

DEUTERONOMY 27 vs 1

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In previous chapters, Moses reminded the people of God's covenant of 10 commandments He wrote with His own hand; 10 and no more... which He hoped they would write on their hearts and minds... as well as teach their children; and speak about in their homes and along the way. The people were to be: **blessed**... Dr. Dallas Willard would say: **marked with God's favor**; not a people: **cursed**... marked with God's terror; **marked with God's doom**.

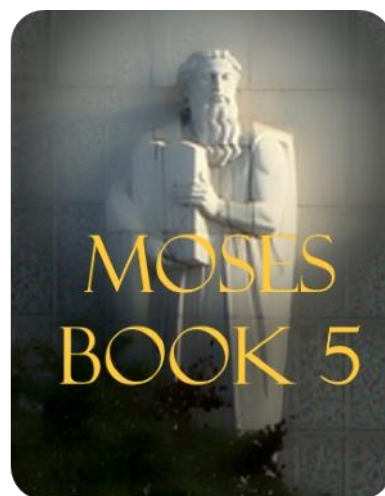
700 years later having rejected the 10 commands, as **Israel** prepared to be cursed in Assyria, the Lord said: Though I wrote ten thousand, they are regarded as a strange thing -- **Hosea 8**; as **Judah** prepared to be cursed in Babylon, having sunk in onerous manmade traditions, He said: So, I permitted them statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live -- **Ezekiel 20**.

But this is what Moses originally told the people of God... in order that they prosper and live long in the land they were to enter, first promised to Abraham; that they be **BLESSED** and not **CURSED** of the Lord. These are the statutes and judgments you will **keep** and **do** in the land that the Lord God of your forefathers gives you to possess, all the days you live on **earth**. And as he looked out for our wellbeing; Moses reminded us the Lord gave His people 10 commands, no more, no less; something even children can joyously learn to do... as well as to remind one another what the Lord said... to be **blessed** and not **cursed**:

1. Do not have other gods before Me. / instead, be blessed
2. Do not make graven images or idols to bow down and worship. / be blessed
3. Do not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. / be blessed
4. Keep the Sabbath and keep it holy; 6 days you will work; the 7th day is to rest and remember the Lord.
5. Honor your father and mother that you live long on the earth / be blessed
6. Do not murder. / be blessed; Jesus said, the one who hates in his heart is a murderer...
7. Do not adulterate. / be blessed
8. Do not steal. / instead, work 6 days and be blessed
9. Do not falsely accuse your neighbor. / be blessed
10. Do not covet your neighbor's wife, house, cattle, workers, anything that is your neighbors / instead, be blessed **Deuteronomy 5**.

¹ **Moses with the elders of Israel commanded the people, saying, **Keep**** / in Hebrew: shamar, meaning: guard to protect... it's one of the two things Adam was told to do... which he did **not** do; and it's interesting, the night Jesus, the Messiah was betrayed, this is the same word that He repeatedly told His followers to do **12 times** that night in the upper room; even saying... the one who does not love Me, does not **keep** My words -- **John 14**.

They knew what He said to the multitude in His Sermon on the Mount... **Do not think I came to abolish the Law and the prophets; I have come to fulfill them.** Till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot



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will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven -- **Matthew 5**. Anyone want to argue with Jesus?

Keep the whole commandment that I command you today / how do we do that? **guard to protect His words** by hiding them in your heart no selective picking the “good” ones while ignoring the others; don’t insult the Lord and imagine that He is giving us some bad tasting medicine; or worse, some roman placebo; that’s the nefarious work of deceptive govts and leaders, even despicable clerics and religious goons -- sheep in wolves clothing.

² And on the day you cross the Jordan to the land the LORD your God gives you; you will set up large stones, and plaster them with plaster:

³ and write on them all the words of this law, when you cross over to enter the land that the LORD your God gives you, a land flowing with milk and honey; as the LORD, the God of your fathers promised you.

⁴ So, it will be when you cross the Jordan, set up these stones which I command you this day, on Mount Ebal, and plaster them with plaster.

⁵ And there, build an altar to the LORD your God, an altar of stones.

Do not wield any iron tool on them / no manmade, creative artisan’s chisel is to be used on what the Creator God already made; He needs nobody’s help; not even some Michelangelo aspirant.

⁶ Build an altar to the Lord your God of whole / uncut... stones: here, Matthew Henry reminds us to reject the builders, and accept the chief stone just as He is: the Christ, the Messiah of God, our altar *is* the stone cut out of the mountain without hands -- **Daniel 2**

and offer burnt offerings on it to the LORD your God:

⁷ And sacrifice peace offerings, and eat there, and rejoice before the LORD your God.

⁸ And write on the stones all the words of this law very plainly / they are to be displayed publicly for all the people to read and remember to do.

⁹ Then Moses and the Levitical priests spoke to all Israel, saying, Sakat / used only here in the OT: perhaps it means... Rest / be silent... and listen to do, O Israel; this day you have become the people of the LORD your God.

¹⁰ So, obey the voice of the LORD your God, and do His commandments and His statutes, which I command you this day.

Next, Moses prepares the people for their first live drama as they finally enter the land promised Abraham.

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¹¹ And that same day Moses charged the people, saying,

¹² When you cross the Jordan, these will stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people:

Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin / the children of the free women:

¹³ And these will stand upon Mount Ebal to curse;

Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali / the children of the slave women.

¹⁴ And the Levites will declare to all the men and women of Israel with a loud voice:

¹⁵ **Cursed** is the **ish** / the man or woman... who makes a graven or molten image, an abomination to the LORD, the manmade work of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret / idolatry seeks to replace the word of God with images; a picture might be worth 1000 words; but in your next emergency, try texting only pictures. We were created to respond to God's words. Jesus knows secrets have existed since Adam and Eve were in the Garden; even at His illegal trial, Jesus witnessed: in secret I said nothing; and to any follower who thought differently, I'm sure He would say, Change your thinking, then go shout it from the highest mountain.

And all the people / slave and free... will answer and say, **Amen**.

¹⁶ **Cursed** is anyone who trivializes / belittles or dishonors; his father or his mother.

And all the people will say, **Amen**.

¹⁷ **Cursed** is anyone who moves his neighbor's landmark / the property line.

And all the people will say, **Amen**.

¹⁸ **Cursed** is anyone who misleads the blind on the way.

And all the people will say, **Amen**.

¹⁹ **Cursed** is anyone who perverts the justice due the stranger / the foreigner who is among us, the fatherless / the orphan or homeless child, and the widow / so according to this verse there's a lot of cursed people – especially those child abusers and pizzagate pedophiles in the News today, isn't there?

And all the people will say, **Amen**.

²⁰ **Cursed** is anyone who lies with his father's wife; because he uncovers his father's skirt.

And all the people will say, **Amen**.

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²¹ **Cursed** is anyone who lies with any kind of animal.

And all the people will say, **Amen**.

²² **Cursed** is anyone who lies with his sister, whether the daughter of his father, or the daughter of his mother.

And all the people will say, **Amen**.

²³ **Cursed** is anyone who lies with his mother-in-law.

And all the people will say, **Amen**.

²⁴ **Cursed** is anyone who secretly strikes down his neighbor.

And all the people will say, **Amen**.

²⁵ **Cursed** is anyone who takes money to kill an innocent person / hired or bribed.

And all the people will say, **Amen**.

²⁶ **Cursed** is anyone who does **not** confirm all the words of this law to **do** them.

And all the people will say, **Amen**.