

Deuteronomy Chapter 10 Commentary

1 At that time the LORD said unto me, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first, and come up unto me into the mount, and make thee an ark of wood. 2 And I will write on the tables the words that were in the first tables which thou brakest, and thou shalt put them in the ark. 3 And I made an ark of shittim wood, and hewed two tables of stone like unto the first, and went up into the mount, having the two tables in mine hand. 4 And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten commandments, which the LORD spake unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly: and the LORD gave them unto me. 5 And I turned myself and came down from the mount, and put the tables in the ark which I had made; and there they be, as the LORD commanded me.

This chapter is continuing the relation started in the previous chapter. Moses iterates to Israel; God made me make two stones, to replace the ones I broke in my anger at your idolatry. Moses breaking the first stones is emblematic, that in our fleshly hearts of stone, we have that inherit knowledge of good and evil. Adam ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and passed this inherit knowledge down to us, therefore by the inheritance of Adam's fallen nature, we know what is good and what is evil. Some will say; if a person has never heard the word of truth, they can't know what is good or evil. I ask you this question; did anyone tell Adam and Eve they were naked? The answer is no. They knew, because in them now was that nature to know good and evil, and we are no different.

We notice; God wrote the commandments, not Moses. We know, we can read and study God's revelation of Christ today, because God's word of truth is written down for us. God's word of truth has been preserved through the ages and is found, as best as men can discern, in the King James Bible. We know that the bible is the word of God because God tells us this in: ***2Pe 1:16-21; 16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.***

We notice; the commandments were placed into the ark. There, they are covered by the mercy seat. Praise the Lord! For our mercy seat, Jesus Christ, whose blood covers our sins, and hides them from God in the eternal purpose of salvation for God's people.

These commandments were placed in the ark, which was the central piece of furniture upon which all the ceremonial law was centered. This can be likened; to reading and studying the word of God and storing it up in our hearts and minds. Consider: ***Mr 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.*** God has given us the written word; that we might through it gain knowledge of God, and of our salvation by grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. We should love the written word, the bible, with all our being.

6 And the children of Israel took their journey from Beeroth of the children of Jaakan to Mosera: there Aaron died, and there he was buried; and Eleazar his son ministered in the priest's office in his stead. 7 From thence they journeyed unto Gudgodah; and from Gudgodah to Jotbath, a land of rivers of waters. 8 At 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 minister unto him, and to bless in his name, unto this day. 9 Wherefore Levi hath no part nor inheritance with his brethren; the LORD is his inheritance, according as the LORD thy God promised him.

Jotbath means: a pleasant place, to be (causative) make well, literally (sound, beautiful) or figuratively (happy, successful, right):--be accepted. God tells us that this place was a land of rivers. This makes me think of the age of salvation by grace, and how God has sent the ministers of the gospel forth to preach. As God gave the ministry to the tribe of Levi, so he has given his ministers today to preached from the fountain of the waters of the river of life, Jesus Christ.

Moses reminds Israel; God chose Eleazar to take the place of Aaron, in the office of High Priest. Moses reminds Israel; God chose the tribe of Levi to ministry, and they will not have an earthly inheritance in the land of promise. What a great emblem for us today. Our inheritance is not earthly but in the heavens. Our inheritance is God.

We also have the great privilege of being, as the tribe of Levi, the chosen people to minister to God on earth today as seen in: **1Pe 2:9-10; 9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.**

10 And I stayed in the mount, according to the first time, forty days and forty nights; and the LORD hearkened unto me at that time also, and the LORD would not destroy thee.

Moses reminds them; he acted in the office of intercessor, on behalf of Israel, and that God hearkened to Moses as intercessor, and accepted the intercessory prayer.

11 And the LORD said unto me, Arise, take thy journey before the people, that they may go in and possess the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give unto them. 12 And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, 13 To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?

"Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee"

- Fear the Lord, only
- Walk in his ways
- Love him with all they heart and soul
- Keep his commandments for thy own good

Remember, there is a blessing for us in being obedient to God as seen here for Israel.

14 Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.

To keep us from forgetting who God is, in comparison to who we are; look up to the heavens; see if your mind can comprehend the greatness, and vastness, of God. See that God is infinite and we are finite. Oh, bless the Lord, oh my soul.

Another thought about God owning the earth. Since God is the creator of both heaven and earth, obviously they are both his own possession. Here in the south where I was born and raised, in the earlier generations, we had what was called tenant farmers. As I understand it, the tenant farmer was given a possession of property, to utilize for working out his living, and a portion of the crops and produce of the land were to be given to the owner of the land; as payment for the occupation of the owner's property. Most often the tenant farmer was given the poorest property to work, and if he proved to be worthy; he was given better, or more, property to work, so that the owner would gain greater riches.

