

DEUTERONOMY

Title:

The name “Deuteronomy” came from the Septuagint into English (see the Introduction to Genesis). It means a second arrangement of, or a second reference to, the law or laws.

Author and date:

See the Introduction to Genesis.

Theme:

This is a book of remembrance (1:3; 4:9-10,23,31; 5:15; 6:12; 7:18; 8:2,11,14,18,19; 9:7; 11:2; 15:15; 16:3; 24:9; 25:19). It is a restatement of the law God gave at Mt Sinai, and a confirmation of God’s covenant with Israel. Here the special privileges and duties of the people of Israel are clearly and fully stated. God especially emphasizes the relationship of love between Himself and Israel (4:37; 6:5; 7:8,13; 10:12,15; 19:9; 30:6,16,19,20; 33:3). God was well aware of Israel’s tendency toward idolatry and warns them in very strong words to have nothing to do with images and other gods (6:14-15; 7:4; 8:19-20; 11:16; 13:1-18; 17:2-7; 27:15; 29:17-18; 30:17-18). He is God, and there is no other, and they must devote themselves to Him alone (6:4-5).

Contents:

Israel’s journeys from Mt Sinai to Canaan	1:6—3:29
Moses exhorts Israel to follow God’s law	4:1-24
Warning about the future in Canaan	4:25-31
The God of Israel alone is the true God	4:32-40
Cities of refuge east of the Jordan	4:41-43
The ten commandments	5:1-33
The greatest commandment of all.....	6:5
Further exhortations to keep God’s commands.....	6:6-25
Driving other peoples from Canaan.....	7:1-6
Why God chose Israel	7:7-11
Blessings for obedience	7:12-15
God would enable them to conquer Canaan	7:16-26
Exhortation to keep God and His commands in memory.....	8:1-20
Why God was giving Canaan to Israel	9:1-6
The golden calf.....	9:7-29
The duty of Israel	10:12—11:32
The one place for sacrifice	12:1-32
Punishment for idolatry	13:1-18
Clean and unclean.....	14:1-21
Tithes	14:22-29
Cancelling debts	15:1-11
Freeing servants or slaves	15:12-18
Annual festivals	16:1-17
Appointment of judges	16:18-20
Punishment for worshipping other gods, or the sun, moon or stars	17:2-7
Law courts	17:8-13

Choosing a king	17:14-20
Offerings for God's servants	18:1-8
Things God hates	18:9-13
The great prophet to come	18:14-22
Cities of refuge	19:1-14
Essence of the law	19:21
Concerning war.....	20:1-20
Unsolved murder	21:1-9
Captive women	21:10-14
Rights of the firstborn.....	21:15-17
Punishment for a rebellious son.....	21:18-21
Various rules and laws	21:22—22:12
Violations of the proper relationship	
between men and women	22:13-30
Citizenship rights	23:1-8
Various rules and laws	23:9—25:19
Divorce	24:1-4
Compassion on the poor	24:12-22
Regarding remarriage of widows	25:5-10
Firstfruits and tithes	26:1-15
Curses that come on sinners	27:14-26
Blessings for obedience	28:1-14
Curses for disobedience	28:15-19
Terrible warnings of future judgment.....	28:20-68
The covenant confirmed.....	29:1-18
The punishment for unfaithfulness to	
God's covenant.....	29:1-29
Promises of good things after punishment	30:1-10
Choose life or death.....	30:11-20
Joshua to be Israel's new leader.....	31:1-8
Reading the law of God	31:9-13
Song of Moses	32:1-43
The importance of keeping God's law	32:44-47
God speaks of Moses' death	32:48-52
Moses' blessings on the tribes	33:1-29
Moses' death and obituary.....	34:1-12

1 These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel on the east side of the Jordan in the wilderness, in the plain opposite Suph, between Paran, and Tophel, and Laban, and Hazeroth, and Dizahab. ²*It is* eleven days' journey from Horeb by way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-Barnea.

³And it came about in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first *day* of the month, *that* Moses spoke to the children of Israel, according to all that the LORD had commanded him concerning them. ⁴*This* was after he had killed Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, who lived at Astaroth in Edrei.

⁵On the east side of the Jordan, in the land of Moab, Moses began to expound this law, saying,

⁶The LORD our God spoke to us in Horeb, saying, "You have lived long enough at this mountain. ⁷Turn and set out on your journey, and go to the hill country of the Amorites, and to all *the places* near it on the plain, in the hills, and in the lowland, and in the south, and by the sea shore, to the land of the Canaanites, and to Lebanon, to the great river, the river Euphrates. ⁸See, I have set the land before you. Go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give to them and to their offspring after them".

⁹And I spoke to you at that time, saying, "I am not able to bear you alone. ¹⁰The LORD your God has increased your number, and, look, you are this day as many as the stars of heaven in number. ¹¹The LORD God of

your fathers cause you to increase a thousand times more than you are, and bless you as he has promised you! ¹²How can I, I alone, bear your load and your burden and your strife? ¹³Select men of wisdom and understanding and reputation among your tribes, and I will make them your leaders".

¹⁴And you answered me, and said, "The thing which you have spoken *is* good to do".

¹⁵So I took the heads of your tribes, wise men, and *men* of reputation, and made them your leaders, captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties, and captains over tens, and officers among your tribes. ¹⁶And I charged your judges at that time, saying, "Hear *the cases* between your brethren, and judge righteously between each man and his brother, and the foreigner *who is* with him. ¹⁷You must not show partiality in judgment, *but* you must hear the small as well as the great. You must not be afraid of the face of man, for the judgment *is* God's. And the case that is too hard for you, bring *it* to me, and I will hear it". ¹⁸And at that time I commanded you everything that you should do.

¹⁹And when we left Horeb, we went through all that great and terrible desert which you saw, on the way to the hill country of the Amorites, as the LORD our God commanded us; and we came to Kadesh-Barnea. ²⁰And I said to you, "You have come to the hill country of the Amorites, which the LORD our God gives to us. ²¹Look, the LORD your God has set the land before you. Go up *and* possess *it*, as the LORD God of your fathers has said to you. Do not

1:1 Moses first spoke the words of this book. Later he wrote them down (31:9).

"*Suph*"— the KJV has the "Red sea" here, but the Hebrew does not have the usual expression indicating the Red Sea, and it should not be so translated. The Israelites now were not near the Red Sea, but in the land of Moab east of the Jordan River.

1:3 These words and messages came to Moses and to Israel at the command of God. They are the words of Moses, but they are also the words of God (1 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:21).

"*Fortieth year*"— since Israel left Egypt.

1:4 Num 21:21-35.

1:5 The word translated "law" also means "instruction".

1:6 Num 10:11-13.

1:7-8 Gen 12:7; 26:3; 28:13; Ex 33:1.

1:9-15 Ex 18:18,24; Num 11:14.

1:10 Gen 15:5; 22:17; Ex 32:13.

1:13 Ex 18:21-22.

1:16-18 Deut 16:18-20; 2 Chron 19:5-7; Prov 24:23-25; John 7:24.

1:19 Deut 8:15. Between Sinai (Horeb) and Kadesh the land is a dreary hot waste of sand and rock and barren mountains. Here and there are a few springs, a few valleys that have some vegetation after rain and a few oases where water is found. For a people who had lived in one of the best parts of Egypt it must have seemed indeed a vast and terrible desert. But it was the way God in His wisdom led them. The journey from Egypt to Canaan is a picture of believers' journey from the fallen world to the promised spiritual land above. Figuratively speaking, they too find their journey is sometimes through terrible "desert" areas abounding in difficulties (notes at Ex 15:27; 16:3; Num 14:45; 20:12).

be afraid or discouraged”.

²²And all of you came near me and said, “We will send men before us, and they will search out the land for us, and bring back word to us as to the way we should go up and the cities we should go to”.

²³And the thing seemed good to me, so I selected twelve men of you, one from each tribe. ²⁴And they turned and went up into the hill country, and came to the valley of Eshcol, and searched it out. ²⁵And they took *some* of the fruit of the land in their hands, and brought it down to us, and brought back word to us, and said, “*It is a good land which the LORD our God gives us*”.

²⁶However you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of the LORD your God. ²⁷And you grumbled in your tents, and said, “Because the LORD hated us, he has brought us from the land of Egypt, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us. ²⁸Where shall we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, ‘The people *are* greater and taller than we; the cities *are* large and have walls reaching up to heaven; and also we have seen the sons of the Anakim there.’ ”

²⁹Then I said to you, “Do not dread them, or be afraid of them. ³⁰The LORD your God who goes before you will fight for you, just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes, ³¹and in the desert, where you have seen how the LORD your God carried you just as a man carries his son, all along the way that you came, until you arrived at this place”.

³²Yet in spite of this you did not believe the LORD your God, ³³who went on the way before you, in fire by night to search out a place for you to pitch your tents, and in a cloud by day to show you the way you should go. ³⁴And the LORD heard the voice of your words, and was angry, and took an oath, saying, ³⁵“Not one of these men of this evil generation will see that good land, which I swore to give to your fathers, ³⁶except Caleb the son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give the land that he

has walked on to him and to his children, because he has fully followed the LORD”.

³⁷Also the LORD was angry with me on your account, saying, “You will not go in there either. ³⁸*But* Joshua the son of Nun, who stands in your presence, will go in there. Encourage him, for he will enable Israel to inherit it. ³⁹Moreover your little ones, who you said would be a prey, and your children, who in that day had no discernment between good and evil, will go in there, and I will give it to them, and they will possess it. ⁴⁰*But as for* you, turn and set out on your journey into the desert on the way toward the Red Sea”.

⁴¹Then you answered and said to me, “We have sinned against the LORD; we will go up and fight, just as the LORD our God commanded us”. And when each of you had strapped on his weapons of war, you were ready to go up into the hill country.

⁴²But the LORD said to me, “Say to them, do not go up, or fight; for I *will not be* among you, and you will be struck down before your enemies”.

⁴³So I spoke to you, but you would not listen, but rebelled against the command of the LORD, and went presumptuously up to the hill country. ⁴⁴And the Amorites, who lived in that hill country, came out against you, and chased you as bees do, and crushed you in Seir, as far as Hormah. ⁴⁵And you returned and wept before the LORD, but the LORD would not listen to your voice, or give ear to you. ⁴⁶So you stayed in Kadesh many days, according to the days that you spent *there*.

2 Then we turned and set out on our journey into the desert on the way toward the Red Sea, as the LORD spoke to me; and we went around Mount Seir many days.

²And the LORD spoke to me, saying, ³“You have gone around this mountain long enough. Turn northward. ⁴And command the people, saying, ‘You *are going* to pass through the territory of your brothers the

1:22-46 These verses recount events recorded in Numbers chapters 13 and 14. Now they are once again at the borders of the land, and so it was very important for them to remember the failure of their fathers so they might not fail likewise.

1:28 “*Anakim*”—very tall people who were ancient inhabitants of Canaan. In Hebrew *Anakim* is the plural form of the word, “*im*” indicating the plural.

1:32 Unbelief was the great sin that kept them from entering the promised land 40 years earlier. Let them beware now (Num 14:11; Ps 106:24; Heb 3:19; 4:2; Jude 5).

2:1-15 These verses give events recorded in Num 20:14-21 and 21:12-20. “Red Sea” (v 1) — “*Yom Suph*” in Hebrew.

children of Esau who live in Seir. And they will be afraid of you. Therefore watch out for yourselves. ⁵Do not provoke them, for I will not give you *any* of their land, no, not as much as a foot's breadth, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession. ⁶You are to buy meat from them for money, for you to eat; and also you are to buy water from them for money, for you to drink.

⁷"For the LORD your God has blessed you in everything you have done. He knows your walking through this great desert. The LORD your God *has been* with you for these forty years. You have lacked nothing".

⁸And when we passed beyond our brothers the children of Esau, who lived in Seir, by way of the plain from Elath and from Ezion Geber, we turned and passed along by the way of the wilderness of Moab.

⁹And the LORD said to me, "Do not trouble the Moabites, or provoke them to battle, for I will not give you *any* of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar as a possession to the children of Lot".

¹⁰(The Emim lived there in times past, a great and numerous people and as tall as the Anakim, ¹¹and they were also regarded as Rephaim, like the Anakim, but the Moabites call them Emim. ¹²The Horim also lived in Seir previously, but the children of Esau succeeded them, when they had destroyed them from before them, and lived in their place, just as Israel did to the land of their possession, which the LORD gave to them.)

¹³"Now rise up", *the LORD said*, "and go over the brook Zered". And we went over the brook Zered.

¹⁴And it took us thirty-eight years to come from Kadesh-Barnea, to the time we crossed the brook Zered, until all that generation of the men of war had perished from the camp, just as the LORD swore to them. ¹⁵For indeed the hand of the LORD was against them, to destroy them from the camp until they had perished.

¹⁶So it came about, when death had

finished carrying off all the men of war from among the people, ¹⁷that the LORD spoke to me, saying, ¹⁸"Today you are to pass by Ar, the territory of Moab. ¹⁹And *when* you come opposite the children of Ammon, do not trouble them or provoke them; for I will not give you *any* possession from the land of the children of Ammon, because I have given it as a possession to the children of Lot. ²⁰(That also was regarded as a land of giants. In ancient times giants lived there, and the Ammonites call them Zamzummim. ²¹*They were* a great and numerous people, and as tall as the Anakim. But the LORD destroyed them before them; and they succeeded them, and lived in their place; ²²just as he did for the children of Esau, who lived in Seir, when he destroyed the Horim from before them. And they succeeded them, and lived in their place even to this day. ²³And the Avim who lived in Hazerim as far as Azzah, the Caphtorim, who came forth from Caphtor, destroyed them and lived in their place.)

²⁴"Rise up, set out on your journey, and cross the river Arnon. See, I have given Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land into your hand. Begin to possess *it*, and engage him in battle. ²⁵This day I will begin to put the dread of you and the fear of you on the nations *that are* under the whole heaven who hear reports about you, and they will tremble, and be in anguish because of you".

²⁶And I sent messengers from the wilderness of Kedemoth to Sihon king of Heshbon with words of peace, saying, ²⁷"Let me pass through your land. I will go by the highway. I will not turn to the right hand nor to the left. ²⁸You may sell me meat for money, so that I may eat, and give me water for money, so that I may drink, as I pass through on foot, ²⁹just as the children of Esau who live in Seir and the Moabites who live in Ar, did for me, until I cross the Jordan into the land which the LORD our

2:7 Though they were a rebellious, unbelieving people God took care of them so perfectly that they lacked nothing (compare 2 Tim 2:13; 1 Cor 1:9).
2:10 "*Emim*"— see note on the Hebrew plural form at 1:28.

2:15 It is a dreadful thing to have the hand of almighty God against us – 32:29,41; Isa 1:25; 5:25; Dan 4:35; 5:23; Heb 10:31.

2:16 God fulfilled to the letter His word against

the rebels. So now it was time to start moving again toward the promised land.

2:23 "*Caphtor*"— the island of Crete.

2:24-37 Num 21:21-26.

2:25 "*Fear*"— Ex 23:27; Deut 11:25; Josh 2:9. This contributed a great deal to Israel's victories. Their enemies were lacking confidence and were defeated before the fight began.

God gives us".³⁰ But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass through his *land*. For the LORD your God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, so that he might deliver him into your hands, as *it is* this day.

³¹And the LORD said to me, "See, I have begun to give Sihon and his land over to you. Begin to possess his land so that you can inherit *it*".

³²Then Sihon came out against us, he and all his people, to fight at Jahaz. ³³And the LORD our God handed him over to us, and we defeated him and his sons and all his people. ³⁴And at that time we took all his cities, and utterly destroyed the men and the women and the little ones of each city. We left not one remaining. ³⁵Only the cattle we took as prey for ourselves, and the plunder from the cities which we took. ³⁶From Aroer, which is on the bank of the Arnon river, and *from* the city that *is* by the river, as far as Gilead, there was not one city too strong for us. The LORD our God handed over everything to us. ³⁷You did not go to the land of the children of Ammon or to any place along the river Jabbok, or to the towns in the hill country, only *going* where the LORD our God commanded us.

3 Then we turned and went up toward Bashan, and Og the king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei.

²And the LORD said to me, "Do not be afraid of him, for I will give him and all his people and his land into your hand; and you will do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived at Heshbon".

³So the LORD our God gave also Og, the king of Bashan, and all his people into our hands, and we defeated him until not one of his was left remaining. ⁴And at that time we took all of his cities. There was not a city which we did not take from them, sixty cities, the whole region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan. ⁵All these cities were fortified with high walls, gates, and bars. Besides there were a great many unwalled towns. ⁶And we utterly destroyed them, as we did to Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women and children of each city. ⁷But all the cattle and

the plunder of the cities, we took as a prey for ourselves.

⁸And at that time we took from the hand of the two kings of the Amorites the land that was on this side of the Jordan, from the river of Arnon to mount Hermon⁹(this Hermon the Sidonians call Sirion, and the Amorites call it Shenir), ¹⁰all the cities of the plain, and all Gilead, and all Bashan, to Salchah and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan. ¹¹Only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of the giants. Now his bedstead was an iron bedstead. *Is it not* in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? Its length was nine cubits, and its width was four cubits, according to man's cubit.

¹²And this land, *which* we possessed at that time, from Aroer, which *is* by the river Arnon, and half of Mount Gilead, and its cities, I gave to the Reubenites and to the Gadites. ¹³And the rest of Gilead, and the whole of Bashan, *which* was the kingdom of Og, I gave to the half tribe of Manasseh, the whole region of Argob, with all Bashan, which was called the land of giants. ¹⁴Jair the son of Manasseh took the whole country of Argob to the territories of Geshuri and Maachathi, and called them after his own name, Bashan Havoth Jair, *as it is called* to this day. ¹⁵And I gave Gilead to Machir. ¹⁶And to the Reubenites and to the Gadites I gave from Gilead as far as the river Arnon, the middle of the valley as the border even to the river Jabbok, *which is* the border of the children of Ammon. ¹⁷The plain also with the Jordan as *its* border, from Kinnereth to the sea of the plain, the Salt Sea, under Ashdoth-Pisgah on the east.

¹⁸And I commanded you at that time, saying, "The LORD your God has given you this land to possess it; all you warriors shall cross over armed before your brethren the children of Israel. ¹⁹But your wives and your little ones and your livestock (*for* I know that you have much livestock) shall stay in your cities which I have given you, ²⁰until the LORD has given rest to your brethren, as well as to you, and *until* they also possess the land which the LORD your God has given them beyond the Jordan; and *then* each of you shall return to his possession, which I have given you".

2:34 A people so wicked in God's sight that they deserved, and received, complete destruction. Notes at Gen 6:7; Lev 18:24-25.
3:1-11 These events are recorded in Num 21:33-35.

Here we have added details.

3:6 2:34.

3:12-20 Note at Num 32:1-5.

3:17 Kinnereth is Galilee, the Salt Sea is the Dead Sea.

²¹And I commanded Joshua at that time, saying, “Your eyes have seen all that the LORD your God has done to these two kings; so the LORD will do to all the kingdoms into which you cross. ²²You must not be afraid of them, for the LORD your God will fight for you”.

²³And at that time I pleaded with the LORD, saying, ²⁴“O Lord God, you have begun to show your servant your greatness, and your mighty hand; for what God *is there* in heaven or on earth who can do such works and such mighty deeds as yours? ²⁵I pray you, let me cross over and see the good land that *is* beyond the Jordan, that good hill country and Lebanon”.

²⁶But the LORD was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me. And the LORD said to me, “Enough! Speak no more to me of this matter. ²⁷Go up to the top of Pisgah, and raise your eyes toward the west and north and south and east, and see *it* with your eyes; for you will not cross this Jordan. ²⁸But command Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him; for he will cross in front of this people, and he will cause them to inherit the land which you will see”. ²⁹So we stayed in the valley opposite Beth Peor.

4 So now listen, O Israel, to the statutes and to the judgments, which I teach you to do, so that you may live and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers gives you. ²You must not add to the word which I command you, or take away *anything* from it, so that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

³Your eyes have seen what the LORD did because of Baal of Peor; for the LORD your God destroyed all the men who followed

Baal of Peor from among you. ⁴But each one of you who held fast to the LORD your God is alive this day.

