

DEUTERONOMY 10-12

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Deuteronomy chapter 10 as we continue our study through the Word of God.

Keep in mind that the book of Deuteronomy is a recap of the history for the children of Israel. And the reason for this was because the old generation had died in the wilderness, not entering into the Promise Land because of unbelief.

Now, this next generation was preparing to enter in, and Moses wants them to fully understand all the Lord desires of them.

As we finished up last time Moses was recounting the history of the children of Israel as they made this golden calf to worship God by at Mount Sinai.

Keep in mind that Moses was up on the mountain getting the Commandments of God while the children of Israel were already breaking them, the ones they told Moses and the Lord that they would keep!

Thus, the Lord tells Moses to get down from this mountain because **HIS** people were in sin.

As Moses sees what is going on he takes the two Tablets of the Law and throws them on the ground, breaking them in pieces, something that the children of Israel had already done in their lives!

And Moses knows the holiness and righteousness of God and he fears for the people and goes back up the mountain to intercede before God for them and for Aaron who was also involved in this golden calf incident!

What we saw was that Moses gave the people back to God, they are *HIS* people and Moses knew that God loved them more than he could ever love them.

And in this chapter, we will see the recovery after their fall or God's love for His people.

That is where we will pick up our study this evening; in Deuteronomy chapter 10, starting in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word.

DEUTERONOMY 10

VERSES 1-5

Why did God write down these Ten Commandments again after Moses broke the first set?

Because God's Word is living, and it is powerful, and it will change lives.

And Moses places these two tablets of stone with the Law written by the finger of God in the Ark of the Covenant.

Why were they placed in the Ark of The Covenant?

Think of it like this. The Ark of the Covenant is a treasure chest you might say.

What is my point?

My point is this. God's Word is a treasure, never forget that!

And I know for some, they feel that this would be the greatest archeological find, locating the Ark of the Covenant!

Let me be clear on this. What you have in your hands this evening, the Bible, was not written with the finger of God but by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and I wish more would treasure it, read it and apply it to their lives.

You have the treasure of God in your hands, and, as Paul told Timothy, **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”**

Now there is one more big point I want to bring up here and that is – *REVIVAL!*

We often look for ways to bring about a revival through all kinds of programs, but true revival will come as people get back to the Word of God!

I know, you may not believe that but look at what the Scriptures show us.

In II Kings chapter 22, starting in verse 8, as Josiah is King, notice what took place not only in his life but also in the life of the nation, how it affected the people.

We are going to look at this story so you can see what happened as the Word of God is found.

This is what we are told, **“Then Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, ‘I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord.’ And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. So Shaphan the scribe went to the king, bringing the king word, saying, ‘Your servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of those who do the work, who oversee the house of the Lord.’ Then Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, ‘Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book.’ And Shaphan read it before the king. Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes. Then the king commanded Hilkiyah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Michaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying, ‘Go, inquire of the Lord for me, for the people and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the**

Lord that is aroused against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us.’ So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe. (She dwelt in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter.) And they spoke with her. Then she said to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God of Israel, “Tell the man who sent you to Me, Thus says the Lord: Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants - all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read - because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands. Therefore My wrath shall be aroused against this place and shall not be quenched.”’ But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, in this manner you shall speak to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of Israel: “Concerning the words which you have heard - because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you,” says the Lord. Surely, therefore, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place.’ So they brought back word to the king. Now the king sent them to gather all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem to him. The king went up to the house of the Lord with all the men of Judah, and with him all the inhabitants of Jerusalem - the priests and the prophets and all the people, both small and great. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant which had been found in the house of the Lord. Then the king stood by a pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to follow the Lord and to keep His

