

I AM THE LORD THY GOD >>>

DEUTERONOMY CHAPTER FIVE

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

~ The first four chapters of Deuteronomy likely all took place in one sitting of the elders of the second generation of the children of Israel around the campfire being instructed by Moses; and I think it was a preliminary meeting with select elders concerning the content of the main meeting with a broader audience from the tribes that was scheduled to begin on this night at the time in which we are studying in chapter five. Everyone is invited along on our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God in this report – certainly ALL Israel is invited. And if you haven't read all three previous safari reports thus far in this book of the Bible, then I highly suggest you go back and do so now.

This is almost a carbon copy of what we had in the twentieth chapter of Exodus. These laws are reiterated because they are basic and fundamental human laws. God wants you to learn them; because most of you already think you know everything. God urges you to reflect by examining yourself and asking, "... how am I doing with keeping God's precepts and laws and – doing them?" Are you giving every thought and deed to the Lord Jesus Christ in submission for correction and reproof? Have you told Jesus in prayer that you love Him today? Did you pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment before beginning this study?

Those are fundamental prerequisites to hearing the Word of God properly, correctly and completely, my friends. Hear, learn, keep and do. Until you get this down in your heart - with love - and learn how to just give it all away, it will continue to mean nothing to you. Pouring out your life like a drink offering to teach other people the love of God through obedience is the command we have been given to fulfill the joy of our existence. How's

that working out for you, my beloved? The paradox King David reveals is in his statement, "... Thy Word have I hidden in my heart that I might not sin against Thee" - well, that's called keeping the Word.

The problem in the Christian life in this hour is: doing. Your hands will have to move to do something for God. It's fundamental - and scientific. What are you doing for the Lord, friends? Is it that which He has called you to do by revealing His plan and purpose for your life in His Word, or are you doing what you want to do the way you want to do it, and labeling it His will while expecting Him to clean up your messes? We don't vote for the Ten Commandments – we are to do them. Most of you have heard them and you think they're good, but you never think twice about breaking them. Most people don't keep them, and they certainly are not doing them. Paul said covetousness is idolatry. That alone convicts every reader of Scripture.

The law of God is a plum line struck against a very crooked wall. That's how Nehemiah and Ezra describe it. The law is a mirror held up to the human heart and a headlight blaring into pitch darkness. It reveals the curves in life and tells us when to turn the wheels. God has made it more than abundantly clear that He isn't saving people to keep some kind of a moral code on earth. There is nothing wrong with our moral code – nothing is wrong with the law – the problem is in your heart – and my heart, friends; and human nature never changes.

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified ~

Mankind is completely incapable of doing the works of the law. We have had God drive that point home so many times and ways in this safari that if we still miss it we simply refuse to see it. Anyone with any semblance of a brain wave should be able to comprehend this basic understanding of the Bible. To say that no one is justified by the law takes it down as low as it can possibly go. Furthermore, the law reveals that man is a sinner before God.

Galatians 3:19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions ~

The Mosaic Law is the schoolmaster that was added 'till the 'time' – or seed – had come.' The law takes us by the hand like a child going to school and leads us to the cross of Christ. "You're a sinner and you need a Savior," is the message of the law to you. There's no question that the law, in spite of all of that, is still good, though. The Ten Commandments reveal the mind of God, and our safari has no intention of discounting the Levitical Law in any way, shape or form. The problem we all have is that it shows us how woefully short of the glory of God we really fall. "... ALL have sinned and ALL come short of the glory of God," is what Paul said. Let's put these precepts down on our life and see how much they really hurt....

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

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

~ The covenant wasn't made with the Egyptians – or anyone else. No one except Israel was given the Mosaic Law. Israel didn't even have the law until after they were well-established in the wilderness after crying out to God; and God was ready to bring them into the land. The law was given exclusively to the nation Israel at a certain time; and when that time came, God spoke Face to face with Moses in the fiery bush on the mountain....

