



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

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## Deuteronomy 5

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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 5.

(A brief overview of the main topics).

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**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).

**NOTE:** for information of people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

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### DEUTERONOMY 5 (ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION)

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**Deuteronomy 5:1-33** And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, “Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the rules that I speak in your hearing today, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them.”<sup>2</sup> The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb.<sup>3</sup> Not with our fathers did the LORD make this covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today.<sup>4</sup> The LORD spoke with you face to face at the mountain, out of the midst of the fire,<sup>5</sup> while I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the LORD. For you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up into the mountain. He said:<sup>6</sup> “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”<sup>7</sup> “You shall have no other gods before me.”<sup>8</sup> “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.”<sup>9</sup> You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,<sup>10</sup> but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.<sup>11</sup> “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.”<sup>12</sup> “Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.”<sup>13</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work,<sup>14</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.<sup>15</sup> You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.<sup>16</sup> “Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.”<sup>17</sup> “You shall not murder.”<sup>18</sup> “And you shall not commit adultery.”<sup>19</sup> “And you shall not steal.”<sup>20</sup> “And you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”<sup>21</sup> “And you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor’s house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”<sup>22</sup> “These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly at the mountain out of the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and he added no more. And he wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.”<sup>23</sup> And as soon as you heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes, and your elders.<sup>24</sup> And you said, ‘Behold, the LORD our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we have seen God speak with man, and man still live.’<sup>25</sup> Now therefore why should we die? For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, we shall die.<sup>26</sup> For who is there of all flesh, that has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of fire as we have, and has still lived?<sup>27</sup> Go near and hear all that the LORD our God will say, and speak to us all that the LORD our God will speak to you, and we will hear and do it.’<sup>28</sup> “And the LORD heard your words, when you spoke to me. And the LORD said to me, ‘I have heard the words of this people, which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken.’<sup>29</sup> Oh that they had such a heart as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever!”<sup>30</sup> Go and say to them, “Return

to your tents.”<sup>31</sup> But you, stand here by me, and I will tell you the whole commandment and the statutes and the rules that you shall teach them, that they may do them in the land that I am giving them to possess.’<sup>32</sup> You shall be careful therefore to do as the LORD your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.<sup>33</sup> You shall walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.

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## **Israel is about to enter the Promised Land**

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Moses reminds Israel that the covenant that the LORD made with Israel in Horeb (Mount Sinai) was not made with their fathers, but with those that are alive and with Moses this day and are about to enter the Promised Land. The LORD spoke with them face to face at Mount Sinai out of the midst of the fire and Moses stood between the LORD and Israel at that time, to declare to them the word of the LORD, because they were afraid of the fire and did not go up into Mount Sinai.

Moses reminds this new generation not to:

- Take the name of the LORD in vain.
- Have any other gods before the LORD.
- Make a carved image or any likeness of anything that is in heaven or on the earth or in the water.
- Bow down to any image, idol or god or serve them.

Because the LORD is a jealous God, He is their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt the house of slavery, and visits the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Him, but shows steadfast love to thousands of those who love Him and keep His commandments.

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## **The meaning of jealous**

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The word jealous carries two ideas, one good and one bad. Good jealousy is to be protective, watchful and trusting of someone. Bad jealousy is to be envious, covetous, resentful and bitter. When God is spoken of as being jealous it carries the idea that God’s only desire for His people is for their well-being so His wrath and judgment falls upon any nation that brings harm upon His people and should His own people act corruptly or turn to other gods (i.e., commit spiritual adultery against God) they bring God’s judgment upon themselves. It is very much like a man who is deeply in love with his wife and she betrays him by constantly sleeping with another man. The husband of course is not only going to stop buying her gifts and showering her with presents, but is also going to withdraw any favours he has been giving his wife. Likewise, it is with God when his people act corruptly and betray Him by turning to other gods, He withdraws his protective, watchfulness, His trust and His blessings.

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## **Purpose of the Sabbath Day**

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Israel was to observe the Sabbath Day and keep it holy, they were to work six days and the seventh day was to be a Sabbath to the LORD. On the Sabbath Day Israel was not to do any (ordinary) work, their sons, daughters, male and female servants and the sojourner that dwells with them, their ox, donkey and livestock were not to do any work on the Sabbath Day. Israel was to rest on the Sabbath Day and remember that they were once slaves in the land of and to remind them that the LORD brought them out from their bondage in Egypt’s and delivered them from

the slavery of continual work (i.e., work everyday without rest), with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. It contrasts Israel in Egypt under bondage and never having rest with Israel being in the Promised Land free and having a continual rest from the bondage of slavery these are the reasons why the LORD commanded Israel to keep the Sabbath Day.

The LORD gives six commandments for man and his neighbour:

1. Honour your father and mother.
2. Do not murder.
3. Do not commit adultery.
4. Do not steal.
5. Do not bear false witness against your neighbour.
6. Do not covet your neighbour's wife or desire your neighbour's house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbour's.

Moses tells Israel that these are all the words the LORD spoke (this includes all Moses has said in the last four chapters) to all the people of Israel at Mount Sinai out of the midst of the fire and the cloud and the thick darkness with a loud voice, the LORD added no more than what Moses has spoken. Moses wrote the Ten Commandments on two tablets of stone and gave them to Moses.

**NOTICE:** Israel saw God speak with man and the man is left to live (v24). This does not mean that Moses saw God, but that God spoke to him veiled by a pillar of smoke and a pillar of fire.

Moses reminds Israel that:

- The LORD was pleased when they agreed to do all that the LORD their God told Moses when they all stood at the foot of Mount Sinai and heard the LORD'S voice out of the midst of darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire
- That they saw the LORD'S Glory and greatness and heard His voice and saw God speak with man and the man is left to live.
- Out of fear they told Moses to go near and hear all that the LORD will say, because if they hear the voice of the LORD their God any more this great fire will consume them and they will die.
- No one among them has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of fire as they had and still lived.

The LORD told Moses the people were right in all that they had spoken and that His great desire was that they always had a mind to fear Him and to keep all His commandments and do all that He had told Moses that after hearing they all with one voice agreed to do. The LORD confirms his promise that all would go well with Israel and their descendants forever if they keep His commandments.

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### The fear of the LORD

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In this context is about having a hatred toward everything that harms another human physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally, or spiritually because these things bring pain, hurt and harm to humans who God loves and gave His Son to die for. The fear of God is about knowing we are all going to stand before God one day and give an account of our actions. The fear of this judgment should motivate a person to do the right thing and treat others with respect. The reason a person is told to

fear the LORD is because all humans have sinned and will one-day be judged by God. This fear should motivate all of us to seek after God and his eternal plan of salvation and forgiveness. That is why the Bible says the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom it motivates a person to seek God and His forgiveness. Those desiring eternal life (if they are wise) should be motivated by this fear of judgment to seek after God.

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### **Fear of God and love**

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Jesus said, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). Those in Christ understand this great love of God and no longer act from fear, but from love in the same way that a man in love with a woman does not do things to please her from fear, but from the love dwelling in his heart. Likewise, it is with those who belong to the Lords global family. Moses finishes speaking with the people and they return to their tents, but Moses stayed with the LORD so He could tell Moses the whole commandment and the statutes and the rules that Moses was to teach Israel to do when they crossed over the River Jordan and entered into the Promised Land.

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### **Moses warned the people**

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Moses warned the people not to turn aside to the right hand or to the left, but be careful to do all as the LORD has commanded them and they would live a long life and all would go well with them in the land they are about to possess.

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*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.*

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