *your* days in the land which you will possess.

They have done well in all that they have spoken. ²⁹ If only they had such a heart in them, to fear me and keep all my commandments always, so that it would go well with them and with their sons forever

An emotional experience can often motivate people to make a commitment but when the emotion of the moment disappears, so does the commitment.

For people of true faith, it strengthens them.

But as for you, stand here by me, that I may speak to you all the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which you shall teach them, so that they may follow *them* in the land which I am giving them to possess

The 10 commandments were spoken to all of the people but the rest of the law was given to Moses who then spoke to the people.