

## SESSION #19 (13 Apr 10); Deut 6:1-8; “Living in the Word” Methodology

### I. INTRODUCTION & REVIEW

1:1-5	Introduction to God’s spokesman, the 1 <sup>st</sup> Prophet Moses
1:6 - 4:40	1 <sup>st</sup> Exposition of the Torah = <u>motivation</u> to obey from (1) <u>past gracious actions</u> of Yahweh and (2) sovereign <u>destiny</u> of the nation ( <u>future gracious actions</u> of Yahweh)
4:41-49	Editorial comment on context of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Exposition of the Torah
5:1 - 26:19	2 <sup>nd</sup> Exposition of the Torah = proper response to Yahweh in heart and soul
5:1 - 11:32	Loving Yahweh with all the heart
5:1-33	The Mt. Sinai event & ramifications
<b>6:1-25</b>	<b>“Living in the Word”</b>

Framework thinking: Mt Sinai event & revelation

#### Doctrine of Revelation

1. Verbal: not mystical feeling (Temple quote vs. **Deut 30:11-14**)
2. Personal: not a code or abstract principles (typical pagan law codes vs. relation with a personal king **Ps 95:6-11**)
3. Historical: continuity and memory from generation to generation, not usually immediate encounter experiences (**Exod 12:24-27; 1 Cor 11:23-26**)
4. Comprehensive: God speaks with implications spanning all of life, not limited to a “religious sub-compartment” (**Deut 12-26**)
5. Prophetic: involving a line of prophets with a horizon to the end of history, not limited to one figure’s speculations (**Heb. 1:1-2; 1 Pet 1:10-12**)

Last time: **5:22-33 the response to the Decalogue**

#### A. 5:22-27 Israel’s response

Sinai → easy-to-see-picture of the absolute need for a Mediator between God and fallen man. (Think of Adam in the Garden after the fall—1<sup>st</sup> time “fear” occurs in the Bible)

#### B. 5:28-31 God’s Counter-Response to Israel’s Response

**They are right in all they have spoken. . . Oh, that they had such a heart in them. . .**  
God reminds Moses that a right heart is required for right conformity to the “contract.” It all goes back to the inward mental attitude!

#### **stand here by Me**

This is the biblical picture of a mediator. Sets up our understanding of Jesus’ role as our Mediator.

### II. “LIVING IN THE WORD”—ITS BENEFITS (6:1-3)

<<<< New “technique” in addition to the Faith-Rest drill>>>>

#### **6:1 commandment. . . statutes and judgments. . .**

Refers to the essence behind all the statutes and judgments to follow in 12-26.

#### **commanded to teach you**

Revelation is historical (pt #3), so it has to be transmitted from generation to generation. The community of believers—in all dispensations—is *only one generation away from extinction*.

Somebody has to do teaching in order for the community to survive.

And it has to be done thoroughly at the same level as the competing ideas of the world.

True in Israel; true in the Church.

**that you may do them in the land. . .**

Note framework sequence of events before and after Mt. Sinai

BEFORE: Exodus = Phase #1 salvation/redemption

AFTER: Conquest & Settlement = Phase #2 with “potential” for Phase #3

SO: Sinai revelation not for redemption, but for sanctification!!

**6:2 fear. . .to keep. . .**

The following infinitive after the main verb explains its meaning → same truth as last time with “love”. Both mean that conformity with the Sinai contract (the revelation) is the test of whether or not the heart is right.

**which I command you**

#### **Doctrine of Inspiration of Scripture**

1. Dual authorship: God worked through human authors’ thinking and literary skills in a way similar to the Hypostatic Union of Jesus Christ (genuine human product yet perfect revelation of God).
2. Verbal: very words used by the human authors, and not just their concepts, were sovereignly chosen by the Holy Spirit (Bible is “God-breathed” [Greek “theopneustos”] **2 Tim 3:16**).
3. Plenary: extends to every part of the Bible, “red letter” and “black letter”, prose and poetry, origin narrative as well as prophetic oracles (see numerous quotes of earlier authors by later authors and Jesus).
4. Sufficient subset of all revelation: (lost historical books like book of Jasher [**Josh 10:13**] and selection of material by biblical authors [**Luke 1:1-4; John 20:30-31; 21:24-25**]).
5. Infallible: to accomplish revelation’s purpose the Bible, must be inerrant (contract testimony that is false violates the 9<sup>th</sup> commandment **1 Cor 15:15**).

