

**June 30**

**Scriptures:** Read Deuteronomy 5 & 6

**Key Verse:** “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might.” (Deuteronomy 6:5)

## **Overview**

Before entering the Promised Land, it was necessary that his new generation of Israelites realize the significance of their covenant with God. Therefore, Moses relates some specific details of the covenant made at Mount Horeb (Sinai) forty years previously. He emphasized that the Ten Commandments were still relevant to them (just as they are still relevant to us today). Based on God’s redemptive act of delivering Israel from Egypt (for which they are indebted to Him), Moses challenged them to live in consecration and obedience to God, their sole Sovereign. This is a stipulation of the covenant, which they were in the process of renewing and solemnizing.

Moses repeated the Ten Commandments to the new generation with some slight variations, considering the present situation of Israel as they were in preparation for entering the Promised Land (cf. Ex.20:3-17). These ten basic laws established the foundation of Israel’s relationship with God. They had a great impact on Israel’s history, as well as on the world today, since they are the foundation for moral principles and modern law. If Israel would be careful to observe these commands of God and walk in His ways, the blessings of the covenant would result (5:33; 6:2-3). However, curses would result for breaking them (28:15 ff.)

To serve as an example for the people, Moses told them of their parents’ response in hearing these Ten Commandments with God’s own audible voice from the burning mount; it brought a godly fear and reverence for the Lord their God. This great manifestation (5:22) showed God’s redemptive grace toward sinful man, that He would reveal to them even this limited degree of His glory. However, they feared for their lives, for in experiencing the holiness of God so closely, they felt all the more their own sinfulness and unworthiness. Therefore, they pleaded that Moses would from then on serve as their mediator. God’s response showed His great love for them (and their descendants). He yearned that they would always fear Him and keep His commands, “that it might be well with them and with their children forever!” (5:29). The Lord desired to bless His people, just as He desires to do so for His children today.

Moses’ challenge to obedience is greatly elaborated on in chapter six. He stressed the oneness of God in the famous verse known as the schema, (Hebrew for “hear”, the first word of the verse, 6:4). This divinely revealed insight concerning their God, Yahweh, was a strong declaration of monotheism (belief in one God) against the common belief of their day in polytheism (many gods). The Israelites were to serve and worship Him alone, for only the God of Israel was, and is, a true deity. Moses, knowing the coming danger and temptations for Israel in the land of Canaan, strongly warned them to “not go after other gods”, for He is “jealous God” (6:14-15), and His wrath would be the result. How then were they to remember their God when they are settled and comfortable in Canaan? Moses gave a concise answer “[1] fear the Lord you God… [2] Serve Him, and… [3] Take oaths in His name” (6:13). The third way seems to mean a continual renewal of the oath of allegiance to God in a life dedicated to Him.

Moses gave practical illustrations of how they were to fear and serve God when in the land. They were to internalize God's laws that they might be reflected in every aspect of life; in their thinking and conversation with others, as well as through outward means (6:9). It was also very important to teach their children the laws of history (6:7, 20-23). Most importantly, they were to love the Lord their God with all their being, which would naturally result in reverent obedience to all His commandments and walking in His ways (6:5; cf. 11:1, 22; John 14:15). Jesus Christ called this "the first and great commandment" (Matt.22:38)

## **Prayer**

Lord, as we prayed yesterday for Your grace to pass on Your Word, today we pray for ourselves, that we will be truly separated unto You in holiness of conduct so that our lifestyles will confirm the truth of our words to the next generations.