

AN EXHORTATION TO OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S LAW

BIBLE TEXT : Deuteronomy 4:1-13, 32-40; 5:1-5, 23-33

LESSON 118 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey" (Joshua 24: 24).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Deuteronomy 4:1-13 (KJV)

¹ Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do *them*, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.

² Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

³ Your eyes have seen what the LORD did because of Baalpeor: for all the men that followed Baalpeor, the LORD thy God hath destroyed them from among you.

⁴ But ye that did cleave unto the LORD your God *are* alive every one of you this day.

⁵ Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it.

⁶ Keep therefore and do *them*; for this *is* your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people.

⁷ For what nation *is there so* great, who *hath* God *so* nigh unto them, as the LORD our God *is* in all *things that* we call upon him *for*?

⁸ And what nation *is there so* great, that hath statutes and judgments *so* righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

⁹ Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

¹⁰ *Specially* the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and *that* they may teach their children.

¹¹ And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

NOTES:

Brought to Memory

On Mount Sinai God had given laws which were called statutes and judgments. He told the Children of Israel to remember especially that day when He had spoken in the midst of a thick cloud (**Exodus 19:9** ⁹ And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD). They had heard the thunderings and had seen lightnings as God gave the Law. They had trembled as fire came down upon the mountain when God spoke (**Exodus 19:16-20** ¹⁶ And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that *was* in the camp trembled. ¹⁷ And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. ¹⁸ And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. ¹⁹ And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. ²⁰ And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses *up* to the top of the mount; and Moses went up). They heard His voice as He spoke to Moses (**Exodus 19:9** ⁹ And the LORD said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto the LORD). On that day when God showed them His glory and greatness the Children of Israel had promised to do "all that the LORD hath spoken" (Exodus 19:8). God had told them not to forget these things.

Many times people like to remind God of His promise. Moses did, at the time that God spoke judgment because the Children of Israel had made a golden calf to worship (**Exodus 32:13** ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit *it* for ever). Sometimes God finds it necessary to remind people of their promises to Him. When a person breaks his covenant or agreement with God, then God cannot keep His part of the agreement. It is a good thing to remember the day when God spoke to us, lest we forget the promises we made to Him.

All the Law

God did more than urge the Children of Israel to obey: He required obedience from them. He warned them to give attention to His Word that they might live. They were to keep all the laws if they expected to go in and possess the Land of Canaan. The Children of Israel had to keep the Law as well as know it. How important it is today to study God's Word that we will know what is His law! One must know God's law before he can keep it.

The Children of Israel were warned to add nothing to God's Law neither to take anything from it. At one time some of them had added the worship of Baal-peor. Those who were guilty were slain

¹² And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only *ye heard* a voice.

¹³ And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, *even* ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.

Deuteronomy 4:32-40 (KJV)

³² For ask now of the days that are past, which were before thee, since the day that God created man upon the earth, and *ask* from the one side of heaven unto the other, whether there hath been *any such thing* as this great thing *is*, or hath been heard like it?

³³ Did *ever* people hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as thou hast heard, and live?

³⁴ Or hath God assayed to go *and* take him a nation from the midst of *another* nation, by temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?

³⁵ Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he *is* God; *there is* none else beside him.

³⁶ Out of heaven he made thee to hear his voice, that he might instruct thee: and upon earth he shewed thee his great fire; and thou heardest his words out of the midst of the fire.

³⁷ And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt;

³⁸ To drive out nations from before thee greater and mightier than thou *art*, to bring thee in, to give thee their land *for* an inheritance, as *it is* this day.

³⁹ Know therefore this day, and consider *it* in thine heart, that the LORD he *is* God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: *there is* none else.

⁴⁰ Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong *thy* days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, for ever.

Deuteronomy 5:1-5 (KJV)

¹ And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them.

(**Numbers 25:5** ⁵ And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor), while those who kept close to the Lord lived.

We, today, are expected to keep all the will of God. "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar" (Proverbs 30:5, 6). "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). In the last chapter of the Book of Revelation are these words of warning: "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

A Great and Wise Nation

The Children of Israel were told to be very careful and strict in observing all the laws. Then the other nations would have respect for them. They would consider the Children of Israel as a wise and understanding people. They would know that God was near the Children of Israel to guide them, fight for them, and answer their prayers. No other nation would be so great, so wise, or so righteous. All these things were **promised if** they kept God's laws.

