

Deuteronomy Chapter 05 Commentary

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.

Moses is speaking to all of Israel, as was noted in *De 1:1 "These be the words which Moses spake unto all Israel on this side Jordan in the wilderness,"*

In my mind this is a miracle in and of itself. Think about this; at the last census there were 600,000 Israelite men 20 years old and upward, men able to go to war, plus all their families, plus all those who were unable to go to war and their families. If you figure the average family is 5 then that means there were 3,000,000 people.

Now even if Moses is only speaking to the 600,000 that is a miracle that all can hear and understand what is being said. It is an amazing thought in today's world even with all the technology we have. However, in history we read of ministers that preached outdoors to crowds of 3 to 5 thousands and most were able to hear.

I think this shows how miraculous the power of God is; to amplify a voice to be carried to such a large body of people, and they are all able to hear and understand clearly. We see such a miracle in scripture: *Ac 2:1-8; "1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. 7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? 8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?"*

In this text we see, if you read the whole chapter, that there were above 3 thousand souls saved. We can rest assured that there were many more there than the ones who were saved. Also, there was a variety of languages presented and all heard in their own language. What a miracle. Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

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

"a covenant with us" What covenant? The same one he is speaking of in: *De 4:13 "And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone."* This covenant is the Ten Commandments.

Also, we remember the covenant in: *Ex 19:5 "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:"* This is prerequisite to the giving of the Ten Commandments in chapter 20.

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

Did you notice in verse 3 that Moses said, God made a covenant with us? "***but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day.***" How can this be; when all those 20 years old and upward died in the wilderness? Well, all those, that were under 20 years of age that were present at that time, who are now the oldest generation and in the leadership positions; they are still alive, and they saw and heard just as Moses has reminded them.

"***but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day.***" Notice, all of us are alive, only the disobedient died in the wilderness journey. This is a prophetic picture of the coming of the age of salvation by grace. God's revelation, of the covenant of eternal salvation, is to those who are alive; those who have been born again and freed from the bondage of sin and satan.

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,

Again, we see the prophetic picture of our mediator Jesus Christ in; Moses acting as mediator between Israel and God, so Christ is the mediator between God's people and God the Father under the grace covenant.

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

Notice that God reminds them that He is the one who delivered them out of Egypt. God is making it clear that they didn't do it themselves, and Moses didn't do it for them either. Salvation is of God alone as seen in: ***Ac 4:12; 10 "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. 11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."***

In verses 6-21; we have the repeating of the Ten Commandments. We will see some minor variation in the actual wording as they are given here, compared to when they were first given in Exodus. However, there is no change in the intent of any commandment. Mostly, it is the additions of "***as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee***" in a few places.

7 Thou shalt have none other gods before me.

This is a reminder that I need every day. Do you understand? Anything that comes between you and God, in which you put God in 2nd place, is an idol, a false god, the direction of your worship and adoration has changed position.

8 Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything 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. 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. 12 Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee. 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.

Ex 20:10-11; 10 "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, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: 11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." Again we see the same commandment with different wording and reminders.

This reminder is applicable to ourselves today. How? We, before the new birth, were under the bondage of sin and satan. We, like Israel, have been delivered from that bondage. God says to Israel; I brought you out of bondage, and I require of you to put aside one day of the week to worship me. God says to us today: I delivered you from bondage and I expect you to worship me only. I have set aside every seventh day as a time to be spent worshipping me.

We find in New Testament scripture that we are to do all that we do as unto the Lord. **Col 3:17** *"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."* We are commanded to live our lives as if everything we are doing is for the Lord. That means at home, at work, at play, at worship, at singing, at praying, at doing good, at giving alms, and everything that God has commanded his people to do through Jesus Christ.

You see; we can't just go to church on Sunday, and then forget about God until the next. Israel, on the wilderness march, had the constant reminders of God's presence and protection by the pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night. In other words, God's presence was visible to them day and night, unless they deliberately chose to look another direction, or choose to ignore God's visible presence. The same is true for us; we can become distracted by the world and choose to ignore God's presence in our own lives. This is the exercise of the free will of man and why those not yet born again will never choose to walk in the way of the Lord and godliness.

