

# Deuteronomy: God's Covenant People

[#11] *How Do We Know that God Has Spoken?* – Deuteronomy 4:9–14

## Sermon Outline – September 24, 2017

### Children's Sermon: Why Should We Trust Jesus?

**Trust is Reasonable:** Because Jesus is God & He is Good

**How do we Know Jesus is God & Good?**

**Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the *gospel* [good news], for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who *believes* [who trusts it]...

What is this good news? (Jesus' Person & Work)

How do we know this stuff really happened?

**1 John 4:14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

### *The Historical Review*

Notes:

The Lord's Powerful Grace in the Wilderness (1:6–4:40)

### **Moses: Keep the Covenant! (4:1–40)**

Find out what God said, then trust it & do it!

1. **Trust Yahweh** to Preserve Your Life (1-5)

4:1 “**And now**, O Israel, **listen to** the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and **do them**, **that you may live...**”

### **Deuteronomy 6:24**

And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, *for our good* always, **that he might preserve us alive**, as we are this day.

4:4 **But** you who **held fast to the Lord your God** are all **alive** today.

- Learn** and **Live** God's Words (*Trust in Action*)
- Don't **Change** or **Reject** God's Rules – (*Who are you trusting?*)

2. Obedience is **Beautiful**, even to the Nations (6-8)

- They would admire the personal relationship...
- They would admire the laws themselves (Cf. Rom. 1:18–21)



Trust in Action

**...Fired at our Life & Heart**

We obey Jesus  
because we trust him to give us life and beauty!

[e.g. Women Elders]



How did Israel know what Yahweh had commanded?

### **They had Seen & Heard (9-14)**

<sup>9</sup> “*Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that **your eyes have seen**, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children—<sup>10</sup> how on the day that you stood before the Lord your God at Horeb, the Lord said to me, ‘Gather the people to me, **that I may let them hear my words**, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.’<sup>11</sup> And you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, while the mountain burned with fire to the heart of heaven, wrapped in darkness, cloud, and gloom.<sup>12</sup> Then the Lord spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice.<sup>13</sup> **And he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments**, and he wrote them on two tablets of stone.<sup>14</sup> **And the Lord commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and rules**, that you might do them in the land that you are going over to possess.*

Enduring Faith Deliberately Built on Historical Facts:

1. You saw & heard God speak at Mt. Horeb/Sinai
2. Treat his covenant with diligent urgency
  - a. Remember
  - b. Teach (Cf. Deut. 6:7, 20; 11:19; 31:13; 32:46)

### ***Today’s Clear Biblical Bullet...***

Israel should diligently protect the historical facts that their covenant with Yahweh is built upon.



## **Only Jesus should be Trusted**

**We Have Seen & Heard, Now Remember & Teach**

### **2 Peter 1:16–18**

<sup>16</sup> For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were *eyewitnesses* of his majesty.<sup>17</sup>

For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,”<sup>18</sup> *we ourselves heard this very voice* borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

### 1 John 1:3

...that which we have *seen* and *heard* we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

**Greg Koukl** – “There is no good historical evidence for any of the ancient mythological characters and their deeds, but there is an abundance of reliable historical evidence for Jesus. ...

Nowadays, the vast majority of scholars on the life of Jesus—including those who are entirely secular and have no religious stake in the matter — agree to four facts of history. First, Jesus died on a Roman cross on Friday and was buried in a tomb. Second, that tomb was empty Sunday morning. Third, numerous witnesses testified—at great peril to themselves—that they saw Jesus alive multiple times after he had died, that they met with him and even ate with him. Finally, even the skeptic, James, and the mortal enemy of Christians, Saul of Tarsus, were convinced they had seen Jesus risen from the dead, and both willingly died rather than recant—James stoned, and Paul beheaded. [There is 75% consensus on the empty tomb and virtually 99% agreement on the other three facts.] ...

Let me say outright that most scholars do not think Jesus rose from the dead. No, there is a split decision on this question. But here is the curious thing. Most of those same critics, on the main, reject every one of the standard naturalistic explanations for our facts too...”<sup>i</sup>



Who You Trust Matters

*...Fired at our Life & Heart*

Our confidence in the new covenant is built on the historical facts of Jesus' person & work!



**But Aren't these things Taught by the Holy Spirit?**

## The Person & Work of Jesus are Spiritually Discerned

### 1 Corinthians 2:12–14

<sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, *that we might understand the things freely given us by God*. <sup>13</sup> And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but *taught by the Spirit*, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. <sup>14</sup> **The natural person** does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

**The Spirit teaches** us the significance of the facts (Born Again)

- My rebellion against God is my greatest enemy (Confession)
- Jesus must be who he claims to be! (Person)
- His work for me really is the perfect rescue for sinners like me! (Work)
- It now makes perfect sense to trust Jesus (Faith)
- My love for and confidence in Jesus compels me to take up my cross and follow him (Repentance)

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<sup>i</sup> Koukl, Gregory. **The Story of Reality: How the World Began, How It Ends, and Everything Important that Happens in Between** (p. 105, 148 & 149). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

The conclusion is the result of an exhaustive analysis surveying 1,400 academic sources published since 1975, printed in English, French, and German. Find superb summaries of this approach in Habermas and Licona, *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel, 2004), Third Edition (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2008), 348–400.