

## Deuteronomy 9:1-29 How the Second Commandment was Involved in the Lives of the Israelites

Introduction: In our text Moses is speaking to the children of Israel just prior to their entrance into Canaan. He has already re-stated the Ten Commandments. He has already spoken to them about the first commandment, showing how it would apply to their lives. In our text Moses brings an explanation of how the second commandment applies to them. The second commandment forbids the making and worshiping of graven images. See Deuteronomy 5:8-9.

### I. A reminder of what lay ahead of them V. 1-3

- A. He reminded them that they were about to enter Canaan for the purpose of conquering and possessing it, V. 1.
  - 1. They would have the task of conquering nations which were larger and mightier than themselves and the cities were fortified with high walls, V. 1.
  - 2. The people were giants who had descended from Anak, V. 2.
- B. Yet the Israelites were not to fear the giants as their forefathers had done, V. 3. (God would give them a quick and easy victory.)

### II. One problem which the children of Israel would face V. 4-6

- A. One danger was that the people would begin to think that God had given them this land because of their own righteousness, V. 4.
- B. This was a problem which would begin in their hearts.
- C. Moses declared that it was not because of their righteousness that the land would be taken from the Canaanites but because of the unrighteousness of the Canaanites, V. 5.
- D. The chief reason God would give the land to Israel was because of His promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- E. They needed to understand before they would go into the land that God was not giving it to them because of their own righteousness, V. 6.

### III. The history of rebelliousness of the people of Israel V. 7-29

- A. Their rebelliousness against God dated as far back as the time they left Egypt, V. 7. (They complained about Moses, about food, water, etc.)
- B. Their rebellion at Horeb (Mt. Sinai) stood out, V. 8. (They made God so angry that He threatened to destroy them all.)
- C. While Moses was up the mountain the people were building and worshiping a golden calf, V. 9.
  - 1. This was while Moses was receiving the two tables of stone on which God had written the Ten Commandments, V. 10-11.
  - 2. The Lord was so angry that He threatened to kill them all, V. 12-14.
  - 3. Moses, himself, was also very angry at the people, V. 15-17.
- D. Nevertheless, Moses pled for God to spare the people, V. 18-21.
- E. There were other times when they rebelled, V. 22-23.
- F. Their first rebellion which involved Moses was when he visited among them while they were still in bondage in Egypt.
  - 1. Moses killed an Egyptian who was mistreating an Israelite and the Israelites said, "Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?"
  - 2. Forty years later when he returned saying that God had chosen him to lead the Israelites out of bondage, it took some special miracles of God to convince the people to accept him, V. 24.
- G. Nevertheless Moses did not want God to destroy this people and he pled for God to not

destroy them, V. 25-29.

IV. A summary

A. The problem was in their hearts.

1. That is where their unbelief and rebellion began.
2. That is where their desire to break commandment number two began, causing them to make the golden calf and to worship it.
3. The danger was that after they were in the land it would again cause them to make and worship idol gods.

B. The words of Moses warned them not to do it.

V. A warning for us today

A. The words of Moses also serve as a warning for modern day Christians.

B. Because of our own sinful flesh nature we, too, have sinful desires.

1. Every since we have been saved we have had a history of evil thoughts and evil desires.
2. We can recall specific instances when we yielded to those sinful desires and we did evil things. (We rebelled against the will of God for our lives.)

C. There is the danger that we will again yield to the flesh nature and go against the will of God for our lives.

1. We, too, have a sinful flesh nature that inclines us to sin. (We have a history.)
2. We can remember some specific instances of our sin.
3. We should guard against evil thoughts and evil desires.