

## SESSION #20 (20 Apr 10); Deut 6:1-25; Five Expressions of Disloyalty to God

### 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>

Essence of Living in the Word (LITW): 1<sup>st</sup> commandment (6:4-5) = "*love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength*"

- Heart = inner mental attitude underneath all the mental "traffic" passing through our minds (more on this as we proceed through Deut 5-11)
- Soul = behavior in day-to-day living; details of life
- Strength = effort required to execute this procedure
- Respect for His authority as Creator, Judge, and Savior
  - Creator = we owe our existence to Him and therefore He owns us and His knowledge is the source of our knowledge [Sinai #1 "made all things in 6 days"]
  - Judge = we are evaluated by His holiness
  - Savior = He is the only capable Savior [Sinai #2 "delivered Jewish slaves from tyranny"]

Attaining the capability to LITW: assimilation of God's written revelation into the heart (6:6 "*these words. . . shall be in your heart*")

- Here's the importance of understanding the doctrines of revelation and inspiration  
→ except for the "ten words" on Mt. Sinai, God only speaks to us through an appointed [mediator] (prophets, Jesus, and apostles).
  - All attempts to establish a "direct line" to God independently of the Scripture is pagan mysticism.
  - Pagan mysticism only creates a phantom of human imagination that eventually begins to take on the characteristics of the people doing the imagining.
- Assimilation requires intensive and comprehensive [training] in youth under the authority of parents who themselves have already attained the capacity to live daily within the framework of the Word of God.
- This training involves thinking, analyzing, discussing, and managing the details of life within the [framework] of Scripture (6:7-9 "talking in terms of [the Word]. . . [focusing upon it with] your hands and. . . your eyes. . . [having it control the activities in] your house and. . . [local government] gates").

Benefits of LITW: fulfill God's plan to the maximum during your moments in history!

- For Israel it guaranteed spiritual, economic, social, and physical blessing in the land of their inheritance.
- For the Church today it guarantees spiritual blessing now and in eternity (1 John 2:17).

## II. THE DANGER OF BECOMING DISLOYAL TO YAHWEH (6:10-19)

There are many ways of drifting away from a relationship with the Lord. Moses tells us of 5 ways.

(1) Forgetting history (6:10-12): *“when Yahweh your God brings you into the land. . .to give you. . .which you did not build. . .when you have eaten and are full. . .then beware lest you forget Yahweh. . . .”*

- The Word of God is anchored in objective history. No other religion is so anchored because they don't have [a revelation of the True god Who makes and keeps contracts].
- Loss of historical memory in the mind opens you up to pagan imaginations.
- Danger in 6:10-12 was to forget *establishment grace* that enabled everything that followed. In Egypt Jewish slaves had none of the blessings of 6:10-11.
- LITW involves repetition of [historic narratives].

Communion and baptism plays that role in the Church age not as religious magic but as historical monuments to salvation grace.

Bible teaching of historical revelation against secular pagan “revisionism.”

(2) Loss of integrity in language (6:13): *“You shall fear Yahweh your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name.”*

- Judicial proceedings are the social activity with the most sensitivity to truth claims because human life depends upon it. This admonition is tantamount to putting God at the base of human communications, i.e., the integrity of language. As “oath deity” he was seen to punish perjury and falsehood.

Test: always let language correspond to reality starting with “religious language.”

No religious gimmicks with God's name slapped on some cheap claim, program, or teaching.

Be careful of gossip, careless assertions, and “PC language” of manipulation.

(3) Allowing pagan notions of cosmology and sources of knowledge to replace biblical cosmology and divine design (6:14-15): *“not go after other gods. . .of the people who are all around you.”*

The “baals” of Canaanite paganism were Nature deities, replacing

- Creation with order-emerging-from-chaos (same as modern cosmology)
- Personal Creator with impersonal Fate / Tablets of Destiny (same as so-called “natural laws” that are somehow just there by themselves)
- Sovereign Lord with squabbling gods and goddesses (same as modern purposelessness of the universe)

- Divine revelation preserved in canonical Scripture with imagined deities and powers (same as modern philosophies from Enlightenment rationalism & empiricism to New Age mysticism).

2 Cor. 10:3-5: “we do not war according to the flesh for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

LITW means we have to do “due diligence” on the great ideas that permeate our education, our media, and society around us, critiquing our thinking by the standards of Scripture.

God is jealous for our loyalty and will burn up any work that is not based upon what He has told us about Himself and His universe.

(4) Standing in judgment over God (6:16): “you shall not tempt Yahweh your God as... in Massah”

There is a collection of various essays that C.S. Lewis wrote from 1940 to 1963, a book called God in the Dock. It is named for a discussion Lewis had about who judges who. Lewis wrote: “The ancient man approached God (or the gods) as the accused person approaches his judge. For the modern man the roles are reversed. He is the judge: God is in the dock.”

