Call for Obedience to God's Law

Deuteronomy 4:1-43 @ Home Study Guide

Preparation by way of gaining information is the key to success in any undertaking. Sports teams spend hours watching video tapes of their opponents so that they might gain information on how to be successful against them. Governments send out special agents who a great personal risk gather crucial information in order to give their military the advantage. Corporations spend billions of dollars trying to gain information which will give them the edge over their competitors.

In order for the children of Israel to be successful in the Promised Land it was important for them to have a crucial piece of information. It was not information about their enemies that they needed, but it was information about their God.

In the passage that we are going to study this week, Moses seeks to give them that information. He teaches the children of Israel that the only way they are going to have a successful conquest and enjoy life in the Promised Land, is if they submit to God's law.

<u>Day 1</u>

Read Deuteronomy 4:1-4

1. From verse 1, what is the twofold reason Moses gives for his command to obey the statutes and the judgments of God?

2. Many people view God's law as a tedious list of unwelcome prohibitions. They believe that to obey God's Word is not to enjoy life to its fullest. How would you respond to a person who held to this view?

| 3. | In calling Israel to obey God's law, Moses instructs them that they must |
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| | honor its authority over them. Man was not to add his opinions to the Word |
| | of God nor was he to take away that which he did not like about it. Read |
| | Deuteronomy 12:32, Proverbs 30:5, 6, and Revelation 22:18-19 and answer |
| | the following questions. |

a. People add to God's Word whenever they make rules that are not in Scripture the standards for spirituality. List a couple of your own rules that you have been guilty of using as a measure of your godliness.

b. People take away from God's Word whenever they ignore or disobey what God is saying. List a couple of God's commands that you have been guilty of pretending were not there.

4. In verses 3 and 4, Moses gives an illustration from Israel's history to remind them of the consequences that come from rejecting God's law. Go back and read this event in Numbers 25:1-9 and in your own words, summarize what happened.

| 5. F | Pray that God would help you to d | elight in His Word. | Repent for the times |
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| , | you have neglected its instruction | | |
| C | designed to give you ultimate fulfi | llment in glorifying | Him. |

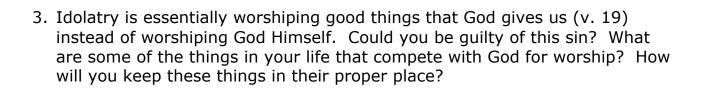
Read Deuteronomy 4:5-14

1. God's Word would not only transform Israel's lives, it would also have a profound impact on their unbelieving neighbors. From verse 6, what will the other peoples say who hear of Israel's law and their obedience to it?

2. Have your friends, classmates, coaches, or employers ever mentioned that they noticed your moral and spiritual uniqueness? Give an example of one of these instances.

3. Moses commanded the nation of Israel to "take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself." What does this mean? Why were they to "take heed" and "keep themselves"?

| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | to teach their children and grandchildren about? important? Go back to Exodus 19:9-20:19 and |
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| | o be diligent in maintaining a close walk with oint others to God's Word as they see you daily |
| | Day 2 at Israel obey commandments one and two. List They can be found in Exodus 20:3 and 4. |
| | ng warned by Moses not to make idols or to God. Can you think of an incident where Israel |
| _ · | ry to find the passage that records this event |
| | |



4. God does not want His people worshiping anything above Him because He "is a consuming fire, a jealous God" (v. 24). What do you understand about God by this description?

5. Pray that God will instill in you a fear of disobeying Him. Repent of valuing the things that God has made above Him and commit to putting Him first in all things. Thank Him for His great love that causes Him to be jealous when our love is directed toward other things.

<u>Day 3</u>

Read Deuteronomy 4:25-31

1. In this passage Moses warns that if Israel turns from God to idols one day, God will judge them. List five aspects of this judgment as recorded in this passage.

2. Unfortunately, Israel failed to heed Moses' warning. They forgot the deeds of the Lord rehearsed in this book and turned after idols. Read 2 Kings 17:7-23. How did God judge Israel for her unfaithfulness? Did God keep His Word?

3. While God is a just God who punishes sin, He is also a merciful and forgiving God. He is determined to keep His promises to Abraham and therefore provides a way the offenders may return to Him for pardon. What are the three conditions given in verses 29 and 30 to experience God's mercy?

| 4. | Read Hebrews 12:3-11. What does God promise to do when His children disobey Him? Why does He do this? | |
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| 5. | Read 1 John 1:9. What does God promise to do when we confess our sins? | |
| 6. | Thank the Lord for His love that chastens you when you disobey Him. Praise Him for His mercy, His grace, and His faithfulness to keep His Word. | |
| Read Deuteronomy 4:32-40 | | |
| 1. | What two questions does Moses tell the children of Israel to ask in verses 34 and 35? What is the obvious answer to these questions? | |
| 2. | What was the purpose for God showing His mighty deeds to Israel? | |

| 3. | Why was it so important at this time in Israel's history for them to be strong in the fact that there was only one God? |
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| 4. | From verse 40, what is the proper response to the understanding that God is the only God in heaven and earth? What is the promise associated with this proper response? |
| 5. | Worship God as the only God. Meditate on verse 39 which commands us to "consider it in your heart." Claim the principle found in verse 40 which promises blessing to those who obey God. |
| Read | Day 4 Deuteronomy 4:41-43 |
| | What did Moses set apart on this side of the Jordan? |
| 2. | For what purpose were these set apart? |
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| 3. | What is the difference between a manslayer and a murderer? Read Deuteronomy 19:5 for an example. | |
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| 4. | In that day, when a man was killed, intentionally or unintentionally, revenge was sought out by the man's family and friends. These cities gave safety for those who killed accidentally. What does this reveal about the character of God? | |
| 5. | Thank God for His goodness. Praise Him that He is not like us. All we care about is revenge; God cares about justice and fairness. Ask Him to help you not to make rash decisions when you think you see wrongs committed. | |
| <u>Day 5</u> | | |
| Read | Deuteronomy 4:1-43 | |
| 1. | As you re-read the passage for this week, what truth stands out as most meaningful to you? | |

| 2. | Israel was being prepared by Moses to enter into a land full of idolatry and |
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| | sinful influences. In a few short years, you will be out on your own in an |
| | ungodly world without the restraints of parents or teachers. What are you |
| | doing now to prepare your heart and mind for that time? |

3. Take some extra time today to pray for the individual students in your Bible Study. Pray that God will help them take this time of preparation seriously so that they will have futures that are pleasing to God.