

## **REMEMBER**

### **DEUTERONOMY 4:1-9,15-20**

#### **OBEDIENCE (Deut. 4:1-4)**

- 1. In verses 1-2, what does Moses urge Israel to do with the statutes and judgments he is giving them — and why?**

Moses urges Israel to listen to (hear) the statutes and judgments and do them — to act upon them. He adds that they must not add to or take away from the word that he commands. The reason is that they may live and enter and take possession of the land that the Lord is giving them. Moses is making clear that obedience is not optional, and that God's Word is complete and must be preserved without alteration.

- 2. According to verse 3, what happened to those at Baal-Peor, and how does Moses use that as a warning?**

The incident at Baal-Peor was recent enough for the people to remember what happened. The people not only sinned against the God's law, but they sinned against God's love. Unfaithfulness and idolatry lead to death and destruction — it is a sobering historical example to motivate obedience.

**3. In verse 4, Moses contrasts two groups — who are they, and what is the difference?**

The contrast is between those who turned at Baal-Peor and were destroyed and those who remained faithful or clung to the Lord, and lived. Thus, faithfulness brings preservation, whereas apostasy brings judgment.

**WISDOM (Deut. 4:5–9)**

**1. What is Moses' purpose in verse 5 for having taught Israel the statutes and ordinances?**

God's Word is the revelation of God's wisdom, and they need to know and follow His wisdom in order to survive. Moses is reminding the Israelites that what he taught them before holds true. The laws are not just theoretical but for life in the Promised Land.

**2. How will Israel's obedience to God's statutes be viewed by other nations?**

Israel's obedience will show other people the wisdom and understanding God provides. They will declare Israel as a great Nation. Israel's obedience will be a witness to God's greatness. Ultimately their obedience glorifies God.

**3. What warning does Moses give in verse 9 about forgetting, and to whom should they teach the commandments?**

Moses warns that forgetting God's works is dangerous, and he commands that the next generations (children and grandchildren) be taught these things. Such an experience with the living God must be rooted and grounded in a historical event. It should be recalled and celebrated regularly.

## **WORSHIP (Deut. 4:15–20)**

- 1. Verse 15 begins by saying, “You saw no form.” Why is that significant, and what does Moses urge in light of that fact?**

The fact that they “saw no form” means when God spoke to them at Horeb (Sinai), they did not see any physical or visible image or representation (only God’s voice). Because of that, Moses urges them to “watch yourselves very carefully” (v. 15) — i.e. guard their souls — so that they do not become corrupt and make for themselves a carved image or idol (v. 16). The uniqueness of God (invisible, without form) is the basis for rejecting all idols.

- 2. What kinds of images or idols does Moses forbid in verses 16-18?**

Moses forbids making carved images (idols) in the form of any figure, whether male or female; any animal on earth; any bird flying in the air; anything that creeps on the ground; or any fish in the water. In short, nothing — no creature or part of creation — is permitted as a form of worship.

**3. In verse 19, what additional warning does Moses give about the sun, moon, stars, and heavenly host? Why?**

Moses warns that Israel must not lift up their eyes to heaven and be drawn away to worship or serve the celestial bodies. The reason is that these celestial bodies are part of creation and distributed to all nations under heaven. They were to show God's glory not for Israel to worship. In other words, worship belongs to the Creator, not to the creation.

**4. In verse 20, Moses reminds Israel of God's act in bringing them out of Egypt. How does that relate to the warnings about idolatry?**

If God has redeemed them, He has the right to demand exclusive worship. Because He rescued them out of Egypt, (the iron furnace imagery), they should not turn to idols. God will not share His Glory with anyone or anything. The redemption underscores God's claim and Israel's obligation.

## **SUMMARY/APPLICATION**

The people of Israel are entering a land where people worship idols. These idols represent all aspects of the creation but ignore the creator. This kind of worship degrades people and destroys lives. Moses tells the people that if they obey and worship God, he will lead them to life and blessing.

The world we live in is not very different: People still worship things instead of God, people are still degraded, and lives are still being destroyed. We are saved because of our faith in Jesus but we still obey and worship which brings life and blessing. Not much has changed; we still have a creator that pursues us and provides for us.