

Deuteronomy: God's Covenant People

[#10] *Life, Wisdom and Understanding* – Deuteronomy 4:1–8

Sermon Outline – September 17, 2017

Children's Sermon: The Straight & Narrow

How does the, "straight & narrow," seem to you? (picture a road)

Paths in the fog, we imagine many roads lead to God

Matthew 7:13–14

"Enter by the *narrow gate*. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ For *the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life*, and those who find it are few.

Road with two cliff drop-offs on either side

The Horse & His Boy: Aslan's Guidance on the Mt. Pass

Revelation 21:5–8

Notes:

⁵ And *he who was seated on the throne* said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶ And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and *I will be his God and he will be my son*. ⁸ But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is *the second death*."

The Historical Review

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

The Exhortations of Moses (4:1–40)

Obedience is Life, Remember Baal-Peor (1-5)

¹ "**And now**, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. ² You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you. ³ *Your eyes have seen what*

*the Lord did at Baal-peor, for the Lord your God destroyed from among you all the men who followed the Baal of Peor.⁴ **But** you who held fast to the Lord your God are all alive today.*

Only Two Options:

1. Follow God's Word & **live** (listen & do)
2. Follow you own way & **die** (idolatry of + or -)

Implications:

1. Israel needed to be careful *students*
2. Israel needed to be *deliberate* with their lives
(not *sinless* but not *willful* sins cf. **Num. 25:1-9**)

Numbers 25:9 (Phinehas, Aaron's grandson)

Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand.

"Willful sinful acts express a mind that is at war with God."ⁱ

Obedience is Your Wisdom & Understanding (6-8)

⁵ See, **I have taught you statutes and rules, as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do them** in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ⁶ **Keep them and do them**, for **that will be your wisdom and your understanding** in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, '*Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.*'⁷ **For** what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?⁸ **And** what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

The Other Nations Would See Israel's Greatness:

1. In their personal relationship to Yahweh...
2. In their righteous laws...

1 Peter 2:12

Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Today's Clear Biblical Bullet...

Obey Yahweh's words carefully. To choose obedience is to choose life and wisdom.



Jesus Learned Obedience for Us

The Obedience of Faith Learned through Suffering

Hebrews 5:7–10

⁷ In the days of his flesh, *Jesus offered up prayers* and supplications, with loud cries and tears, *to him who was able to save him from death*, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸ Although he was a son, he *learned obedience through what he suffered*. ⁹ And *being made perfect*, he became **the source of eternal salvation** to all who obey him, ¹⁰ being designated by God a **high priest** after the order of Melchizedek.

The High Priestly Service of Jesus

- Mediator
- Offering his perfect life for us
- Offering his suffering & death for us
- Offering his victory over death for us

The Spirit Teaches Us the Obedience of Faith

Romans 10:15–17

¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶ But they have not all *obeyed the gospel*. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

- Hearing with faith (Cf. Galatians 3:2)
- Living for Jesus not ourselves
(not sinless but no “high-handed sin”)

2 Corinthians 5:15

and [Jesus] died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Hebrews 10:26

²⁶ For *if we go on sinning deliberately* after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins...

...Fired at our Life & Heart

The stakes are high, obey the gospel: Trust Jesus & live for Jesus. This is our life and our wisdom!



¹ Eveson, P. H. (2007). The Beauty of Holiness: The Book of Leviticus Simply Explained (p. 382).