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

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

6 I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

7 Thou shalt have none other gods before me.

~ The law was given in a land consumed with abject idolatry, and in an age plagued by open sin. One of the earliest sins of man was not atheism; it was polytheism. Making a god of everything that moved was the sin de jour in the day we are studying. Man built that great ziggurat and called it the Tower of Babel; at the top they offered sacrifices – apparently to the sun. Of course, we began as a people worshipping the sun and the planets. These people loved the sun because the sun didn't bring the flood. At this time in history, they weren't about to worship thunder and lightning. So, man begins his de-evolution when he begins to worship the creature as opposed to the Creator. The people we are studying were way too close to the mooring mass of revelation to deny God – there was just no way to deny the existence of deity. In King David's day, it became the fool who said in his heart there was no God. The defining word used for fool means "insane." Any man that says there is no God is either insincere or he is insane; all I need to know is which. Make a note: there's not one single command against atheism – but the law against worshipping many Gods just happens to be at the top of the list....

8 Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth:

9 Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me,

10 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

~ There are only two kinds of people in the world – period – according to the Word of God: those who hate God and those who love God. If you categorize yourself as an atheist, you fall into the hate God crowd by de facto. Saying it isn't so doesn't make it not so, my friends – it makes the atheist a laughable and pitiful fool. Later, this turns into loving thy God with

all thy heart and all thy might. Jesus said THAT was the greatest commandment for us as believers. Standing over and against these believing people are those who hate God and who hate all of the things connected with truth and wisdom.

I know the lost man denies wholeheartedly that he worships idols; the problem is: that man is utterly ignorant. Anything you give yourself to is your idol – and you have one – or more, my friend. We're talking about anything from the bank book to the golf clubs to a chocolate chip cookie. Maybe your idols are your children or grandchildren. It could be as mundane as the television screen. Whatever you put between you and God is your idol. Some say they worship God while golfing or watching TV – I have news for you – God is not with you. You can claim Him all you want to; you're only kidding yourself. I know this is just not popular, believe me....

11 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

~ Paul said, in the third chapter of Roman, "... their mouths are full of cursing." Take a scroll through social media or stroll into any bar or restaurant – or just walk down the street – and you'll hear the foulest, most perverted and most degenerate things being said that can be said. There's always some new level of perversion being reached, it seems.

Contemporary communication in world society, honestly, friends - is a literal sewer-hole of degenerative scum. God hates it. He says He hates it; and if you do those things, He commands you not to – then guess what? God says He hates all workers of iniquity. Say, that fire is getting hot, is it not? So much negativity with God, it seems. Well, thank Him we now come to something positive....

12 Keep the Sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee.

~ There is no end to a nauseating debate about keeping a Saturday Sabbath. Interestingly, every single commandment is repeated in the New Testament EXCEPT for the fourth commandment regarding observing the

Sabbath Day. The Sabbath was never given to the church, and the early church met on the first day of the week to worship Christ. I know most people do not have the attention span to read this far in such a long, boring report, but the Sabbath Day had a peculiar relationship to the nation Israel. Remember, back in Exodus chapter thirty-one verse thirteen through sixteen, God spoke to the nation Israel and, my friends, He was not talking to you. If you want to get back under the Sabbath, then you are a second-hand Jew, my beloved; and I say that as nicely as I possibly can. Trust me, though, that's exactly what you are....

13 Six days thou shalt labour, and do all thy work:

14 But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou.

15 And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the Sabbath day.

~ Now, if you can trace your ancestry back to being slaves in the land of Egypt, then this command may be for you. Unless you're a Hebrew – and even if you are – I doubt you can climb that family tree. These people just happen to be Hebrews to whom God is speaking. If you REALLY want to keep the Saturday Sabbath, then you'll necessarily need to buy a house in Israel before you begin any observances; because there is a Sabbath for the land and a Sabbatic year you are going to have to account for – not to mention the year of Jubilee; and you'll have to be in that land to do those things....

16 Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

~ Commandment number five is, in my estimation, related to God. The parent stands in the place of God, as far as the child in the home is concerned. The child is utterly dependent. If you are honoring God your Father then, trust me, you're honoring your mother down here, too. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; and God says to hear the instruction of thy Father and forsake not the wisdom of thy mother. Parents assume the role of God to their children until the child reaches the age of accountability. This is a command to a people who were preparing to enter the Promised Land. I don't want to reiterate the problems we have here in the United States of America – but education is the particular bifurcation that absolutely constitutes the number one area we have failed completely. I recognize the American father and mother are not worthy of honor in ninety-nine point six – six - six percent of our homes; but remember, Paul says a whole lot about fathers and mothers not provoking their children to anger. No friends, if you honor your Father God, you will keep this commandment all the way around....

17 Thou shalt not kill.

~ The word for "kill" is a very technical Greek word, "rhetsash" - meaning, "thou shalt not murder." It is a very personal form of the phrase "to kill." And the Lord Jesus Christ saith, "if you are angry at your brother without a cause you are guilty of murder." How many people did you kill this week, my little serial killer friends? You see, taking the Bible out of context seems to be normal operating procedure for most self-professing believers. Just a few more chapters and God will tell Israel to destroy their enemy in the land; so, reconciling these two points is pretty important. Pre-meditated murder is what God is talking about, my beloved. This includes anger as a motive to resolve a personal grievance. Our nation promotes the propaganda that we are protectors of the world; but we're nothing but a bunch of blood-thirsty killers. The condition our country is in today leaves us in NO position to police the atrocities of other nations. I would love to write an entire report on this matter alone - because there is a paradox within - but we must move along in our safari....

18 Neither shalt thou commit adultery.

~ Of course, sex is the only effective marketing tool employed by big business. They target the very young and the very old - and everyone in between. We live in a sex-mad society. And the Lord Jesus saith, "if you so much as look upon a woman to lust after her you have committed adultery with her already." Ok, how many affairs have you had this week, my perverted little Jesus freak friends? It's that serious. This is one of the prevalent sins that destroyed a sick-o nation called the United States of America. As in – past tense. Say, this isn't very nice – is it....

19 Neither shalt thou steal.

20 Neither shalt thou bear false witness against thy neighbour.

21 Neither shalt thou desire thy neighbour's wife; neither shalt thou covet thy neighbour's house, his field, or his manservant, or his maidservant, his ox, or his ass, or any thing that is thy neighbour's.

~ Maybe you never robbed a supermarket or a bank; or have you? Maybe you never slept with your neighbor's wife? All of these commandments are things we hold in our hearts, friends. Every single one of the Ten Commandments could be made a spiritual exercise, to be sure. Covetousness, in my estimation, is the easiest commandment to break – all you have to do is want something that's not yours. It's easy to want someone else's hamburger when you are starving; maybe you know nothing about that? – Well, I do. I suggest you remember all of God's words here, my well-meaning friends. Israel was scattered because they refused to keep these commandments properly, correctly and completely. If you had asked them, they would have told you they were keeping them. The problem was: they were perverting them....

22 These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me.

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

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

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

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

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

~ The promises made by the children of Israel are warm and fuzzy – and the other problem was: one has to actually DO the “doing” part – but they never did. The failure was in the keeping of the law. These were people under perfectly favorable conditions and circumstances to keep the law - but they just couldn't. The law was engineered for their land and their lives; and they were simply unable to obey Him. I have a notion that if Israel could not keep the law then YOU are unable to keep the law. The law is a mirror that only shows us failure. It cannot save because all it has are penalties. The fountain with the blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins is the only place your sins will ever be washed away, my friends.

The mirror in your bathroom shows you that you have a spot on your face and the sink underneath is where you get water and wash the dirt away. The law is the mirror, and the basin is the Word of God. You can stare into the mirror all day long, but if you try to wash with a mirror, then you are just plain crazy. If you don't run some water, you'll never get cleaned up. Why don't you actually come to Christ today and have Him wash you in His

Word? We are promised that the blood of Christ will continually cleanse us from all of our sins. I'm not interested in what others have to say about the Ten Commandments, quite frankly; the important thing is: have you kept them? If you are an honest person, you know you haven't measured up to God. If you say you keep them, then you have bared false witness. My advice to those little law keeping Jesus people is: get your minds together, man. Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord, though your sins be as scarlet – I will wash them white as snow. Your sins that are red like crimson can be made as white as wool - but not by the law. Only turning to Christ can ever forgive us or take away sins and unrighteousness. Oh, that we might appear before God spotless and without blemish; that's my prayer for you, my beloved safari readers....

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

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

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

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

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

33 Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess ~

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