Wherefore, you are to take every seventh day, you are to rest from wordly cares, direct your thoughts to heavenly things, and worship, and praise, the Lord for delivering you from the bondage of eternal death for sin.

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.

Ex 20:12 "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." Again the addition of *"as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee;"*

I would also point out that this is an "*if*" covenant. What do you mean? God made some covenants that were not dependent upon man doing anything for them to be fulfilled. God made other covenants, which required man do something in order for God to fulfill the covenant. This commandment is one those that is dependent upon the action of man for fulfillment.

Read the commandment and you realize that "***that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.***" and "***that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.***" are both dependent on children honoring their parents to receive the blessing; of life going well in their occupation of the land of Promise. This is how this chapter started out.

In application to our own lives; we see: If we wish for our spiritual lives to be long and fruitful in the Church of Salvation by Grace, we must be obedient to our heavenly Father and our Spiritual mother, the church on earth.

We also can draw the conclusion of the polar opposite of this blessing; which is: if children don't honor their parents; they are not going to receive the blessings of occupying the land of promise.

17 Thou shalt not kill. 18 Neither shalt thou commit adultery. 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 maid servant, his ox, or his ass, or anything that is thy neighbour's.

We have in verses 6-22 the repeating of the Ten Commandments.

Question: When were the Ten Commandments given: God gave Israel the Ten Commandments after they came out of Egypt, an idolatrous nation, and just before they were supposed to enter the land of promise, also at the present time an idolatrous nation. God gave the Ten Commandments and we can view them as weapons of defensive armor. What do you mean? Israel had just left a land of idolatry, and they were going into a land of idolatry. God tells them, through the commandments, if you keep your focus on me, the one true and living God, you will not be influenced by the idolatry that you left, or that which is present where you are going. With these thoughts in mind, we can see how the Ten Commandments are weapons of defensive armor to be put on each day. The same is true for us today. If our focus is the single steady aim of worshipping God in Spirit and Truth, we will not fall into the traps of sin and satan.

We, like Israel, need the repetition of these commandments in our own lives. Why? Some people ask; this is Old Testament and is not applicable to us today. One reason we need the commandments repeated, often, is found in the New Testament scriptures in: ***Ga 3:24-25; 24 "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.***" Had we not the law commandments; we could not recognize our need to be delivered from death penalty, because of sin.

This scripture text reminds us why it is written in: ***Eph 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:***" We must understand; Christ delivered us from

the penalty for our sins and gave us the new birth, therefore, we can exercise faith in the finished work of Christ.

Also, all the Ten Commandments are repeated, and renewed, in New Testament scripture. If they are not there in words, they are there in context of the scripture, and give the intent of the commandment.

Don't you understand? If there was no law; then our conscience would have no reason to be taught of godliness, and righteousness, but because there is the law of God; we are taught thereby that we are indeed sinners, in need of saving from the penalty of the law, which demands death for sins.

Some will say ask; what about the people today who never hear the preaching of the gospel, or never read the scriptures? To which I answer: Remember which tree had the forbidden fruit, which Adam and Eve ate of? It was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We inherited this knowledge of good and evil in our very nature, in the flesh. Also, there is the fact, the truth of God is revealed in creation itself, as stated in: ***Ps 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*** God says to all the world; the very creation, that surrounds you in time, is a reminder that there is a Supreme God and Creator in the Eternal heaven, who rules and reigns over all.

This then is needful for us, to remind us of the true glory of Salvation by Grace. It reminds us; we should be thankful to God the Father for sending God the Son, and for God the Son being willing to come to earth and offer himself as the sacrifice, for the absolution of the sins of God's people, and then to send God the Holy Ghost, to occupy till He come.

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.

