



Deuteronomy 13

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Deuteronomy 13.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

INTRODUCTION: this is a continuation of the previous chapter; Israel is soon to cross over the River Jordan and enter into the Promised Land. The primary focus of all the following chapters is upon Moses re-telling to the new generation about to cross the River Jordan all the covenant laws the LORD originally gave to Israel at Mount Sinai so that the new generation would renew the covenant with the LORD before they enter the Promised Land. The final chapter finishes with the LORD burying Moses and Joshua being ready to lead Israel over the River Jordan and into the Promised Land (see also the introduction to chapter one).

DEUTERONOMY 13 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

- **Deuteronomy 13:1-18** “If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, ² and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, ‘Let us go after other gods,’ which you have not known, ‘and let us serve them,’ ³ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴ You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him. ⁵ But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst. ⁶ “If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son or your daughter or the wife you embrace or your friend who is as your own soul entices you secretly, saying, ‘Let us go and serve other gods,’ which neither you nor your fathers have known, ⁷ some of the gods of the peoples who are around you, whether near you or far off from you, from the one end of the earth to the other, ⁸ you shall not yield to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him, nor shall you conceal him. ⁹ But you shall kill him. Your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. ¹⁰ You shall stone him to death with stones, because he sought to draw you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ¹¹ And all Israel shall hear and fear and never again do any such wickedness as this among you. ¹² “If you hear in one of your cities, which the LORD your God is giving you to dwell there, ¹³ that certain worthless fellows have gone out among you and have drawn away the inhabitants of their city, saying, ‘Let us go and serve other gods,’ which you have not known, ¹⁴ then you shall inquire and make search and ask diligently. And behold, if it be true and certain that such an abomination has been done among you, ¹⁵ you shall surely put the inhabitants of that city to the sword, devoting it to destruction, all who are in it and its cattle, with the edge of the sword. ¹⁶ You shall gather all its spoil into the midst of its open square and burn the city and all its spoil with fire, as a whole burnt offering to the LORD your God. It shall be a heap forever. It shall not be built again. ¹⁷ None of the devoted things shall stick to your hand, that the LORD may turn from the fierceness of his anger and show you mercy and have compassion on you and multiply you, as he swore to your fathers, ¹⁸ if you obey the voice of the LORD your God, keeping all his commandments that I am commanding you today, and doing what is right in the sight of the LORD your God.

Laws for clairvoyants and false prophets

Moses tells Israel not to listen to any false prophet or a dreamer of dreams even if they arise up among them and gives a sign or a wonder and it comes to pass and the prophet says, “Let us go after other gods and let us serve them,” because the LORD is testing Israel to know whether they love the LORD with all their heart and soul. They are to put to death that prophet or that dreamer of dreams because he has taught rebellion against the LORD and to purge the evil from Israel's midst. Israel is to fear and hold fast to the LORD, serving and walking only after Him and keeping His commandments and obeying His voice.

Laws for family members who entice Israel to serve other gods

Moses tells Israel they are not to yield or listen to their brother or son, their daughter or the wife they embrace, or a friend if they entice them secretly, saying, let us go and serve the gods of the peoples who are around us. They are to be stoned to death with stones, because they sought to draw Israel away from the LORD their God. Israel is not to hide or pity them, the first person to put them to death is to be the person who they have tried to entice and then all the people after them so all Israel would hear and fear and never again do any such wickedness among them.

Laws for worthless fellows who entice Israel to serve other gods

Moses tells Israel if they hear that in one of their cities, certain worthless fellows have drawn away the inhabitants of their city, to serve other gods, they are to make a search and ask diligently to see if it was true that such an abomination had been done among their cities. If it was found to be true they were to put the inhabitants of that city to the sword, devoting it to destruction, all who are in it and its cattle and gather all its spoil into the midst of its open square and burn the city and all its spoil and the city was not to be built again, none of the devoted things were to remain with Israel so that the fierceness of the LORD'S anger would turn from Israel.

CONCLUSION

If Israel obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and kept all his commandments and did what is right in the sight of the LORD, He would show them mercy and compassion and multiply them as he swore to their fathers.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