**Exod 17:1-7**

**17:1 no water**

Major logistics test to teach dependency. Faith-Rest Drill:

- (1) truth of Scripture—an event, a fragment, a promise from memory, from the heart;
- (2) “squeeze the sponge”—extract truth to surround the problem;
- (3) until you can rest in quiet confidence that the Lord will care for you in His best way.

**17:2-3**

**People contended with Moses**

“contend” = Heb *RIV* = quarrel so serious it is like a “lawsuit”, an accusation that a fundamental ethical/legal principle has been violated.

**Why do you contend with me?**

**Why do you test Yahweh?**

Moses is Yahweh’s prophet that is following Yahweh’s commands and policies—the visible representative of Yahweh.

Test = Heb *NASAH*

Cf **Exod 20:20** = put to the test to see one’s true character

People are saying that Yahweh is unfair and needs to prove Himself to them, i.e., they put God in the dock!!

**You brought us out of Egypt to kill us and our children and our livestock.**

Greatest arrogance that God has to answer to them

**17:5-7**

**I will stand before you. . .that the people may drink.**

Divine solution of logistical grace in spite of all the maligning, anger, mob action.

**17:7 name Massah. . Meribah. . .**

G. T. Manley “The Hebrew thought embraces in one complex idea the event, the place and the description.”

Historical record includes this failure to utilize FRD.

Jesus uses it against Satan when Satan attempts to “see what He’s made of.”

1 Pet 5:6-7: “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

LITW provides many Scripture fragments, truths, events and it trains you to use them consistently so humble faith becomes a habitual way of life.

(5) Disregarding consistency in obedience to God’s policies (6:17-19): “You shall diligently keep the commandments of Yahweh.”

///// SLIDE #6 //// [= Slide #3]

**6:17 testimonies. . .**

New word here for historical notices that evidence Yahweh’s faithfulness to His contracts. Anchors their metaphysical and epistemological foundation.

**6:18-19 to go in and possess the land which Yahweh swore to your fathers to cast out all your enemies**

Looking forward to a great series of trials that will go on for years for each of the tribes. Need absolute reliance upon Yahweh’s faithfulness to His covenant.

1 Cor 10:12-13: “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation/testing has overtaken you except such as is common to man [historical precedents have already been set!]; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

LITW provides numerous “precedents” for you to gain confidence to trust the Lord. Use them consistently so you get used to the FRD.

**III. “LIVING IN THE WORD”—ITS PRACTICE cont’d (6:20-25)**

Continues the section of 6:6-9 that gave the means of embedding the Word of God in the heart.

**6:20 son asks what is the meaning?**

Children can’t forever be put off from their right to getting answers to be big questions of life. Parents’ traditions only go so far.

**6:21-23 Yahweh brought. . showed. . .commanded**

//////// SLIDE #7 ////////// [framework]

Shows the historical context of biblical revelation—it’s not a “private opinion”, not parents’ opinion, but objective history with doctrinal content.

**6:24 for our good. . .to preserve us alive**

Character of Yahweh is to raise up and preserve quality of life (remember the chiasm?)

//////// SLIDE #8 ////////// [chiasm]

**6:25 righteousness it will be for us. . .if we are careful to observe. . .before Yahweh our God**

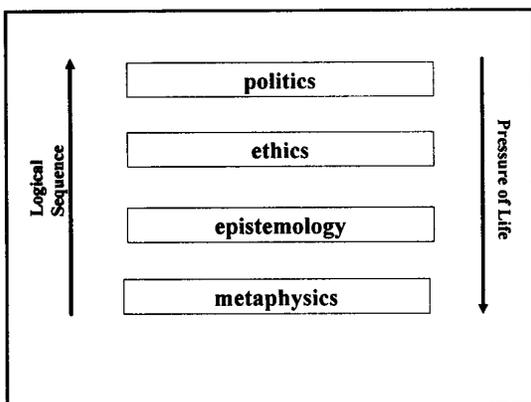
Moses speaks here of the fundamental relationship of obedience from the heart (“before Yahweh”= looks on the heart)

#### IV. CONCLUSION

- Living in the Word is a way of life.
- Fulfilling the 1<sup>st</sup> commandment involves consistent training in the Word of God as a [comprehensive] authority in every area of living, not just a “religious compartment.”
- Many things can divert us:
  1. Forgetting history or buying into unbelieving “revisions” so we need constant reminders from OT & NT Bible teaching especially at the points where it conflicts with secular history.
  2. Loss of integrity in language, using PC terminology to distort thinking about reality so we need to speak the truth and be people of our word.
  3. Distorting God Himself by buying into pagan cosmologies, so we need to war against these ideas in our hearts.
  4. Becoming arrogant and judging God for things happening in our life, so we need to consistently practice humble submission to his authority by taking His Word seriously in the hard times of life.
  5. Disregarding consistency by habitually practicing the Faith Rest Drill as we expand our understanding of Scripture.

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. . . .

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)



“The ancient man approached God (or the gods) as the accused person approaches his judge. For the modern man the roles are reversed. He is the judge: God is in the dock.”  
C. S. Lewis, God in the Dock