

Deuteronomy Chapter 4.1–40

4.1–8 Listen up!

- Statutes or decrees are permanent rules of conduct from a superior. Rules or judgments are judicial decisions and guidance. Together they refer to all the Law of God.
- Teaching: Moses is a prophet and teacher. He is the mediator not the source of God's Law.
- The purpose of the God's Law is life in the land. It must be preserved from tampering either by adding to it or subtracting from it.
- Key theme in Deuteronomy: "Yahweh your God."
- LORD in all upper case in English translations of the Bible refers to YHWH, the name of God revealed to Israel.
- Receiving the Law of God is a privilege not a burden.

4.9–14 Take Care!

- Be on guard that you do not forget.
- Remember what you saw and heard.
- "You saw no form! (4.12, 15).
- Remember the covenant – the ten words or commandments.
- Remember for your whole life and your future generations.

4.15–24 Watch out for God is a Jealous God

- Every form of idolatry is forbidden.
- Every form of idolatry corrupts.
- Every form of idolatry is offensive and violates the covenant.
- The land is your inheritance, but you are the Lord's inheritance.
- The Lord is a consuming fire and a jealous God (4.24).
- Jealousy is not sinful weakness here, but is the "legitimate passion that is aroused when interference from a third party threatens a relationship, particularly a marriage relationship." (Daniel Block)
- The Lord deserves no rival and will not stand for any.

4.25–31 Judgment and Mercy

- 4.25 If you sin and worship idols
- 4.26–28 Then you will be judged as the nations were judged before you.
- 4.29–31 But “the Lord is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.” (4.31)

4.32–40 The One and Only True God

- A unique revelation.
- A unique salvation.
- Yahweh is God and there is no other. (4.35, 39)
- Monotheism is the result of revelation not speculation.
- There is no other God and the true God delivered a nation from bondage and gave them their own land as an inheritance.
- And he revealed himself to them by voice and disciplined them to know him as the only true God.