[inerrancy]

Augustine (Roman Catholic) “I believe most firmly that no one of these authors has erred in any respect in writing”. [Epistles, LXXXII, I, 3]

Luther (Lutheran) “The Scriptures have never erred.” [Works 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., XV, 1481]

Calvin (Reformed) “. . .certain and unerring rule” [Psalms V, 11]

Wesley (Methodism) “If there be any mistakes in the Bible, there may well be a thousand. If there be one falsehood in that book, it did not come from the God of truth.” [Journal, Wed., July 24, 1776]

[inerrancy]

“What has constituted the enormous pressure against the inerrancy view? . . .Why have. . .archaeological findings and classical scholarship not moved mainstream theologians in the direction of plenary inspiration? The answer most definitely is not (in spite of loud protests continually voiced) the weight of new factual evidence against an inerrant Bible. Such “evidence” does not exist; . . .the contemporary critic of an inerrant Scripture is still citing alleged discrepancies and supposed scientific objections that have been adequately dealt with over and over again. *The issue is not empirical; it is philosophical.*”

John Warwick Montgomery, The Suicide of Christian Theology, p 321

**I command you.**

Prophet and Scripture author is “between” God and us. Translation and study are required to understand the mind of the authors of Scripture.

**that you, your son, your grandson**

the extended family over 3 generations as benefiting from teaching the Word of God

**days may be prolonged** [understood “in the land”—4:40]

### **6:3 hear and be careful to observe**

**hear** → willingness to accept what the Word of God says and not “tune out” because it clashes with some of your favorite notions.

**be careful to do** → concentration and focus required to live according to the Word.

Benefits of “living in the Word”:

For Israel = maximize prosperity and peaceful living in their inheritance.

For us in the Church age = maximize spiritual accomplishments and the associated rewards after our “home-going”.

Means of attaining God’s intended level of maturity for us in this life with continuing results into eternity. **1 John 2:17**: “*the world is passing away but he that does the will of God abides forever.*”

### **III. “LIVING IN THE WORD”—ITS ESSENCE (6:4-5)**

**6:4 hear** [Heb: *sh’ma*, well known Jewish central confession]

**Yahweh your God, Yahweh alone (or is one)** [Heb *echod*]

(see John Metzger’s book, The Tri-Unity of God is Jewish, chapter 4)

2 Hebrew words for oneness

(1) *echod*: unified group of people or things (e.g., husband and wife “become one” **Gen. 2:24; Num 13:23** a “cluster” of grapes);

(2) *yachid*: absolute oneness (Rabbi Maimonides, 1135-1204, a central theologian of Judaism, substituted *yachid* for *echod* in the Shema.

Issue: monolatry (**5:6-7**) or monotheism (**4:35**)?

This verse’s context is loyalty so the immediate issue is monolatry, but monolatry in the absolute sense here required presupposes monotheism. Use of *echod* allows for later revelation of the Trinity.

### **6:5 love with all your heart and with all your life and with all your abundance**

Core verse of this major section on the stipulations, chapters **5-26**

**heart** – inner thought life

**life** = soul = spirit + body, so the empirically observable person that interacts with the “outside” world

hence my division of chapters 5-26

**abundance, strength, intensity**, more of an adverb than a noun

Requires focus, prayerful pondering, interchange with other believers who respect the authority of Scripture as the final interpreter of all areas of life—can’t happen in a rushed life.

Essence of “living in the Word”

The Kingdom of God is rooted upon the personal allegiance to God.

**1 John 2**: “*whosoever keeps His Word, truly the love of God is functional as it is supposed to*”

**Luke 10:27**: a Pharisee answers Jesus’ question “what is written in the law? What is your reading of it?” with a quotation of **Deut 6:5** → this is what eternal life looks like.

**Matt 22:37**: Jesus quotes **Deut 6:5** while answering a Pharisee’s question.

#### IV. “LIVING IN THE WORD”—ITS PRACTICE (6:6-9)

##### **6:6 words which I command you**

God stopped directly speaking in public, so now He speaks through His prophet Moses  
→ importance of the doctrine of inspiration of Scripture = where we “contact” God’s historic revelation.

