

The Book of Deuteronomy

Lessons from the Second Address of Moses Part I

Text: Deuteronomy 4:44 – 6:25

I. An Outline of the Second Address

- A. 4:44-49 - Prologue
- B. 5:1-33 - The giving of the Ten Commandments
 - 1. 5:1-5 – The covenant made with them
 - 2. 5:6-21 – The Ten Commandments
 - 3. 5:22-33 – Remembrance of the day at Mt. Sinai
- C. 6:1-25 - Charge to learn and to teach God's Word
- D. 7:1 – 10:22 - Background of God's covenant
- E. 11:1-17 - Difference between Egypt and Canaan
- F. 11:18-32 - Introduction to Blessings and Cursings
- G. 12:1 – 15:23 - Various laws emphasized
- H. 16:1-17 - The Feast Days
- I. 16:18 – 17:20 - Laws concerning Courts, witnesses, and kings
- J. 18:1-14 - Laws for the Levites
- K. 18:15-22 - Prophecy concerning "the Prophet"
- L. 19:1-21 - Laws for Cities of Refuge and witnesses
- M. 20:1-20 - Laws concerning war
- N. 21:1-23 - Laws concerning the dead and inheritance
- O. 22:1 – 26:19 - Laws for daily situations
 - 1. 24:1-4 – Divorce laws
 - 2. 25:5-10 – The levirate law

II. 5:1-5 – The Ten Commandments Given to Israel

- A. In this passage, Moses made it very clear that the 10 Commandments were given to those who came out of bondage in Egypt.
 - 1. Not given to their fathers (ancestors)
 - 2. Given to those who were there, alive that day
 - 3. Given to those who heard God's voice from Mt. Sinai
- B. This means that the 10 Commandments are not an eternal law.
 - 1. They did not exist before they were given at Mt. Sinai.
 - 2. The Patriarchs were not under the 10 Commandments.
- C. Thus, man was not intended to be bound by them until the end of time.
- D. They were a part of the Law of Moses, to be taken away by the New Testament at the cross (cf. Gal. 4; Eph. 2:14-16; Col. 2:14ff; Heb. 8:13; 10:8-9; etc.).
- E. Therefore, under the Gospel of Christ, men are not obligated to keep the Sabbath Day.
- F. This does not mean that it is right to kill, steal, etc.
- G. But, those things are condemned today by the Gospel of Christ.

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III. 6:4-5 – Love for Jehovah

- A. This verse begins what is known to Jews as the Shema (or, Shema Yisrael).
 - 1. The phrase means, “Hear, O Israel.”
 - 2. This prayer is a part of the daily prayers of the Jews – morning and evening.
 - 3. It is often written upon a small scroll and placed inside the phylacteries worn by the Jews.
- B. “The LORD our God is one LORD.”
 - 1. Jehovah our God is one Jehovah.
 - 2. The Jews read it as: “The Lord is our God, the Lord is one.”
- C. This is a statement of the absolute uniqueness of God.
 - 1. Jehovah alone is God and there is no other.
 - 2. Gill wrote: “[T]he Lord, who was the covenant God and Father of his people Israel, is but one Jehovah; he is Jehovah, the Being of beings, a self-existent Being, eternal and immutable; and his is but one in nature and essence; ... one self, and all sufficient, and perfect Being....”
- D. It is also a statement of the unity of God.
 - 1. This verse does not deny the doctrine of the Trinity; rather, it supports it.
 - 2. The Hebrew word *echad* is often used to describe a unity of several as one.
 - 3. Exodus 26:6 – “one tabernacle” *comprised of many parts*
 - 4. Ezekiel 37:19 – “one stick” *comprised of two sticks united*
 - 5. Genesis 2:24 – “one flesh” *comprised of two individuals*
 - 6. Thus, Jehovah is one – though he exists in three persons.
- E. Thus, it is also a statement against idolatry (cf. vs. 13-16).
- F. Instead, they were to love God with all their heart, soul, and might.
 - 1. Because there is no other God, Jehovah is to be loved with all that man possesses.
 - 2. The heart refers to the emotions, affections, desires, and feelings of man.
 - 3. The soul refers to the whole being of man – his very life and breath.
 - 4. The might refers to the energies and efforts of man.
 - 5. The mind refers to the intellect and will of man (cf. Mark 12:30, 33).
- G. Jesus declared that this was the first and greatest command, on which all other commands hanged (cf. Matt. 22:35-40; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-37).
- H. If they truly understood the love of God toward them, the only rational response would be to love God with all of their being.

IV. 6:6-9 – The Importance of the Word of God

- A. God’s Word was to be placed in the heart – by study, memorization, and meditation.
- B. God’s Word was to be taught – especially to their children – at every opportunity.
 - 1. When in the home
 - 2. When away from the home
 - 3. When going to sleep
 - 4. When beginning a new day
- C. God’s Word was to be bound to them – in mind and in life.
- D. God’s Word was to be guide to the home.
- E. This was to keep them from forgetting God, His love, and His will (cf. vs. 12-18).