

The Covenant

{as seen in Deuteronomy}

Part 6

Introduction to the book

Quotes from Matthew Henry

“This book is a repetition of very much both of the history and of the laws contained in the three foregoing books, which repetition Moses delivered to Israel (both by word of mouth, that it might affect, and by writing, that it might abide) a little before his death.”

“This book of Deuteronomy begins with a brief rehearsal of the most remarkable events that had befallen the Israelites since they came from Mount Sinai.”

“In the fourth chapter we have a most pathetic {Passionate} exhortation to obedience. In the twelfth chapter, and so on to the twenty-seventh, are repeated many particular laws, which are enforced (ch. 27 and 28) with promises and threatenings, blessings and curses, formed into a covenant, ch. 29 and 30. Care is taken to perpetuate the remembrance of these things among them (ch. 31), particularly by a song (ch. 32), and so Moses concludes with a blessing, ch. 33.”

“All this was delivered by Moses to Israel in the last month of his life. The whole book contains the history but of two months; compare Deu 1:3 with Jos 4:19, the latter of which was the thirty days of Israel's mourning for Moses; see how busy that great and good man was to do good when he knew that his time was short, how quick his motion when he drew near his rest. Thus we have more recorded of what our blessed Saviour said and did in the last week of his life than in any other. The last words of eminent persons make or should make deep impressions. Observe, for the honour of this book, that when our Saviour would answer the devil's temptations with, *It is written*, he fetched all his quotations out of this book, Mat 4:4, Mat 4:7, Mat 4:10.”

The first Chapter we will look at is Chapter 4

Deu 4:13 *And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.*

Note;

We have here:

1. A Declared Covenant.

“And he declared unto you his covenant”

This is the idea of an Announcement.

A Proclamation.

Consider:

To whom this proclamation was made.

“declared unto you”

The Proclamation of 1916 is an illustration of this

It starts with the words:

***“IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN:** In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.”*

So:

The Lord was proclaiming to a particular people his covenant.

2. A Compulsory Covenant.

“which he commanded you to perform”

Consider:

This covenant was not just something to look good on the fireplace or in a picture frame.

It was to be performed!!!

When the men of 1916 read the proclamation they sealed it with their blood.

That is what gave it its meaning and value.

Imagine if Pearce had read the proclamation and then had left the GPO and went home.

It would have been meaningless!!!

3. A precise Covenant.

“even ten commandments”

Note:

There could be no room for error. The Lord, through Moses, was being as clear as possible in what he wanted of his people.

Consider:

The Jews over the years would add many unnecessary laws.

But God never overburdened his people.

4. A written Covenant.

“and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.”

Consider:

1. Who wrote them.

God “He” wrote.

2. How he wrote.

On tables of stone.

Consider our next verse in this chapter.

Deu 4:23 *Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee.*

Note:

What will happen if the Covenant is Forgotten.

The people will become Idolaters!!!

So:

The Covenant Protects against Sin.

Deu 4:31 (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them.

In this verse:

We have:

A reminder of the Character of the one making the Covenant.

How important this is.

Illus:

In the Song; “A nation once again”

There is in the third verse:

***For, Freedom comes from God's right hand,
And needs a godly train;
And righteous men must make our land
A nation once again!***

Again:

Consider:

If the men of 1916 were immoral rascals, it would bring into question their motives for what they did.

No one has ever seriously questioned them on this basis.

Why?

They were men of good Character!

And in our present verse the Lord presents his own character as reason to have confidence in the Covenant.

Note:

In this verse:

What God is

“A merciful God”

Then:

What he will not do.

Sometimes, what someone will not do can be as or more important than what he will do.

“he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers”

Why?

“which he sware unto them”

*Deu 5:1 And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them,
Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak
in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep,
and do them.*

*Deu 5:2 The LORD our God made a covenant with us in
Horeb.*

Deu 5:3 *The LORD made not this covenant with our
fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive
this day.*

*Deu 5:4 The LORD talked with you face to face in the
mount out of the midst of the fire,*

Note:

In verse 3 we have the “Progression” of the Covenants.

“Not with our Fathers”

Note Also:

The place of the Covenant.

Verse 2

Horeb.

Not in Egypt.

Consider;

The Covenant comes after Deliverance, After Salvation.

Then.

3. The Transparency of the Covenant.

Deu 5:4 The LORD talked with you face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire,

Illus:

If you thought someone was hiding something from you, you would have no dealings with them.

God was open faced with his people!!!

How then does the Covenant affect our relationship with those in the world?

Read Deut. 7: 1-12.

Deu 7:2 And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:

Deu 7:3 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.

Deu 7:4 For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

Deu 7:5 But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.

Deu 7:6 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.