Many people seek for the wisdom of the world and greatness for themselves. Some spend much time and money to gain worldly knowledge and fame, only to find they are no greater in God's sight. One of the wisest men, Solomon, asked God to give him an understanding heart that he could properly judge the Children of Israel (1 Kings 3:9). Solomon did not ask for wisdom for his own gain. He wanted an understanding heart that God would receive honor and glory through his judgments. God was pleased with Solomon's prayer. He gave Solomon wisdom as well as riches and honor. Long life was also promised if Solomon obeyed God's commandments. (**1 Kings 3:13-14** ¹³ And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days. ¹⁴ And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days).

Many times a person must make a choice or decision. To keep from making a mistake, we ask God to give us wisdom and show us what to do. The Bible tells us that one is to ask for wisdom if he does not know what to do. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5).

Teaching of the Children

The children were to be trained to know God's law and to fear Him. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10). "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding" (Job 28:28). God required the children as well as the men and women to be obedient to His laws. The fathers and mothers were told to teach the children not only God's laws but also the many things that He had done for them. These things were not hidden lest they would slip from their hearts. They were declared unto the children, that from them would come praises of the Lord, and His strength, and the wonderful works that He had done (**Psalms 78:4** ⁴ We will not hide *them* from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works

² The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb.

³ The LORD made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, *even us*, who *are* all of us here alive this day.

⁴ The LORD talked with you face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire,

⁵ (I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to shew you the word of the LORD: for ye were afraid by reason of the fire, and went not up into the mount;) saying,

Deuteronomy 5:23-33 (KJV)

²³ And it came to pass, when ye heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, (for the mountain did burn with fire,) that ye came near unto me, *even* all the heads of your tribes, and your elders;

²⁴ And ye said, Behold, the LORD our God hath shewed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that God doth talk with man, and he liveth.

²⁵ Now therefore why should we die? for this great fire will consume us: if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, then we shall die.

²⁶ For who *is there* of all flesh, that hath heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we *have*, and lived?

²⁷ Go thou near, and hear all that the LORD our God shall say: and speak thou unto us all that the LORD our God shall speak unto thee; and we will hear *it*, and do *it*.

²⁸ And the LORD heard the voice of your words, when ye spake unto me; and the LORD said unto me, I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken unto thee: they have well said all that they have spoken.

²⁹ O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!

³⁰ Go say to them, Get you into your tents again.

³¹ But as for thee, stand thou here by me, and I will speak unto thee all the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which thou shalt teach them, that they may do *them* in the land which I give them to possess it.

³² Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

³³ Ye shall walk in all the ways which the

that *he hath done*). "That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

God wants the children as well as the men and women today to obey His Word. If we remember the great things that He does for us, we shall praise Him and trust Him.

**"Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey."**

A Christian is happy and makes others happy by telling them about God's great love which will deliver them from sin and lead them to Heaven.

No Other God

God told the Children of Israel to remember how much He had done for them. Because God loved them (Deuteronomy 7:8) they had been delivered from Egypt by His mighty arm through miracles and wonders. No other nation had been delivered by such signs. No other nation had seen His greatness and glory. The Children of Israel had heard His voice and lived. "He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel. He hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for his judgments, they have not known them" (Psalm 147:19, 20). All this was evidence that God was with the Children of Israel and that they had power with Him. By these things the Children of Israel — men, women, and children as well as their neighbors and enemies — would know that the Lord is God; there is none else besides Him.

QUESTIONS

- 1 Who delivered the Children of Israel from Egypt?
- 2 What did God give them on Mount Sinai?
- 3 Why were the Children of Israel wiser than the other nations?
- 4 Why were they told to teach God's law to the children?
- 5 What was required of the Children of Israel that they would be brought into the Promised Land?
- 6 Why did the other nations fear God's people?
- 7 How did they know that there is none else but God?
- 8 Why do we obey God's Word?

LORD your God hath commanded you,
that ye may live, and *that it may be* well
with you, and *that* ye may prolong *your*
days in the land which ye shall possess.