

Deuteronomy
Week 4
“Past Sin...How about the Future?”
Deuteronomy 8-12

I. Chapter 8: Do Not Forget

From Christopher Wright:

- A Land sword to the forefathers; command given today (1)
- B Wilderness as place of humbling, testing, and provision (2-6)
- C A good land (7-9)
- D You will eat and be satisfied (10)
- E Bless the LORD; Do not forget. (11)
- D' You will eat and be satisfied (12a)
- C' A good land (12b-14)
- B' Wilderness as place of humbling, testing, and provision (15-16)
- A' Wealth, covenant with forefathers; as at this day (17-18)

Verses 19-20 are outside the structure, but again re-emphasize do not forget.

Verse 1

These are now familiar words as most of them have been spoken over and over again. God keeps bringing them up because it is incredibly easy to forget His commands and take Him for granted. We must keep reminding ourselves of them if we are to follow them. How can we do this?

Verse 3

Jesus quotes this to Satan.

Matt 4:4

4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

NIV

Verse 4

-We see God's miraculous assistance to the Israelites with the manna and with the clothes that did not wear out.

-The exact meaning of the word translated as "swell" is disputed. The Septuagint translates it as callous. Whatever it means exactly, the meaning is clear. It means that their shoes continued to protect their feet, presumably because they did not wear out.

Verse 5

The discipline of the Lord might not be fun, but it is well attested in Scripture:

Prov 3:11-12

**11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke,
12 because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.**

NIV

Heb 12:5-11

"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."
7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? 8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! 10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

NIV

Verses 14-16

Note the four things that the LORD has done in verse 14b to 16a:

1. Brought you out of Egypt
2. Led you through the vast and dreadful desert
3. Brought you water out of hard rock
4. Gave you manna to eat in the desert.

Interestingly while the LORD provided for the Israelite, there was also much testing of them in each of the four.

Verse 20

The destruction of the peoples in the Promised Land is a great object lesson for the Jews.

Why is it important to obey the Lord?

II. Consequences of Rebelling against the Lord: Chapter 9

Verses 1-6

While the Israelites might be weaker than the aggregate strength of the Canaanites, the LORD is with them. He will help them by acting in the following ways:

1. Going ahead of them like a devouring fire. (Consuming/devouring fire moves fast.)
2. Destroying them.
3. Subduing them

If they follow the LORD, He will plow through the Canaanites for them. Some of the conquest of Canaanites happened just this way. Other attempts were a disaster, such as with the tribe of Dan. What was the difference? Some followed God, and some did not.

Verses 7-30

Why should they remember this and never forget? They should remember so that they will never repeat the behavior and provoke the LORD again.

Several rebellions in the wilderness are reviewed in this chapter, with the one at Mt. Sinai being highlighted the most. Of particular interest are the prayers of Moses, such as the one in Verses 18-20. What would have happened if Moses had not prayed?

One wonders if Moses ever regretted his intercession to save the Israelites. Of course, this was the older generation, now all dead. Yet the younger generation is of the same genes even if they have a lifetime of training in the LORD under their belts.

III. The Law Again (Chapter 10)

We see a summary of the later chapters of Exodus and Numbers provided in summary form, although not necessarily in chronological sequence.

Verses 1-11: Two New Tablets

Moses' intercession from the last chapter is successful. The LORD is willing to start over, although He will continue to use the Golden Calf incident as an object lesson throughout the history of the Israelites. The second set is made the same way as the first set.

In verse 6, While Aaron's death was perhaps 38 or 39 years later, the fact that it is mentioned immediately after the Golden Calf incident is not an accident. Aaron's death refers back to Moses' intercession in 9:20. In this case, his later death shows that Moses' intercession worked.

In verse 10, after given the evidence of the success and his intercession and of the continuation of God's work with the Israelites, Moses returns to His narrative. God had only spared the people because of Moses' intercession. Yet, He had promised to give the land to them. Giving it Moses and his descendants would not have been adequate because of the promises of Genesis 49.

Verses 12-22: Essence of the Law

Given the stiff-necked Israelites, the LORD asks this of them (and of us) in verse 12-13:

1. Fear the LORD (fear speaks of terror and awe)
2. Walk in all His way (follow Him)
3. Love Him
4. Serve the LORD
5. Observe (i.e. obey) the LORD's commands and degrees.

This section starts with a reference back to 6:5-9. Loving the LORD is the central component. The ancient Jews would have seen a chiasm with love at the center and therefore the featured point.

IV. Reward for Obedience (Chapter 11)

The chapter is composed of requirements and then illustrations for it:

Requirement	Illustration
1	2-7
8	9-12
13	14-17

Verses 18-25 provide summarizes what Moses has been saying in his second sermon:

Verse	Reference
18	6:8
19	6:7 and 4:9
20	6:9
21	4:40 and 6:2
22	6:17
23	4:38 and 9:1
24	1:7,8

Notice the various allusions throughout the chapter back to 6:5-9. Also, remember that 11:13-21 is part of the expanded *Shema* and is included also in phylacteries.

V. Correct Worship (Chapter 12)

In chapter 12, we start to see a more detailed listing of the law.

Verses 1-4

Worshipping the Lord, the one true God, is good. Worshipping all the other supposed gods is bad. Notice the types of gods that are mentioned; the Israelites will end up worshipping each and every one of the forbidden gods.

High Places: Typically places of false worship

Trees: Some trees were worship places for some religions

Altars: Places where sacrifices are made (and usually burned)

Scared stones/pillars: Standing stones, symbolizing the deity in some manner

Asherim: Tree or wooden pole, symbolizing the fertility goddess

Idols: Any image

Verses 5-14: Jerusalem

Eventually, the Lord will choose a central location for worshipping Yahweh. Until then, they can apparently worship as they saw fit, but without violating the dictates of the first four verses. As such, only at the time of David did not worshipping in places other than Jerusalem become wrong.

Verses 15-27

Originally all slaughter was a sacrifice of some kind:

Lev 17:3-5

3 "Whatever man of the house of Israel who kills an ox or lamb or goat in the camp, or who kills it outside the camp, 4 and does not bring it to the door of the tabernacle of meeting to offer an offering to the LORD before the tabernacle of the LORD, the guilt of bloodshed shall be imputed to that man. He has shed blood; and that man shall be cut off from among his people, 5 to the end that the children of Israel may bring their sacrifices which they offer in the open field, that they may bring them to the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, to the priest, and offer them as peace offerings to the LORD

NKJV

Technically blood cannot be fully drained from meat.

Verse 28

We continue to see repetition after repetition of the thought in this verse. Why?

Verse 29-32

As the LORD has warned them before, if the Israelites stray (and they will), then the LORD will take their land away from them. Both Ahaz and Manasseh sacrificed their sons in the fire.