

Deuteronomy 6

Verses 1 - 3

“Now this is the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded *me* to teach you, so that you may do *them* in the land where you are going over to take possession of it, ² so that you, your son, and your grandson will fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. ³ Now Israel, you shall listen and be careful to do *them*, so that it may go well for you and that you may increase greatly, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, *in a land flowing with milk and honey.*”

Now this is the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded *me* to teach you

1. The Commandment

This refers to the 10 commandments and various other laws regulating conduct.

2. Statutes

Refers to laws related to the festivals, the priesthood, the tabernacle and offerings

3. Judgments

Refers to legal rules such as civil laws and legal verdicts

Now Israel, you shall listen and be careful to do *them*, so that it may go well for you and that you may increase greatly, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, *in a land flowing with milk and honey.*

Moses says be careful to keep the commandments, the statutes and the judgments.

Then Moses gives two benefits of keeping the law

1. That it may go well for you

2. That you may increase greatly

Many of the benefits of keeping the law were physical in nature.

Verses 4 – 9

⁴“Hear, Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! ⁵ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

⁶ These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷ And you shall repeat them diligently to your sons and speak of them when you sit in your house, when you walk on the road, when you lie down, and when you get up.

⁸ You shall also tie them as a sign to your hand, and they shall be as frontlets on your forehead. ⁹ You shall also write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Hear, Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

These verses are called, The Shema

They are the opening words in Jewish services and are also recited at least twice daily by adult Jewish males to declare their faith.

Jesus said this is the greatest commandment in the law

See Matthew 22:34

However, when Jesus quoted this verse he added “with all of your mind”

See Mark 12:28

⁷ And you shall repeat them diligently to your sons and speak of them when you sit in your house, when you walk on the road, when you lie down, and when you get up.

The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!

If this was repeated diligently like the text says it was to be done, then why did Israel persist in worshipping false gods thru much of its history?

We can assume this was not practiced very much until after the Babylonian captivity.

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Only people of faith can come close to this command.

⁸ You shall also tie them as a sign to your hand, and they shall be as frontlets on your forehead.

We covered this in Exodus 13 but it is duplicated here for your convenience.

See pic 605



The Jews used four O.T. texts from which phylacteries were made

Exodus 13:1-10, Exodus 13:11-16, Deuteronomy 6:19 and Deuteronomy 11:13-21

These passages were written on pieces of parchment that were made into compact little rolls which were encased in tiny boxes

The hand phylactery has one compartment with the texts written on a single parchment

The head phylactery has four compartments, each with one text.

They were worn between the eyes and fastened to the left arm above the elbow

See Video 610

<https://www.levickfamily.com/9.1.html>

⁹You shall also write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

This was not mentioned in Exodus 13.

A mezuzah is a piece of parchment contained in a decorative case. The parchment is inscribed with verses from the Torah which included Deut. 6:4-9 and Deut. 11:13-21

A *mezuzah* is affixed to the doorpost of Jewish homes

See pics 615 and 620





Verses 10 - 15

¹⁰ “Then it shall come about when the Lord your God brings you into the land that He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, ¹¹ and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and carved cisterns which you did not carve out, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied, ¹² be careful that you do not forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ¹³ You shall fear *only* the Lord your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name. ¹⁴ You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, ¹⁵ for the Lord your God *who is* in the midst of you is a jealous God; so *follow Him*, or else the anger of the Lord your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth.

When the Lord brings you into the land to give you,

Great and splendid cities which you did not build

Houses full of all good things which you did not fill

Carved cisterns which you did not carve out

Vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant

It's probably a good time to remind ourselves that Moses is retelling the history of the last 40 years during the last month of his life. He is speaking to the new generation but he is telling them what he had told the older generation.

For this generation, they would be receiving all the benefits that their parents could have enjoyed if they had had the faith to enter Canaan.

Be careful that you do not forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery

How many times have we heard this warning already?

