

# Adult Bible Class

## The Book of Deuteronomy - Chapters 4-6

### Deuteronomy Chapter 4

#### Moses Urges Israel to Obey

**Deuteronomy 4:1 (NLT)** "And now, Israel, listen carefully to these decrees and regulations that I am about to teach you. Obey them so that you may live, so you may enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. 2 Do not add to or subtract from these commands I am giving you. Just obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you.

God desires obedience. Israel's right to live in the land was connected to her ability to obey God's law.

**3** "You saw for yourself what the Lord did to you at Baal-peor. There the Lord your God destroyed everyone who had worshiped Baal, the god of Peor. **4** But all of you who were faithful to the Lord your God are still alive today—every one of you.

**5** "Look, I now teach you these decrees and regulations just as the Lord my God commanded me, so that you may obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy. **6** Obey them completely, and you will display your wisdom and intelligence among the surrounding nations. When they hear all these decrees, they will exclaim, 'How wise and prudent are the people of this great nation!' **7** For what great nation has a god as near to them as the Lord our God is near to us whenever we call on him? 8 And what great nation has decrees and regulations as righteous and fair as this body of instructions that I am giving you today?

Israel was a unique nation. They had a God who was *their* God, and God called Israel "mine." Israel was unique because the people themselves did not come up with these laws, but God handed them to Israel through a mediator - Moses.

**9** "But watch out! Be careful never to forget what you yourself have seen. Do not let these memories escape from your mind as long as you live! And be sure to pass them on to your children and grandchildren. **10** Never forget the day when you stood before the Lord your God at Mount Sinai, where he told me, 'Summon the people before me, and I will personally instruct them. Then they will learn to fear me as long as they live, and they will teach their children to fear me also.'

**11** "You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, while flames from the mountain shot into the sky. The mountain was shrouded in black clouds and deep darkness. **12** And the Lord spoke to you from the heart of the fire. You heard the sound of his words but didn't see his form; there was only a voice. **13** He proclaimed his covenant—the Ten Commandments—which he commanded you to keep, and which he wrote on two stone tablets. **14** It was at that time that the Lord commanded me to teach you his decrees and regulations so you would obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy.

God made a covenant with Israel that day. God's covenant, the Ten Commandments, was written on stone tablets - which speaks of its enduring strength.

## A Warning against Idolatry

**Deuteronomy 4:15** “But be very careful! You did not see the Lord’s form on the day he spoke to you from the heart of the fire at Mount Sinai. **16** So do not corrupt yourselves by making an idol in any form—whether of a man or a woman, **17** an animal on the ground, a bird in the sky, **18** a small animal that scurries along the ground, or a fish in the deepest sea. **19** And when you look up into the sky and see the sun, moon, and stars—all the forces of heaven—don’t be seduced into worshiping them. The Lord your God gave them to all the peoples of the earth. **20** Remember that the Lord rescued you from the iron-smelting furnace of Egypt in order to make you his very own people and his special possession, which is what you are today.

**21** “But the Lord was angry with me because of you. He vowed that I would not cross the Jordan River into the good land the Lord your God is giving you as your special possession. **22** You will cross the Jordan to occupy the land, but I will not. Instead, I will die here on the east side of the river. **23** So be careful not to break the covenant the Lord your God has made with you. Do not make idols of any shape or form, for the Lord your God has forbidden this. **24** The Lord your God is a devouring fire; he is a jealous God.

**25** “In the future, when you have children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time, do not corrupt yourselves by making idols of any kind. This is evil in the sight of the Lord your God and will arouse his anger.

**26** “Today I call on heaven and earth as witnesses against you. If you break my covenant, you will quickly disappear from the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy. You will live there only a short time; then you will be utterly destroyed. **27** For the Lord will scatter you among the nations, where only a few of you will survive. **28** There, in a foreign land, you will worship idols made from wood and stone—gods that neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. **29** But from there you will search again for the Lord your God. And if you search for him with all your heart and soul, you will find him.