commandments and His testimonies and His statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people took a stand for the covenant. And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, the priests of the second order, and the doorkeepers, to bring out of the temple of the Lord all the articles that were made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the host of heaven; and he burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried their ashes to Bethel. Then he removed the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense on the high places in the cities of Judah and in the places all around Jerusalem, and those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun, to the moon, to the constellations, and to all the host of heaven. And he brought out the wooden image from the house of the Lord, to the Brook Kidron outside Jerusalem, burned it at the Brook Kidron and ground it to ashes, and threw its ashes on the graves of the common people. Then he tore down the ritual booths of the perverted persons that were in the house of the Lord, where the women wove hangings for the wooden image. And he brought all the priests from the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beersheba; also he broke down the high places at the gates which were at the entrance of the Gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were to the left of the city gate. Nevertheless the priests of the high places did not come up to the altar of the Lord in Jerusalem, but they ate unleavened bread among their brethren. And he defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech. Then he removed the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun, at the entrance to the house of the Lord, by the chamber of Nathan-Melech, the officer who was in the court; and he burned the chariots of the sun with fire. The altars that were on the

roof, the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the Lord, the king broke down and pulverized there, and threw their dust into the Brook Kidron. Then the king defiled the high places that were east of Jerusalem, which were on the south of the Mount of Corruption, which Solomon king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the people of Ammon. And he broke in pieces the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images, and filled their places with the bones of men. Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he broke down; and he burned the high place and crushed it to powder, and burned the wooden image. . . . Then the king commanded all the people, saying, 'Keep the Passover to the Lord your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant.' Such a Passover surely had never been held since the days of the judges who judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah. But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this Passover was held before the Lord in Jerusalem. Moreover Josiah put away those who consulted mediums and spiritists, the household gods and idols, all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the Lord. Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him." II Kings 22:8-23:15, 21-25.

Did you see how revival broke out?

As the Word of God was found, read and applied to their lives!

That is what God can do and will do as His Word is brought back to the people. If only pastors, church leaders, Christians would understand that and get back to the basics, get back to the Word of God!

Getting right with God after a time of rebellion, not only for the children of Israel, but for us as well, must *always* begin and center on God's Word.

VERSES 6-9

What is this all about, this separation of the Tribe of Levi?

God was showing Israel that they could not accomplish this on their own; you can't take care of the problem of sin.

Thus, the tribe of Levi, the priests were to be the mediator for them until the Messiah would come and not just cover their sins for a time, but to take them away completely!

In other words, ***"You can't do it on your own. You need to come to God through a mediator, who will atone for your sin, pray for you, and bless you. If you refuse your priestly mediator, and trust in your own ability to do these things, you will perish."***

If you are living in rebellion against God tonight, like the children of Israel had done, the only solution is to return to Jesus, to stand before Him, repenting of your sins and He will forgive!

VERSES 10-11

Once again, how did they come back to God?

They came back to His Word, they came through the priesthood, and now God tells them that it is time to move on!

Make no mistake about it. We come to God through His Word, and we come to Him through our High Priest, Jesus Christ.

And as we do, we then can move forward in our walk with the Lord!

You see, coming back to the Lord does not mean you remain stagnant, you must forge on, you must walk by faith.

As Christians we are to progress forward. If we don't, if we remain in the same place, then what is the point of getting right with God?

It makes no sense because you are right back where you started from, rebellion against God.

God wants us to move on with Him, and when we are walking right with God again, we will go in and possess the land, or we will be living that Spirit filled life!

That is Paul's point in Philippians 3:12-14, "**Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**"

We need to press on, move forward, to go as the Lord is leading us!

VERSES 12-14

Here's the thing. Genesis 1:1 says it all. God created the heavens and the earth, everything belongs to Him and thus, it just makes sense to obey Him. But, if you reject Genesis 1:1, then I am sure you have a problem with what God is saying and what our response to God should be.

To me, this is a great question we should be asking ourselves, *“What does the LORD my God require of me?”*

What does the Lord require of us?

There are several points here.

- *We are to fear the Lord, that reverential fear and if that is how you feel about the Lord, chances are you won't disobey Him.*
- *We are to walk in His ways. In other words, don't turn to the left or the right, but keep your eyes upon the Lord as He leads you.*
- *We are to love the Lord and folks, love is not a feeling, but it is an act of your will! You see, feelings change, but what you have purposed in your heart will stand strong, it will stand the test of time.*
- *We are to serve the Lord with our entire being or as Paul said in Romans 12:1, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service [or spiritual worship].” All that we do should be done unto the Lord and if it is not, then chances are we will give up, drop out, the work will stop!*
- *We are to keep the commandments of God, not just know them. Yes, we need to know the truths of God found in the Word of God but then we must also apply those truths to our lives! If we love Him, we will obey Him.*

Now, why did they need to do this?