"***out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness***" This is a reminder to Israel, and to us today, they cannot see the face of God the Father and live. We remember; to even hear his voice was thought to be a death sentence to Israel, and this was confirmed by God in: ***De 4:33 "Did ever people hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as thou hast heard, and live?"***

However, God the Father has revealed his face in the incarnation of Jesus Christ, which is a face that can be looked upon, and give life rather than take it. Remember what Jesus Said to the disciple:

- ***Joh 14:9 "Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?"*** It is very clear in this text; if you have seen Christ, you have seen God.
- ***Joh 15:24 "If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father."*** We gather from this text; if you have seen the mighty working, of the miraculous power of Christ and reject it, you have seen God the Father, and God the Son, and rejected them. What a sad condition. God help us to see and hear thy Son and live.

"***and he added no more***" This demonstrates to us; God does not change His position on his commandments, as seen in: ***Mal 3:6 "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."***

"And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me." As I thought about this, the commandments being written in stone, I saw a picture that I want to try to express to you.

First, let's compare the two tables of stone to the bible. Consider, the Old Testament scriptures are a testimony, of the coming of Jesus Christ, the Corner Stone. The New Testament scriptures are the revelation, that Christ Jesus did come and accomplish all God the Father gave him to do. Thus, we see the two tables of stone in the two testaments of the bible, old and new.

We find in scripture this text: **Mt 21:42 "Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?"**

Here, Jesus is identified as "**the Corner Stone**" which was rejected. Yet, we understand today, with the New Testament scriptures, that penalty of the law of God was placed upon Christ Jesus, in that; it was necessary that there be death and blood shed for the remission of sins. This is what Christ accomplished for us in incarnation.

If Jesus had not done what he did to please his Father God, we would still be under the penalty of death for sin, and have no hope of entering into the promised land of rest. Do you remember? When the High Priest went into the holiest of holies; he had to wear the ephod and breastplate upon which the names of the tribes of the children of Israel were written.

- **Ex 28:9-12; 9 "And thou shalt take two onyx stones, and grave on them the names of the children of Israel: 10 Six of their names on one stone, and the other six names of the rest on the other stone, according to their birth. 11 With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, shalt thou engrave the two stones with the names of the children of Israel: thou shalt make them to be set in ouches of gold. 12 And thou shalt put the two stones upon the shoulders of the ephod for stones of memorial unto the children of Israel: and Aaron shall bear their names before the LORD upon his two shoulders for a memorial."** Here are the names of the tribes of Israel on Christ shoulders.
- **Ex 28:21-29; 21 "And the stones shall be with the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings of a signet; every one with his name shall they be according to the twelve tribes. 22 And thou shalt make upon the breastplate chains at the ends of wreathen work of pure gold. 23 And thou shalt make upon the breastplate two rings of gold, and shalt put the two rings on the two ends of the breastplate. 24 And thou shalt put the two wreathen chains of gold in the two rings which are on the ends of the breastplate. 25 And the other two ends of the two wreathen chains thou shalt fasten in the two ouches, and put them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod before it. 26 And thou shalt make two rings of gold, and thou shalt put them upon the two ends of the breastplate in the border thereof, which is in the side of the ephod inward. 27 And two other rings of gold thou shalt make, and shalt put them on the two sides of the ephod underneath, toward the forepart thereof, over against the other coupling thereof, above the curious girdle of the ephod. 28 And they shall bind the breastplate by the rings thereof unto the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, that it may be above the curious girdle of the ephod, and that the breastplate be not loosed from the ephod. 29 And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before the**

LORD continually. This is a picture of Christ upon the cross bearing the names of every child of grace that will be saved in eternity upon his shoulders and heart."

Here we see the names of the individual tribes, set in individual stones, upon the breast of the High Priest. A prophetic picture of the coming of the age of salvation by grace, which Christ, our High Priest, bore us upon his heart on the cross.

Thus, we have the picture, of the two tables of stone, in the High Priest and his garments. The High Priest providing forgiveness, of sins for Israel, by bearing them upon his shoulders, is the picture of one table of stone. The second stone is the picture of the "saved by grace" people, who Jesus carried in his heart upon the cross. Thus, we have the picture of salvation provided by Christ for those in the past and for us in the present.

