

DEUTERONOMY 12-14

February 26, 2012

Today we will study **chapters 12 through 14 of the book of Deuteronomy.**

Introduction:

In **chapter 12** Moses is giving various instructions to the people. Some of their “offerings” were animals that they would eat during the Jewish feasts. Those would be eaten at God’s designated sight some day (in Jerusalem at the Temple). Those who lived long distances away were permitted to celebrate some of those festivals in their own cities (*within your gates*).

12:2-3 In **verses 1 to 3** they were to destroy all of the reminders of the false gods of these people. What else were they to do?

- *They were to destroy all of the people, too. See Deuteronomy 7:1-5. [1 “When the Lord your God brings you into the land you are about to enter and occupy, he will clear away many nations ahead of you: the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. These seven nations are greater and more numerous than you. 2 When the Lord your God hands these nations over to you and you conquer them, you must completely destroy them. Make no treaties with them and show them no mercy. 3 You must not intermarry with them. Do not let your daughters and sons marry their sons and daughters, 4 for they will lead your children away from me to worship other gods. Then the anger of the Lord will burn against you, and he will quickly destroy you. 5 This is what you must do. You must break down their pagan altars and shatter their sacred pillars. Cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols.*

Why were they to do this?

- *These were wicked people. See 12:29-31. [29 “When the Lord your God goes ahead of you and destroys the nations and you drive them out and live in their land, 30 do not fall into the trap of following their customs and worshiping their gods. Do not inquire about their gods, saying, ‘How do these nations worship their gods? I want to follow their example.’ 31 You must not worship the Lord your God the way the other nations worship their gods, for they perform for their gods every detestable act that the Lord hates. They even burn their sons and daughters as sacrifices to their gods.] See 1 Corinthians 15:33. [33 Don’t be fooled by those who say such things, for “bad company corrupts good character.” It’s easier to pull down than it is to lift up.]*

12:5-7 What do we learn about church attendance and giving in **verses 5 to 7**?

- There is a **PLACE** where God is to worship and our tithes and offerings are to be given. Notice the word *there* in **verses 5, 6, and 7**.

12:8 What does **verse 8** have to do with the previous three verses?

- We are to do what the Lord says, not what we think or feel.

What does **verse 8** have to do with **verses 2 and 3**?

- They were to do what the Lord says, not what they thought or felt.

How is **verse 8** relevant to our world today?

- People today think that they can do anything they want to do and still be a Christian. They misinterpret forgiveness, grace, and “freedom” to mean that you can do anything you want. The unchanging God’s expectation of our behavior has never changed.

12:23 What is the significance of **verse 23**?

- Life is in the blood. When Jesus shed His blood He gave up His life. The blood of Jesus (the giving of His life) is what saves us. **See Leviticus 17:11.** [*11 for the life of the body is in its blood. I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the Lord. It is the blood, given in exchange for a life that makes purification possible.*]

12:28 If we listen to the Lord and do what is right, then it will be “well” with us and our offspring.

12:32 What do we learn from **verse 32**?

- We are to do what God says. We are not to add to or take away from His Word. **See Revelation 22:18-19.** [*18 And I solemnly declare to everyone who hears the words of prophecy written in this book: If anyone adds anything to what is written here, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book. 19 And if anyone removes any of the words from this book of prophecy, God will remove that person’s share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are described in this book.*]

In **chapter 13** the people are told to show no mercy but to utterly destroy any person or city that should serve or worship any other God.

13:1-3 What do we learn that is interesting in **verses 1 to 3**?

- False prophets may work miracles. Miracles don’t validate the person, obedience to God does.

13:6-10 What do we learn about sin in the lives of loved ones in **verses 6 to 10**?

- Right is right, no matter who is against it. Wrong is wrong, no matter who is for it. If someone we love gets into sin, we should be the **FIRST** person to challenge and to stand against that person (**vs. 9**). Being close to them doesn’t give us permission to avoid the matter; it gives us responsibility to address the matter.

13:11 What do we learn about choices and consequences from **verse 11**?

- The punishment of wrong is the greatest deterrent of wrong behavior. When we see the consequences of other’s choices, then we make better choices ourselves. **See 1 Timothy 5:20.** [*20 Those who sin should be reprimanded in front of the whole church; this will serve as a strong warning to others*]. Fear of painful consequences is a greater motivation to most people than the promise of reward.

13:12-18 What were they told in **verses 12 to 18**?

- If a city in Israel began to follow a false god, the entire place and all of the people and things in it were to be destroyed.

Leaders were to keep the people from worshiping false gods. Eventually it was the leaders who introduced the false gods to Israel. For example, see 1 Kings 11:1-6.

- [*1 Now King Solomon loved many foreign women. Besides Pharaoh’s daughter, he married women from Moab, Ammon, Edom, Sidon, and from among the Hittites. 2 The Lord had clearly instructed the people of Israel, ‘You must not marry them, because they will turn your hearts to their gods.’ Yet Solomon insisted on loving them anyway. 3 He had 700 wives of royal birth and 300 concubines. And in fact, they did turn his heart away from the Lord. 4 In Solomon’s old age, they turned his heart to worship other gods instead of being completely faithful to the Lord his God, as his father, David, had been. 5 Solomon worshiped Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech, the detestable god of the Ammonites. 6 In this way, Solomon did what was evil in the Lord’s sight; he refused to follow the Lord completely, as his father, David, had done. Leaders should be the solution, but sometimes they are the problem.*]

14:1-20 In chapter 14 verses 1 to 20 we are given a list of “clean” animals that they could eat and of “unclean” animals that they were not to eat. In Acts 10:9-16 God told Peter that they could eat the meat of animals that had previously been declared unclean.

14:22-29 In verses 22 to 29 we learn several things about the tithe; what are those things?

- We shall *surely* give it – vs. 22.
- It would be used for the work of God; part of it would be for the food for the festivals – vs. 23.
- If they lived a long way from Jerusalem, they could sell their “tithe” (which was produce or animals), take the money (which would be easier to transport) to Jerusalem, and there purchase animals or produce to give as their tithe – vs. 24-26.
- This explains the moneychangers in the Temple who later became corrupt and were rebuked by Jesus (Matthew 21:12-13).
- Their tithes would also be used to help the poor and to support the priestly tribe, the Levites, who were the church “staff” of their day – vs. 27-29.