**Let them be on your heart** (in the sense of “they must be....”).

Refers to the entire set of exhortations concerning the law!

Can’t show God we love Him if we don’t pay attention to what He tells us He wants us to do → can’t pay attention unless we know what He has spoken → must be readily accessible—not in a Bible on a shelf at home or in a notebook somewhere.

**6:7 teach them diligently [Heb *shaman* in the intensive stem].**

**talk of them. . .**

Included memory of the Scriptures then since few had parchments or scrolls and most were illiterate.

Included more. . . interpreting all of life from the divine viewpoint (why I developed the framework so I could keep the big picture in mind).

**sit. . .walk. . .lie down. . .wake up**

Every circumstance & situation; continuously throughout the day!!

**6:8 hand. . .between your eyes. . .**

Later Judaism made literal containers of Scripture for this, but see **Ex 13:9,16** for this expression. Eyes view life and interpret it; hands labor and build things.

Practice of “living in the Word”

To love God, I must have the Word of God deeply embedded in my everyday responses to life.

#### V. CONCLUSION

(1) Our personal growth toward maturity after regeneration comes through contact with His revelation to us that has survived in history, which is the Bible.

(2) Our response toward God’s gracious initiative toward us while we were fleeing from Him is measured by how seriously we take His Word; do we “live” in it?

(3) The only lasting and real success in life comes from our works of obedience done in faith; this is the “blessing” of living in the Word. Israel is the historic “laboratory example” of Kingdom of God dynamics.

(4) To be able to live in the Word, I must have it so deeply embedded in my heart that it dominates my interpretation of everyday situations and controls my decision making in what I’m doing.

## Doctrine of Revelation

**Verbal:** includes *information transfer* from God to man (Deut 30:11-14)

**Personal:** includes *personal interaction* between God and man (Ps 95:6-11)

**Historical:** intermittent so depends upon *historical memory* (Ex 12:24-27; 1 Cor 11:23-26)

**Comprehensive:** implications *span all of life* (Deut 12-26)

**Prophetic:** line of self-consistent prophets with a horizon to the end of history (Heb. 1:1-2; 1 Pet 1:10-12)

## KEY EVENTS & DOCTRINAL IMAGES

- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Creation                   | • God, man, nature               |
| • Fall                       | • Evil, suffering                |
| • Flood                      | • Judgment / Salvation           |
| • Covenant                   | • God, man, nature               |
| • Call of Abraham            | • Election, Justification, Faith |
| • Exodus                     | • Judgment / Salvation           |
| • Mt. Sinai                  | • Revelation, Inspiration, Canon |
| • Conquest & Settlement      | • Sanctification                 |
| • Rise and Reign of David    | • Sanctification                 |
| • Golden Era of Solomon      | • Sanctification                 |
| • Division & Decline of KgdM | • Sanctification                 |
| • Fall of KgdM & Exile       | • Sanctification, Religion       |
| • Restoration. . . . .       | • Canon, prayer. . . . .         |

## Doctrine of Inspiration

**Dual authorship:** genuine human product yet perfect revelation of God (eventual Hypostatic Union of the God-man shows how human & divine natures interact- John 1:14)

**Verbal:** very words used by the human authors, and not just their concepts ("God-breathed" [Greek "theopneustos"] 2 Tim 3:16)

**Plenary:** extends to *every part* of the Bible—"red letter" and "black letter" (2 Tim 3:16 & 2 Pet 3:16)

**Sufficient subset of all revelation:** authors' selection of material (Luke 1:1-4; John 20:30-31; 21:24-25)

**Infallible:** contract testimony that is false violates the 9th commandment (1 Cor 15:15)

## Inerrancy of Scripture

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John Warwick Montgomery, *The Suicide of Christian Theology*, p 321

## God's Design of Society

LIFE ( <i>protected</i> )	LIFE ( <i>jeopardized</i> )
MARRIAGE & FAMILY (strong & functioning)	MARRIAGE & FAMILY (weak & dysfunctional)
LABOR & PROPERTY (respected & productive)	LABOR & PROPERTY (demeaned & wasted)
INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION (consistently states truth)	INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION (deceitfully professes truth for agendas)
HEART ALLEGIANCE (to God)	HEART ALLEGIANCE (to self)