

God's Covenant People
Deut 6:4-9 NIV and Selected Verses
Sept 20, 2015

"4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." Deut 6:4-9 NIV

I. Introduction

Deuteronomy means "repetition of the law" or "second law" - Deut 17:18

"3 In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses proclaimed to the Israelites all that the LORD had commanded him concerning them...5 East of the Jordan in the territory of Moab, Moses began to expound this law, saying:" Deut 1:3, 5 NIV

4 Major Parts:

- a) Historical prologue (1-4)
- b) Exhortation of the law (5-26)
- c) Blessings and Curses (27-30)
- d) Leadership succession (31- 33)

"5 Moses summoned all Israel and said: Hear, Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them. 2 The LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. 3 It was not with our ancestors that the LORD made this covenant, but with us, with all of us who are alive here today. 4 The LORD spoke to you face to face out of the fire on the mountain." Deut 5:1-4 NIV

"28 So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments." Ex 34:28 NKJV

Covenant is a way in which the Bible describes and defines relationship.

"When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. 2 Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." Gen 17:1-2 NIV

Covenant was also understood as a "suzerain-vassal relationship" common in their culture.

6 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery." Deut 5:6 NIV

"32 So be careful to do what the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. 33 Walk in obedience to all that the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess." Deut 5:32-33 NIV

Deut 6: 2, 3, 18 and 24

"4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one." Deut 6:4 NIV

"13 Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name.

14 Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; 15 for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God... " Deut 6:13-15a NIV

The covenant relationship between Yahweh and Israel is exclusive.

II. God's expectation of His covenant people

1. Our love and loyalty to Him must be undivided.

"5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Deut 6:5 NIV

"5 Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you." Deut 8:5 NIV

"25 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God here in the land." Ex 8:25 NIV

a) "Go but stay in the land."

"24 Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and said, "Go, worship the LORD. Even your women and children may go with you; only leave your flocks and herds behind." Ex 10:24 NIV

b) "Go but leave your possessions in the world."

2. Take diligent effort to internalize the teachings.

"6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts." Deut 6:6 NIV

"Moses summoned all Israel and said: Hear, Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them." Deut 5:1 NIV

"8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." Joshua 1:8 NIV

3. We are to influence others.

"7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." Deut 6:7-9 NIV