Think about this principle; then apply it to your life in this world. We are all just tenant farmers and have no real possession here. As we consider this; why do we spend so much time trying to get as much of this world as we can? What are you going to have in possession, when the owner comes and tells you, I have need of this possession for another tenant? There is nothing you can do, but move on and leave it behind. That is what we are all going to do in death; we are going to leave behind all our earthly possessions.

However, let's consider another thought here on this subject. What is the whole duty of man? Here are a couple of scriptures to help us see the picture:

- ***Ro 15:6 That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.***
- ***Ro 15:9 And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.***
- ***1Co 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.***

Now, think about your life as a Christian. Do you realize? All, who have been born again, are given a possession to work out their salvation here. When, the time of possession the owner allots is expired, we shall die. At that time; we are going to be told; come up hither, to a new and better land; a land without thorns, and thistles, and briars. A land so fertile; it brings forth of its own accord, and all you have to do is reap the abundance thereof. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

15 Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day.

Do not miss; God did the choosing, of those to be called by his name, and he still does today.

16 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.

I had not noticed this before now. Israel is commanded to circumcise the foreskin of the heart, which is a principle taught in the New Testament scriptures, of which, I don't remember noticing it was taught in the Old Testament. Consider these scriptures:

- ***De 10:16 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.***
- ***De 30:6 And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.***
- ***Jer 4:4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.***

Circumcise means; *to cut short, curtail, to circumcise, to blunt; to destroy, cut down, destroy.* What is the circumcision of the heart taught here in the Old Testament? It is to cut away the stubbornness, the disobedience, lose the pride of your heart, and yield total obedience to God. This is just as applicable to us today, as it was to Israel here. Consider what God is here saying and then let's look at some New Testament scripture:

- ***Ro 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.***
- ***Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: 11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.***

In these texts; God tells us; we are to humble ourselves to his omnipotence, and serve him only.

17 For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: 18 He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. 19 Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. 20 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name. 21 He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

Let's consider this phrase: "**19 Love ye therefore the stranger:**" and as we consider this phrase let's remember what God has taught previously in:

- ***Ex 12:43 And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof:***
- ***Ex 12:48-49; 48 And when a stranger shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the passover to the LORD, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof. 49 One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you.***

As we consider these texts; what conclusion do you draw, about how we are to love the stranger? All this tells me; God is saying to Israel; you were a stranger in Egypt, and were greatly abused and mistreated. When a stranger comes to you, now that you are free, you should teach that stranger the

greatness of your God; then you can treat them, not as strangers, but rather, as your own families. I believe this is the principle taught in New Testament scriptures in:

- ***Mr 12:31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.***
- ***Ro 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.***
- ***Ro 15:2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.***

We see, in all these texts, the teaching of love, and not the show of hatred. Hatred was the expression of the Egyptians to Israel. Certainly, you can see from all these reference texts; teaching the stranger, the wonders and might of God, and Christ, is the same as loving your neighbor.

We should never forget; how great is our God, and the greatness, of the deliverance he has granted us in Jesus Christ, of salvation by grace; as seen in New Testament scripture in:

- ***Joh 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.***
- ***1Ti 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.***
- ***Jude 1:25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.***
- ***1Ti 6:15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;***

We should never forget that our God is to be praised. God has performed great wonders for us, through his Son, Jesus Christ, in saving us from eternal damnation. We should be careful to study scripture, and read, and be reminded, of all the great things that Christ wrought for us.

22 Thy fathers went down into Egypt with threescore and ten persons; and now the LORD thy God hath made thee as the stars of heaven for multitude.

In this chapter; Moses iterates again to Israel; purge your hearts and serve God only. You can't bribe God to look away and not exercise judicial judgment. Remember where you came from, by the power of God's deliverance.

Moses reminds Israel; God is the only God and he is the one you are to praise and worship. Why? Look, at how few you were when your fathers went into Egypt, and compare that number to your number today. You cannot miss the blessing of abundance and fruitfulness that God has bestowed upon you.

The same is true for us today. We are a people, chosen out by God to bear his name on the earth. Think about; how few the "***saved by grace***" people were when Christ was upon the earth incarnate. Now, compare that number, to the multitude of those saved by God's grace in the world today. What a fruitful work, Jesus Christ has set in order and brought to pass, by the power of his great deliverance for us. Praise the Lord! Hallelujah! What great things the Lord has done!

There is a prophetic picture here, of what shall be in eternity. Look at how the church started; Jesus and 12 apostles/disciples. Compare this to the number we read of in eternity, seen in: ***Re 7:9 After this***

I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. This scripture is speaking of the eternal kingdom of God. What a host of people this will be. Praise the Lord! Hallelujah! May we be found in this number in eternity.