Now consider this last phrase "**and delivered them unto me.**" I am reminded here of the experience of Elder Leonard Dryden. He told that he dreamed, or saw in a vision, the hand of Jesus handing down to him food from heaven and he was instructed to pass it on to God's people. Here, is a picture of the ministers of God, today, preaching the truths of God (hell fire and brimstone to those who aren't obedient to God) to God's people (as Moses said, I received them from God and passed them to you)? Thanks, be to God that He changes not. Therefore, we can have assurance that every one that Christ died for will be in the eternal heaven and the promised rest.

There is one other thought that is brought forth from the New Testament scriptures, seen in: **Mt 22:36-40; 36 "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."**

When we examine the Ten Commandments; we find they are divided into two different matters of substance: the first 4 commandments cover the relationship of God to his people. If we fulfill the first 4 commandments we have fulfilled the law. Jesus summed these 4 up into one (the first or great commandment) in the New Testament.

Next we see that Christ did not stop at the great commandment but carried on with the 2nd "**Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**" In so doing, Jesus put all 6, of the remaining 10 commandments, into one. The substance of these six commandments relate to our relationship to each other, as children of God. You see, if you fulfill "**Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**" You have fulfilled the whole, of the last 6 commandments of the law. Thus Christ could say: "**On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**" If you fulfill these 2, New Testament commandments, you have covered the spectrum of the whole 10, Old Testament commandments. Thus, we see again, the two tables of stone, upon which the Ten Commandments were written, in the two different matters of substance contained thereon.

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. 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 forever!

Israel had a very great fear when presented with the glory, the greatness, and the voice of God from out of the fire. Why this fear? They believed; they would die because they heard the audible voice of God. We see this theme of fearing God in carried forward in the Old Testament:

- *Ps 22:25 "My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him."* Those, who feared God, could give him praise. This is still true today.
- *Ec 12:13 "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."* This is very easy to understand as it is written plainly. This is not a parable that may need explanation.

And in the New Testament in: *Mt 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."* We see this in fruition at the end of time, when God will pass judgment and judicial sentence upon all who do not fear God and have not believed in Jesus Christ. God knows the very intent of our hearts today, just as He knew the intent of the hearts of Israel in this time. God is saying to Moses and to Israel, I wish all my people would always show such reverent fear of me and my voice and the fire of my glory.

It seems today, most people, who call themselves believers in God, do not have such reverent fear of God as did Israel at Mount Sinai.

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.

Once again, we are right back where we started in this chapter. We see God stressing; do, turn not, walk, in all the ways the Lord hath commanded, so God may bless you abundantly. However, if you fail to do so, God's judicial wrath will be brought upon you, and you will suffer the consequence of your sin.

Did you also notice; this was addressed to God's people and not to the world at large? Do you see, and understand, we should not expect that the laws of God have any meaning to or effect upon the lost. The application of the laws of God are to God's people. However, they will be used in judgment against the lost in death and eternity. What I am saying is; do not expect the unsaved to live, and walk, in obedience to God, or his commandments. They are following their leader who is satan.

Did you notice; this was what they were to do, after they entered the Promised Land? What does that tell you about God's people today? If you have been born again, you have been saved and have become a part, a member of the Church of Salvation by Grace, which was established by Jesus Christ. You have entered the Promised Land, here in time. Now, you can hear and obey the commandment of God.

- ***Being saved***; you can choose to do the will of God or choose to disobey.
- ***Being called***; you can choose to openly worship and declare the greatness of Christ, God the Son, and his mighty power; just as Israel declared the greatness of God the Father, and his mighty power.
- ***Being chosen***; you can join the organized church body, on earth, and make clear, to all the world, that you believe in the finished work of Jesus Christ, and you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Thereby, disowning all other gods through your declaration of faith in Christ.

Praise the Lord for Salvation by Grace.