Moses tells us that it is for our own good!

God is not some dictator using His power to do what He wants. He does these things because they are good for us.

He does these things because they are beneficial to us!

I may not always understand what God is doing, but I trust what He is doing, that it is for my good.

In other words, ***FATHER KNOWS BEST!***

Make no mistake about it, here is what God requires of you and me tonight. ***FEAR GOD!***
WALK WITH GOD! LOVE GOD! SERVE GOD! OBEY GOD!

VERSE 15

What a privilege to have God focused upon our lives, and thus, we need to obey just as Israel was called to do.

VERSE 16

The children of Israel were to circumcise all the male boys eight days after they were born.

This was symbolic, for here we see Moses instruct them to circumcise their hearts, but why?

Because when that hardness is cut away, the exposed tissue is more sensitive and the idea here is that they would be more sensitive to the Lord.

You see, instead of having hard hearts, insensitive to the Lord, they would be open to His voice in their lives.

Folks, only the Lord, through His Spirit can do that in our lives if we allow Him. That water of the Holy Spirit softens our hard hearts and makes us sensitive to the things of God!

VERSES 17-22

If these things were not true, we would be in trouble.

Look at all we see here.

GOD IS GREAT!
GOD IS MIGHTY!

GOD IS AWESOME!
GOD IS FAIR!
GOD IS JUST!
GOD LOVES THE UNDERDOG OR THE DISADVANTAGE!
GOD LOVES AND CARES FOR US!

Why is this important?

Because, when we understand who God is, His character, it is easy to love Him and obey Him! All we have is from Him, all the blessings and thus, why not serve a God who loves you, saved you, is sustaining you and will one day take you to glory to be with Him!

He truly is not only the object of our praise, but He is worthy of all our praise!

DEUTERONOMY 11

VERSES 1-7

What does God desire of us?

Not money!

Not wealth!

Not possessions!

Simply, our ***LOVE!***

Remember what Jesus said to the Ephesian church in Revelation 2:4, “**Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.**”

Not that they lost it, or it was stolen, but they ***LEFT*** their first love, Jesus and if we lose love, we lose all.

And here’s the thing. Real love, true love will be manifested in obedience to the Lord.

In fact, in Hebrew the command to love the **LORD**, to love **YAHWEH**, means to choose Him for one's most intimate relationship and then to express that choice in obedience to His revealed will!

It is as Jesus said in John 14:15, **"If you love Me, keep My commandments."**

Also, Moses speaks to the generation who witnessed not only the blessings of God but also the chastening of God and thus, they need to remember these things.

We tend to look back at what we have done, and God tells us not to do that, don't look back and think you have done this, but look back and see what He has done.

And when we do, we not only glorify the Lord, bring praise to Him, but we are encouraged to forge ahead.

And that should be an encouragement to us as we look back and see all that God has done in our lives. It gives us encouragement for the present situations we face and courage for what is ahead! We love Him because He first loved us! May we not forget that! (I John 4:19)

VERSES 8-15

As they looked back and remembered all that God had done for them, it should give them courage to walk forward and enter the Land of Promise.

The land of Canaan would not be like Egypt was like.

In Egypt, yes, the land was fertile, but they had to water the land by irrigation, using foot-driven pumps to bring water from the Nile River to flood their fields.

But now, in the Promise Land, God would water the land from above and it would be a land that was very fruitful!

The early rain fell in September/October, and it was important to soften the ground for plowing and planting the seed.

The latter rain came in March/April, and it helped prepare the crops for harvesting.

Today in Israel, since they have been back in the land, the early and latter rains have returned, after being gone for almost 2,000 years.

Yes, they have reforested the land, but I believe God has brought them this rain as Joel 2:23-24 tells us, **“Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the Lord your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you - The former rain, And the latter rain in the first month. The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.”**

And thus, God declares He is watching over the land of Israel, back then and even today, they are still His special people!

How does this relate to us as Christians?

