

# MOSES' SECOND ADDRESS

part I Deuteronomy 4:44 - 8:20

July 28, 2024

PART II Deuteronomy 9:1 - 15:23

Aug. 4, 2024

Part III Deuteronomy 16:1 - 26:19

Aug. 11, 2024



LAST WEEK---Moses' first address (DT 1:1-4:43): **What God has done for his people.**



**TODAY** and for the next two weeks---Moses' 2<sup>nd</sup> address (DT 4:44-26:19):

## The Law of God.



- Israel is now semi-settled in the plains of Moab, opposite of Jericho. This allows a time for Moses to expound on what it means to be "God's people."
- ✓ God's #1 demand: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your strength." (DT 6:5)

Our job in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is to transfer the wisdom and glory of Moses' events, faith, and leadership into our lives today.

### [READ DT 5:2-3]

"...made a covenant," which literally means "to cut a covenant." Ancient agreements were often sealed with either a ceremonial meal or by making a sacrifice to the gods.

When equal parties were finalizing a deal the ceremonial meal was fitting, with the leaders (often kings) celebrating. This is termed a parity treaty.

Another kind of ancient agreement was a suzerain treaty, which was between two unequal parties: for example--

**king / vassal** or **God / people.**

Early in the Bible we see God making a suzerainty treaty or covenant with Abram... an old, childless man... promising that his offspring would be as numerous as the stars. "Abram believed the Lord [*justification by faith*], and He credited it to him as

righteousness” (GE 15:6). In any suzerain treaty the vassal (Abram) is commanded to love the sovereign (God) who performs deeds of benevolence.

The two parties sealed their pact by “cutting a covenant,” that is, by walking between the carcasses of sacrificed animals which had been sliced in two. After the people pledged themselves to Yahweh, Moses flung the animal blood upon the people in attendance.

## DT 5:6-21---The ten commandments (a.k.a. the *decalogue*).

Moses summed up what God wants us to do in verse one: *hear, learn, be careful, and do*.

Side Note

This version in chapter 5 is very similar to the one found in EX 20:2-17.<sup>1</sup>

*Which One Was First:* the one in Exodus or the one in Deuteronomy?

Logically and chronologically we would expect the Exodus version to be the original, but it probably was not!

- “...even from a purely literary perspective, the conclusion seems assured that the list of the commandments was inserted in the narrative of Exodus 20 at a later stage,” and “that the case for claiming this version [EX 20] was the more original, therefore, must be regarded as very dubious.”<sup>2</sup>

Basically, commandments #1-4 involve **us and God**;

#5-10 concern **us as God's own**.

- ✓ These commandments were not meant to be a burden; they were given by God to aid his people now and in the future. Moses summed it up well in DT 6:24 when he said, “The Lord commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the Lord our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive....”
- ✓ “Ancient rabbis isolated 613 separate commandments in the entire Law of Moses, but these ten are the principles upon which the rest are based.”<sup>3</sup> Over 1,000 years later Jesus referred to these in his teaching (MT 5:21, 27, 33; MK 12:29-31; LK 10:27; 18:20). We also find them within the epistles of Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Hebrews, etc.

[READ MK 12:28-30].<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> We also have a third and quite different version of the ten commandments in EX 34. It does not feature a suzerainty treaty, and it seems to presuppose that Israel is already a settled, agricultural-based society, which it was not in Moses' time. (Anderson, pg. 96)

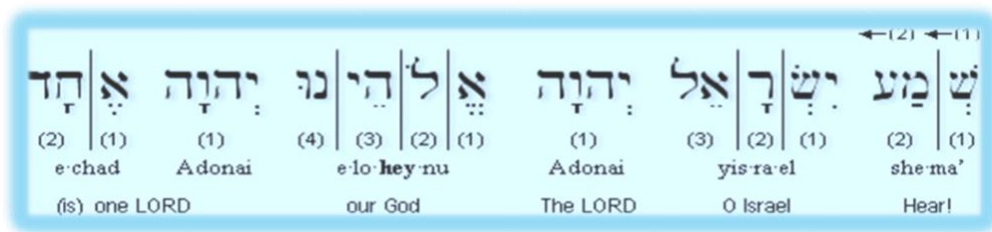
<sup>2</sup> NIB, pg. 326. (both quotations).