⁵See, I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you should do so in the land where you are going to possess it. ⁶Therefore keep *them* and do *them*; for this *will be* your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, who will hear all these statutes, and say, “Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people”. ⁷For what nation *is there so great*, who *has* God so near to it, as the LORD our God *is* to us in everything for which we call on him? ⁸And what nation is there so great, that has statutes and judgments so righteous as this whole law which I set before you this day?

⁹Only watch yourselves and keep guard over your souls carefully, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen, and so they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but teach them to your sons, and your sons’ sons. ¹⁰The day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, the LORD said to me, “Assemble the people for me, and I will cause them to hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and *so that* they may teach their children”.

¹¹And you came near and stood below the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire to the heart of the heavens, *with* darkness, clouds, and thick gloom. ¹²And the LORD spoke to you from the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; *you only heard* a voice. ¹³And he proclaimed his covenant to you, which he commanded you to put into practice, the ten commandments.

3:21-22 Moses’ aim in recounting these victories is plain. He wanted to strengthen the faith and courage of Joshua and the people to go into Canaan and conquer it (v 28).

3:26 God’s forbidding Moses to enter Canaan was for Israel’s sake. Moses was a very old man (31:2-3) and it is unlikely that he was able to lead the army. It was better for Joshua to lead Israel in the conquest of Canaan. He had experience as army commander (Ex 17:8-13) and was a much younger man. See also note at Num 20:12.

3:28 If God calls us to do any work for Him He will see that we get encouragement and strength for it (1:38; 1 Sam 23:16; 2 Chron 32:7-8; Neh 6:9; Ps 20:2; 27:14; Isa 41:10; Rom 15:5-6; Phil 4:13; 2 Tim 4:17; Heb 6:18).

4:1 Obedience meant life to them (5:33; 8:1; 16:20;

30:16; Lev 18:5; Ezek 20:11; Rom 10:5).

4:2 12:32; Prov 30:6; Rev 22:18.

4:3 Num 25:1-9.

4:5 Lev 26:46; 27:34.

4:6 30:19-20; 32:46-47; Ps 19:7; 111:10; Prov 1:7; 2 Tim 3:15.

4:7 Ps 34:4,17,18; 85:9; 145:18; 148:14; Isa 55:6; John 16:23-27.

4:8 Ps 89:14; 97:2; 119:144,160,172.

4:9 “*All the days of your life*”– 6:2,12; 8:11,14,19; 12:1; 16:3; Prov 4:23; 23:19.

“*Sons*”– 6:7,20-25; 11:19; 32:46; Gen 18:19; Ps 78:5-6; Prov 22:6; Eph 6:4.

4:10 See chapters 19 and 20 of Exodus; Deut 14:23; 17:19; 31:12-13.

4:11 Ex 19:18; Heb 12:18.

4:13 “*Ten commandments*”– Ex 20:1-17; 31:18; 34:1,28; Deut 10:4.

And he wrote them on two tablets of stone.
¹⁴And at that time the LORD commanded me to teach you statutes and judgments, so that you might behave in accordance with them in the land which you are crossing over to possess.

¹⁵Therefore watch yourselves carefully (for you saw no kind of form on the day that the LORD spoke to you in Horeb from the midst of the fire) ¹⁶so that you do not corrupt yourselves and make an idol, the form of any image, any male or female form, ¹⁷the form of any animal that is on the earth, the form of any winged bird that flies in the air, ¹⁸the form of any thing that creeps on the ground, the form of any fish that is in the waters below the earth; ¹⁹and so that you do not raise your eyes to the heavens and see the sun and the moon and the stars, the whole host of the heavens, and be enticed into worshipping them and serving them, which the LORD your God has allotted to all nations under the whole heaven. ²⁰But the

4:15-17 Verse 12; Isa 40:18.

4:16 Ex 20:4; Lev 26:1; Deut 5:8-9; 27:15; Rom 1:23.

4:19 17:3; Gen 2:1; 2 Kings 17:16; 21:3; Job 31:26-28; Rom 1:25. God forbids sun worship and calls it detestable (17:4). But Israel later practiced it and paid the penalty for their sin – Ezek 8:15-16,18.

4:20 7:6; 14:2; 26:18; Ex 19:5; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet 2:9.

4:21 1:37; Num 20:12.

4:24 5:9; 6:15; 9:5; Ex 20:5 (note); 24:17; Isa 30:27; 33:14; Heb 12:29.

4:25-30 A dire warning fulfilled centuries later. See 2 Kings chapter 17 and 2 Chronicles chapter 36.

4:25 “Anger” – see notes at Num 25:3; Ps 90:7-11. Here is a list of sins which God Himself has revealed make Him angry.

Refusal to do God’s will (Ex 4:14)

Opposing Him and His people (Ex 15:7; Ps 21:8-9; 78:49; Ezek 38:18; 1 Thess 2:15-16)

Injustice toward the helpless (Ex 22:24)

Determination to do one’s own will instead of God’s will (Ex 32:10; Num 22:22; Deut 9:7-8; 29:19-20; Ps 95:10-11; Rom 2:8)

Complaining and lack of contentment with the way God leads and what God gives (Num 11:1,10,33; Ps 78:31)

Speaking against God’s appointed leaders (Num 12:1,9; 16:46)

Refusal to move forward in faith in obedience to God (Num 32:10-11,14,15)

Disobedience to God’s Word (Josh 7:1,26; 2 Kings 22:13; 2 Chron 24:21; Isa 42:24-25)

Breaking vows or oaths (Josh 9:20)

Carelessness concerning God’s holiness (Num 1:53; 2 Sam 6:7)

Worship of the stars, offering children to other gods, and practicing sorcery (2 Kings 17:16-18; 21:6)

LORD took you and brought you from the iron furnace, from Egypt, to be the people of his inheritance, as you are this day.

²¹Also the LORD was angry with me on your account, and took an oath that I would not go over the Jordan, that I would not go into that good land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance; ²²But I must die in this land; I must not go over Jordan; but you will go over, and possess that good land.

²³Watch yourselves so that you do not forget the covenant of the LORD your God which he made with you, and make an idol for yourselves or the form of anything. The LORD your God has forbidden you this. ²⁴For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

²⁵When you beget children and grandchildren, and you remain in the land for a long time, and corrupt yourselves and make an idol or the form of any thing, and do evil in the sight of the LORD your God provoking him to anger, ²⁶I call heaven

Compromising with evil men (2 Chron 19:2)

Mistreating God’s people (2 Chron 28:10-11)

Neglecting to worship Him (2 Chron 29:6-8)

Scorning God’s Word and His messengers (2 Chron 36:16; Isa 5:24-25)

Forsaking God (Ezra 8:22)

Marriage between believers and unbelievers (Ezra 10:14)

Rebellious plots against God (Ps 2:12)

Forgetting God (Ps 50:22)

In unbelief questioning God’s ability (Ps 78:19-22)

Secret sins (Ps 90:7-8)

Pride (Isa 2:10-21)

Self-righteousness (Isa 65:5)

Unfaithfulness to God (Ezek 16:26)

Murder (Hos 12:14)

Rejecting God’s rule and looking to a human ruler (Hos 13:11; 1 Sam 8:7)

Evil leadership of God’s people (Zech 10:3; Ezek 34:1-10)

Stubborn refusal to receive the truth (Mark 3:5; Rom 2:5,8)

Unbelief (John 3:36)

Self-seeking (Rom 2:8)

Immorality, impurity, greed (Eph 5:5-6; Col 3:5-6)

Any transgression of the law, such as lying, stealing, etc (Rom 4:15)

All sin and all sinners – Isa 13:9; 63:6; 66:15-16; Zeph 3:8; John 3:36; Rom 1:18; Rev 6:15-17; 19:15.

But one sin is mentioned far more than any others as being a sin which provokes God to anger. This is idolatry and the worship of other gods. See Num 25:3-4; Deut 4:25; 6:14-15; 7:4; 9:18-19; 11:16-17; 29:26-28; 32:16,21,22; Josh 23:16; Jud 2:12; 3:7-8; 1 Kings 11:9-10; 22:53; 2 Kings 22:17; 2 Chron 25:15; Ps 78:55; Jer 7:18,20; 8:19; 11:17; Hos 8:5.

and earth to witness against you this day, that you will surely perish quickly from off the land which you are crossing over the Jordan to possess; you will not live long in it, but will quickly be destroyed. ²⁷And the LORD will scatter you among the nations, and you will be left few in number among the peoples where the LORD will drive you. ²⁸And there you will serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or eat or smell. ²⁹But there if you seek the LORD your God, you will find *him*, if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul. ³⁰When you are in tribulation and all these things have come on you in later days, if you turn to the LORD your God and become obedient to his voice, ³¹he will not forsake you or destroy you or forget the covenant of your fathers which he swore to them. For the LORD your God is a merciful God.

³²For ask now about former days, which were before you, from the day that God created man on the earth; ask from the one side of heaven to the other, whether there has been *anything* as great as this thing, or *whether anything* like it has been heard. ³³Did people ever hear the voice of God speaking from the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and live? ³⁴Or has God attempted to go *and* take for himself a nation from the midst of *another* nation, by trials, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, in accordance with all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?

³⁵That was shown to you so that you might know that the LORD is God; *there is no one else besides him*. ³⁶He caused you to hear his voice from heaven so that he might instruct you. And on earth he

showed you his great fire, and you heard his words from the midst of the fire. ³⁷And because he loved your fathers, he chose their offspring after them, and brought you from Egypt in his sight with his mighty power, ³⁸to drive out nations greater and more powerful than you from before you, to bring you in, to give you their land as an inheritance, as *it is* this day.

³⁹Therefore this day know, and consider it in your heart, that the LORD *is* God in heaven above, and on the earth below; *there is no other*. ⁴⁰Therefore you must keep his statutes and his commandments which I command you this day, so that it may go well with you, and with your children after you, and that you may live long in the land which the LORD your God gives you forever.

⁴¹Then Moses set apart three cities on this side of the Jordan toward sunrise, ⁴²so that the one who commits manslaughter, who kills his neighbour unintentionally, and did not hate him previously, might flee there, and fleeing to one of these cities might live: ⁴³Bezer in the wilderness, on the plateau, for the Reubenites, and Ramoth in Gilead for the Gadites, and Golan in Bashan for the Manassites.

⁴⁴And this *is* the law which Moses set before the children of Israel; ⁴⁵these are the testimonies and the statutes and the judgments which Moses spoke to the children of Israel after they had come from Egypt, ⁴⁶on the east side of the Jordan, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, in the land of Sihon king of the Amorites. He lived at Heshbon *and* Moses and the children of Israel defeated him, after they had come from Egypt, ⁴⁷and they took possession of his land, and the land of Og king of Bashan, two kings of the Amorites, who were on this side of the Jordan toward sunrise, ⁴⁸from Aroer which *is* on the bank

4:28 Ps 115:4-8; 135:15-18; Isa 44:12-20.

4:29 A wonderful promise to them and to us (Isa 55:6; Jer 29:13). Seeking God does not mean to travel to some holy place or other. God is everywhere, and seeking Him means to turn from our sins to Him and pray for His mercy and forgiveness and guidance.

4:31 "Not forsake"— Deut 31:6,8; Josh 1:5; 1 Chron 28:20; Heb 13:5.

"Merciful"— Ex 34:6; 2 Chron 30:9; Neh 9:31;

Ps 103:8; 11:4; 116:5.

4:32-39 The events in the books of Exodus and Numbers are absolutely unique in the history of the world. God's dealings with Israel were for three clear reasons – for their knowledge (vs 35,39; Ex 8:10; 9:4; Isa 43:10-12; 44:6-8; 45:5-7), for their discipline (v 36; Deut 8:5; 2 Sam 7:14; Prov 3:12; Heb 12:6; Rev 3:19), and for a demonstration of God's love (v 37; Deut 7:7-8; 10:15; 33:3).

4:41-43 Num 35:9-15.

of the river Arnon, to mount Sion, which is Hermon, ⁴⁹and all the plain on the east side of the Jordan to the sea of the plain, below the springs of Pishgah.

5 And Moses called all Israel, and said to them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing this day, so that you may learn them, and keep, and do them. ²The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. ³The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, *with* all of us who are alive here this day. ⁴The LORD talked with you face to face at the mountain from the midst of the fire ⁵(I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to report to you the word of the LORD; for you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up on the mountain), saying,

⁶“I *am* the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

⁷“You shall have no other gods besides me.

⁸“You shall not make for yourselves *any* carved image, or any likeness of *anything* that *is* in heaven above or that *is* in the earth below or that is in the waters below the earth. ⁹You shall not bow down to them, or serve them; for I the LORD your God *am* a jealous God, visiting the wrongdoing of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth *generation* of those who hate me, ¹⁰and showing mercy to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

¹¹“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain; for the LORD will not hold *him* guiltless who takes his name in vain.

¹²“Observe the Sabbath day to keep it holy, just as the LORD your God has commanded you. ¹³Six days you shall labour, and do all your work; ¹⁴but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD your God. You shall not do any work *in it*, *not* you, or your son, or your daughter, or your male servant, or your female servant, or your ox, or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or your foreigner who *is* inside your gates; so that your male servant and your female servant

may rest just as you do. ¹⁵And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and *that* the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and with a stretched out arm. Therefore the LORD your God has commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

¹⁶“Honour your father and your mother, just as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live a long time and that it may go well with you in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

¹⁷“You shall not commit murder.

¹⁸“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁹“You shall not steal.

²⁰“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

²¹“You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, and you shall not covet your neighbour’s house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that *belongs* to your neighbour”.

²²These words the LORD spoke to your whole assembly on the mountain, from the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice, and he added nothing more. And he wrote them on two tablets of stone, and handed them over to me.

²³And it came about, when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was blazing with fire, that you, *that is* all the heads of your tribes and your elders, approached me, ²⁴and you said, “See, the LORD our God has showed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice from the midst of the fire. Today we have seen that God talks with man, yet he lives. ²⁵So now why should we die? For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, we will die. ²⁶For *among* all flesh who *is there* who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we *have*, and lived? ²⁷You go near, and hear all that the LORD our God says, and tell us all that the LORD our God speaks to you; and we will hear *it*, and do *it*”.

²⁸And the LORD heard what you said when you spoke to me; and the LORD said to me, “I have heard what this people said,

4:48 “*Sion*”– or “*Sirion*” or “*Siyon*”.

“*Sea of the plain*” is the Dead Sea.

5:2-5 Ex 19:1-6,16,21-24.

5:6-21 Notes at Ex 20:1-17.

5:22 Ex 24:12; 31:8.

5:25 Ex 20:18-19.

5:26 4:33.

what they have spoken to you. Everything they have said is good. ²⁹Oh, that there was such a heart in them, that they would fear me and always keep all my commandments, so that it might be well with them, and with their children forever!

³⁰“Go say to them, ‘Go back to your tents.’

³¹But as for you, stand here with me, and I will tell you all the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which you are to teach them, so that they may do *them* in the land which I give them as a possession”.

³²Therefore you shall observe to do just as the LORD your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. ³³You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and *that it may be well with you*, and *that you may live a long time in the land which you will possess*.

6 Now these *are* the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, so that you might do *them* in the land that you will cross over to possess, ²so that you might fear the LORD your God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may long continue. ³Therefore hear, O Israel, and observe to do *it*, so that it may be well with you, and that you may increase mightily, just as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you, in the land that flows with milk and honey.

⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD ⁵and you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in your heart, ⁷and you shall

5:29 Ps 81:13; Isa 48:18; Ex 8:30-32. God wants men to be holy, righteous, and good. In the beginning He made them so (Gen 1:31). But men now corrupted by sin must choose to be holy, righteous, and good (though their own will and strength will not make them so). They must repent and seek God. If they refuse to do this they will never have a heart to fear God and keep His commandments. Notes on the fear of God at Gen 20:11; Ps 34:11-14; 111:10; Prov 1:7. **5:31** Ex 24:12.

5:32 17:20; 28:14; Josh 1:7; 23:6; Prov 4:27.

5:33 10:12; Jer 7:23; Luke 1:6.

6:2 “*Fear the LORD*”— Gen 20:11; Ps 34:11-14; 111:10; Prov 1:7.

“*May long continue*”— a reward for obedience under the law, but not now under grace.

6:4 Many pious Jews still recite verses 4 and 5 daily, considering them of the utmost importance in the revelation God has given.

“*The LORD our God is one LORD*”— this means that there is no other LORD but the one who revealed Himself to the nation Israel. Other translations of the Hebrew here have been suggested as possible, such as “The LORD (Jehovah) is our God, the LORD alone” (compare Isa 43:10-13; 44:6; 45:18), or “The LORD is our God, the LORD is one”. LORD (all capital letters) in this version always indicates Jehovah or Yahweh (as some transliterate the Hebrew word. See note at Ex 3:14-15). However it is translated, we should understand that this verse is not in opposition to the truth of the Trinity, which is revealed in both the Old and New Testaments (see Matt 3:16-17; 28:19). The same word translated “one” in this verse is used also in Gen 2:24 to indicate the union of two persons in “one flesh”.

Marriage is the union of two persons as one. The Trinity is the much closer union of three persons as one God, one LORD. Compare Matt 28:19.

6:5 The Lord Jesus called the words of this verse the greatest of all the commandments (Matt 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27). Love is the fulfilling of the whole law (Rom 13:10; Gal 5:14).

Some who have misunderstood the Bible have called God as revealed in the Old Testament a harsh and unloving God, and God as revealed in the Lord Jesus in the New Testament a God of love. This is a huge mistake. There is only one God and He is revealed in both Old Testament and New Testament as a God who loves people and who wants their love in return (Ex 34:6; Deut 7:7-8; Ps 86:15; 103:8; John 3:16; Rom 2:4; 1 John 4:7-8). If we do not love the God revealed in the Bible, in both Old and New Testaments, we do not love God at all, and all our religion is a vain and empty thing.

The two greatest commands of the law are about love. This one in v 5 and the one in Lev 19:18. God is also a holy God who punishes sin and sinners and this too is revealed in both Old and New Testaments. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 teaches a truth continually emphasized in the Bible – there is only one God and He is the God revealed in the Bible as the God of Israel; the God who later in history came as a man in the Lord Jesus to redeem men (Deut 4:35,39; Isa 43:10-12; 44:6-8; 45:5-7; Rom 3:29-30; 1 Cor 8:4; 2 Cor 5:19; Col 2:9; 1 Tim 1:17; 6:15-16; Jude 4,25; Rev 15:4). **6:6-9** The importance of obeying and learning and meditating on and teaching and constantly remembering the word of God cannot be emphasized too much (Josh 1:8; Ps 1:2; 119:1; Luke 11:28; John 8:31; 15:7; Col 3:16).

teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk on the road, and when you lie down, and when you get up. ⁸And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as something tied on your foreheads. ⁹And you shall write them on the posts of your house, and on your gates.

¹⁰And when the LORD your God has brought you into the land which he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you great and fine cities which you did not build, ¹¹and houses full of everything good which you did not fill, and dug wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, when you have eaten and are satisfied, ¹²then you must watch out that you do not forget the LORD who brought you from the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

¹³You shall fear the LORD your God, and serve him, and take your oaths in his name. ¹⁴You shall not go after other gods, gods of the people who are around you, ¹⁵so that the anger of the LORD your God does not burn against you, and destroy you from off the face of the earth; for the LORD your God is a jealous God among you. ¹⁶You shall not tempt the LORD your God, as you tempted him in Massah. ¹⁷You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he has commanded you. ¹⁸And you shall do *what is* right and good in the sight of the LORD, so that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land which the

LORD swore to your fathers, ¹⁹by driving out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has said.

²⁰And when your son asks you in time to come, saying, “What is the meaning of the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD our God has commanded you?” ²¹Then you shall say to your son, “We were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt, and the LORD brought us from Egypt with a mighty hand, ²²and before our eyes the LORD showed great and terrible signs and wonders against Egypt, against Pharaoh, and against all his household; ²³and he brought us from there, so that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he swore to our fathers. ²⁴And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, so that he might keep us alive, as it is today. ²⁵And it will be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments in the presence of the LORD our God, just as he has commanded us”.

7 When the LORD your God has brought you into the land where you are going to possess it, and has driven out many nations before you, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, ²and when the LORD your God has delivered them up to you, you must strike them down *and* completely destroy them. You must make no covenant with them, or show mercy to them. ³And you must not intermarry with them. You

6:7 “Teach...to your children”— 4:9; 11:19; Ps 78:4; Eph 6:4.

6:8 “Bind them”— 11:18; Prov 3:3; 6:21; 7:3.

6:9 “Write them”— 11:20.

6:10-11 The peoples who inhabited Canaan before Israel had a well-developed civilization (9:1; Josh 24:13).

6:13 Part of this verse was quoted by the Lord Jesus when He was being tempted by the devil (Matt 4:10). By doing so He emphasized the truth that men must be very careful in the object of their worship, and that only Jehovah, the God of Israel, the God of the Bible, the Creator of the universe should be worshiped and served. The Hebrew word here translated “serve” also means “worship”.

6:14-15 Verses 4,5; Ex 24:17; Deut 4:24. Where

there is real love there will be true jealousy of anything that would turn the heart of the loved one away or corrupt the loved one.

6:16 Part of this verse too was quoted by the Lord Jesus when He was tempted by Satan (Matt 4:7). The event at Massah reveals what testing God means. See Ex 17:1-7.

6:20-24 It is extremely important for parents to teach children the meaning of the Word of God (v 7; Eph 6:4).

6:25 Rom 10:5.

7:1 These nations were not small tribes living in the forest. They were a strong and numerous people, more powerful and with a more highly developed civilization than Israel.

7:2 Notes at Gen 6:7 and Lev 18:24-25.

7:3 Ex 34:15-16; Josh 23:12.

must not give your daughter to his son, or take his daughter for your son. ⁴For they will turn your son away from following me, so that they will serve other gods; and the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and suddenly destroy you. ⁵But this is how you must deal with them: you must destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their *sacred* groves, and burn their idols with fire. ⁶For you are a holy people for the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a special people for himself, above all people who *are* on the face of the earth.

⁷The LORD did not set his love on you, or choose you, because you *were* more in number than any people, for you were the fewest of all people. ⁸But because the LORD loved you and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slaves, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Therefore know that the LORD your God *is* God, the faithful God, who, to a thousand generations, keeps covenant and mercy with those who love him and keep his commandments, ¹⁰and repays those who hate him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slow concerning the one who hates him; he will repay him to his face. ¹¹Therefore you shall keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command you this day to do them.

¹²So it will come about, if you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the LORD your God will keep the covenant and the mercy toward you which he swore to your fathers; ¹³and he will love you, and bless you, and increase your numbers. He

will also bless the fruit of your womb, and the fruit of your land, your grain, and your wine, and your oil, the increase of your cattle, and your flocks of sheep, in the land which he swore to your fathers to give you. ¹⁴You shall be blessed above all people. No male or female among you, or among your livestock, will be barren. ¹⁵And the LORD will take away all sickness from you, and will not put on you any of the malignant diseases of Egypt, which you know, but will put them on all *those* who hate you. ¹⁶And you must destroy all the people whom the LORD your God hands over to you. Your eye must not pity them. And you must not serve their gods, for that would be a snare to you.

¹⁷If you say in your heart, “These nations are more *numerous* than I; how can I drive them out?”, ¹⁸you must not be afraid of them, *but* must well remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh, and to all Egypt, ¹⁹the great trials which your eyes saw, and the signs and the wonders, and the mighty hand, and the stretched out arm, with which the LORD your God brought you out. In the same way the LORD your God will do to all the people of whom you are afraid. ²⁰The LORD your God will also send the hornet among them, until those who are left and hide themselves from you, are destroyed. ²¹You must not be afraid of them, for the LORD your God *is* among you, a mighty and awesome God.

²²And the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you little by little. You will not be permitted to destroy them all at once, so that the beasts of the field do not increase against you. ²³But the LORD your God will hand them over to you, and throw them into great confusion until they are

7:4 This is the worst possible thing that could happen to Israel. See notes on God’s anger at Num 25:3; Ps 90:7-11.

7:5 God hates idolatry like poison (Ex 23:24; 34:13).

“*Groves*” – or “*Asherah poles*” – symbols of the goddess Asherah.

7:6 4:20; 14:2,21; Ex 19:5-6; Ps 135:4; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet 2:9.

7:7 10:22; Gen 46:27.

7:8 He loved them, not because they were good or wise or numerous or strong, or because they had great love for him (actually none of these things was true of them), but simply because He loved them (Jer 31:3).

7:9 Ex 20:6; Isa 49:7; Dan 9:4; 1 Cor 1:9; 1 Thess 5:24; 2 Tim 2:13.

7:10 Isa 59:18; Nahum 1:2. In other words, He deals with all men in perfect justice.

7:13 Ps 146:8; Prov 15:9; John 14:21.

7:15 Ex 15:26; 3 John 2.

7:16 Gen 6:7 (note).

7:17-19 See v 1. Their confidence was not to be in themselves but in God alone.

7:20 Ex 23:28; Josh 24:12.

7:21 “*Among you*” – Ex 25:8; 29:45; Josh 3:10.

“*Awesome*” – Deut 10:17; Neh 1:5; 9:32. The KJV has “*terrible*” here – a word that now conveys the wrong meaning to most readers today.

7:22 Ex 23:29-30.

destroyed. ²⁴And he will deliver their kings into your hand, and you will destroy their name from under heaven. No man will be able to stand before you, until you have destroyed them. ²⁵You must burn the idols of their gods in the fire. You must not desire the silver or gold *that is* on them, or take *it* for yourselves, so that you are not snared by it; for it *is* an abomination to the LORD your God. ²⁶And you must not bring an abomination into your house, so you will not become a cursed thing like it; but you must utterly detest it and utterly abhor it; for it is an accursed thing.

8 You must be careful to do all the commandments which I command you this day, so that you may live, and increase in number, and go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to your fathers. ²And you must remember all the way which the LORD your God led you these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, *and* to test you, to know what *was* in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.

³And he humbled you, and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, and your fathers did not know, so that he might cause you to know that man does not live by bread alone, but *that* man lives by every *word* that comes out

of the mouth of the LORD.

⁴These forty years your clothes on you did not become old, and your feet did not swell. ⁵You must also consider in your heart, that just as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you.

⁶Therefore you must keep the commandments of the LORD your God to walk in his ways and to fear him. ⁷For the LORD your God brings you into a good land, a land of streams of water, of wells and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; ⁸a land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive oil and honey; ⁹a land where you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing; a land whose stones *are* iron, and out of whose hills you may dig copper.

¹⁰When you have eaten and are satisfied, then you must praise the LORD your God for the good land which he has given you. ¹¹Watch out that you do not forget the LORD your God, by not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command you this day, ¹²so that *when* you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built fine houses, and lived *in them*, ¹³and *when* your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold increase, and all that you have

7:24 Josh 1:5; 6:2; 10:8,23-25; 23:9.

7:25-26 See v 5. Anything connected with idolatry is an abomination to the one true God.

8:1-5 These verses give us some very important truth. Part of verse 3 was quoted by the Lord Jesus in Matt 4:4. Verse 2 indicates that remembrance is an aid to faith and piety. The book of Deuteronomy is a book of remembrance, and several times it emphasizes the importance of the people remembering what they were and what God had done. See 5:15; 7:18; 9:7; 15:15; 16:3,12; 24:9,22; 32:7.

Forgetting God or His works is a very serious matter and would bring on them great trouble – 4:9,23,31; 6:12; 8:11,14,19; 25:19; 32:18. See also Jud 3:7; 1 Sam 12:9; Ps 50:22; 78:11; 106:13,21; Isa 17:10; Jer 2:32; 23:27; Hos 2:13. The New Testament also speaks of the importance of remembering – Luke 24:6; John 15:20; 16:4; Acts 20:31; 2 Cor 9:6; Eph 2:11-12; 2 Tim 2:8; Heb 10:32; Jam 5:20; 2 Pet 1:15; Jude 17; Rev 2:5; 3:3.

God led His people through the desert of Sinai for at least five very good reasons:

- first, to humble them (vs 2,3),
- second, to test them (vs 2,16),
- third, to make known the condition of their

heart (v 2),

fourth, to make them understand the exceedingly important spiritual truth that man's true life is found in hearing and obeying the Word of God (v 3),

fifth, to discipline them for their good that they might become strong, spiritual, obedient children (v 5).

All this was because of the great love He had for them. Welcome any desert that can help to accomplish such blessed results! God is now doing this same work by leading believers through the desert of this world (Heb 12:1-13). All that happens to believers is for this reason.

8:3 "*Mouth of the LORD*" – where are these words that have come from the mouth of the Lord? In the Bible and nowhere else. The Lord Jesus quoted part of this verse when He was being tempted by the devil (Matt 4:4). By doing so He forever emphasized the importance of the whole of God's Word for the true life of man.

8:10-14 Abundance has its perils too. Especially there is the danger of pride and hardness of heart (Prov 30:8-9; Ezek 28:5; Hos 13:6; Matt 13:22; Mark 10:22-23; Rev 3:17-18). Far better a life of faith lived in poverty than a life of abundance and forgetting God.

increases, ¹⁴your heart will not become proud, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, ¹⁵who led you through that great and terrible desert *where there were fiery serpents and scorpions and drought without water, who brought water for you out of the flinty rock, ¹⁶who fed you in the desert with manna, which your fathers did not know, so that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in your later times. ¹⁷Watch out that you do not say in your heart, “My power and the strength of my hand have gotten me this wealth”. ¹⁸But you must remember the LORD your God; for *it is* he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may establish his covenant which he swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.*

¹⁹And it will come about if you at all forget the LORD your God, and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you will surely perish. ²⁰You will perish just as the nations which the LORD destroys before your face, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God.

9 Hear, O Israel! You *are* to pass over the Jordan this day, to go in to dispossess nations greater and stronger than yourself, cities great and fortified up to heaven, ²a people great and tall, the children of the Anakim, whom you know, and of *whom* you have heard *it said*, “Who can stand before the children of Anak?” ³Therefore today understand that the LORD your God is the one who goes over before you. He will destroy them *like* a consuming fire, and bring them down before your face. So you will drive them out, and destroy them quickly, just as the LORD has said to you.

⁴After the LORD your God has driven them out from before you, do not say in your heart, “Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land”. *It is* because of the wickedness

of these nations that the LORD drives them out from before you. ⁵You are not going in to possess their land because of your righteousness or because of the uprightness of your heart, but because of the wickedness of these nations the LORD your God drives them out from before you, and so that he may fulfil the word which the LORD swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ⁶So understand that the LORD your God does not give you this good land to possess because of your righteousness; for you *are* a stiff-necked people.

⁷Remember, *and* do not forget, how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the desert. From the day that you left the land of Egypt, until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD. ⁸Also in Horeb you provoked the LORD to wrath, so that the LORD was angry enough with you to have destroyed you. ⁹When I went up on the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant which the LORD made with you, then I stayed on the mountain for forty days and forty nights. I did not eat bread or drink water. ¹⁰And the LORD entrusted to me two stone tablets written with the finger of God; and what *was written* on them was in accordance with all the words which the LORD spoke with you on the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.

¹¹And it came about at the end of forty days and forty nights, *that* the LORD gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant. ¹²And the LORD said to me, “Get up and quickly go down from here, for your people whom you brought out of Egypt have corrupted *themselves*. They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them. They have made an idol of cast metal for themselves”.

¹³The LORD spoke to me further, saying, “I have seen this people, and, look, *it is* a stiff-necked people. ¹⁴Let me alone, so that I may destroy them, and blot out their name

8:16 Ex 16:15. Notes on testing at Gen 22:1; Ps 66:10-12.

8:19-20 If Israel fell into idolatry the penalty would be destruction, just as it was with the nations before them.

9:1 7:1.

9:2 Num 13:22,28,33; Josh 11:21-22.

9:3 31:3; Josh 3:11; Heb 12:29.

9:4-5 Lev 18:24 (note).

9:6 They had nothing to boast about in self. The promised land was a gift. Compare Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7.

9:7 Ex 14:10-12; 15:23,24; 16:2-3; 17:3; 32:1; Num 11:1; 14:1-4; 16:41; 20:2-5; 25:1-3. We are no better than they by nature. But let us find better things through Christ.

9:8-21 Ex 32:1-35; 34:28.

from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation stronger and greater than they”.

¹⁵So I turned and came down from the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire; and the two tablets of the covenant were in my two hands. ¹⁶And I looked, and saw that you had sinned against the LORD your God, and had made a calf of cast metal for yourselves. You had turned aside quickly from the way which the LORD had commanded you. ¹⁷And I took the two tablets, and threw them out of my two hands, and broke them before your eyes.

¹⁸And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, for forty days and forty nights. I did not eat bread or drink water, because of all your sins which you had committed, in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger. ¹⁹For I was afraid of the LORD's anger and hot displeasure with which he was wrathful against you to destroy you. But the LORD listened to me at that time also. ²⁰And the LORD was angry enough with Aaron to have destroyed him; and I prayed for Aaron also at the same time. ²¹And I took your sin, the calf which you had made, and burned it with fire, and crushed it, *and ground it up very small*, until it was as fine as dust. And I threw its dust into the stream that came down from the mountain.

²²And at Taberah, and at Massah, and at Kibroth Hattaavah, you provoked the LORD to wrath. ²³Likewise when the LORD sent you from Kadesh-Barnea, saying, “Go up and possess the land which I have given you”, then you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God, and you did not believe or listen to his voice. ²⁴You have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you.

²⁵So I prostrated myself before the LORD for forty days and forty nights, as I prostrated myself *at the first*, because the LORD had said he would destroy you. ²⁶Therefore I prayed to the LORD, and said, “O Lord God, do not destroy your people and your inheritance, whom you have redeemed through your greatness, whom you have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand. ²⁷Remember your servants, Abraham, Isaac,

and Jacob. Do not look at the stubbornness of this people, or to their wickedness, or to their sin, ²⁸or else the land from which you brought us out will say, ‘Because the LORD was not able to bring them into the land which he promised them, and because he hated them, he has brought them out to kill them in the desert.’ ²⁹Yet they *are* your people and your inheritance, whom you brought out by your mighty power and by your stretched out arm”.

10 At that time the LORD said to me, “Cut two stone tablets like the first, and come up to me on the mountain; and make an ark of wood. ²And I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke, and you shall put them in the ark”.

³And I made an ark of acacia wood, and cut two tablets of stone like the first, and went up on the mountain, having the two tablets in my hand. ⁴And he wrote on the tablets, like the first writing, the ten commandments, which the LORD spoke to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly; and the LORD gave them to me. ⁵And I turned and came down from the mountain, and put the tablets in the ark which I had made; and they are there, just as the LORD commanded me.

⁶(And the children of Israel set out from Beeroth of the children of Jaakan for Mosera. There Aaron died, and there he was buried. And Eleazar his son served as priest in his place. ⁷From there they went to Gudgodah; and from Gudgodah to Jotbath, a land of streams of water. ⁸At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to serve him, and to bless in his name, *as it is* to this day. ⁹Therefore Levi has no part or inheritance with his brethren; the LORD is his inheritance, just as the LORD your God promised him.)

¹⁰And I stayed on the mountain like the first time for forty days and forty nights; and the LORD listened to me at that time also, *and* the LORD would not destroy you. ¹¹And the LORD said to me, “Arise, set out before the people, so that they may go in

9:22-23 Ex 17:7; Num 11:3,34; 14:1-4.

9:24 This is the story of all mankind as well as Israel's history.

9:25-29 Ex 32:11-13.

10:1-4 Ex 34:1-4,28.

10:5 Ex 40:20.

10:8 Num 3:6; 18:1-7.

and possess the land which I swore to their fathers to give them”.

¹²And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³to keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command you this day for your good?

¹⁴Look, the heaven and the heaven of heavens *belong* to the LORD your God, *also* the earth with everything that *is* in it. ¹⁵Yet the LORD set his affection on your fathers to love them, and he chose their offspring after them, *even* you above all people, as *it is* this day. ¹⁶Therefore circumcise your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. ¹⁷For the LORD your God *is* the God of gods and the Lord of lords, a great, mighty and awe-inspiring God who does not show partiality or take a bribe. ¹⁸He executes judgment for the fatherless and widow, and shows love for the foreigner by giving him food and clothes. ¹⁹Therefore you are to love the foreigner; for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt. ²⁰You must fear the LORD your God; you must serve him, and cling to him, and take oaths by his name. ²¹He is your praise, and he is your God who has done for you these great and awe-inspiring things, which your eyes have seen. ²²Your fathers went down to Egypt with seventy persons; and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

11 Therefore you must love the LORD your God, and always keep his requirements, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments. ²And this day you know (for *I am* not *speaking* to your children who have not known and have not seen the discipline of the LORD your God), his greatness, his mighty hand and his stretched out arm, ³and his miracles

and his deeds which he did in the midst of Egypt to Pharaoh the king of Egypt, and to all his land, ⁴and what he did to the army of Egypt, to their horses and to their chariots, *and* how he made the water of the Red Sea to flow over them as they pursued you, and how the LORD brought destruction on them *lasting* to this day, ⁵and what he did to you in the desert until you came to this place, ⁶and what he did to Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben, how the earth opened her mouth and, in the middle of all Israel, swallowed them up with their households and their tents and all the substance that they had. ⁷For your eyes have seen all the great deeds of the LORD which he did.

⁸Therefore you must keep all the commandments which I command you this day, so that you may be strong, and go in and possess the land, where you are going to possess it; ⁹and that you may live a long time in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give to them and to their offspring, a land that flows with milk and honey. ¹⁰For the land which you go in to possess *is* not like the land of Egypt, which you came out from, where you sowed your seed, and watered it with your foot, like a vegetable garden. ¹¹But the land, where you are going to possess it, *is* a land of hills and valleys, *and* drinks water from the rain of heaven; ¹²a land which the LORD your God cares for. The eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.

¹³And it will come about, if you listen obediently to my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹⁴that I will give rain for your land in its due season, the early rain and the later rain, so that you can harvest your grain, and your wine, and your oil. ¹⁵And I will give grass in your fields

10:12-13 Micah 6:8; 1 Tim 1:5. God requires of men reverence, obedience, love and hearty service. But how few give these to Him.

10:14 1 Kings 8:27; Neh 9:6; Ps 24:1; 68:33.

10:15 4:37; 7:7-8.

10:16 “*Circumcise your heart*”—compare 30:6 where the Lord says He will do this for them. See also Jer 4:4 (note); Acts 7:51.

10:17 Rev 19:16.

10:18 Ex 22:22-24; Ps 68:5; 146:9.

10:19 Lev 19:34.

10:20 “*Fear*”—see notes on the fear of God at Gen 20:11; Ps 34:11-14; 111:10; Prov 1:7.

“*Cling to him*”—Deut 11:22; 13:4.

10:21 Ps 109:1; 148:14.

10:22 1:10; Gen 46:27.

11:1 10:12-13.

11:3 Ex 7:8-21.

11:4 Ex 14:28.

11:6 Num 16:1-35.

11:12 1 Kings 9:3.

11:13-15 Obedience to God brings great rewards.

for your livestock, so that you may eat and be satisfied.

¹⁶Watch yourselves, so that your heart is not deceived, and you turn away and serve other gods and worship them. ¹⁷For *if you do*, the LORD's wrath will burn against you, and he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain, and the land will not yield its fruit; and you will perish quickly from the good land which the LORD gives you. ¹⁸Therefore you must store up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and tie them as a sign on your hand, that they may be as frontlets on your forehead. ¹⁹And you must teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ²⁰And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house, and on your gates, ²¹so that *the number of* your days and the days of your children may be increased in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

²²For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you, doing them, loving the LORD your God, walking in all his ways, and clinging to him, ²³then the LORD will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess greater and stronger nations than yourselves. ²⁴Every place the soles of your feet tread on will be yours. Your territory will be from the desert to Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, to the western sea. ²⁵No man will be able to stand before you; for the LORD your God will put the fear of you and the dread of you on all the land that you tread on, just as he has said to you.

²⁶See, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; ²⁷a blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day, ²⁸and a curse, if you will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of

the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods which you have not known. ²⁹And this is to be *done* when the LORD your God has brought you into the land where you are going to possess it: you shall put the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal. ³⁰Are they not on the other side of the Jordan, on the way toward the setting sun, in the land of the Canaanites who live in the plain opposite Gilgal, beside the oaks of Moreh? ³¹For you will cross over the Jordan to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God gives you, and you will possess it and live in it. ³²And you must be careful to do all the statutes and judgments which I set before you this day.

12 These *are* the statutes and judgments which you must be careful to do in the land which the LORD God of your fathers gives you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth. ²You must utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you will dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains, and on the hills, and under every green tree. ³And you must throw down their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their *sacred* groves with fire. And you must cut down the idols of their gods, and destroy their names from that place.

⁴You must not act so toward the LORD your God, ⁵but you must seek *the LORD* at the place which the LORD your God chooses out of all your tribes to put his name there, at his dwelling place. You must come there, ⁶and you must bring there your burnt offerings and your sacrifices and your tithes and the contribution of your hands, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn from your herds and from your flocks. ⁷And there you shall eat in the presence of the LORD your God, and rejoice in all to which you have put your hand, you and your households, where the LORD your

11:16 Heb 3:12; 12:25.

11:17 Rain is a gift of God which He may withhold in anger against idolatry and false worship. Notes on God's anger at Num 25:3; Ps 90:7-11.

11:18-21 Note at 6:6-9.

11:24 Josh 1:3.

"*Western sea*"—the Mediterranean.

11:26-28 30:1,19; 28:1-14; 28:15-68. No one can ever get a true blessing from any god, but only from the one true God, the Creator, the God of the Bible. Whatever might seem

like blessings derived from the worship of other gods are false and deluding and will result in a curse at last, as God Himself says. Sometimes in mercy the true God gives what people need, even though they pray to false gods.

11:29 Josh 8:33.

12:2-3 The very first duty Israel had after conquering Canaan was to cleanse it of all idols and false worship.

12:5-14 Ex 20:24; 2 Chron 7:12; Ps 78:68.

God has blessed you.

⁸You must not do at all what we are doing here this day, each man whatever is right in his own eyes. ⁹For you have not yet come to the rest and to the inheritance which the LORD your God gives you. ¹⁰But *when* you cross the Jordan and live in the land which the LORD your God gives you to inherit, and *when* he gives you rest from all your enemies around *you*, so that you live in safety, ¹¹then there will be a place which the LORD your God will choose to have his name dwell there. There you must bring all that I command you, your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution of your hands, and all your choice vows which you make to the LORD. ¹²And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you, and your sons and your daughters and your male servants and your female servants and the Levite who *is* inside your gates, since he has no part or inheritance with you. ¹³Watch yourself that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see, ¹⁴but you must offer your burnt offerings in the place which the LORD chooses in one of your tribal *territories*, and there you must do all that I command you.

¹⁵However you may kill and eat meat inside all your gates, whatever you desire, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which he gives you. The unclean and the clean may eat of it, as if *it were* gazelle or deer. ¹⁶But you must not eat the blood; you must pour it on the ground like water. ¹⁷You must not eat the tithe of your grain or of your wine or of your oil or the firstborn of your herds or of your flock, or any of your vows which you make or your freewill offerings or the contribution of your hands, inside your gates, ¹⁸but you must eat them in the presence of the LORD your God in the place which the LORD your God chooses, you and your son and your daughter and your male servant and your female servant and the Levite who is inside your gates. And you shall rejoice in the presence of the LORD your God in all to which you put your hands. ¹⁹Watch yourself that you do not abandon the Levite as long as you

live on the earth.

²⁰When the LORD your God enlarges your territory, as he has promised you, and you say, "I will eat meat", because you long to eat meat, you may eat meat, whatever you desire. ²¹If the place which the LORD your God chooses to put his name is too far from you, then you may slaughter *animals* from your herd and from your flock which the LORD gives you, as I have commanded you, and eat inside your gates whatever you desire. ²²You may eat them just as the gazelle and deer are eaten; the unclean and the clean alike may eat them. ²³But be sure that you do not eat the blood; for the blood *is* the life; and you may not eat the life with the meat. ²⁴You must not eat it; you must pour it on the ground like water. ²⁵You must not eat it, so that it may go well with you, and with your children after you, as you do *what is* right in the sight of the LORD.

²⁶But you must take your holy things which you have, and your vows, and go to the place which the LORD chooses. ²⁷And you must offer your burnt offerings, the flesh and the blood, on the altar of the LORD your God. And the blood of your sacrifices must be poured out on the altar of the LORD your God, and you may eat the meat. ²⁸Be careful to hear all these words which I command you, so that it may go well with you, and with your children after you forever, as you do *what is* good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.

²⁹When the LORD your God cuts off the nations from before you, where you are going to dispossess them, and you succeed them and live in their land, ³⁰watch yourself that you are not snared by following them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not enquire about their gods, saying, "How did these nations serve their gods? I will do just the same way". ³¹You must not act so toward the LORD your God. For they have done for their gods everything abominable to the LORD, what he hates. For they have burned even their sons and their daughters in the fire for their gods.

³²Be careful to do whatever I command you. You must not add to it or take away from it.

12:15 Acts 10:9-14; Rom 14:2-3; 1 Tim 4:4-5.

12:16 Gen 9:4; Lev 17:10-12; Acts 15:20,29.

12:19 14:27.

12:27 Lev 1:9,13.

12:31 Lev 18:21; Deut 18:10; Ps 106:37; Jer 32:35.

12:32 Prov 30:6; Rev 22:18.

13 If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you, and designates to you a sign or a wonder, ²and the sign or the wonder comes about, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, “Let us go after other gods, which you have not known, and let us serve them”, ³you must not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴You must follow the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you must serve him and cling to him. ⁵And that prophet or that dreamer of dreams must be put to death, because he has spoken to turn *you* away from the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage. *He has tried* to turn you out of the way which the LORD your God commanded you to walk in. So shall you purge the evil from among you.

⁶If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son or your daughter, or the wife of your bosom, or your friend who *is* like your own soul, entice you secretly, saying, “Let us go and serve other gods”, which neither you nor your fathers have known, ⁷of the gods of the people who are around you, near you or at a distance from you, from one end of the earth to the *other* end of the earth, ⁸you must not consent to him or listen to

him; and your eye must not pity him, and you must not spare *him*, and you must not conceal him; ⁹but you must surely kill him. Your hand must be first against him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people. ¹⁰And you must stone him with stones so that he dies, because he has tried to turn you away from the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. ¹¹And all Israel will hear and fear, and will no longer commit such wickedness as this among you.

¹²If you hear in any of your cities, which the LORD your God gives you to live in, someone saying, ¹³“*Certain* men, children of Belial, have gone out from among you and drawn away the inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other gods”, whom you have not known, ¹⁴then you must inquire and search and thoroughly investigate, and then *if you see that it is the truth and if it is certain that such abomination is done among you*, ¹⁵you must certainly strike down the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, completely destroying it and everything that *is* in it, and its livestock, with the edge of the sword. ¹⁶And you must gather all its plunder into the middle of its street, and burn the city with fire and all its plunder, every bit of it, for the LORD your God. And it is to be a heap forever. It must not be rebuilt. ¹⁷And none of the accursed thing is to cling to your hand, so that the LORD

13:1 “*Prophet*”— note at Gen 20:7.

“*Dreams*”— dreams in themselves, of course, are not revelations of God’s truth. Sometimes God may reveal truth in dreams, but the devil may try to teach something false through them. Notice here that a false prophet also may get dreams which seem to be revelations from God and which are actually fulfilled. Other notes on dreams at Gen 15:12; Num 12:6. A false prophet will try to turn people from the truth revealed in the Bible (v 2).

13:3 “*Testing*”— 8:2,16; Gen 22:1; Ps 66:10-12; Jam 1:2-4,12; 1 Pet 1:6-7; 4:12-13. No believer will live in this world without being tested.

13:5 Such a false prophet is worthy of death because he is opposing the first command of the law (see note Ex 20:2-3). God Himself says that such action is an abomination (v 14).

13:6-11 The importance of God’s first command in the law is emphasized here. A mother or father was to perform the sad duty of casting the first stone in putting to death a son or daughter who encouraged people to break that law (see note on law at Ex 19:21-25). This was the way of things

under the law of Moses. Compare this with the picture of grace given in Luke 15:11-14.

13:12-18 To the one true God idolatry and the worship of false gods are so hateful that He commanded that whole towns and cities in Israel should be destroyed if their inhabitants engaged in such things. God knew that false worship permitted in one town could spread to the whole nation and corrupt it. A cancer in the body must be destroyed or it will destroy the whole body. And God knows perfectly well how to deal with the body of a nation. And such commands as this came out of His great love for the people as a whole. We should clearly understand the intimate connection between God’s anger and His love and holiness. During this age of grace Christians are not, of course, to destroy towns and people. Their work is entirely different (preaching the Gospel of Christ). But at the end of this age God Himself will arise in anger and judge all who have practiced false worship (2 Thess 1:6-9; 2:8-12; Jude 14,15; Rev 16; 21:8). And this He will do for the good of the universe as a whole.

may turn from the fierceness of his anger and show you mercy, and have compassion on you, and increase your *number*, as he has sworn to your fathers, ¹⁸as you listen to the voice of the LORD your God, to keep all his commandments which I command you this day, to do *what is right* in the eyes of the LORD your God.

14 You *are* the children of the LORD your God. You must not cut yourselves, or shave the hair on your forehead because of the dead. ²For you *are* a holy people for the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a special people for himself, above all the nations that are on the earth.

³You must not eat any abominable thing. ⁴These *are* the beasts which you may eat: the ox, the sheep and the goat, ⁵the deer and the gazelle and the roe deer and the wild goat and the ibex and the antelope and the mountain sheep. ⁶And you may eat any animal that divides the hoof and has the hoof split in two, and chews the cud among the animals. ⁷However of those that chew the cud, or of those that divide the hoof in two, you must not eat these: the camel and the rabbit, and the coney; for they chew the cud but do not divide the hoof; *therefore* they *are* unclean for you. ⁸And the pig, because it divides the hoof, yet does not chew the cud, *is* unclean for you. You must not eat their meat or touch their carcass.

⁹Of all that *are* in the waters you may eat these: all that have fins and scales you may eat. ¹⁰But you must not eat anything that does not have fins and scales; it *is* unclean for you.

¹¹You may eat any of the clean birds. ¹²But you must not eat of these: the eagle and the vulture and the osprey ¹³and the glade and the kite and every kind of buzzard ¹⁴and every kind of raven ¹⁵and the owl and the night hawk and the cuckoo and every kind of hawk, ¹⁶the little owl and the great owl and the swan ¹⁷and the pelican and the gier eagle and the cormorant ¹⁸and the stork and every kind of heron and the lapwing and the bat.

¹⁹And all the teeming things that fly are

unclean for you; they must not be eaten. ²⁰*But* you may eat every clean bird.

²¹You must not eat anything that dies of itself. You may give it to the foreigner who *is* inside your gates, so that he may eat it; or you may sell it to a foreigner. For you *are* a holy people for the LORD your God. You must not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

²²You must tithe all the produce from your seed that the field yields year by year. ²³And you must eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herds and of your flocks, in the presence of the LORD your God, in the place which he chooses to put his name there, so that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always. ²⁴And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry it, or if the place which the LORD your God chooses to put his name is too far from you, when the LORD your God has blessed you, ²⁵then you shall turn *it* into money, and secure the money in your hands and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses; ²⁶and you shall spend that money for whatever you desire, for oxen or for sheep or for wine or for strong drink or for whatever you desire, and eat there in the presence of the LORD your God, and rejoice, you and your household, ²⁷and the Levite who is inside your gates. You must not neglect him, for he has no portion or inheritance among you.

²⁸At the end of three years you must bring all the tithe of your produce in that year, and store it inside your gates; ²⁹and the Levite (because he has no portion or inheritance among you), and the foreigner and the fatherless and the widow, who *are* inside your gates, shall come and eat and be satisfied, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work which your hands do.

15 At the end of every seven years you must make a cancellation of *debts*. ²And the cancellation *should be* like this: every creditor who lends anything to his neighbour must cancel it; he must not require it from his neighbour, or from his

14:1 John 1:12; Rom 8:16; 9:8,26; Gal 3:26; 1 John 3:1.

14:2 Ex 19:5; Lev 20:26; Deut 7:6; 26:18.

14:3-21 Lev 11:2-33 (note).

14:22 Lev 27:30; Deut 12:6,17; Neh 10:37; Mal 3:8-10.

14:23 12:5.

14:27 10:9; 12:12; 18:2; Num 18:20.

14:29 If they wanted God's blessing they had to provide for the needs of God's servants. Note and references on giving at 2 Cor 9:15.

brother, because it is called the LORD's cancellation. ³You may require *repayment* from a foreigner, but your hand must cancel what is yours with your brother. ⁴However there should be no poor among you, for the LORD will greatly bless you in the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance to possess, ⁵if only you will listen obediently to the voice of the LORD your God, to be careful to do all these commandments which I command you this day. ⁶For the LORD your God will bless you, just as he promised you; and you will lend to many nations but you will not borrow, and you will reign over many nations but they will not reign over you.

⁷If there is among you a poor man of one of your brethren inside any of your gates in your land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not harden your heart, or close up your hand from your poor brother, ⁸but you must open your hand wide to him and must lend him sufficient for his need, *for that which he lacks*. ⁹Watch out so that there will not be an evil thought in your heart, saying, "The seventh year, the year of cancellation, is at hand", and your eye becomes hostile against your poor brother and you give him nothing, and he cries out to the LORD against you, and you become guilty of sin. ¹⁰You must give to him, and your heart must not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your works, and in all to which you put your hand. ¹¹For the poor shall never cease *to be* in the land. Therefore I command you, saying, You must open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and to your needy, in your land.

¹²And if your brother, a Hebrew man, or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you, and serves you for six years, then in the seventh year you must set him free from you. ¹³And when you set him free from you, you must not let him go away empty-handed. ¹⁴You must supply him liberally from your flock

and from your *threshing* floor and from your winepress. You must give to him from what the LORD your God has blessed you with. ¹⁵And you must remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you. Therefore I command you this thing today.

¹⁶And if he says to you, "I will not go away from you", because he loves you and your household, because he is well off with you, ¹⁷then you shall take an awl and pierce *it* through his ear into the door, and he shall be your slave forever. And you shall do the same to your female slave also.

¹⁸It must not seem hard to you when you set him free from you, for by serving you for six years he has been worth double *the service* of a hired servant *to you*. And the LORD your God will bless you in all that you do.

¹⁹You must set apart for the LORD your God all the firstborn males that come from your herd and from your flock; you must do no work with the firstborn of your bull, or shear the firstborn of your sheep. ²⁰You must eat it in the presence of the LORD your God year by year in the place which the LORD chooses, you and your household. ²¹And if there is *any blemish* in it, *if it is lame* or blind or has any serious blemish, you must not sacrifice it to the LORD your God. ²²You must eat it inside your gates. The unclean and the clean *person* alike *may eat it*, as a gazelle or a deer. ²³But you must not eat its blood; you must pour it on the ground like water.

16 Observe the month of Abib, and keep the Passover to the LORD your God; for in the month of Abib the LORD your God brought you out of Egypt by night. ²Therefore you must sacrifice the Passover to the LORD your God, from the flock and the herd, in the place where the LORD chooses to put his name. ³You must eat no leavened bread with it; for seven days

15:3 23:20. Those who did not worship the God of Israel were not to receive the benefits that Israel did.

15:4-11 The promise of the elimination of poverty was based on a condition – "if you obey". However God knew they would not fully obey, so He gives directions for the support of the poor (Lev 25:35. Compare Matt 5:42; Luke 6:34; Gal 2:10; 1 John 3:17).

15:12-15 Note at Ex 21:2-6. This was almost like payment for services they had given during the time of their slavery.

15:16-17 Ex 21:5-6.

15:19 Ex 13:2,12.

15:21 Lev 22:19-25; Deut 17:1; Mal 1:6-14.

15:23 Gen 9:4; Lev 7:26; 17:10.

16:1-2 Ex 12:2-13; Lev 23:5.

16:3-4 Ex 12:8,15,19,39; 13:3; 34:18.

you must eat unleavened bread with it, the bread of affliction; for you came out of the land of Egypt in haste. *Do this* so that all the days of your life you may remember the day when you came out of the land of Egypt. ⁴And for seven days no unleavened bread is to be seen with you in your whole territory. And as for the meat which you sacrificed the first day at evening, there must not be *any of it* remaining all night until morning.

⁵You must not sacrifice the Passover inside any of your gates which the LORD your God gives you, ⁶but in the place which the LORD your God chooses to put his name. There you must sacrifice the Passover at evening, at sunset, at the season that you came out of Egypt. ⁷And you shall roast and eat *it* in the place which the LORD your God chooses. And in the morning you shall return to your tents. ⁸For six days you must eat unleavened bread; and on the seventh day there *will be* a solemn assembly to the LORD your God. You must do no work *on that day*.

⁹Then you must count for yourselves seven weeks. Begin counting the seven weeks from *the time* that you begin *putting* the sickle to the grain. ¹⁰And you must keep the Feast of Weeks to the LORD your God with a tax of a freewill offering from your hand, which you must give *to* the LORD *your God* in accordance with how the LORD your God has blessed you. ¹¹And you shall rejoice in the presence of the LORD your God in the place where the LORD your God chooses to put his name, you and your son and your daughter and your male servant and your female servant and the Levite who *is* inside your gates and the foreigner and the fatherless and the widow who are among you. ¹²And you must remember that you were a slave in Egypt; and you must observe and do these statutes.

¹³You must observe the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days, after you have harvested your grain and your wine. ¹⁴And you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter and your male servant and your

female servant and the Levite, the foreigner and the fatherless and the widow who *are* inside your gates. ¹⁵For seven days you must keep a solemn feast to the LORD your God in the place which the LORD chooses; because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce, and in all the works of your hands, so you will surely rejoice.

¹⁶Three times in a year all your males must appear before the LORD your God in the place which he chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and in the Feast of Weeks, and in the Feast of Tabernacles. And they must not appear before the LORD empty-handed. ¹⁷Each man *must give* as he is able, in accordance with the blessing of the LORD your God which he gives you.

¹⁸You must select judges and officers for yourselves inside all your gates which the LORD your God gives you, throughout your tribes. And they must judge the people with just judgment. ¹⁹You must not pervert judgment; you must not show partiality or take a bribe; for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous. ²⁰You must follow what is fully in accordance with justice, so that you may live and inherit the land which the LORD your God gives you.

²¹You must not plant for yourself a grove of any trees near the altar of the LORD your God, which you make for yourselves. ²²And you must not set up *any* idol for yourselves; the LORD your God hates this.

17 You must not sacrifice to the LORD your God *any* bull or sheep which has a blemish or any defect; for that *is* an abomination to the LORD your God.

²If there is found among you, inside any of your gates which the LORD your God gives you, a man or woman who has done evil in the sight of the LORD your God, by breaking his covenant, ³and has gone and served other gods and worshipped them, or the sun or moon or any of the *starry* host of heaven (I have commanded no such *worship*),

16:5-8 This was a national festival. The people had to go to Jerusalem to sacrifice.

16:9-12 Ex 23:16; 34:22; Lev 23:15.

16:13-15 Lev 23:34-43.

16:16 Ex 23:14-17; 34:23-24.

16:17 1 Cor 16:1-2; 2 Cor 8:1-4,9; 9:7-9.

16:19-20 The God of the Bible is just, and loves justice and commands it, and He will punish those

who pervert it (Ex 23:2,8; Lev 19:15; Deut 1:17; 10:17; Prov 17:23; 24:23).

17:1 15:21.

17:2-7 Once again God says that false worship whether of idols or of sun, moon, and stars is “an abomination” and worthy of death.

17:3 “*Starry host*”— 4:19.

⁴and it is told to you, or if you hear of it, *and* carefully investigate and see *that it is* true and certain *that* such abomination has been done in Israel, ⁵then you must bring out to your gates that man or that woman who has done that wicked thing, and must stone that man or that woman with stones until they die. ⁶The one who deserves death must be put to death by the testimony of two witnesses, or three witnesses, *but* he must not be put to death by the testimony of one witness. ⁷The hands of the witnesses must first be on him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So you shall put evil away from among you.

⁸If any case arises too hard for you to judge, between bloodshed and bloodshed, between lawsuit and lawsuit, and between violence and violence, *being* controversial cases inside your gates, then you shall arise and go up to the place which the LORD your God chooses, ⁹and you shall come to the priests the Levites, and to the judge that will be *there* in those days, and inquire; and they must pronounce the judgment to you. ¹⁰And you must do according to the pronouncement which those of that place which the LORD chooses gives to you; and you must be careful to do according to all their instructions to you. ¹¹You must do according to the pronouncement of the law which they teach you, and according to the judgment which they tell you. You shall not turn aside *to* the right hand or *to* the left from the sentence which they pronounce upon you. ¹²And the man who acts presumptuously and will not listen to the priest who stands to serve there before the LORD your God, or to the judge, that man must die; and you must put away evil from Israel. ¹³And all the people will hear and fear, and no longer act presumptuously.

¹⁴When you have come to the land which the LORD your God gives you, and possess it and live in it, and say, "I will set a king over me like all the nations that *are* around me", ¹⁵you must set as king over you the one whom the LORD your God chooses.

You must set as king over you *one* of your brethren. You must not set a foreigner over you, who *is* not your brother. ¹⁶And he must not multiply horses for himself, or cause the people to return to Egypt, so that he can multiply horses; for the LORD has said to you, "You are not to return that way again". ¹⁷And he must not multiply wives for himself, so that his heart does not turn away; and he must not greatly increase silver and gold for himself.

¹⁸And it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he must write for himself a copy of this law in a book from *that which* is with the priests the Levites; ¹⁹and it is to be with him, and he must read it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them, ²⁰so that his heart will not be lifted up above his brethren, and so that he does not turn aside from the commandments to the right hand, or to the left; then he will live a long time in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel.

18 The priests the Levites, *and* the whole tribe of Levi, shall have no portion or inheritance with Israel; they shall eat the offerings of the LORD made by fire and his share. ²Therefore they shall have no inheritance among their brethren; the LORD *is* their inheritance, as he has said to them.

³And this shall be the priest's due from the people, from those who offer a sacrifice, whether *it is* an ox or a sheep: they shall give to the priest the shoulder and the two cheeks and the stomach. ⁴You shall *also* give him the firstfruits of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the *wool* from the first shearing of your sheep. ⁵For the LORD your God has chosen him out of all your tribes, to stand to serve in the name of the LORD, him and his sons forever.

⁶And if a Levite comes from any of your gates from any part of Israel where he has been staying, and arrives with complete earnestness at the place which the LORD

17:6 19:17; Num 35:30; Matt 18:16; John 8:17.

17:8-11 Difficult cases were to be decided in Jerusalem before the high priest or a judge.

17:12-13 Num 15:30.

17:14-15 God who knows the future knew they would do this (1 Sam 8:5,19,20; 10:19).

17:16 1 Kings 4:26; 10:26-29; Ps 20:7.

17:17 2 Sam 5:13; 12:11; 1 Kings 11:3-5.

17:18-20 The Word of God is the only basis for a humble and just reign.

18:1 10:9; 1 Cor 9:13.

18:2 Num 18:20.

18:5 10:8; Ex 29:9.

chooses, ⁷then he shall serve in the name of the LORD his God, as all his brethren the Levites *do*, who stand there before the LORD. ⁸They shall have equal portions to eat, besides that which comes from the sale of his family property.

⁹When you arrive in the land which the LORD your God gives you, you must not learn to behave according to the abominations of those nations. ¹⁰There must not be found among you *anyone* who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or uses divination, or is a sorcerer, or interprets omens, or practices witchcraft, ¹¹or casts spells, or acts as a medium or a spiritist, or consults the dead. ¹²For everyone who does these things *is* an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out from before you. ¹³You must be blameless in the presence of the LORD your God.

¹⁴For these nations, which you will dispossess, listen to those who use sorcery and divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you *to do so*. ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among you, of your brethren. You must listen to him. ¹⁶*This is* in accordance with all that you asked of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, “Do not let me hear again the voice of the LORD my God, or see this great fire any more, so that I will not die”. ¹⁷And the LORD said to me, “What they have spoken is well said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among

their brethren, and will put my words in his mouth, and he will speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹And it shall come about *that* whoever will not listen to my words which he will speak in my name, I will require him *to give an account*. ²⁰But a prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die”.

²¹And if you say in your heart, “How can we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?” ²²When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or take place, the LORD has not spoken that word, but the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You must not be afraid of him.

19 When the LORD your God has cut off the nations, whose land the LORD your God gives you, and you take their place and live in their cities and in their houses, ²you must set apart three cities for you in the middle of your land which the LORD your God gives you to possess. ³You must prepare the roads for yourselves, and divide into three parts the territory of your land which the LORD your God gives you to inherit, so that everyone who has killed another person may flee there.

⁴And this *is* the case of the one who has killed another who flees there so that he can live: whoever unintentionally kills his neighbour whom he did not hate previously, ⁵as when a man goes into the forest with his

18:9 9:5.

18:10 Ex 22:18; Lev 19:26,31; 20:6.

“*Pass through the fire*”—this refers to the custom of some of the nations around them who sacrificed their children in the fire to false gods.

18:11 Lev 19:31.

18:12-14 Witchcraft was one of the terrible sins that corrupted the peoples of Canaan and made it necessary for God to drive them out. Witchcraft involves dealing, consciously or unconsciously, with evil spirits. Christians must have nothing to do with it.

18:15-19 Note on “prophet” at Gen 20:7. These verses contain the great prophecy of Christ as prophet (compare Matt 21:11; Luke 7:16; 24:19; John 4:19; Acts 3:22-24).

Christ fulfilled all the great offices of the old covenant—priest, judge, king, mediator, shepherd, prophet. He is by far the greatest of all prophets whoever delivered God’s messages to men

(Heb 1:1-2; John 7:16; 8:26,28,38; 12:49; 17:8; Rev 1:1; 22:18-19; Matt 17:3-5). With the prophecy called “The Revelation”, which Christ delivered to the churches, God’s inspired teachings for men is concluded (Rev 22:18-19). Thereafter God sent no more infallible prophets and teachers, for none was needed. In the Bible we have the complete revelation of what God wanted to teach men.

18:20 False prophets were of two kinds – those who spoke in the name of the LORD (Jehovah) and those who spoke in the name of other gods. The former were more deceptive and dangerous, the latter more openly rebellious and contemptuous of the true God.

18:22 The test of a prophet is very clear (Jer 28:9). We know the Bible was written by true prophets of God because of the fulfillment of their prophecies. See note on fulfilled prophecies in the topical index in the back of this Bible.

19:1-10 Num 35:9-32 (note).

neighbour to cut wood, and his hand makes a swing with the axe to cut down the tree, and the head of the axe slips off the handle and strikes his neighbour and kills him, he shall flee to one of those cities, and live. ⁶Otherwise the avenger of blood, in the heat of his anger, will pursue the one who has killed that person, and overtake him because the way is long, and kill him. But he is not deserving of death because he did not hate his neighbour previously. ⁷Therefore I command you, saying, "You must set apart three cities for yourselves".

⁸And if the LORD your God enlarges your territory, as he has sworn to your fathers, and gives you all the land which he promised to give to your fathers, ⁹if you keep and do all these commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God and to walk in his ways always, then you must add three more cities for yourselves, besides these three. ¹⁰This is so that innocent blood will not be shed in your land, which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance; otherwise guilt concerning blood will be on you.

¹¹But if anyone hates his neighbour, and lies in wait for him, and rises up against him and strikes him so that he dies, and flees into one of these cities, ¹²then the elders of his city must send men and bring him from there, and deliver him into the hands of the avenger of blood, so that he may die. ¹³Your eye must not pity him, but you must put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, so that it may go well with you.

¹⁴You must not move your neighbour's landmark which the ancestors set in your inheritance, which you inherit in the land that the LORD your God gives you to possess.

¹⁵A single witness must not rise up against a man for any crime, or for any sin which he may have committed; the matter must be established by the testimony of two witnesses, or by the testimony of three witnesses.

¹⁶If a false witness rises up against any man to testify against him about some wrongdoing, ¹⁷then both the men who have the disagreement must stand before the LORD, before the priests and the judges who will be there in those days; ¹⁸and the

judges must make a careful investigation; and, then, if the witness is a false witness, and has testified falsely against his brother, ¹⁹then you must do to him just as he had intended to do to his brother. In this way you must purge evil from among you. ²⁰And the rest will hear, and fear, and from then on not commit any such evil among you. ²¹And your eye must not pity; but life must go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

20 When you go out to battle against your enemies, and see horses and chariots and a people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; for the LORD your God who brought you up out of the land of Egypt is with you. ²And this is the way it should be when you have come near the battle: the priest must approach and speak to the people, ³and say to them, "Hear, O Israel, today you draw near to battle against your enemies. Do not let your hearts faint. Do not be afraid, and do not tremble, or be terrified because of them. ⁴For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to save you".

⁵And the officers shall speak to the people, saying, "Who is the man that has built a new house, and not yet dedicated it? Let him go and return to his house, or he may die in the battle, and another man will dedicate it. ⁶And who is the man that has planted a vineyard, and has not yet eaten grapes from it? Let him also go and return to his house, or he may die in the battle, and another man will eat from it. ⁷And who is the man that has become engaged to a woman, and has not married her? Let him go and return to his house, or he may die in the battle, and another man will marry her". ⁸And the officers shall speak further to the people and say, "Who is the man that is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go and return to his house, or the heart of his brethren may faint just as his heart". ⁹And it shall be, when the officers finish speaking to the people, that they appoint captains in the armies to lead the people.

¹⁰When you come near a city to fight

19:11 Ex 20:13; 21:12; 1 Kings 2:31.

19:16-20 Ex 23:1; Ps 27:12; 35:11; Matt 26:59-61.

19:19 Prov 19:5.

19:21 Ex 21:23-25 (note).

20:1-4 2 Chron 32:7-8; Ps 23:4; 118:6; Isa 41:10; Rom 8:31.

20:8 Jud 7:3.

against it, then proclaim peace to it. ¹¹And if it gives you an answer of peace and opens *the gates* to you, then it shall be like this: all the people *who are* found in it shall become forced labour for you, and shall serve you. ¹²And if it will not make peace with you, but wars against you, then you shall besiege it; ¹³and when the LORD your God has given it into your hands, you must strike every male in it with the edge of the sword; ¹⁴but the women, and the little ones, and the livestock, and everything that is in the city, all its plunder, you shall take for yourself; and you shall eat the plunder of your enemies, which the LORD your God has given you. ¹⁵This is how you shall do to all the cities *which are* at a long distance from you, which *are* not among the cities of these nations.

¹⁶But concerning the cities of these people, which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance, you must not save anything alive that breathes, ¹⁷but you must completely destroy them, just as the LORD your God has commanded you; that is, the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites; ¹⁸so that they do not teach you to behave according to all their abominations, which they have done for their gods, and so cause you to sin against the LORD your God.

¹⁹When you besiege a city for a long time, making war against it to capture it, you must not destroy its trees by taking an axe to them; for you can eat *fruit* from them; and you must not cut them down to use in the siege; for the trees of the field are for man's *benefit*. ²⁰But as for the trees which you know *are* not trees for food, you may destroy and cut them down; and you may build siege-works against the city that is fighting against you, until it is subdued.

21 If *someone* is found slain in the land which the LORD your God gives you to possess, lying in the field, *and* it is not known who has killed him, ²then your elders and your judges must come out and

measure *the distance* to the cities which *are* around the one who has been slain. ³And it must be *done like this*: the elders of *that* city which is nearest to the slain man shall take a heifer which has not been put to work and which has not pulled in the yoke, ⁴and the elders of that city shall bring the heifer down to a valley with flowing water, which has not been plowed or sown, and break the heifer's neck there in the valley; ⁵and the priests, the sons of Levi, shall come forward, for the LORD your God has chosen them to serve him and to bless in the name of the LORD, and by their word every controversy and every act of violence must be *settled*. ⁶And all the elders of that city *which is* nearest to the slain man shall wash their hands over the heifer that has its neck broken in the valley, ⁷and they shall respond and say, "Our hands have not shed this blood, and our eyes have not seen *it done*". ⁸Be merciful, O LORD, to your people Israel whom you have redeemed, and do not put innocent blood to the account of your people Israel". And the bloodshed will be forgiven them. ⁹In this way you must purge the *guilt of* innocent blood from among you, by doing *what is* right in the sight of the LORD.

¹⁰When you go out to war against your enemies, and the LORD your God has given them into your hands, and you have taken them captive, ¹¹and see among the captives a beautiful woman, and desire her, to take her as your wife, ¹²then you may bring her home to your house; and she must shave her head, and trim her nails, ¹³and take off the clothes of her captivity, and remain in your house, mourning for her father and her mother for a full month. And after that you shall go in to her, and be her husband; and she shall be your wife. ¹⁴And if it happens that you are not pleased with her, then you may let her go wherever she wishes. But you must not at all sell her for money, because you have humbled her; you must not make merchandise of her.

¹⁵If a man has two wives, one loved and the other hated, and *both* of them, the loved

20:11 1 Kings 9:21.

20:16-18 Note at Lev 18:24. As long as such people lived they would be a danger to morality and true worship in Israel.

20:19-20 They were to protect the environment and not unnecessarily destroy it.

21:4 The heifer which had done no wrong died to

remove the guilt and cleanse the land (compare 1 Pet 3:18).

21:6 Matt 27:24.

21:8 Num 35:33-34.

21:10-14 Even a woman captured from an enemy people must be treated with kindness and respect.

and the hated, have borne him children, and *if* the firstborn son belongs to the one who is hated, ¹⁶then, when it comes about that he causes his sons to inherit what he has, he must not make the son of the loved one the firstborn ahead of the son of the hated one *who is, in fact*, the firstborn. ¹⁷But he must acknowledge the son of the hated one as the firstborn, by giving him a double portion of all that he has. For he *is* the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his.

¹⁸If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and *who* will not listen to them *even* after they have punished him, ¹⁹then his father and his mother shall seize him and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gate of his place, ²⁰and they shall say to the elders of his city, “This son of ours *is* stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey our voice. *He is* a glutton, and a drunkard”. ²¹And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, so that he dies. In this way you must purge evil from among you; and all Israel will hear and be afraid.

²²And if a man has committed a sin deserving death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, ²³his body must not remain all night on the tree, but you must bury him that day (for a hanged person is accursed by God), so that your land, which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance, does not become defiled.

22 You shall not see your brother’s ox or his sheep go astray, and ignore them. You must certainly bring them back to your brother. ²And if your brother is not near you, or if you do not know him, then you shall bring it to your own house, and it must remain with you until your brother looks for it, and you must give it back to him. ³You must do the same way with his donkey, and do the same with his clothes, and do likewise with any lost thing of your brother which he has lost and you have

found; you must not ignore it.

⁴You shall not see your brother’s donkey or his ox fall down by the road, and ignore them; you must certainly help him to lift *them* back up.

⁵A woman must not wear what pertains to a man, and a man must not put on a woman’s garment; for all who do so *are* an abomination to the LORD your God.

⁶If a bird’s nest happens to be before you along the way in any tree or on the ground, *if there are* young ones or eggs, and the mother is sitting on the young or on the eggs, you must not take the mother with the young, ⁷*but* you must certainly let the mother go, and take the young for yourself, so that it may be well with you, and *that* you may have a long life.

⁸When you build a new house, then you must make a parapet for your roof, so that you do not bring *the guilt of* bloodshed on your house by someone falling from there.

⁹You must not sow different kinds of seed in your vineyard, so that the crop from your seed which you have sown, and the fruit of your vineyard, is not defiled.

¹⁰You must not plow with an ox and a donkey together.

¹¹You must not wear a garment of wool and linen mixed together.

¹²You must make tassels for yourself on the four corners of your cloak, with which you cover *yourself*.

¹³If any man marries a woman, and goes in to her, and hates her, ¹⁴and *then* uses abusive language about her, and gives her a bad name, saying, “I married this woman, but when I went in to her I found out she was not a virgin”. ¹⁵Then the father of the girl, and her mother, shall take *the evidence of* the girl’s virginity and bring them to the elders of the city in the gate; ¹⁶and the girl’s father shall say to the elders, “I gave my daughter in marriage to this man, and he hates her, ¹⁷and now has used abusive language *about her*, saying, ‘I did not find

21:17 Gen 25:31; 49:3.

21:21 “*So that he dies*”— this was to be the punishment of a rebellious son under the law. The law was not given as a basis of compassion or forgiveness but to reveal sin and condemn it (Rom 3:19-20). Grace came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17). Compare these verses with the story showing the prodigal son under grace – Luke 15:11-24.

21:22-23 Josh 8:29; 10:26-27; John 19:31; Gal 3:13.

22:1 Ex 23:4-5; Zech 7:9. God loves honesty, uprightness and kindness (Jer 9:24).

22:6-7 Does God care for birds? Yes (Gen 1:21; Ps 84:3; Matt 6:26; 10:29; Ps 145:9). How much more for people! (Matt 6:25-26; 10:30-31).

22:8-12 God was concerned with even the smallest details of their lives.

your daughter to be a virgin.' But these are *the evidences of my daughter's virginity*". And they shall spread the cloth before the elders of the city. ¹⁸And the elders of that city must take that man and punish him, ¹⁹and fine him a hundred *shekels* of silver, and give *them* to the father of the girl, because he has given a bad name to a virgin of Israel. And she shall be his wife; he must not divorce her all his days.

²⁰But if this thing is true, *and the evidences of virginity* are not found for the girl, ²¹then they shall bring the girl out to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her with stones until she dies, because she has committed an evil deed in Israel, by acting like a prostitute in her father's house. In this way you must purge evil from among you.

²²If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, *then both* of them shall die, both the man who lay with the woman and the woman. In this way you shall purge evil from Israel.

²³If a girl *who is* a virgin is engaged to a man, and another man meets her in the city and lies with her, ²⁴then you shall bring both of them out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them with stones until they die; the girl, because she did not cry out in the city; and the man, because he has humbled his neighbour's wife. In this way you shall purge evil from among you.

²⁵But if a man meets an engaged girl in the field, and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man who lay with her shall die, ²⁶but you shall do nothing to the girl. *There is no sin in the girl deserving death; for this matter is the same as when a man rises up against his neighbour and*

kills him. ²⁷For he met her in the field, and the engaged girl cried out, but *there was no one to save her.*

²⁸If a man meets a girl *who is* a virgin, who is not engaged, and seizes her and lies with her, and they are discovered, ²⁹then the man who lay with her must give the damsel's father fifty *shekels* of silver, and she shall become his wife. Because he has humbled her, he must not divorce her all his days.

³⁰A man must not take his father's wife, or uncover his father's garment.

23 He who has been emasculated by crushing or cutting in his private parts shall not enter the congregation of the LORD.

²No one born of an illegal union shall enter the congregation of the LORD; none of his *descendants*, even to the tenth generation, shall enter the congregation of the LORD.

³An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter the congregation of the LORD; none of their descendants, even to their tenth generation, shall ever enter the congregation of the LORD, ⁴because they did not meet you with bread and water along the way when you came up out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor of Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you. ⁵However, the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam, but the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loved you. ⁶All your days you must never seek their peace or their prosperity.

⁷You must not despise an Edomite, for he is your brother. You must not despise an Egyptian, because you were a foreigner in his land. ⁸The third generation of children who

22:19 "A hundred shekels of silver"— a little more than 1 kilogram.

22:21-25 Lev 18:24-30; 20:10.

22:29 "Fifty shekels of silver"— about 0.6 kilogram.

22:30 Lev 18:8; 20:11; 1 Cor 5:1.

23:1 The people in that region and time sometimes mutilated themselves for their gods. This instruction was probably aimed at preventing the introduction of this heathen practice into Israel.

23:2 "One born of an illegal union"— many Jewish scholars believe that the Hebrew here indicates a child born of an adulterous or incestuous relationship — a relationship contrary to the laws laid down in Leviticus chapters 18 and 20. The consequences of such a relationship were to be suffered until the tenth generation

(compare Ex 20:5; 34:7). By such a command God is showing how terrible such sin is in His sight.

23:3-4 See Matt 25:41-46; Num 22:1-6. Failure to show ordinary kindness to the needy, and a desire to bring a curse on God's people are both very grievous sins in God's eyes. On sins of omission see Num 32:23; 1 Sam 12:23; Matt 25:24-27,41-46; 1 Tim 5:8.

23:5 This was a display of God's wonderful working on behalf of His people. See note at Gen 50:20.

23:6 This was commanded in this specific case because God was working out His justice toward a sinful people.

23:7 Gen 25:24-26.

are born to them may enter the congregation of the LORD.

⁹When the army goes out against your enemies, then keep yourselves from every wicked thing. ¹⁰If there is any man among you who is not clean because of uncleanness that happens to him at night, then he must go outside the camp. *That day* he must not come into the camp. ¹¹But it shall be *like this*: when evening comes, he must wash *himself* with water; and when the sun sets, he may come into the camp *again*.

¹²Also you must have a place outside the camp where you go *to relieve yourselves*, ¹³and you must have a spade with your equipment and it shall be, when you relieve yourself outside, you must dig *a hole* with it, and turn back and cover your excrement; ¹⁴for the LORD your God walks about in your camp to protect you, and to deliver your enemies to you. Therefore your camp must be holy, so that he does not see any unclean thing among you and turn away from you.

¹⁵You must not hand over to his master the slave who has escaped from his master to you; ¹⁶he shall live with you, among you, in the place he chooses inside one of your gates, wherever it pleases him most. You must not oppress him.

¹⁷There must be no daughter of Israel who is a temple prostitute, or a son of Israel who is a temple prostitute. ¹⁸You must not bring the earnings of a prostitute or the earnings of a dog into the house of the LORD your God for any vow; for both of these are abominations to the LORD your God.

¹⁹You must not lend *anything* on interest to your brother, interest on money, interest on food items, interest on anything that is lent on interest. ²⁰You may lend on interest to a foreigner, but you must not lend on interest to your brother; so that the LORD

your God may bless you in all to which you set your hand in the land that you are going to possess.

²¹When you make a vow to the LORD your God, you must not be slow to pay it. *If you are*, the LORD your God will surely require it from you, and you will be *guilty* of sin. ²²But if you refrain from making a vow, you will not be *guilty* of sin. ²³You must be careful to do according to what goes out of your lips, a voluntary offering, just as you have vowed to the LORD your God; which you have promised with your mouth.

²⁴When you enter your neighbour's vineyard, then you may eat grapes as you wish until you are satisfied, but you must not put *any* in your container. ²⁵When you enter the standing grain of your neighbour, then you may pluck the heads with your hand, but you must not put a sickle to your neighbour's standing grain.

24 When a man takes a woman and marries her, and it so happens that she is not pleasing in his eyes, because he has found something indecent in her, then let him write her a divorce certificate, give *it* into her hand, and send her out of his house.

²And when she has left his house, she may go and become another man's *wife*. ³And *if* this other husband hates her and writes her a divorce certificate, gives *it* into her hand and sends her out of his house, or if this other husband, who took her as his wife, dies, ⁴her former husband, who sent her away, must not take her again as his wife, after she is defiled; for that *is* an abomination to the LORD; and you must not cause the land to sin, which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance.

⁵When a man has taken a new wife, he must not go out to war, and he must

23:10-11 Lev 15:16.

23:14 Lev 26:11-12; 2 Cor 6:16—7:1.

23:17 This was a practice among the nations in that area and time which did not know the true God.

23:18 "A dog"—a male prostitute.

23:19-20 Loans to foreigners were probably business deals and interest could rightly be charged. But loans to fellow countrymen were loans to the poor who could not afford to pay interest, so none should be charged them. (Note also at 15:3).

23:21,23 Num 30:1-2; Ps 61:8; Eccl 5:4-5.

23:24-25 Matt 12:1; Mark 2:23; Luke 6:1.

24:1 Matt 5:31-32; 19:7-9; Mark 10:4-9;

1 Cor 7:12-16. God did not command men to divorce their wives for any reason, but permitted it "because of the hardness of their hearts". But He did not permit it for each and every reason that might occur to a husband, and He insisted that a husband should not abruptly send away his wife, but give her a bill of divorce. This instruction was to correct abuses for which the people were already guilty, and to restrain men in this matter of quick and easy divorce. Divorce was not God's plan for mankind. See Mal 2:16.

24:4 Jer 3:1.

24:5 20:7.

not have any *public* duty laid on him; but he is to be free at home for one year and give happiness to his wife whom he has married.

⁶No man is to take the upper or lower millstone as a pledge; for he is taking a *man's* life as a pledge.

⁷If a man is discovered kidnapping any of his brethren of the children of Israel, and making him a slave or selling him, then that kidnapper shall die; and you shall purge evil from among you.

⁸Be careful about the plague of leprosy, so that you diligently observe and do according to all that the priests the Levites teach you. You must be careful to do just as I commanded them. ⁹Remember what the LORD your God did to Miriam on the way, after you had come out of Egypt.

¹⁰When you lend something to your brother you must not go into his house to take his pledge. ¹¹You must stand outside, and the man to whom you are giving a loan shall bring the pledge outside to you. ¹²And if the man *is* poor, you must not sleep with his pledge *in your house*; ¹³at sunset you must certainly hand the pledge back to him, so that he may sleep in his own garment, and bless you. And this will be righteousness for you in the sight of the LORD your God.

¹⁴You must not oppress a hired servant *who is* poor and needy, *whether he is* of your brethren, or of your foreigners who *are* in your land inside your gates. ¹⁵You must give *him* his wages on his *work* day, before the sun sets on it; for he *is* poor, and sets his heart on it. Otherwise he may cry out against you to the LORD, and you will be *guilty* of sin.

¹⁶Fathers must not be put to death for *their* children, and children must not be put to death for *their* fathers; each man shall be put to death for his own sin.

¹⁷You must not pervert justice in regard to foreigners, *or* to the fatherless; and you

must not take a widow's garment as a pledge. ¹⁸But you must remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you there. Therefore I command you to do this thing.

¹⁹When you cut your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you must not go back to get it; it shall be for the foreigner, for the fatherless, and for the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. ²⁰When you beat your olive tree, you must not go over the boughs again. *What remains* shall be for the foreigner, for the fatherless, and for the widow. ²¹When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not glean *it* afterwards; it shall be for the foreigner, for the fatherless, and for the widow. ²²And you must remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I command you to do this thing.

25 If there is a controversy between men, and they come for judgment, *the judges* are to decide *between* them, and they are to justify the righteous and condemn the guilty. ²Then it shall be *like this*: if the guilty man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall have him lie down, and be beaten in his presence, with a certain number of *lashes* in accordance with his fault. ³He may give him forty lashes, but must not exceed *that*. *If he exceeds that* and beats him with more lashes than these, then your brother might seem degraded to you.

⁴You must not muzzle the ox when he tramples out *the grain*.

⁵If brothers live together, and one of them dies and has no child, the wife of the dead one must not go out to marry a stranger. Her husband's brother shall go in to her, and take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her. ⁶And it shall come about *that* the firstborn whom she bears shall carry the name of his dead brother, so that his name will not be blotted

24:7 Ex 21:16.

24:8 Leviticus chapters 13 and 14. Note at Lev 13:1.

24:9 Num 12:10. The disease referred to here was sometimes sent as a judgment from God (2 Kings 5:25-27).

24:10-13 Ex 22:25-27.

24:14 Lev 19:13; 25:35-43; Prov 14:31; Amos 4:1; 1 Tim 5:18.

24:15 Lev 19:13; Jer 22:13; Jam 5:4.

24:16 2 Kings 14:6; 2 Chron 25:4; Jer 31:29-30; Ezek 18:20.

24:17-22 Ex 23:9; Lev 19:33. The poor, the helpless, and the needy are much in God's heart.

25:1-2 Prov 19:29; Luke 12:48.

25:3 2 Cor 11:24.

25:4 Prov 12:10; 1 Cor 9:9-11; 1 Tim 5:17-18.

25:5-6 Ruth 4:5,10; Matt 22:24.

out from Israel.

⁷And if the man does not want to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go out to the gate to the elders, and say, "My husband's brother refuses to raise up a name for his brother in Israel. He will not perform the duty of my husband's brother". ⁸Then the elders of his city shall call him, and speak to him; and if he stands firm and says, "I do not want to marry her", ⁹then his brother's wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and shall answer and say, "So shall it be done to that man who will not build up his brother's house". ¹⁰And his name shall be called in Israel, "The house of him who has a removed sandal".

¹¹When men are fighting with each other, and the wife of one of them comes near to deliver her husband out of the hand of the one hitting him, and puts out her hand and seizes him by the private parts, ¹²then you must cut off her hand; your eye must not pity her.

¹³You must not have two different weights in your bag, a large and a small. ¹⁴You must not have two different measures in your house, a large and a small. ¹⁵But you must have a perfect and just weight; you must have a perfect and just measure, so that you may live a long time in the land which the LORD your God gives you. ¹⁶For everyone who does such things, and everyone who acts unjustly, is an abomination to the LORD your God.

¹⁷Remember what Amalek did to you along the way, when you had come out of Egypt; ¹⁸how he met you along the way and attacked those of you lagging behind in the rear, all who were faint and weary; and he did not fear God. ¹⁹Therefore it must be like this when the LORD your God has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies, in the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance to possess it: blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!

26 And it must be like this when you have come in to the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance, and possess it and live in it: ²take some of the first of all the produce of the ground which you bring in from your land that the LORD your God gives you, and put it in a basket and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses to put his name there. ³And go to the priest who will be there in those days, and say to him, "I declare today to the LORD your God, that I have come to the country which the LORD swore to our fathers to give us". ⁴And the priest shall take the basket from your hand, and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God. ⁵And you shall speak and say before the LORD your God, "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt, and stayed there with a few persons and there became a great, strong and populous nation. ⁶And the Egyptians mistreated us and afflicted us and imposed hard labour on us. ⁷And when we cried out to the LORD God of our fathers, the LORD heard our voice, and looked on our affliction and our labour and our oppression, ⁸and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terror, and with signs and with wonders. ⁹And he has brought us into this place, and has given us this land, a land that flows with milk and honey. ¹⁰And now, see, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which you, O LORD, have given me". And you shall set it before the LORD your God, and worship in the presence of the LORD your God; ¹¹and you shall rejoice in every good thing which the LORD your God has given to you, and to your household, you, and the Levite, and the foreigner who is among you.

¹²When you have finished tithing all the tithes of your produce in the third year, which is the year of tithing, and have given it to the Levite, the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow, so that they may eat inside your gates and be satisfied, ¹³then you shall say

25:7-10 Ruth 4:5-6.

25:13-16 Lev 19:35-37; Prov 11:1; 20:3. God hates all such crookedness.

25:17 Ex 17:8-16.

25:18 Ps 36:1; Rom 3:18. The fear of God is a barrier to evil which Amalek did not have. See notes at Gen 20:11; Ps 34:11-14; 111:10; Prov 1:7.

25:19 1 Sam 15:1-3. Note at Lev 18:24.

26:2 Ex 22:29; 23:16,19; Num 18:13; Prov 12:5.

26:5 "Aramean"—Jacob's mother came from Aram (Gen 24:10; 25:20), and he himself lived there 20 years (Gen 31:41).

"Into Egypt"—Gen 46:1-4.

26:6-7 Ex 1:8-11; 2:23-25; 3:9.

26:8 Ex 13:17—14:31.

26:12 Lev 27:30; Num 18:24; Deut 14:28-29.

before the LORD your God, “I have brought the consecrated things from *my* house, and given them to the Levite, and to the foreigner, to the fatherless, and to the widow, in accordance with all your commandments which you have commanded me. I have not broken your commandments, and I have not forgotten them. ¹⁴I have not eaten *any* of the *consecrated things* in my *time of mourning*, and I have not taken away *any* of them for any unclean use or given any of them for the dead, but I have listened to the voice of the LORD my God *and* have done everything just as you have commanded me. ¹⁵Look down from your holy dwelling place, from heaven, and bless your people Israel and the land which you have given us, just as you swore to our fathers, a land that flows with milk and honey”.

¹⁶This day the LORD your God has commanded you to do *according to* these statutes and judgments. Therefore you must keep and do *according to* them with all your heart and with all your soul. ¹⁷Today you have declared that the LORD is your God, and that you will walk in his ways and keep his statutes and his commandments and his judgments, and listen to his voice. ¹⁸And today the LORD has declared that you are his special people, just as he promised you, and that you must keep all his commandments, ¹⁹and that he will set you high in praise, and in name and in honour above all nations which he has made, and that you must be a holy people for the LORD your God, just as he has said.

27 And Moses with the elders of Israel commanded the people, saying, “Keep all the commandments which I command you this day. ²And this must be *done* on the day you cross over the Jordan to the land which the LORD your God gives you: you shall set up large stones for yourselves, and coat them with plaster; ³and when you have crossed over you shall write on them all the words of this law, so that you

may go on into the land which the LORD your God gives you, a land that flows with milk and honey, just as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you. ⁴Therefore this must be *done* when you have gone over the Jordan: set up these stones, which I command you today, on mount Ebal. And you must cover them with plaster. ⁵And there you must build an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of stones. You must not use *any* iron *tool* on them. ⁶You shall build the altar for the LORD your God out of uncut stones, and on it you shall offer burnt offerings to the LORD your God. ⁷And you shall offer peace offerings, and shall eat there and rejoice before the LORD your God. ⁸And you shall write very clearly on the stones all the words of this law”.

⁹And Moses and the priests the Levites spoke to all Israel, saying, “Be silent and listen, O Israel. Today you have become the people of the LORD your God. ¹⁰Therefore you must obey the voice of the LORD your God, and act according to his commandments and his statutes, which I command you this day”.

¹¹And Moses charged the people the same day, saying,

¹²When you have gone over the Jordan, these *tribes* shall stand on mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon and Levi and Judah and Issachar and Joseph and Benjamin; ¹³and these shall stand on mount Ebal to pronounce curses: Reuben, Gad and Asher, and Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali.

¹⁴And the Levites shall speak, and say to all the men of Israel with a loud voice,

¹⁵“Cursed *is* the man who makes *any* idol or cast metal image, an abomination to the LORD, the work of the hands of a craftsman, and puts *it* in a secret place”. And all the people shall answer and say, “Amen”.

¹⁶“Cursed *is* the one who dishonours his father or his mother”. And all the people shall say, “Amen”.

¹⁷“Cursed *is* the one who moves his neighbour’s landmark”. And all the people

26:15 God could justly bless the people and the land only when He saw their righteous behavior.

26:17 Heb 10:35.

26:18 Ex 6:7; 19:5; Deut 4:20; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet 2:9.

26:19 4:7-8; 28:1.

27:2-4 Josh 8:30-32.

27:5 Ex 20:25.

27:12 Josh 8:33-35.

27:15 4:16,23; Ex 20:4,23; 34:17; Lev 19:4; 26:1; Isa 44:9.

“Amen”— this comes from a Hebrew word meaning sure and faithful.

27:16 5:16; Ex 20:12; 21:17; Lev 19:3; 20:9.

27:17 19:14.

shall say, "Amen".

¹⁸"Cursed is the one who makes the blind wander out of the way". And all the people shall say, "Amen".

¹⁹"Cursed is the one who perverts justice for the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow". And all the people shall say, "Amen".

²⁰"Cursed is the one who lies with his father's wife, because he is uncovering his father's skirt". And all the people shall say, "Amen".

²¹"Cursed is the one who lies with any kind of animal". And all the people shall say, "Amen".

²²"Cursed is the one who lies with his sister, the daughter of his father, or the daughter of his mother". And all the people shall say, "Amen".

²³"Cursed is the one who lies with his mother-in-law". And all the people shall say, "Amen".

²⁴"Cursed is the one who strikes down his neighbour secretly". And all the people shall say, "Amen".

²⁵"Cursed is the one who takes a bribe to kill an innocent person". And all the people shall say, "Amen".

²⁶"Cursed is the one who does not uphold all the words of this law to do them". And all the people shall say, "Amen".

28 And this will happen if you listen diligently to the voice of the LORD your God, to observe *and* to do all his commandments which I command you

27:18 Lev 19:14.

27:19 Ex 22:21; 23:9; Lev 19:33.

27:20 22:30; Lev 18:8; 20:11; 1 Cor 5:1.

27:21 Ex 22:19; Lev 18:23; 20:15.

27:22 Lev 18:19; 20:17.

27:23 Lev 20:14.

27:24 Ex 21:12; Lev 24:17; Num 35:30-31.

27:25 10:17; Ex 23:7.

27:26 Ps 119:21; Jer 11:3-4; Gal 3:10. Observe in this list that the curse on idolatry comes first. Notice, too, that it was not necessary to break all the commands of God to bring a curse on oneself – just one transgression was enough (Jam 2:10).

28:2 "*Blessings*" – notes on Gen 12:1-3; Num 6:22-27; Ps 1:1-3; 119:1; Matt 5:3-12; Luke 11:28; Acts 3:26; Gal 3:9; Eph 1:3. God loves to bless people and always will when it is just and right to do so. But observe the word "if". The promises which follow were conditional, based on the obedience of the people.

28:3-14 To His people Israel, if they were obedient to Him, God promised all sorts of blessings,

this day: the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth, ²and all these blessings will come on you, and overtake you, if you will listen to the voice of the LORD your God.

³You *will be* blessed in the city, and blessed in the field.

⁴The fruit of your womb *will be* blessed, and the produce of your ground, and the fruit of your livestock, the offspring of your cattle, and the flocks of your sheep.

⁵Your basket and your kneading bowl *will be* blessed.

⁶You *will be* blessed when you come in, and when you go out.

⁷The LORD will cause your enemies who rise up against you to be struck down before your face. They will come out against you one way, and flee before you seven ways.

⁸The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses, and in all to which you set your hand and he will bless you in the land which the LORD your God gives.

⁹The LORD will establish you as a holy people for himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in his ways. ¹⁰And all people of the earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will be afraid of you. ¹¹And the LORD will give you abundant prosperity in goods, in the offspring of your body, and in the young of your cattle, and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.

many of them material. In the Old Testament material possessions and property were regarded as a sign of God's blessing and it was often (but certainly not always) so. In the New Testament the blessings God promises are, for the most part, spiritual and eternal (Eph 1:3. Compare these blessings here in Deuteronomy with the words of the Lord Jesus in Matt 5:3-12 and Luke 6:20-26. See note at Gen 24:35).

Spiritual blessings are, of course, far more important than material ones. The Lord Jesus even said, "blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God" (Luke 6:20). It would be folly for believers living in this age to fall back on the Old Testament idea that material possessions or property is a sign of God's blessing. Many wealthy people (and some of them no doubt so-called Christians) are under the wrath of God because of their unbelief and disobedience (John 3:36; Jam 5:1-6). And many poor people have eternal riches in Christ. Remember that Israel in Egypt, in the wilderness, and in Canaan gives us types and pictures of spiritual realities.

¹²The LORD will open to you his good treasure, the heavens to give the rain on your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hands. And you will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow. ¹³And the LORD will make you the head, and not the tail; and you will be at the top and not at the bottom, if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you this day, to observe and to do *them*. ¹⁴And you must not go astray from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

¹⁵But this will come about, if you will not listen to the voice of the LORD your God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command you this day: all these curses will come on you, and overtake you.

¹⁶You *will be* cursed in the city, and cursed in the field.

¹⁷Your basket and your kneading bowl *will be* cursed.

¹⁸The offspring of your body *will be* cursed, and the produce of your land, the young of your cattle and the flocks of your sheep.

¹⁹You *will be* cursed when you come in, and cursed when you go out.

²⁰The LORD will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke, in all that you put your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings, in which you have forsaken me. ²¹The LORD will make the plague cling to you, until he has consumed you from off the land, where you go to possess it. ²²The LORD will strike you with wasting disease and with fever and with inflammation and with fierce heat and with the sword and with blight and with mildew; and they will pursue you until you perish. ²³And your skies over your head will become brass and the ground under you *will*

be iron. ²⁴The LORD will change the rain of your land into powder and dust; it will come down from the sky on you, until you are destroyed.

²⁵The LORD will cause you to be struck down before your enemies. You will go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them. And you will become a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. ²⁶And your carcass will be meat for all the birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth, and there will be no one to frighten *them* away.

²⁷The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt and with tumors and with scabs and with the itch, from which you will not be healed. ²⁸The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and heart bewilderment. ²⁹And you will grope about at noon, just as the blind grope in darkness. And you will not prosper in your ways, but will be only oppressed and plundered continually, and there will be no one to save you.

³⁰You will be engaged to a woman, but another man will lie with her. You will build a house, but you will not live in it. You will plant a vineyard, but will not gather its grapes. ³¹Your ox *will be* killed before your eyes, but you will not eat any of it. Your donkey *will be* forcibly taken away before your eyes, but it will not be restored to you. Your sheep *will be* given to your enemies, and you will have no one to rescue them. ³²Your sons and your daughters *will be* given to another people, and your eyes will look for them all day long and fail *with longing*, and your hands *will be* powerless.

³³A nation you do not know will eat up the produce of your land, and you will be only oppressed and crushed continually, ³⁴so that you will be driven mad because of the sights which your eyes will see. ³⁵The LORD will strike you on the knees and on the legs with miserable boils that cannot be healed, from the sole of your foot to the top of your head.

28:15-19 God does not wish to bring curses on people. Curses are always the results of man's sin, disobedience and rebellion. They are the outworking of God's justice (Gen 3:14-19). God will bless when He may, bring curses when He must. The very blessings He promised for obedience (vs 3-6) will be turned into curses by disobedience.

28:20-68 These terrible punishments were awaiting Israel and finally came upon them for their disobedience. The following references show this.

28:20 God gave the law and all the instructions concerned with it through Moses. That is, Moses was His representative. Forsaking Moses and the teachings he gave would mean they were forsaking God.

28:21-22 Amos 4:9-10.

28:23-24 1 Kings 17:1,7.

28:25 2 Chron 29:8; Ezek 23:46-49.

28:26 Jer 34:20.

28:30 Jer 8:10; Amos 4:11.

28:33 Jer 5:15.

³⁶The LORD will cause you and your king whom you will set over you, to go to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known; and there you will serve other gods, *gods of wood and stone*. ³⁷And you will become a horror, a proverb and a byword, among all nations where the LORD drives you. ³⁸You will carry much seed out to the field, but will gather in *only* a little, because the locust will devour it. ³⁹You will plant vineyards and cultivate them, but will not drink *of* the wine or gather *the grapes*, because worms will eat them. ⁴⁰You will have olive trees throughout your whole territory, but you will not anoint *yourself* with the oil, because your olives will drop off. ⁴¹You will have sons and daughters, but you will not enjoy them, because they will go into captivity. ⁴²The locust will eat up all your trees and the produce of your land.

⁴³The foreigner who *is* among you will get very high above you, and you will come down very low. ⁴⁴He will lend to you, but you will not lend to him. He will be the head, and you will be the tail.

⁴⁵Moreover all these curses will come on you, and will pursue you, and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not listen to the voice of the LORD your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded you. ⁴⁶And they will be a sign and a wonder on you, and on your descendants forever. ⁴⁷Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart in an abundance of all *things*, ⁴⁸therefore you will serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger and in thirst and in nakedness and in a lack of all *things*. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you.

⁴⁹The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, *as swift* as the eagle flies, a nation whose tongue you will not understand, ⁵⁰a nation of fierce countenance, which will have no respect for the old person or show pity to the young. ⁵¹And he will eat the offspring of your livestock and the produce of your

land until you are destroyed. He will not leave you either grain, wine or oil, or the increase of your cattle or your flocks of sheep, until he has destroyed you. ⁵²And he will besiege you in all your gates until your high fortified walls, in which you trusted, come down throughout your whole land. He will besiege you in all your gates throughout your whole land which the LORD your God has given you.

⁵³And you will eat the offspring of your own body, the flesh of your sons and of your daughters, whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and in the dire straits with which your enemies will distress you. ⁵⁴So the man *who is* refined and very delicate among you will give hostile looks at his brother, and at the wife of his bosom, and at the rest of his children who remain, ⁵⁵so that he will not give any of them any of the flesh of his children whom he will eat, because nothing is left to him in the siege and in the dire straits with which your enemies will oppress you in all your gates. ⁵⁶The refined and delicate woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because of delicateness and refinement, will give hostile looks at the husband of her bosom, and at her son and at her daughter, ⁵⁷and at the afterbirth that comes from her, and at her children whom she bears; for she will eat them secretly because of the lack of all *things* in the siege and in the dire straits with which your enemy will oppress you in your gates.

⁵⁸If you are not careful to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, so that you may fear this glorious and awe-inspiring name, THE LORD YOUR GOD, ⁵⁹then the LORD will bring plagues on you and plagues on your offspring *that are* extraordinary, great plagues that last a long time, and severe sicknesses that last a long time. ⁶⁰Moreover he will bring on you all the diseases of Egypt, which you were afraid of, and they will cling to you. ⁶¹Also the LORD will bring on you every sickness and every plague which *is* not written in the

28:36 2 Kings 17:4,6; 24:12,14; 25:7,11; 2 Chron 36:1-21; Jer 39:1-9.

28:37 1 Kings 9:7-8; Jer 19:8; 24:9; 29:18.

28:38 Isa 5:10; Joel 1:4; Micah 6:15.

28:48 Lam 4:4-6; Jer 28:13-14.

28:49 Isa 5:26-30; 7:18-20; Jer 5:15; 6:22-23;

Lam 4:19.

28:52-57 2 Kings 6:28-29; Lam 2:20; 4:10.

28:58 With what care we should use the glorious and fearful name of God! Compare Ex 20:7.

28:59-61 God Himself sometimes sends sickness as punishment (v 27; Ex 9:9; Deut 7:15).

book of this law, until you are destroyed. ⁶²And you will be left few in number, when once you were as many as the stars of the sky, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God. ⁶³And it will come about *that* just as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good and to increase your numbers, so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you and to bring you to nothing. And you will be torn from the land which you are going to possess.

⁶⁴And the LORD will scatter you among all people, from one end of the earth to the other; and there you will serve other gods which neither you nor your fathers have known, *gods of wood and stone*. ⁶⁵And among these nations you will find no ease, and the sole of your foot will have no rest; but the LORD will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and sorrow of mind; ⁶⁶and your life will hang in suspense before you, and you will be afraid day and night, and your life will have no assurance. ⁶⁷In the morning you will say, "Would God it were evening!" And at evening you will say, "Would God it were morning!" Because you will be afraid from the fear of your heart and from the sights which your eyes will see. ⁶⁸And the LORD will bring you back to Egypt in ships, by the way of which I spoke to you, "You will never see it again", and there you will offer to sell yourselves to your enemies as male and female slaves, and no one will buy *you*".

29 These *are* the words of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which he made with them in Horeb.

²And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, ³the great trials, the signs, and those great miracles which your eyes have seen.

⁴Yet even to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to understand and eyes to see and ears to hear.

⁵And I led you forty years in the desert. Your clothes did not become old on you, and your shoes did not become old on your feet. ⁶You did not eat bread, and you did not drink wine or strong drink, so that you might know that I *am* the LORD your God.

⁷And when you came to this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, came out against us to battle, and we struck them down, ⁸and took their land, and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to the half tribe of Manasseh.

⁹Therefore keep the words of this covenant and do them, so that you may prosper in all that you do. ¹⁰Today all of you stand before the LORD your God; your captains of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, *with* all the men of Israel, ¹¹your little ones, your wives, and your foreigners who *are* in your camp, from those who cut your wood to those who draw your water, ¹²so that you should enter into a covenant with the LORD your God, and into his oath, which the LORD your God makes with you today, ¹³that he may establish you today as a people for himself, and *that* he may be God to you, as he has said to you, and as he has sworn to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. ¹⁴And I do not make this covenant and this oath just with you, ¹⁵but *both* with

28:62 Ezra 2:1,64; Neh 7:4.

28:63 Their evil would become so ripe for judgment that God would delight in fulfilling justice in their destruction! A similar idea is found in Prov 1:24-26.

28:64 2 Kings 17:6; 25:1-4,8-11.

28:65 Lam 1:3; Ps 137. God brought all these things upon Israel because they deserved them, and would not repent and turn to God who could bless them and rescue them from calamity. Notice vs 20,45,47,58,62. By these disasters God was teaching that unbelief and disobedience are terrible sins which justice must punish. We have the same teaching in the New Testament (John 3:36; 2 Thess 1:5-9; 2 Pet 2:9-13; Rev 15:1,3; 16:5-7; 21:8).

29:1 God wanted this new generation to make a new beginning as they face the promised land, so He renews the covenant with them which He had made at Sinai (Exodus chapter 19).

29:4 Isa 29:10; Rom 11:8. The reason for this was their unbelief and rebelliousness.

29:6 8:3.

29:7 Num 21:21-24,33,35.

29:8 Num 32:32-33.

29:9 4:6.

29:12-13 The covenant was that He would be their God and they would be His people (Ex 6:6-7). Now believers in Christ have this greatest of all privileges and blessings (2 Cor 6:16; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet 2:9-10).

the one who stands here with us today before the LORD our God, and with *the one* who is not here with us today.

¹⁶For you know how we lived in the land of Egypt, and how we came through the nations which you came through. ¹⁷And you saw their abominations and their idols of wood and stone, silver and gold, which were among them. ¹⁸If there should be among you man or woman or family or tribe whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God to go *and* serve the gods of these nations, if there should be among you a root that bears gall and bitterness, ¹⁹and when he hears the words of this curse, it so happens that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, “I will have peace even though I walk according to the imagination of my heart to add drunkenness to thirst”, ²⁰the LORD will not spare him, but rather the anger of the LORD and his jealousy will burn against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book will rest on him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven. ²¹And the LORD will single him out for disaster from all the tribes of Israel, in accordance with all the curses of the covenant that are written in this book of the law.

²²And the coming generation of your children who will rise up after you, and the foreigner who will come from a distant land, will speak out when they see the plagues of that land and the sicknesses which the LORD has brought on it, ²³*and that* the whole of its land *has become* sulfur and salt *and* burning, *that it* is not sown and

does not produce, and that no grass grows on it, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger and in his wrath, ²⁴then all nations will say, “Why has the LORD done this to this land? Why this great burning anger?”

²⁵Then men will say, “Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD God of their fathers which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt. ²⁶For they went and served other gods and worshipped them, gods whom they did not know and *whom* he had not given to them. ²⁷And the anger of the LORD burned against this land to bring on it all the curses that are written in this book. ²⁸And the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger and in wrath and in great indignation, and drove them into another land, as *it is* this day”.

²⁹The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, so that we may do all the words of this law.

30 And this *is what* will happen: when all these things have come on you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call *them* to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you, ²and turn back to the LORD your God, and you and your children obey his voice in accordance with all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, ³then the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity and

29:18 32:32. Idolatry and worship of gods other than the Creator Jehovah are bitter poison.

29:19-21 The warning here is against the person who knows the curse of God on idolatry and false worship and yet arrogantly, presumptuously engages in it, knowing he is acting against God (1 Sam 2:25; 2 Chron 36:16; Prov 1:24-31; 29:1).

29:22-23 Isa 1:7; 34:9; 64:11; Jer 17:6; Zeph 2:9.

29:24 1 Kings 9:8; Jer 22:8.

29:25 2 Kings 17:9-23; 2 Chron 36:13-21.

29:27 Dan 9:11.

29:28 2 Chron 7:20; Ps 52:5; Prov 2:22; Ezek 19:12-13. Notes on God's anger at Num 25:3; Ps 90:7-11; John 3:36; Rom 1:18.

29:29 Acts 1:7. There are many things God has not yet revealed. We must leave those mysteries to Him. He has revealed all we need to know on this earth to believe Him, know Him, obey Him, serve Him, love Him, and be prepared to live with Him forever. Let us occupy ourselves

with these matters. Compare Josh 15:15; 17:8; 1 Cor 2:9-10; 2 Tim 3:16-17.

30:1 God sees the future and knew exactly what was going to happen to Israel (31:16-18; Isa 46:9-10; 48:3).

30:2 God also knew that eventually they would turn to Him again (4:29-30).

30:3-5 Isa 43:6; 48:20; 62:11; Jer 29:11-14; 32:37; Ezek 34:13. There was a partial fulfillment of this in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah (Ezra 2:1; Neh 7:6). The people remained in the land until 70 A.D., at which time the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and scattered Israel once again. This was in accordance with the prophecy of Christ in Luke 21:24. The prophets spoke of a future restoration of Israel which would be permanent (Isa 60:21; Ezek 37:25; Amos 9:14-15).

30:3 “*Will bring you back from captivity*”— or it could be translated “will restore your well-being”.

have compassion on you, and will return and gather you from all the nations, where the LORD your God has scattered you. ⁴If any of you have been driven out to the end of the heavens, the LORD your God will gather you from there, and bring you from there. ⁵And the LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you will possess it; and he will do you good and make you more numerous than your fathers. ⁶And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart, and the heart of your offspring, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live. ⁷And the LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you.

⁸And you will return and obey the voice of the LORD and obey all his commandments which I command you this day. ⁹And the LORD your God will make you prosperous in every work of your hand, in the offspring of your body, and in the offspring of your cattle, and in the produce of your land, for good; for the LORD will again rejoice over you for good, just as he rejoiced over your fathers, ¹⁰if you will listen to the voice of the LORD your God to keep his commandments and his statutes *which are* written in this book of the law, *and* if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹For this command which I give you this day *is* not hidden from you, and it is not far off. ¹²It *is* not in heaven, that you should say, “Who will go up to heaven for us and bring it to us, so that we may hear it and do it?” ¹³Neither *is* it beyond the sea, so that you should say, “Who will cross the sea for us and bring it to us, so that we may hear it and do it?” ¹⁴But the word *is* very near to you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

¹⁵See, I have set before you this day life

and good, and death and disaster, ¹⁶in that I command you this day to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, so that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land where you are going to possess it.

¹⁷But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you this day, that you will surely perish, *and that* you will not have a long life in the land which you are going to possess when you cross the Jordan.

¹⁹Today I call heaven and earth to witness against you that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore choose life, so that both you and your offspring may live, ²⁰so that you may love the LORD your God *and* that you may obey his voice and that you may cling to him. For he *is* your life and the length of your days, so that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, to give them.

31 And Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel. ²And he said to them, Today I am a hundred and twenty years old. I can no longer go out and come in. Also the LORD has said to me, “You will not cross this Jordan. ³The LORD your God will go over before you, *and* he will destroy these nations from before you, and you will possess their *territories*. *And* Joshua will go over before you, just as the LORD has said. ⁴And the LORD will do to them as he did to Sihon and to Og, kings of the Amorites, whom he destroyed, and to their land. ⁵And the LORD will deliver them up in your sight so that you may treat them in accordance with all the commandments which I have commanded you. ⁶Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified of them, because the LORD your God *is* the

30:6 10:16. Compare Heb 10:16.

“Circumcise your hearts”— 10:16; Jer 4:4 (note); Acts 7:51.

30:7 28:16-20.

30:9 Jer 31:27-28.

30:11-14 Rom 10:6-8. They alone of all the peoples on earth had God delivering His word to them through His prophets.

30:15 11:26.

30:16 28:1-2.

30:17-18 4:25-26; 8:19.

30:19-20 How solemnly God declared the truth to them! Life and death, blessing and the curse, were before them. The choice was theirs to make (compare Josh 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21; Ezek 18:31-32; Matt 23:37; Luke 13:34-35; Rev 22:17). He pleads with them to choose life and blessing by choosing loving obedience.

31:2 1:37; 3:27.

31:3 9:3; Num 27:18.

31:6 1:29; 7:18; 20:1,4; Josh 10:25; 1 Chron 22:13; Heb 13:5.

one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.

⁷And Moses summoned Joshua, and said to him in the sight of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people to the land which the LORD swore to their fathers to give them. And you will enable them to inherit it. ⁸And the LORD is the one who goes before you; he will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not be afraid or be dismayed".

⁹And Moses wrote down this law and delivered it to the priests the sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel. ¹⁰And Moses commanded them, saying, "At the end of every seven years, at the fixed time of the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles, ¹¹when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God in the place which he chooses, you must read this law before all Israel in their hearing. ¹²Gather the people together, men, women and children, and your foreigner who is inside your gates, so that they may hear and that they may learn to fear the LORD your God and observe to obey all the words of this law, ¹³and *that* their children, who have not known *anything*, may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as you live in the land which you are going over the Jordan to possess".

¹⁴And the LORD said to Moses, "Look, the day of your death is approaching. Call Joshua, and present yourselves in the tabernacle of the congregation, so that I may give him a commission". And Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves in the tabernacle of the congregation.

¹⁵And the LORD appeared in the tabernacle in a pillar of cloud, and the pillar of cloud stood over the door of the tabernacle. ¹⁶And the LORD said to Moses, "Look, you will lie down with your fathers, and this people will rise up and act the prostitute with the gods of the foreigners of the land where they are going to *be* among them, and will forsake me and break my covenant which I have made with them. ¹⁷In that day my anger will burn

against them, and I will forsake them and hide my face from them. And they will be consumed, and many calamities and troubles will come on them, so that they will say in that day, 'Haven't these calamities come on us because our God *is* not among us?' ¹⁸And I will certainly hide my face in that day because of all the evils which they will have done in turning to other gods.

¹⁹"Now therefore write down for yourselves this song, and teach it to the children of Israel. Put it in their mouths, so that this song may be a witness for me against the children of Israel. ²⁰For after I have brought them into the land which I swore to their fathers, *a land* that flows with milk and honey, and they have eaten and satisfied themselves and become fat, then they will turn to other gods and serve them, and provoke me and break my covenant. ²¹And it will come about, after many calamities and troubles have come on them, that this song will be a witness to testify against them; for it will not be forgotten from the lips of their descendants. For I know their frame of mind which they are forming even now before I have brought them into the land which I promised on oath".

²²So Moses wrote down this song the same day, and taught it to the children of Israel.

²³And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a commission, and said, Be strong and courageous, for you will take the children of Israel into the land which I promised to them on oath; and I will be with you.

²⁴And this took place when Moses finished writing the words of this law in a book, until they were completed: ²⁵Moses commanded the Levites, who were the carriers of the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying, ²⁶Take this book of the law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, so that it may be there as a witness against you. ²⁷For I know your rebelliousness and your stubbornness. Look, today while I am still alive with you, you have been rebellious against the LORD; so how much more so after my death! ²⁸Gather to me all the elders

31:8 Josh 1:5.

31:9 Another very clear statement that Moses wrote down the law. See also Ex 24:4; 34:27; Num 33:2; John 5:46.

31:11-13 Josh 8:34-35; 2 Kings 23:2; Neh 8:1-8. Note on fear at Gen 20:1.

31:15 Ex 33:9.

31:16-18 Isa 46:10.

31:19 See in 32:1-43.

31:20-21 Matt 9:4; John 2:24-25; 6:64; 13:11.

31:24-26 Ex 25:10-11.

31:27 9:7,13,24.

31:28 4:26; 30:19; 32:1; Isa 1:2.

of your tribes, and your officers, so that I may speak these words in their hearing, and call heaven and earth to witness against them.
 29 For I know that after my death you will utterly corrupt *yourselves* and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and disaster will come on you in later days, because you will do evil in the sight of the LORD, and provoke him to anger through the works of your hands.

30 And Moses spoke in the hearing of all the congregation of Israel the words of this song, until they were finished.

32 Listen, O heavens,
 and I will speak;
 and hear, O earth, the words
 of my mouth.

2 My teaching will drop like the rain,
 my speech will distill
 like the dew,
 like the fine rain
 on the tender plant,
 and like the showers
 on the grass,

3 because I will proclaim
 the name of the LORD.
 Ascribe greatness to our God.

4 *He is the Rock,*
 his work *is* perfect;
 for all his ways are just.
 A God of truth and
 without iniquity,
 just and upright *is* he.

5 They have corrupted themselves;

this is their defect.

They are not his children.

They are a perverse and
 crooked generation.

6 Is this the way you repay the LORD,
 O foolish and unwise people?

Is he not your father *who*
 has bought you?

Has he not made you
 and established you?

7 Remember the days of old;
 consider the years,
 the many generations.

Ask your father,
 and he will inform you.

Ask your elders, and
 they will tell you.

8 When the Most High gave
 to the nations their inheritance,
 when he separated
 the sons of Adam,
 he set the boundaries of the peoples
 according to the number
 of the children of Israel.

9 For the LORD's portion *is*
 his people.

Jacob *is* his allotted inheritance.

10 He found him in a desert land,
 and in the waste and
 howling wilderness.

He led him about,
 he instructed him,

he kept him as the apple
 of his eye.

11 As an eagle stirs up her nest,

32:1 Isa 1:2.

32:2 Ps 72:6; Isa 55:10-11.

32:3 Ex 33:19; 34:5-6. Proclaiming His name means to speak of His nature and attributes.

32:4 "*Rock*"— vs 15,18,30; 2 Sam 22:47; 23:3; Ps 18:2,31; 28:1; 31:3; 42:9; 62:2; 71:3. In the Old Testament God is spoken of as a Rock about thirty times. The word suggests strength, refuge, unchange-ability, a solid foundation for the faith of God's people, and a refuge from His anger against sin.

This name for God was a favorite one in the Psalms. The writers there called God "the Rock of our salvation" (Ps 95:1), "my Rock of refuge" (Ps 94:22), "the Rock of my strength" (Ps 62:7), "the Rock of my heart" (the Hebrew of Ps 73:26 – note). In the New Testament Christ is also called "rock" (1 Cor 10:4; Ex 17:4-6), "stone", and chief "cornerstone" (Matt 21:42-44; Acts 4:11; Eph 2:20; 1 Pet 2:4,6).

"*Perfect*"— Ps 18:30; Matt 5:48.

"*Just*"— 2 Sam 22:31; Ps 18:30; 19:7; 145:17;

Rev 15:3.

32:5 The majority of the people, though called to be God's special people among all who lived on the earth, were not true believers and so individually not children of God. This was true also in the time of the Lord Jesus (Matt 17:17; John 8:42-45; Acts 2:40). This verse could also be translated "Corrupt are they and not His children, a generation warped and twisted to their shame".

32:6 As a nation God was their father who created them and brought them out of Egypt. But individually most of them neither trusted Him nor behaved as His children. In similar fashion, today the visible Church is made up of professing Christians, but not all are true believers.

32:8 Acts 17:26.

32:9 1 Sam 10:1; 1 Kings 8:51,53; Jer 10:16.

32:10 Ps 17:8; Prov 7:2; Zech 2:8.

32:11 Ex 19:4. In other words, He was teaching them to fly. Compare Isa 40:31.

- flutters over her young,
spreads out her wings,
takes them,
carries them on her wings,
¹² so the LORD alone led him,
and no foreign god was
with him.
- ¹³ He made him ride on the high places
of the earth,
so that he might eat
the produce of the fields;
and he made him to suck honey
from the rock,
and *fed him with oil*
from the flinty rock,
¹⁴ cattle butter, and sheep's milk,
with the fat of lambs,
and rams of the breed
of Bashan,
and goats, with the fat of kernels
of wheat.
And you drank the pure blood
of the grape.
- ¹⁵ But Jeshurun became fat,
and kicked.
You have become fat,
you have grown thick,
you are covered *with fatness*.
Then he forsook God
who made him,
and lightly regarded the Rock
of his salvation.
- ¹⁶ They made him jealous
with foreign *gods*,
they provoked him to anger
with abominations.
- ¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons,
not to God;
to gods whom
they did not know,
to new gods *that* came up recently,
whom your fathers did not fear.
- ¹⁸ You ignored the Rock
who gave you birth,
and forgot God who formed you.
- ¹⁹ And when the LORD saw *this*,
he abhorred them, because
of the provocation of his sons,
and of his daughters.
- ²⁰ And he said,
"I will hide my face from them.
I will see what their end *will be*;
for they *are* a very perverse
generation,
children in whom is no faith.
- ²¹ They have made me jealous
with *that which is* not God.
They have provoked me to anger
with their vanities.
So I will make them jealous with
those
who are not a people.
I will provoke them to anger
with a foolish nation.
- ²² For a fire has been kindled
in my anger,
and will burn to the realm
of the dead,
and will consume the earth
with its produce,
and set the foundations
of the mountains on fire.
- ²³ "I will heap disasters on them.
I will use up my arrows on them.
- ²⁴ *They will waste away*
with hunger, and be devoured
with burning heat,
and with bitter destruction.
I will also send the teeth of beasts
on them, and the poison
of the serpents of the dust.
- ²⁵ The sword outside and terror inside
will destroy both the young man
and the virgin,
the sucking infant *along*
with the man of gray hairs.

32:13 8:8; Ps 81:16; Isa 33:16; 58:14; Hab 3:19.

32:15 Jeshurun is a poetical name for Israel (33:5,26; Isa 44:2). The name means the upright or righteous one.

32:16 Ps 78:58; 106:29. Notes on God's anger at Num 25:3; Ps 90:7-11.

32:17 A very significant verse indicating that the gods other than the one true God, the Creator of the universe, are demons. See also Lev 17:7; 1 Cor 10:20. At the temptation of Christ Satan revealed that worship is what he desires (Matt 4:9-10).

32:18 Here the nation is viewed collectively.

32:19 Lev 26:30; Ps 106:40; Jer 44:21-23.

32:21 See notes on jealousy and idolatry at Ex 20:4-6, on anger at Num 25:3. See 1 Kings 15:30; 16:13,26.

"*People*"— part of this verse is quoted in Rom 10:19.

32:22 Ps 18:7-8; Isa 24:1-6; Lam 4:11.

"*Realm of the dead*"— in Hebrew "Sheol" — note at Gen 37:35.

32:23 Ps 18:14; 45:5.

32:24-25 28:22,48; Ps 91:6; Lam 1:20.

²⁶ I *almost* said that
 I would shatter them to pieces,
 I would cause the memory of them
 to cease from among men,
²⁷ but I feared the provocation
 of the enemy,
 lest their adversaries should miscalculate
 and say,
 ‘We *have* the upper hand,
 and the LORD has not done all this.’
²⁸ For they are a nation lacking counsel,
there is no understanding in them.
²⁹ O that they were wise,
 that they understood this,
that they would consider
 their final end!’
³⁰ How could one chase a thousand,
 and two put ten thousand to flight,
 unless their Rock had sold them,
 and the LORD had given them up?
³¹ For their rock *is* not
 as our Rock, as even our enemies
 themselves judge.
³² For their vine *is* from the vine
 of Sodom, and of the fields
 of Gomorrah.
 Their grapes *are* grapes
 of gall, their clusters *are* bitter.
³³ Their wine *is* the poison
 of snakes and the cruel venom
 of cobras.
³⁴ *The LORD* says
 “Is this not stored up
 with me,
 and sealed up in my treasuries?
³⁵ Vengeance *belongs* to me,
 and retribution.
 Their foot will slide in *due* time,
 because the day of their calamity
is at hand, and the things that
 will come on them approach quickly”.
³⁶ For the LORD will judge his people
 and have compassion on his servants,
 when he sees that *their*
 power is gone, and *there is*

no one left, slave or free.
³⁷ And he will say,
 “Where *are*
 their gods, *their* rock in
 whom they trusted,
³⁸ Who ate the fat of their sacrifices,
 and drank the wine
 of their drink offerings?
 Let them rise up and help you,
 and *be* your protection.
³⁹ “See now that I,
 I *alone am* he,
 and *there is* no god
 besides me.
 I kill, and I make alive;
 I wound, and I heal;
 and *there is* no one
 who can deliver out of my hand.
⁴⁰ For I lift up my hand to heaven,
 and say, I live for ever.
⁴¹ If I sharpen my glittering sword,
 and my hand takes hold
 of judgment,
 I will take vengeance
 on my enemies,
 and will repay those
 who hate me.
⁴² I will make my arrows drunk
 with blood, and my sword will
 devour flesh,
 the blood of the slain and
 of the captives,
 and the heads of the leaders of the
 enemy”.
⁴³ Rejoice, O you nations,
 with *his* people;
 for he will avenge the blood
 of his servants,
 and will take vengeance
 on his adversaries,
 and be merciful to his land,
 and to his people.

⁴⁴ And Moses came and spoke all the words
 of this song in the hearing of the people, he,

32:26-27 Ex 32:9-14.

32:28-29 Isa 1:3; Jer 9:3,6; John 8:54-55;
Titus 1:16.

32:30 Lev 26:7-8.

32:31 Verse 4; Ex 14:25.

32:32 Gen 18:20-21; 19:1-11; Isa 1:9-10; 3:9; 13:19;
Jer 23:14; 49:18; Ezek 16:46-49; 2 Pet 2:6; Jude 7.

32:33 29:18; Ps 140:3; Rom 3:13.

32:34 There is a place where the deeds of men
are recorded and kept (Rev 20:12)

32:35 Ex 21:23-25 (note); Num 31:2-3; Ps 94:1;

Nahum 1:7; Rom 12:19; 2 Thess 2:6-9;
Heb 10:30-31.

32:36 Ps 50:4; 135:14.

32:37-38 Jud 10:14; 1 Kings 18:27; Jer 11:12.

32:39 “*Besides me*”– v 12; Isa 41:4; 43:10;
45:5.

“*Make alive*”– 1 Sam 2:6; Ps 68:20.

“*My hand*”– Ps 50:22; Dan 4:35.

32:41-42 Verse 35; Isa 34:6-8; Jer 12:12; 46:10,14;
50:28-32; Rev 19:15-21.

32:43 Isa 1:24-25; Rev 6:10; 19:2.

and Joshua the son of Nun. ⁴⁵And Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel, ⁴⁶and said to them, Take your hearts all the words which I solemnly declare among you today, which you will command your children to be careful to do, all the words of this law. ⁴⁷For this *is* not an empty word for you; because it *is* your life; and through this word you will live long in the land, which you will cross the Jordan to possess.

⁴⁸And that same day the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ⁴⁹“Go up into this mountain range of Abarim, to mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, opposite Jericho, and see the land of Canaan, which I give to the children of Israel as a possession. ⁵⁰And you will die on the mountain which you climb, and be gathered to your people, just as Aaron your brother died in mount Hor and was gathered to his people; ⁵¹because both of you were unfaithful to me among the children of Israel at the waters of Meribah-Kadesh in the desert of Zin, because you did not show me to be holy in the midst of the children of Israel. ⁵²So you will see the land before you, but you will not go there, to the land which I give to the children of Israel”.

33 And this *is* the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. ²And he said,

The LORD came from Sinai,
and dawned on them from Seir;
he shone forth from mount Paran,
and he came with ten thousands
of holy ones.

From his right hand a fiery law
went out for them.

³ Yes, he loved the people.
All his saints *are* in your hand,
and they sit at your feet,

and receive of your words.

⁴ Moses commanded us a law,
the inheritance of the congregation
of Jacob.

⁵ And *the LORD* was king in Jeshurun,
when the heads of the people
and the tribes of Israel
were gathered together.

⁶ He said, Let Reuben live,
and not die, nor his men be few.

⁷ And this *is* what he said of Judah,
Hear, LORD, the voice of Judah,
and bring him to his people.
Let his hands be sufficient for him,
and be a help *to him*
from his enemies.

⁸ And of Levi he said,
Let your Thummim
and your Urim be
with your holy one,
whom you proved at Massah,
and with whom you contended
at the waters of Meribah.

⁹ He said of his father
and of his mother,
“I did not consider them”,
and he did not acknowledge
his brothers or regard
his own children;
for they have observed
your word,
and kept your covenant.

¹⁰ They will teach Jacob your
judgments,
and Israel your law.
They will put incense before you,
and whole burnt sacrifices
on your altar.

¹¹ Bless, LORD, his abilities,
and accept the work of his hands.
Strike through the loins of those
who rise up against him,
and of those who hate him,

32:46 4:9; Eph 6:4.

32:47 8:3; 30:20; Matt 4:4; John 6:63,68.

32:48-52 Num 20:8-12.

33:1 Josh 14:6; Ps 90 (title). See also 1 Kings 12:22; 2 Kings 4:9; 1 Tim 6:11; 2 Tim 3:17. Moses now gives prophetic blessings for the people as Isaac did for his sons and Jacob did for the twelve tribes (Gen 27:27-29,39-40; 49:1-28).

33:2 Ex 19:18,20; Ps 68:8,17; Jud 5:4; Num 10:12; Hab 3:3; Dan 7:10; Acts 7:53; Gal 3:19; Heb 2:2.

33:3 “Loved”– 4:37; 7:7-8; Mal 1:2; John 3:16; 1 John 4:8.

“Your hand”– John 10:28-29; Rev 1:16,20.

33:4 This verse may indicate that someone else, possibly Joshua, wrote down these words after Moses’ death.

33:5 Note on Jeshurun at 32:15.

33:6 Gen 49:3-4.

33:7 Gen 49:8-12.

33:8 Note at Ex 28:30.

“Meribah”– Ex 17:7; Num 20:13,24.

33:9 Ex 32:27-29; Matt 10:34-38; Luke 14:26. The Levites put God first in a very difficult and trying time.

33:10 Lev 10:11; 16:12-13; Deut 31:9-13; Lev 1:7-13.

so that they do not rise up again.
¹² And of Benjamin he said,
 The one the LORD loves will live
 in safety by him,
 and the LORD will shield him
 all day long; and he will live
 between his shoulders.
¹³ And of Joseph he said,
 May his land be blessed
 by the LORD with the precious
 things of heaven, with the dew,
 and with the deep that lies below,
¹⁴ And with the precious fruits
 brought forth by the sun,
 and with the choice produce
 of the months,
¹⁵ And with the best things
 of the ancient mountains,
 and with the precious things
 of the everlasting hills,
¹⁶ And with the precious things
 of the earth and its fulness,
 and with the good will
 of the One who dwelt in the bush.
 Let the blessing come
 on the head of Joseph,
 and on the crown of the head
 of the one who was separated
 from his brothers.
¹⁷ His glory is like the firstborn
 of his bull, and his horns are like
 the horns of the wild ox.
 With them he will push the people
 together to the ends of the earth.
 And they are the myriads
 of Ephraim, and they are
 the thousands of Manasseh.
¹⁸ And of Zebulun he said, Rejoice,
 Zebulun, in your going out;
 and, Issachar, in your tents.
¹⁹ They will summon peoples
 to the mountain.
 There they will offer sacrifices

of righteousness;
 for they will draw out the abundance
 of the seas, and treasures hid
 in the sand.
²⁰ And of Gad he said,
 Blessed is he who enlarges Gad.
 He lives like a lion,
 and tears the arm
 and the crown of the head.
²¹ And he provided the first part
 for himself, because there,
 in the governor's portion,
 he was seated.
 And he came with the leaders
 of the people;
 he executed the justice of the LORD,
 and his judgments with Israel.
²² And of Dan he said,
 Dan is a lion's cub;
 he will leap from Bashan.
²³ And of Naphtali he said,
 O Naphtali, satisfied with favour,
 and full of the blessing of the LORD,
 possess the sea and the south.
²⁴ And of Asher he said,
 Let Asher be blessed
 with children.
 Let him be acceptable to his brethren,
 and let him dip his foot in oil.
²⁵ Your bolts will be iron and brass,
 and your strength will be
 as your days.
²⁶ There is none like the God
 of Jeshurun,
 who rides in the heavens
 for your help, and in the sky
 in his majesty.
²⁷ The eternal God is your refuge,
 and underneath are
 the everlasting arms;
 and he will drive out the enemy
 from before you, and will say,
 "Destroy them!"

33:12 Ex 28:12; Luke 15:5.

33:13 Gen 49:22-26. Ephraim and Manasseh settled in some of the most fruitful areas of Israel.

33:16 "Bush"— Ex 3:2,4.

33:18 Gen 49:13-15.

33:19 Ps 4:5; 51:19.

33:20 Gen 49:19.

33:21 Num 32:1-5. They came across the Jordan River to help the other tribes conquer Canaan (Josh 22:1-4).

33:22 Gen 49:6.

33:23 Gen 49:21. This tribes land was to be south and west of the Sea of Galilee.

33:24-25 Gen 49:20.

33:26 From this verse onwards not Asher only but all the tribes of Israel are meant. Compare 10:14; Ps 68:33-34; 104:3; Hab 3:8.

33:27 "Refuge"— v 12; Ps 90:1-2; 91:1. God is above (v 26) and around all men (Acts 17:28; Job 12:10; Dan 5:23). But this is true of God's people in a special sense (John 14:23; 17:21).

"Before you"— Ex 34:11; Josh 24:18; Eph 6:10-17; 2 Thess 1:6-8; Rev 6:9-11; 19:11-15. Believers now fight spiritual enemies. God Himself will deal both with them, and with all flesh and blood enemies as well at the proper time.

²⁸ So Israel will live in safety alone.
 The spring of Jacob *will be*
 in a land of corn and wine,
 and his heavens will drop down dew.
²⁹ Happy are you, O Israel!
 Who *is* like you,
 O people saved by the LORD,
 who *is* the shield
 of your help
 and the sword of your majesty!
 And your enemies will be found
 liars to you,
 and you will trample
 on their high places.

34 And Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is opposite Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land of Gilead, to Dan, ²and all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh and all the land of Judah, as far as the western sea, ³and the south and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.

⁴And the LORD said to him, “This *is* the land which I promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, I will give it to your offspring. I have enabled you to

see *it* with your eyes, but you will not go over there”.

⁵So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, in accordance with the word of the LORD. ⁶And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but to this day no man knows *the place* of his tomb. ⁷And Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eye was not dim, and his natural vigour had not abated. ⁸And the children of Israel grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab for thirty days; then the days of grieving *and* mourning for Moses were over.

⁹And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. And the children of Israel listened to him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses.

¹⁰And since then no prophet has arisen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, ¹¹in regard to all the signs and the wonders which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, ¹²and in regard to all that mighty power and all the great awe-inspiring *deeds* which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

33:28 Jer 23:6; John 10:28-29; 2 Tim 1:12; 1 Pet 1:5; Jude 1.

33:29 Israel had the greatest privileges of any people in the world. See Rom 9:3-5.

34:1 We don't know who wrote this final chapter. Possibly it was Joshua. Moses himself wrote all the rest – 31:9.

34:2 “*Western*” – here means the Mediterranean Sea.

34:4 Gen 12:7; 26:3; 28:13.

34:6 God buried Him, possibly through the archangel Michael (see Jude 9). The tendency of fallen humanity is to glorify and deify their great leaders and ancestors, and make their burial places into shrines. This may be the reason that God did not reveal Moses's burial place.

34:9 Num 27:18,23; Isa 11:2.

“*Spirit*” – perhaps this refers to God's Spirit.

34:10-12 Ex 33:11; Num 12:8; Deut 18:15.

