

**October 26, 2025      Session 8**  
**Remember      Deuteronomy 4:1-9, 15-20**

**Intro:** The book of Deuteronomy focuses and expands on the law God gave at Mount Sinai. In giving His people the Ten Commandments, God was expressing what it looked like for the Israelites to live in a relationship with Him. The laws given were not arbitrary: they stem from, and reflect the character of God and His purposes for His people. Israel's obedience was meant to reflect God's nature to the world around them as a concrete expression of their devotion to almighty God. I want to have people see Jesus in me. The history of Israel is one of failure to live in obedience. My spiritual history is similar in many ways. The difference is, I confess my sins, Jesus paid for my sin with his life, and He gives me His righteousness. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, I can focus on following Jesus instead of the world.

**Obedience (Deuteronomy 4:1-4), p. 75**

Rules are important to life. All life forms follow rules to the benefit of the species or the society. When the rules that are designed for the welfare of the hive, flock, herd or society are not followed, the group does not prosper. Our God is not some egotistical, self-centered, insecure deity that exists upon our adoration and worship of Him. God does not need us. We are created in His image to obey Him because it benefits US!

**Vs. 2** What a precious verse. *"You must not add anything to what I command you or take anything away from it..."* We must fully submit to the full Word of God. This call to diligently attend to God's Word remains today. As Christians, we receive God's Word as a perfect treasure of divine instruction. The Bible has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. God's Word reveals the principles by which His people are to live and by which He judges humanity. Therefore, it is, and will remain to the end of the world, the supreme standard by which all human conduct should be tried.

**Vs. 3** Baal-peor. **Numbers 25-1** *"Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry [immorality] with the women of Moab."* While camped, Moabite women enticed Hebrew men to commit sexually immorality with them and to worship and offer sacrifices to pagan gods. Balaam instigated this while the Israelites were encamped at Shittim. Those Israelites who rebelled against God were destroyed, while those who listened to God and were faithful, lived.

### **Wisdom (Deuteronomy 4:5-9), p. 77**

Keeping and doing God's commands would be viewed as wise by surrounding nations. The Israelites' covenant with God would be viewed as a source of their wisdom. They would be considered a great nation as a result of their covenant relationship with God. They were to teach what they had learned to their descendants. Part of Israel's calling was to be a witness to the nations through their relationship with God. Israel's obedience to the law was not only for their benefit but also for the benefit of others as well. It was to be a witness of God's understanding and wisdom. We are called to do the same: to be a witness and testimony for God.

**Vs. 7** God was intimately near to Israel, and their Lord and was available when they called to Him. God's nearness was directly related to His Word given to the people. Israel stood apart as the only nation whom God had given His divine statutes and ordinances. God's statutes and ordinances are righteous in that they reflect His perfect, holy, moral character. If Israel would live according to God's law, the other nations would take notice and be attracted to their quality of life. In the ancient world, and particularly in Mesopotamia, the king presented laws on behalf of the gods, and those laws reflected the impersonal nature of the relationship between the gods and the people. Unlike the pagan gods, whom the people often considered indifferent at best and hostile at worst, the God of Israel was near to His people. Israelites did not have to guess what pleased or displeased God.

**Vs. 9** Ultimately, when Israel failed to remember and fell into idolatry, this led to God's judging of the Israelites. They were conquered by pagan nations and taken into exile. The person who heeded these warnings demonstrated a healthy fear of God which yields obedience to His statutes and ordinances. The purpose of Israel being God's people was to be a witness to the nations and to their children. We are to do the same. We are to be on our guard and diligently watch ourselves so we do not forget. We need to obey God and teach God's ways to our children and grandchildren. We all were in the bondage of sin, and need to remember and share our own journey out of the "Egypt" in our lives. Remember when God saved you? Remember the times God rescued you and delivered you from calamity?

### **Worship (Deuteronomy 4:15-20)**

People tend to want something visible to focus on in worship. Canaanite religions had physical representations of their false gods. What are some idols people worship today?

**Romans 1:20,23,25** *“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they [us] are without excuse. And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. ...who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and served the creature rather than the Creator who is blessed forever Amen.”*

Jesus is the image of the invisible God. He is the incarnate Son of God the Father, and to see Jesus is to see the Father. **John 14:9** *“Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father, so how can you say, Show us the Father? Through Christ we are redeemed and adopted into the family of God. and, as part of that family, our lives should demonstrate who we belong to and where our true home is. As we pursue righteousness through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, we are transformed more and more into the image of Christ.*