See sheets 625

Deut.	Warning	Count
4:6	Observe them carefully	1
4:9	Be careful and watch yourselves closely	2
5:32	Be careful to do what God has commanded	3
6:3	be careful to obey	4
6:12	Be careful that you do not forget the Lord	5

So follow Him, or else the anger of the Lord your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth.

Israel had a greater responsibility than the other nations because they had been given much more.

See Matthew 11:21

Verses 16 – 19

¹⁶ “**You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested *Him* at Massah.**

¹⁷ **You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and His provisions and His statutes which He has commanded you. ¹⁸ You shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, so that it may go well for you and that you may go in and take possession of the good land which the Lord swore to *give* your fathers, ¹⁹ by driving out all your enemies from you, as the Lord has spoken.**

You shall not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested *Him* at Massah.

In Massah, when the people needed water they cried out saying, is the Lord among us or not?

See Exodus 17:7

This was 2 and ½ months after the exodus from Egypt.

Asking God for water is no problem, but trying to force his hand is sinful.

This verse is one of the passages that Jesus used when he was tempted by the Devil

See Luke 4:9 - 12

Satan suggested that if Jesus jumped off the pinnacle of the temple that God would not allow him to be injured.

If Christ had accidentally fallen from the pinnacle of the temple, God would have rescued him, but for the Son of God to have deliberately jumped that would have been sinful.

During the temptation of Jesus, He used scripture from Deuteronomy for all of His replies to the Devil.

The scriptures were Deut. 8:3, Deut. 6:13 and Deut. 6:16

It is written: Man shall not live on bread alone

It is written: You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.

It has been stated, you shall not put the Lord your God to the test

You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God

Carefully means paying close attention

Diligently means perseverance in carrying out a task

You shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, so that it may go well for you and that you may go in and take possession of the good land which the Lord swore to *give* your fathers, ¹⁹ by driving out all your enemies from you, as the Lord has spoken.

This concept of being blessed by doing what God commands is repeated again and again in Deut.

Verses 20 - 26

²⁰ **“When your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What *do* the provisions and the statutes and the judgments *mean* which the Lord our God commanded you?’
²¹ then you shall say to your son, ‘We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. ²² Moreover, the Lord provided great and terrible signs and wonders before our eyes against Egypt, Pharaoh, and all his household; ²³ He brought us out of there in order to bring us in, to give us the land which He had sworn to our fathers.’ ²⁴ So the Lord commanded us to follow all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God for our *own* good always and for our survival, as *it is* today. ²⁵ And it will be righteousness for us if we are careful to follow all this commandment before the Lord our God, just as He commanded us.**

When your son asks you in time to come, saying,

What *do* the provisions and the statutes and the judgments *mean* which the Lord our God commanded you?

Kids often want to know why we do what we do.

The why’s can be overwhelming at times, but we need to be ready to answer the ones that really matter.

God gave these parents the answer ahead of time.

²¹ **then you shall say to your son,**

The answer starts with a short history lesson

- 1. 'We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.**
- 2. Moreover, the Lord provided great and terrible signs and wonders before our eyes against Egypt, Pharaoh, and all his household;**
- 3. He brought us out of there in order to bring us in, to give us the land which He had sworn to our fathers.'**

After a brief history lesson the reason for obeying God can be explained.

1. So the Lord commanded us to follow all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God for our own good always and for our survival, as *it is* today.

God wants us to have as good of a life as possible.

But this life has a lot of troubles and pitfalls that we have to deal with.

Learning what they are and how to avoid or manage them is essential.

This is what the Law was designed to do.

2. And it will be righteousness for us if we are careful to follow all this commandment before the Lord our God, just as He commanded us.

One might hope that we would all want to choose good over evil but that is often not the case in this world.

God's law has pointed us in the right direction but learning to love God and our fellow man is more complex than following a set of rules. That is why being in Christ is so important. We can't do it on our own.