Many times, churches and leaders try to artificially pump people up and that may work for a time, but it is something that won't last, and you will have to keep pumping them up!

We need to pray for God's Spirit to fall upon us and soften our hearts so as the seed of His Word falls upon our hearts, it will take root and grow! There will be fruit in the ministry!

And keep this in mind. This work of God will last, it is not artificial, but supernatural!

VERSES 16-17

Prosperity can bring about apathy and idolatry as people turn away from God and this is not only a warning to Israel, but also to us!

Just as God would shut up the rain from heaven for their disobedience, He can cause our lives to dry up as we turn from Him, as we quench what the Holy Spirit is trying to do in our lives.

To keep our walk fresh, we need to depend upon the Lord and obey His Words to us!

VERSES 18-21

What were they to fill their lives with?

They were to fill their lives with the Word of God and not just information but application of the Word to their lives.

They were also to teach these things to their children; they were to let their children see that their faith was real and that they did what they said they believed!

Here's the thing. We need to be reminded because it is so easy to forget all that the Lord has done, is doing and will do in our lives.

You see, what was good for Israel, is good for us as well. We need to treasure God's Word in our lives. We need to fill our lives up with the Word of God and live what we say we believe!

And there is that peace, that comfort, that joy, that thankfulness, that rest and so much more that our lives are then filled with as we rest in Him and His Word!

It is as Paul said in Philippians 4:8-9, **“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”**

VERSES 22-25

Here we see love and obedience walking hand-in-hand. In other words, if you love the Lord, you will obey Him! And God promises to give them victory in the battles they would face in the Promise Land. He tells them that no enemy would be able to stand against them. In fact, their enemies would fear them and that is exactly what we see as they enter the Promise Land.

Remember when the two spies entered Jericho to check it out, they met up with Rahab and we are told in Joshua 2:8-11, **“Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, and said to the men: ‘I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.’”**

For us as Christians, we should feel the same.

In fact, John tells us in I John 4:4, **“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”**

May we not forget that!

VERSES 26-28

For Israel, they had a choice to make. To obey the Lord and be blessed or to disobey the Lord and receive the curse, His chastening upon their lives!

For us today, the curse of sin, the curse we deserve was placed upon Jesus as He hung on the cross of Calvary.

Paul tells us in Galatians 3:10-14, **“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.’ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for ‘the just shall live by faith.’ Yet the law is not of faith, but ‘the man who does them shall live by them.’ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”**

But please understand there are still consequences to our actions. We too have choices to make, and we can either receive the blessings by obeying or receive the curse or consequences of our disobedience, the chastening of God upon our lives!

VERSES 29-32

These two mountains were located near Shechem with a small valley between them.

In Deuteronomy chapters 27 and 28, we see Moses tell the children of Israel what they are to do when they enter the land.

They are to take 12 leaders of the 12 tribes of Israel. Six of them were to stand on Mount Gerizim, which was wooded, green and beautiful.

The other six were to stand on Mount Ebal, which was barren and rocky.

From Mount Gerizim they would call out the blessings for obedience and from Mount Ebal the cursing for disobedience.

And the people would gather in the valley of Shechem, and upon each pronouncement the people would shout “**Amen!**”

We see this played out when they are in the land, in Joshua 8:30-35, where we are told, **“Now Joshua built an altar to the Lord God of Israel in Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded the children of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses: ‘an altar of whole stones over which no man has wielded an iron tool.’ And they offered on it burnt offerings to the Lord, and sacrificed peace offerings. And there, in the presence of the children of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written. Then all Israel, with their elders and officers and judges, stood on either side of the ark before the priests, the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord, the stranger as well as he who was born among them. Half of them were in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded before, that they should bless the people of Israel. And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessings and the cursings, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, with the women, the little ones, and the strangers who were living among them.”**

On the altar of stones, Joshua copied the Law of Moses and after the cursing and blessings were given, Joshua read *ALL* the Law of Moses.

After the incident at Ai, a battle they lost and was fresh in their minds, God was showing to them that there are consequences for obedience and consequences for disobedience.

Here is Joshua, the children of Israel were now in the heart of the Promised Land, Canaan, in route to defeat their enemies in the south and then towards the wilderness of the north, learning lessons from God along the way, and so are we!

