

Deuteronomy 5:1-21 The Second Giving of the Ten Commandments

Introduction; In V. 1-5 Moses gives an introduction to his second speech to the people of Israel prior to their entrance into Canaan. The second speech continues through chapter 26. This speech must have started early in the morning. V. 6-21 relate the 10 Commandments which give the terms of the Law Covenant with Israel.

I. The introduction to the second speech V. 1-5

- A. This speech contains laws which God gave to Israel at Mt. Horeb (Sinai), V. 1
 - 1. Moses related these laws to the new generation which was about to take Canaan and dwell therein.
 - 2. Some who were children at Mt. Horeb had heard these laws back then, but after 38 years were much in need of hearing them again.
 - 3. Some of the new generation of adults had not been born when the laws were given at Mt. Horeb and would hear them for the first time. (Although they had heard about them.)
 - 4. Moses wanted them to be informed and also to be obedient.
- B. The words of the law were more than a set of rules for them to obey; they were a covenant between God and the nation of Israel, V. 2.
 - 1. Israel covenanted to worship God and to obey His law.
 - 2. God covenanted to keep this nation as His own special nation and to bless them for their loyalty to Him.
- C. This Law Covenant was not the same covenant which God had made with Abraham and had confirmed with Isaac and Jacob, V. 3.
 - 1. The covenant which God had made with those forefathers was an unconditional covenant. (It's blessings were not dependent upon their obedience to God.)
 - 2. But in the Law Covenant with Israel, the blessings of God upon the nation were dependent upon their obedience to God's laws. (If they would obey, they would be blessed, but if they would not obey, they would be punished.)
 - 3. The Law Covenant was not made with the forefathers, but was made with Israel at Mt. Horeb.
 - a. The covenant began with the generations which were present at Mt. Horeb.
 - b. Yet it continued in effect with the generation present east of the Jordan river which was about to enter Canaan.
- D. The Lord had talked audibly to the people at Horeb out of the fire which burned on the mountain.
 - 1. It was as though the whole nation was on fire.
 - 2. The voice of God came like thunder out of the fire loud enough that all could hear the words distinctly.
- E. Prior to this Moses had been the intercessor relating the words of God to the people, V. 5.
 - 1. After this one event, he would do the same.
 - 2. But on this event, God Himself spoke the words of the covenant to the people with His own voice.

II. The Ten Commandments related V. 6-21

- A. The 10 Commandments form the basis of the Law Covenant.
 - 1. Moses now repeats the 10 Commandments to this new generation.
 - 2. He adds a few explanations of his own to the original words of the law.
- B. Commandment #1. V. 6-7

1. God first identifies Himself as the God who had delivered the nation of Israel from bondage in Egypt, V. 6.
 2. The commandment was: "Thou shalt have no other god's before Me." (The idea is: no other gods but Me.) V. 7
- C. Commandment #2, V. 8-10
1. They were to make no graven image and bow to it in worship as a god nor as a representation of a god, V. 8.
 2. The people were warned that God is a jealous God and would punish them severely if they worship another god, V. 9.
 3. God had promised great blessings if they would keep this and the other commandments, V.10.
- D. Commandment #3, V. 11
- E. Commandment #4, V. 12-15
- F. Commandment #5, V. 16
1. They were commanded to honor father and mother.
 2. A special promise of blessings was made for obedience; (A long stay in the land.)
- G. Commandment #6, V.17
- H. Commandment #7, V.18
- I. Commandment #8, V.19
- J. Commandment #9, V.20
- K. Commandment #10, V. 21
1. They were not to desire (covet) anything which belonged to anybody else.
 2. By way of explanation, Moses added to the original list of illustrations by stating that they were not to desire their neighbor's field. (Now that they were about to dwell in Canaan's land.)

III. Lessons for us

- A. We should thank God that we are under a covenant of grace and not a covenant of law.
 1. The covenant that we are under is called "The New Testament". (Testament means covenant.)
 2. We were saved by grace. (Our salvation is based on our faith rather than our obedience.)
- B. Never-the-less, we need to know that the greater blessings of God in this life are dependent on our obedience to God's will.
- C. Likewise, our rewards in the next life are dependent on our obedience and our works.

Conclusion:

1. Just as the new generation of Israelites needed to be informed about God's will as taught by His word, even so we need to be informed about His will for us. (No source of information is better than God's word.)
2. Then we need to be obedient to His word and His will.