

4/30/95

Deuteronomy 12-13

The second discourse of Moses deals with the laws by which Israel was to obey. 4:44-26:19

We have looked at some basic commandments. 4:44-11:32

1. The Decalogue and the love of God to be taught to posterity. 5:1-6:25
2. The steadfast obedience and constant grateful remembrance of God's dealings. 7:1-11:32

Now we want to look at the statutes of genuine worship and needful safeguards against idolatry in chapters twelve and thirteen.

Then in our next study we will look at the rules about food, the Sabbaths, and the feast days. 14:1-16:22

12:1-3 The command to destroy all idolatrous worship.

12:1 The general proclamation.

- 1) These were detail and specific judgments and statutes regarding worship and holy living that God had revealed.
- 2) The response was to be in careful observation not a casual one of indifference.

3) The land they were about to possess was the time and place of the requirement.

12:2-3 The specific proclamations.

1) They were to destroy all the geographical locations where the nations had served their gods. vs. 2

- a) The high mountains where the temples were built to be closer to heaven as the Acropolis.
 - b) The hills as local gods.
 - c) Under every green tree where they worshipped their gods of fertility.
- 2) They were to destroy all the artifacts of their worship. vs. 3
- a) Their alters where they worship and offer sacrifices to their gods.
 - b) Their sacred pillars were the places where images were set.
 - c) Their wooden images and gods were to be burned that were in the groves.
 - d) They were to destroy the names of these gods from those places meaning their memorials.

* Ezk. 6:13, 18:6, 20:28, Hos. 4:13

12:4-14 The command to worship Jehovah.

12:4 They were not to syncretize the worship of Jehovah with those of the land. Jn. 4:24

12:5 They were to worship in the place that God would designate out of their tribes.
 * Shiloh and later Jerusalem. Josh. 18:1, 31, 1Sam. 2:29
 * God would put His name there for His habitation, Jerusalem is called the city of David. Ps. 48

12:6 The various offerings were to be taken to the chosen place.
 1) Offerings.
 2) Tithes.
 3) Vows and freewill offerings.

12:7 The designated place would be the place of sacred communion.
 1) They would eat a portion of the sacrifice becoming one in fellowship with God.
 2) They and their household would rejoice in all that the Lord had blessed them in, acknowledging His goodness.

12:8-9 There would come a change in their practices.
 1) They were not to continue doing what was right in their own eyes which would become the theme of the book of judges.
 2) They would come into the land as their inheritance.

12:10 The crossing of the Jordan would mark the end of the wilderness journey.
 1) Their inheritance.
 2) their rest.
 3) Their dwelling in safety.

12:11 That would be the time of the command.
 * The Levite had no inheritance in the land!
12:13 The warning to offer sacrifices in the high places as the heathen became a practice in the days of Solomon and other kings.

12:14 Notice the repetition on the same matter, giving it a place of importance.
 * As parents we do the same thing when we want to communicate to our children the importance of the information.

12:15-19 **The command regarding the slaughter of animals for food.**

12:15 The particulars.
 1) The practice was for food.
 2) The practice was to be within their gates so as not to be mistaken for a pagan practice.
 3) The practice was according to the list in Leviticus.

12:16 The only prohibition was the blood.
 1) They could not eat it.

2) They were to pour it out on the ground.
Lev. 17:10-12

12:17-18 The regular offering had to be offered at the place God designated.
* Three times a year every male over the age of 20 had to go to Jerusalem, at Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles.

12:19 The stern warning of forsaking the Levite who was to care for the things of the worship service This took place after the dividing of the nation and they made priest of the common people.

12:20-28 **The command once the boundaries are expanded.**

12:20-22 The regulations for slaughtering for eating was the same as before.

12:23-24 The restriction regarding blood was the same.
* The life of the flesh was in the blood!

12:25 The promised blessing was that it would go well with them and their children, due to doing what was right before the Lord.

12:26-27 The other offering had to be taken to the place of God's choosing.

12:28 The repeated blessing.

12:29-32 **The warning about spiritual deception.**

12:29 The absolute assurance of their possessing the land by the word "when".

12:30-31 The warning.

- 1) To not be ensnared by following them.
- 2) To not be curious as to their practices of worship. Jer. 2:9-13
- 3) To not worship Jehovah in their manners of worship such as sacrificing their children to Molek. Lev. 18:9-14, 20:2-5

12:32 Their responsibility.

- 1) To be careful to observe the revelation.
- 2) To not add nor take away from it. 4:2, Prov. 30:6, Rev. 22:18-19

13:1-18 **Three sample cases.**

13:1-5 **Deception by one who declares himself to be of God.**

13:1-2 His credentials.

- 1) One who declares to be a prophet or a dreamer of dreams.
- 2) One who gives a sign or a wonder.
- 3) One who is able to bring to pass what he has declared.

4) One who solicits you to go and worship other gods.

13:3 The response of the one approached was to not listen for it was a test of their love for God, for them to know not God. 8:2

* One day God sent out a prophet to pronounce a curse on Jereboam and he refused to eat or return the same way as God had told him yet when another prophet of Bethel told him that an angel of God had appeared to him and told him that he was to return with him. The outcome was that God allowed a lion to kill the prophet for disobeying God by not examining it to the word. 1Kings 13

13:4 The responsibility of the Jew.

- 1) Walk with God.
- 2) Fear God.
- 3) Keep His commandments.
- 4) Obey His voice.
- 5) Serve Him.
- 6) Hold fast to Him.

13:5 The punishment of the false prophet or dreamer.

- 1) Due to attempting to turning them away from God.
- 2) Due to enticing them.

13:6-11 Deception by one who is of close relations.

13:6-7 The individuals vary.

- 1) If family relatives attempt to draw you away from God. Lk. 14:26
- 2) If good friends attempt to also.
- 3) the manner is secretly, so as not to be able to be warned or checked by others.
- 4) The solicitation is to local deities, geographical deities near and far.

13:8-9 The response of the person solicited.

- 1) Not consent.
- 2) Not listen.
- 3) Not pity regarding the punishment.
- 4) Not spare him.
- 5) Not conceal him.
- 6) They were to kill them.
 - a) He first.
 - b) The others after.

13:10 Stoning was to be the manner of execution.

13:11 The result is two-fold.

- 1) All Israel will hear and fear.
 - 2) All will be deterred from doing such thing again.
- Gen. 9:6, Num. 35:31-33, Rom. 13:4

13:12-18 Deception by a group.

13:12-13 Personal responsibility.

- 1) The one approached has the responsibility to act.
- 2) The city is at stake for destruction.
- 3) The men are said to be men of belial, worthless and base men from among the Israelites.

13:14-15 The inquiry is two-fold.

- 1) Of witnesses.
- 2) Of evidence as they search out.
- 3) The manner is with diligence due to the capital nature of the accusations.
- 4) If the fact is so regarding the abomination, that which is disgusting and detestable to God then the city was to be utterly destroyed.

13:16 The entire city was to be a offering devoted to God for destruction, never to be built again.

13:17 The consequences for good by the obedience.

13:18 The reason for the blessings is obedience.