Now, before we move into Deuteronomy chapter 12, let me share this with you because it will set the stage for what we will be talking about.

We are told,

A 1999 edition of World magazine reported on Japan's attempt to save the endangered albatross.

Hundreds of decoys were placed on the Izu Islands. The wooden decoys were supposed to lure birds back to their native breeding grounds.

But one albatross, a bird named Deko, fell in love with one of the decoys.

He tried to woo the cut-out bird by building fancy nests and fighting off rival suitors.

Deko spends his days standing faithfully by the side of his beloved.

A Japanese zoologist, Fumio Sato, commented on Deko's strange infatuation. He said, "He seems to have no desire to date real birds."

Evidently, Deko finds a wooden albatross more desirable than a live one. This is how some folks feel about God. They'd rather snuggle up to *a wooden god – a god of their own making – a god they can control and manipulate - a god that won't talk back or make demands – a god that caters to their carnality – a god they can put on their mantle, rather than a God Who's on the move.*

There are plenty of people who prefer to worship a decoy. This has been man's problem from the beginning.

Whether it's *an idol, an item, an ideal, or an individual* – people tend to worship something or someone other than the one, true God.

And this is what God didn't want to happen to Israel.

Exodus 34:14 tells us, **“For you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”**

God is a jealous God. He is not jealous *of you*, but He is jealous *for you*. He wants your love and allegiance.

God hates split loyalties. Anything that rivals our love for God is an idol.

The last verse in 1 John reads, **“Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.”**

Well, in Deuteronomy 12-13 *God tells us how* . . . [God] establish[s] safeguards to protect His people, Israel, from idolatry.

- Sandy Adams, Deuteronomy 12

DEUTERONOMY 12

VERSES 1-4

The warning and the command for the children of Israel is to destroy the pagan worship places, the idols when they enter into the Promise Land because if they don't, it will draw them away from the true and living God.

And that is exactly what happened, they didn't fully obey the Lord and suffered the consequences. God wants His worship to be pure!

For us today, when we get saved, we need to remove those places of worship we once enjoyed, remove those idols because they too will be a snare in our lives. God wants us to worship Him fully, not half-heartedly.

Paul saw how the Lord impacted the lives of the people of Thessalonica once they got saved and he tells us in I Thessalonians 1:8-10, **“For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”**

And Paul’s warning to us of what this will do to us if we go after idols is found in Galatians 4:8-9, **“But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?”**

I think the message is clear, flee from idols, don’t go back to them but worship the Lord with your whole life! You can’t serve two masters!

VERSES 5-9

God did not want them worshiping Him like the pagans worshiped their gods, on the high places, in the groves but He would pick out a place that He is to be worshiped, and it will be Jerusalem!

When they entered the land, the Tabernacle was set up in six locations. After entering the Promised Land, the Tabernacle was set up first in Gilgal. Then in Shechem. Then in Shiloh and Nob and Gibeon. Finally, the Temple was built in Jerusalem. That is where it was to remain, the place where God dwelt, and the people were to come and worship Him there.

Today in the church much of what we see that is called worship is man-centered, it is self-centered, it is experience driven. The worship tries to pump people up like they are at some kind of sporting event.

But folks, worship is never about us, it is about the **LORD!** That is where our focus needs to be.

Many leave a time of worship saying, ***“I feel great. That was great music!”***

Instead, they should have come before Almighty God and just be praising Him and thanking Him for what He has done, enjoying being in His presence.

You see, real worship is measured by how God was honored and worshiped and not how I feel!

I like the way that Spurgeon put it. He wrote, ***“Singing should be congregational, but it should never be performed for the credit of the congregation. ‘Such remarkable singing! The place is quite renowned for its musical performances!’ This is a poor achievement. Our singing should be such that God hears it with pleasure - singing in which there is not so much art as heart, not so much of musical sound as of spiritual emotion.”***

That is what it is about folks, may we not forget that. Worship is about God and not us!

VERSES 10-14

For the children of Israel God has a specific place they were to worship Him and that would be in the Temple there in Jerusalem. It was a place of sacrifice, of worship, of rejoicing. There was great joy and celebration on the feast days. Folks, there should be joy as we come before the Lord!