**30** “In the distant future, when you are suffering all these things, you will finally return to the Lord your God and listen to what he tells you. **31** For the Lord your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon you or destroy you or forget the solemn covenant he made with your ancestors.

In the Book of Deuteronomy we read not only a warning of what could happen in the future, but a prophecy of what *will* happen. Israel will backslide (idolatry will be their great sin) and be driven from the land - and we know this happened. They will be scattered among the nations in every direction, yet they will be miraculously preserved. Today they have returned to their land - another great prophecy fulfilled. In the future the nation of Israel will repent - when Jesus returns to earth and they see their Messiah, the One “*whom they have pierced and mourn for him as for an only son*” (Zechariah 12:10).

## There Is Only One God

**32** “Now search all of history, from the time God created people on the earth until now, and search from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything as great as this ever been seen or heard before? **33** Has any nation ever heard the voice of God speaking from fire—as you did—and survived? **34** Has any other god dared to take a nation for himself out of another nation by means of trials, miraculous signs, wonders, war, a strong hand, a powerful arm, and terrifying acts? Yet that is what the Lord your God did for you in Egypt, right before your eyes.

**35** “He showed you these things so you would know that the Lord is God and there is no other. **36** He let you hear his voice from heaven so he could instruct you. He let you see his great fire here on earth so he could speak to you from it. **37** Because he loved your ancestors, he chose to bless their descendants, and he personally brought you out of Egypt with a great display of power. **38** He drove

out nations far greater than you, so he could bring you in and give you their land as your special possession, as it is today.

**39** "So remember this and keep it firmly in mind: The Lord is God both in heaven and on earth, and there is no other. **40** If you obey all the decrees and commands I am giving you today, all will be well with you and your children. I am giving you these instructions so you will enjoy a long life in the land the Lord your God is giving you for all time." . . .

**44** This is the body of instruction that Moses presented to the Israelites. **45** These are the laws, decrees, and regulations that Moses gave to the people of Israel when they left Egypt, **46** and as they camped in the valley near Beth-peor east of the Jordan River.

## Deuteronomy Chapter 5

### Ten Commandments for the Covenant Community

**Deuteronomy 5:1 (NLT)** Moses called all the people of Israel together and said, "Listen carefully, Israel. Hear the decrees and regulations I am giving you today, so you may learn them and obey them!

**2** "The Lord our God made a covenant with us at Mount Sinai. **3** The Lord did not make this covenant with our ancestors, but with all of us who are alive today. **4** At the mountain the Lord spoke to you face to face from the heart of the fire. **5** I stood as an intermediary between you and the Lord, for you were afraid of the fire and did not want to approach the mountain. He spoke to me, and I passed his words on to you.

We read in Exodus 20:18-21 that the people were afraid at Mount Sinai. Although God spoke directly to them, they asked Moses to be their mediator - that God would speak only to Moses - and then Moses would speak to them the words of God.

This is what he said:

**6** "I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.

**7** "You must not have any other god but me.

In Deuteronomy, Moses is telling the story of the nation of Israel since they left Egypt, and here he again lists the Ten Commandments (they were first listed in Exodus 20). In God's covenant with Israel, God says, "*I am the Lord your God.*" Since God was Israel's God, He had a right to impose His law on them. Rules are for order and well-being. God's laws are the greatest laws ever given because they are given by an all-knowing, all-wise, all-caring Creator and Redeemer.

God had every right to direct the lives of Israel since He rescued them from the misery of Egypt, gave them liberty, and founded their nation. God could expect their loyalty. Likewise, Jesus Christ is the one who has delivered us from sin and given us liberty. Through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, He writes the law of God on our hearts and expects us to follow Him.

**8** "You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind, or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. **9** You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. **10** But I lavish unending love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.

Throughout Scripture, idolatry is compared to adultery. Therefore, God describes Himself as a “jealous God” who will not tolerate Israel’s affection for any other.

Sin and rebellion has long-reaching effects. It can affect the next generation and the next. But greater still is the effect of good upon the next generation. Good goes on and on and on. For example, the Apostle Paul lived at the same time as the evil Emperor Nero. Yet to this day, Paul’s writings affect us for good. Nero was a wicked man, but his wickedness had its day.

**Deuteronomy 5:11** “You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.

**12** “Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you. 13 You have six days each week for your ordinary work, 14 but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your oxen and donkeys and other livestock, and any foreigners living among you. All your male and female servants must rest as you do. 15 Remember that you were once slaves in Egypt, but the Lord your God brought you out with his strong hand and powerful arm. That is why the Lord your God has commanded you to rest on the Sabbath day.

**16** “Honor your father and mother, as the Lord your God commanded you. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

**17** “You must not murder.

**18** “You must not commit adultery.

**19** “You must not steal.

**20** “You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.

**21** “You must not covet your neighbor’s wife. You must not covet your neighbor’s house or land, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor.

**22** “The Lord spoke these words to all of you assembled there at the foot of the mountain. He spoke with a loud voice from the heart of the fire, surrounded by clouds and deep darkness. This was all he said at that time, and he wrote his words on two stone tablets and gave them to me.

**23** “But when you heard the voice from the heart of the darkness, while the mountain was blazing with fire, all your tribal leaders and elders came to me. 24 They said, ‘Look, the Lord our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice from the heart of the fire. Today we have seen that God can speak to us humans, and yet we live! 25 But now, why should we risk death again? If the Lord our God speaks to us again, we will certainly die and be consumed by this awesome fire. 26 Can any living thing hear the voice of the living God from the heart of the fire as we did and yet survive? 27 Go yourself and listen to what the Lord our God says. Then come and tell us everything he tells you, and we will listen and obey.’

**28** “The Lord heard the request you made to me. And he said, ‘I have heard what the people said to you, and they are right. 29 Oh, that they would always have hearts like this, that they might fear me and obey all my commands! If they did, they and their descendants would prosper forever. 30 Go and tell them, “Return to your tents.” 31 But you stand here with me so I can give you all my commands, decrees, and regulations. You must teach them to the people so they can obey them in the land I am giving them as their possession.’”

**Deuteronomy 5:32** So Moses told the people, "You must be careful to obey all the commands of the Lord your God, following his instructions in every detail. **33** Stay on the path that the Lord your God has commanded you to follow. Then you will live long and prosperous lives in the land you are about to enter and occupy.

A godly fear is a good thing. The people feared the fire on the mountain - and the voice of God from the fire. They asked for a mediator. A mediator is one that is a go-between between two parties. God, who was holy, could not approach a sinful people. The people, who were sinful, could not approach a holy God. Moses was willing to be the mediator between God and Israel. He is a type of the man, Jesus Christ, who is our mediator.

## Deuteronomy Chapter 6

### The Greatest Commandment

**Deuteronomy 6:1 (NLT)** "These are the commands, decrees, and regulations that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you. You must obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy, **2** and you and your children and grandchildren must fear the Lord your God as long as you live. If you obey all his decrees and commands, you will enjoy a long life. **3** Listen closely, Israel, and be careful to obey. Then all will go well with you, and you will have many children in the land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

A nation consists of people, laws, and land. The descendants of Israel multiplied greatly in Egypt and became a great people. Then God took His people out of Egypt and brought them to Mount Sinai where He gave them His laws. Soon His people will cross over Jordan River to possess the land that God is giving them. Before they receive the land, God lets them know that they must obey His laws in the land He is giving them. They are supposed to fear God (have great respect for Him) so that they *will* keep His commandments.

**4 (NKJV)** "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

The greatest teaching in the Bible is that there is one God. Verse 4 above is called the *Shema* in Hebrew and is a central teaching of Judaism. In Hebrew it is spoken, *Shema Yisrael Adonai eloheinu echad*. The teaching of one God (God alone) was in stark contrast to the religions of the cultures that surrounded this new nation of Israel. Egypt had many gods, and the other cultures of the area worshiped multiple gods. The worship of only one God made the religion of the nation of Israel totally unique.

We see this concept of one God right from the beginning of the Bible:

**Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

When God gave the Ten Commandments to His people on Mt. Sinai, the first of all the commandments was this:

**Exodus 20:1** And God spoke all these words, saying:

**2** "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

**3** "You shall have no other gods before Me.

The teaching of one God dominated Hebrew thought and teaching. The teaching of one God continues into the New Testament. Not only were the twelve disciples all Jewish men, but the first converts to Christianity on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) were all Jews from around the Mediterranean world.

There is only one God, and this teaching is the foundation for all other teachings of the Bible. The nature of God is that He is a Spirit. Jesus Christ was God “in the flesh.” The reason that God took on human flesh is so that He could become our sacrifice for sin. Jesus is everything! He is the sacrifice for sin, He is the High Priest who offers up the sacrifice, and He is the God to whom the sacrifice is given. Jesus is everything. Scripture says:

**Colossians 2:8** Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. **9** For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; **10** and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

**Colossians 1:19** For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, **20** and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

**2 Corinthians 2:18-19** Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, **19** that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. . .

**Hebrews 1:1** God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, **2** has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; **3** who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high . . .

The tract, *Wheel of Prophecy, Who Is God?*, gives us a comparison of Scriptures that describe attributes of God that were also given to Jesus Christ. The tract attests that Jesus is fully God. Following is a comparison list of Scriptures:

### God the I AM

**Exodus 13 (NKJV)** Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?”

**14** And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

### God First and Last

**Isaiah 44:6 (NIV)** “This is what the Lord says— Israel’s King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.

### Jesus the I AM

**John 8:23 (NKJV)** And He said to them, “You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. **24** Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

### Jesus First and Last

**Revelation 1:17 (NIV)** When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.”

**Revelation 22:13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

## God the King

### Jeremiah 10:10 (NIV)

But the Lord is the true God;  
he is the living God, the eternal King.

**Zechariah 14:9** The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and his name the only name.

## God the Redeemer and Savior

**Isaiah 47:4 (NKJV)** As for our Redeemer, the Lord of hosts is His name, The Holy One of Israel.

**Isaiah 43:11** I, even I, am the Lord,  
And besides Me there is no savior.

**1 Timothy 4:10** For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

**Jude 25** To God our Savior,  
Who alone is wise,  
Be glory and majesty,  
Dominion and power,  
Both now and forever. Amen.

## God the Creator

**Genesis 1:1 (NKJV)** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**Job 33:4** The Spirit of God has made me,  
And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

## God Is Coming

**Zechariah 14:3 (NKJV)** Then the Lord will go forth  
And fight against those nations,  
As He fights in the day of battle.  
4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,  
Which faces Jerusalem on the east.  
And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two . . .  
Thus the Lord my God will come,  
And all the saints with You.

**Psalms 50:1** The Mighty One, God the Lord,  
Has spoken . . . **3** Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent; A fire shall devour before Him,  
And it shall be very tempestuous all around Him.

4 He shall call to the heavens from above,  
And to the earth, that He may judge His people:  
**5** "Gather My saints together to Me,  
Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice." **6** Let the heavens declare His righteousness, For God Himself is Judge. *Selah*

## Jesus the King

**1 Timothy 6:14 (NKJV)** that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, **15** which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords

**Revelation 19:11** Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war . . . **16** And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

## Jesus the Redeemer and Savior

**John 4:42** Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

**Titus 2:13** looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, **14** who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

**Philippians 3:20** For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

## Jesus the Creator

**Colossians 1:15 (NKJV)** He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

**Revelation 4:10** the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

**11** "You are worthy, O Lord,  
To receive glory and honor and power;  
For You created all things,  
And by Your will they exist and were created."

## Jesus Is Coming

**1 Thessalonians 3:13 (NKJV)** so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

**1 Thessalonians 4:14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

**15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.