<sup>3</sup> Key Word, pg. 92 fn. to Ex 20:1-17.

<sup>4</sup> “The New Testament quotation of this commandment adds ‘the mind’ in order to bring out what is meant by the Hebrew word ‘heart.’ (Anderson, pg. 356 fn.)



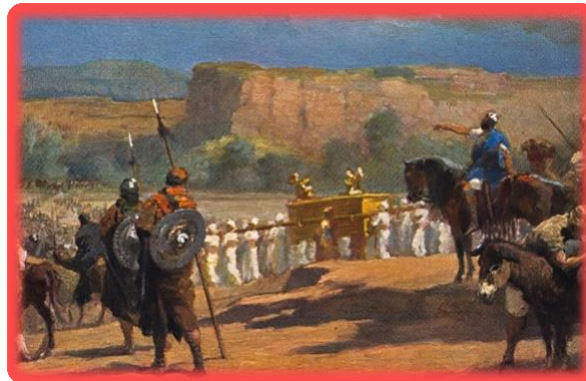
Along with DT 11:13-21 and NU 15:37-41, this verse in DT 6 is recited every morning and evening by all Jewish men and is inscribed in their phylacteries. [GK:



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“The Lord God is one” was now firmly planted in the minds of Israel. Time for Moses’ people to move on to the next phase: Holy War against the current tribes of Canaan.

Note that



chapter 7 begins with “when,” not “if.” Seven tribes are mentioned here. They were all stronger and more numerous than the Israelites,

**BUT**

none of them worshipped Yahweh. We know of no other ancient nation that worshipped only one god.

7:2—God said, “you must destroy them totally.” (See the books of Joshua and Judges for examples.) Today we have trouble with this concept of total genocide. In Israel’s defense, the killing all of the people, the animals, then raising entire villages seemed to be an exception. We know that some things/people were salvaged because later in Deuteronomy we often find instructions from God which forbid Israel from entering into any covenants, marriages, or informal arrangements with these other nations.<sup>6</sup>

Regardless, the Israelites routinely destroyed any semblance of Canaanite worship during their conquests, as well as anything else that would tempt them to turn from God.

**[READ DT 7:5]**

Why??...

**[READ DT 7:6]**

7:10 is probably an example of older pro-Yahweh writings which suited the occasion.

7:17-26—God tells Israel to not be afraid of the enemy, though they are much stronger. Remember, the Lord saved you from Pharaoh and the Egyptians!—He will do likewise to these people whom you now fear.

- “Hornet” may be literal or symbolic, we’re not sure. (Same as EX 23:28).

**[READ DT 8:1]:** “Remember!”...

...because...

**[READ DT 8:19-20]**

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<sup>6</sup> *Herem* = the act of annihilating anyone and anything which was conquered in a Holy War. Israel considered the *herem* as an act of sacrifice to Yahweh. (Thompson, pg. 129)

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## Works Cited

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## Abbreviated **Protestant** Ten Commandments

1. You shall have no other gods but me.
2. You shall not make unto you any [graven images](#)
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain
4. You shall remember the Sabbath and keep it holy
5. Honor your mother and father
6. You shall not murder
7. You shall not commit adultery
8. You shall not steal
9. You shall not bear false witness
10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor

## Abbreviated **Catholic** Ten Commandments

1. I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord God in vain
3. Remember to keep holy the [Lord's Day](#)
4. Honor your father and your mother
5. You shall not kill

6. You shall not commit adultery
7. You shall not steal
8. You shall not bear false witness
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods