

Deuteronomy 4: Moses Concludes His First Speech

Deuteronomy 4:1-8 “Hear now...!”

4:1 God is “up front” with his requirements (Robertson 36) 36

4:2: “nothing added or subtracted” it is a unilateral arrangement and the sovereign alone can set the terms (Merrill) 115

What does the Bible say about adding/subtracting from the word of God?

Joshua 1:7-8

Proverbs 30:5-6

Matthew 5:17-19

Revelation 22:18-19

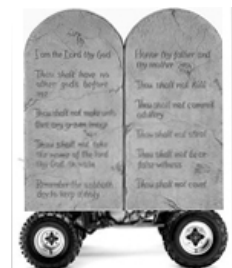
4:3 What happened at Baal-Peor?

Numbers 25:1-9

Psalms 106:28-29

The significance of Baal-Peor? It taught Israel that “the only way to survive in the new land was by being faithful to Yahweh’s covenant and obeying the statutes and ordinances of Yahweh which Moses had given them” (Thompson)

4:6 “Moses argues that keeping and doing the commandments of the Lord is in itself a definition of wisdom and understanding. That is, the very essence of wisdom is conformity with the will of God” (Merrill 116)



Deuteronomy 9-14 “Only be careful...”

4:9 the intent to recall what God has done must be an “ongoing reflection, one that remains part and parcel of the experience of that generation and every one to follow...[experiences] with the living God must be rooted and grounded in a historical event, an event that must be recalled and celebrated regularly and faithfully by all who participate in it and benefit from it...” (Merrill 119)

4:10 For Israel, there was a close connection between worship and life. Conversely the way of irreverence was the way of death (Deut. 30:15-20) (Thompson 120)

Application Questions

How does your life reveal a love for the law of God?



What do you think you would have to do to build the law of God (even more) into your life (and those lives around you)?

Deuteronomy 4:15-31 “Watch yourselves very carefully: corruption and idolatry

4:16-18: the idolatry here confuses the Creator with the created... the clear spheres of sovereignty meticulously spelled out in the creation mandate—God over humankind over all creation—are overturned and rearranged in such cases... (Merrill 122)

4: 20 Note that the time of bondage was a purifying time...

4:30 “return” = repent... the text makes it clear that it is not a matter of if Israel returns and obeys but when. Repentance is obviously a matter of free will, but the biblical witness is unanimous that the impetus to repent is something God himself will plant within his people....” (Merrill 128)

Application questions

What attitude of worship does God seek in his people in these verses:

4:15-20?

4:21-24?

4:25-28?

4: 29-31?

Deuteronomy 4:32-40 “There is no other God!”

4:32-40 This passage “is without comparison as a discourse on the doctrine of God. Here in brief scope the character, attributes, and actions of God are clearly and logically spelled out as are the implications of all this for Israel, his people.” (Merrill 130)

Let’s list those things:

4:37 the perfect illustration of election!

4:32-40 On what grounds may Israel have hope? The mercy of God, and the fact that Israel was a favored people. (Thompson 124)

How is this relevant for us?

Deuteronomy 4:44-45: “Giving the ‘Law’”

4:44-45 ‘law’ = teaching in a general sense, or the covenant at large; ‘testimonies’ = covenant stipulations; ‘statutes’ laws that were written down; ‘ordinances’ = decisions by a judge.

Next week:

Bible: Deuteronomy 5-6;

Living in Covenant with God, pp 55-68

Sources

Merrill, Eugene. Deuteronomy. The New American Commentary. Ed. Ray Clendenen. Vol. 4. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994.

Robertson, George. More Grace, More Love: Deuteronomy: Living in Covenant with God. Lawrenceville, GA: CEP, 2006.

Thompson, J. A. Deuteronomy. Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. Vol. 5. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1974.