Spurgeon put it like this, the right way to worship and the wrong way to worship. He wrote, *“All Christian duties should be done joyfully; but especially the work of praising the Lord. I have been in congregations where . . . the spirit of the people seemed so damp, so heavy, so dead, that we might have supposed they had met for a hanging - rather than for blessing the ever-gracious God.”*

Make no mistake about it, when we come to church to worship the Lord we should be filled with joy!

Paul reminds us in Philippians 4:4, **“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”**

Keep in mind that Paul was in prison when he wrote that about rejoicing in the Lord!

And in I Thessalonians 5:16 he wrote, **“Rejoice always.”** And as we have read here in Deuteronomy, we are not to come before God murmuring and complaining.

Yes, there are those times that are difficult, I am not negating that. But for the most part, we had a fight with the wife, the kids were acting like demons this morning, I am mad at this person or whatever and we come to church like it is a funeral service and that is wrong!

VERSES 15-28

Moses is instructing them not to follow the pagan practices. You see, almost every animal that was slaughtered was offered to one of the many pagan gods.

But the Lord, through Moses, is telling them that not every animal that is slaughtered is sacrificed unto Him. You could eat meat anywhere but not blood because life is in the blood.

Did you realize that it wasn't until the discovery of the circulation of the blood by the creation scientist William Harvey, in about 1620, that biological "life" really is maintained by the blood, which both brings nourishment to all parts of the body and also carries away its wastes.

Think about this. Even as few as 200 years ago, this Biblical reality was disregarded when it was common to attempt to cure people by draining their blood.

Barbers, recognized by their red-and-white-striped poles, were the typical operators.

Bloodletting is an ancient practice, returning well over 2,000 years to ancient Greece.

I think the most famous bloodletting is the example of George Washington. He was bled to death by his medical professionals in 1799 at age 67 after catching a cold from overseeing his farm in a snowstorm.

The typical adult body consists of 160-170 ounces of blood. Yet throughout 10 hours preceding Washington's death, 125 ounces of his blood were withdrawn.

THE LIFE IS IN THE BLOOD and for us today – ***THE LIFE IS IN THE SHED
BLOOD OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS OF CALVARY!***

If you negate the blood of Christ, you will die – spiritually speaking, in fact you are dead and you need to be born again, you need Christ in your life!

Also, we are told that if you were sacrificing to the Lord, you could not do it anywhere you wanted, God had a place that the sacrifices were to be made.

VERSES 29-32

The warning is simple. follow the Lord and don't be lead astray with those pagan practices. Don't let curiosity, sinful curiosity bring you into captivity!

Tragically the Canaanites would offer their children to the god Molech. They would heat up this bronze statue of this god and place their infants in the outstretched arms, the burning hot arms of this god and they would beat drums loudly to drown out the screams of these children!

And the children of Israel did not heed this warning from God, and they even practiced these child sacrifices to this god.

Let me show you what I mean with a few verses.

- *At the least, Solomon sanctioned the worship of Molech, building a temple to this idol (1 Kings 11:7).*
- *King Ahaz of Judah gave his own son to Molech (2 Kings 16:3).*
- *One of the great crimes of the northern tribes of Israel was their worship of Molech, leading to the Assyrian captivity (2 Kings 17:17).*
- *King Manasseh of Judah gave his son to Molech (2 Kings 21:6).*
- *Up to the days of King Josiah of Judah, Molech worship continued, because he destroyed a place of worship to that idol (2 Kings 23:10).*

Before we get too smug, over 60 million babies have been murdered in their mother's womb to the god of pleasure and we call it abortion!

It is time to wake up, to worship God as He desires, to destroy those idols and false worship places, those practices like we see happening in the emerging church, the seeker friendly church, the purpose driven church and many others.

What is the key?

Look at verse 32 as we close this evening, **“Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.”**

May we hear the things of God!

May we learn the things of God!

May we keep the things of God!

May we do the things of God!

For in doing so there is great joy and satisfaction as we live out our lives as a living sacrifice to the **LORD!**