

Deuteronomy 6:1-17

'Hear' is the First Command

1 "Now this is the commandment (*singular*), and these are the statutes (*pl.*) and judgments (*pl.*)

- There is the singular one commandment
- Which is not given yet and connected to it are....
- ‘Statutes’: That which is engraved, written down
- ‘Judgments’: The exercising of Government based on the Statutes

Where did Moses get them?

-Back up to **5:30-31**: Moses is recalling nearly forty years earlier after all heard the Big Ten commandments and the LORD said

30 Go and say to them, "Return to your tents."

31 But as for you (*Moses*), stand here by Me, and I will speak to you all (*implying plurality*) the commandments (*sing.*), the statutes, and the judgments which you shall teach them, that they may observe them in the land which I am giving them to possess.'

-Moses received them from the LORD first and then he taught the people in such a way that they would observe them

What does 'Observe' look like? 5:32-33 explains

32 "Therefore you shall **(1) be careful to do** as the LORD your God has commanded you; **(2) you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.**

-Lose focus, get distracted, by a left or right hand off-ramp that will lead to your Dead-End!

33 **(3) You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you,**

-The ways of Self-Denial, Love, Mercy, Righteousness

What will be the fruit of careful 'observing'?...

v.33 cont... that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.

-Remember physical death was often the final discipline for God's people in those days!

Verse one of chapter six again

1 "Now this is the commandment (*singular*), and these are the statutes (*pl.*) and judgments (*pl.*) which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe *to do* them in the land which you are crossing over (*the Jordan*) to possess,

2 that you may fear the LORD (*repeated again in v.13*) your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

All of that brings us to our first command

3 Therefore hear (*in the command form*), O Israel, and be careful to observe it (*to make it happen, to do, what it is you are about to hear*),

- Two step listening:
- Hear
- In order to observe, to make it happen

Why go thru a discussion on fear and love?

- We must listen with balanced ears!
- God is Light (the source of correct fear) and God is Love (the source of our loving Him)
- With a correct fear we will take heed to 1,050 commands under grace in the NT!

‘Why’ must we listen well and observe?

v. 3 cont.

1-that it may be well with you,

2-and that you may multiply greatly (*be fruitful*) as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you—‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’

‘What’ are we to hear?

4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God (*plurality*), the LORD is one (*a unified plurality*)!

-All that God is, all that He will manifest of Himself towards us are in these words...

Therefore all that these words imply lead us to the first great commandment ...

5 You shall (*actively*) love (*as a husband to his wife*) the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

-With all of the unified plurality of your being!

-Jesus concurs in **Matt. 22:36-40**

36 a lawyer asks Jesus “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”

37 Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

-He tells us who he is to us ‘our God’ and He says on this basis you will love me for who I am to you!

6 “And these words (*vs. 4-5, and hereafter*) which I command you today shall be in your heart.

-‘heart’ in the Torah is found 112 times in 103 verses

-53 times in Deuteronomy, nearly half that are found in Torah

-The heart driven relationship is being driven home to the second generation

-something their parents didn’t have towards the LORD

Vs. 7-9 How do we keep the word there?

7 You shall teach them diligently to your children,

-teaching others we teach ourselves, the student becomes a mirror of ourselves: past, present and future

-Part of my ministry verses is **1Tim. 4:16** Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

v.7 cont. ... and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

-Your conversations shall be centered around the words of this law

8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

-In LXX ‘frontlets’: permanent, unshakeable focus between, before or in front of your eyes!

-You are focused as if you had only one eye, in reading of the Word

What you read: write

9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

-Words of God not images of God!

This is what going and POSSESSING means

10 “So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build,

11 houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant—when you have eaten and are full—

12 then beware, lest you forget (*in LXX 'lanthano': to escape our notice*) the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

-*lanthano* is used in **James 1:23-24** 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately **forgets** *lanthano* what kind of man he was.

13 You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name.

-Fear follows the loving of v.5

-More on fear and love in a moment

14 You shall not go after (*by veering to the left or right*) other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you

15 (for the LORD your God is a jealous God among you (*God is Love*)), lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth (*God is light and in Him is no darkness at all*).

16 "You shall not tempt or test the LORD your God as you tempted or tested Him in Massah.

17 You shall diligently (*involves heart, mind, and strength*) keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you.

Summary thus far (show one at a time)

1-'Hear' is the First Command

2-But not the First Commandment

How are we to hear?

1-We are to Hear in order to Love and Fear

-at the same time!

Love is used in Deut. 25 times

-Of God's love for them, about 10 times in Deuteronomy

-The rest of Love's usages in Deuteronomy have to do with us loving God and or loving others

Fear is used 31 times in Deuteronomy in various contexts

For Example:

-I will put the dread and fear of you upon the nations, in 2:25 and twice more

-Then do not fear them in 3:2, used in this way or in a similar way about 5 times in Deut.

-Gather the people to hear my words that they may learn to fear me, in 4:10

-Fear and serve Him, in 6:13, used in this way, about 20 times in Deut.

-Executing the judgments correctly will lead the people to hear and fear, 21:21

-Fear in our circumstances will lead to total dissatisfaction with right now, in 28:67

'Fear of the Lord', is used 27 times in the Bible, mostly in Proverbs, once in the N.T. in Acts

'Fear of God', is used 8 times in the Bible 5 in the OT, 3 in the letters to the church

Fear and Love in the OT are only used together in the same verse in Deuteronomy (we'll come to that in a moment)

-**BUT** 'fear and Love' are used together in the NT in four verses, all in the letters addressed to us

-They instruct us on how the right kind of fear and love can exist together, work together in the Christian's life

-They also instruct us that the wrong kind of fear cannot co-exist with love

-These verses are: 2Tim. 1:7, 1Pet. 2:17, 1John 4:18, Jude 12

-2 Tim. 1:7 For God has not given us a **spirit of fear**, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

-1 Pet. 2:17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. **Fear God.** Honor the king.

-1 John 4:18 There is **no fear in love**; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

-Jude 12 These *(false teachers)* are spots *(dangerous reefs under the calm water)* in your love feasts, while they feast with you **without fear**, serving only themselves. They are clouds *(awesome looking rain clouds ... but)* without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;

There is a place in us for the right kind of fear

-In Jude they are without **fear**, without a correct fear of God, and they live accordingly

-In 1 John they had the wrong kind of **fear**, and love is to cast it out

-In 1 Peter we are commanded to **fear** God, obviously with the right kind of fear

-In 2 Timothy the Spirit of God does not give us the wrong kind of **fear**

-The kind of fear that leads us to be powerless, loveless (because we are in self-love-protection mode)

-and this fear takes us out of being sober minded

-Moses encapsulates this combination of fear and love in chapter **10:12-13**

12 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to **fear** the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to **love** Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

13 and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?

Summary on Fear (show one at a time)

1-There is absolutely no place for the wrong kind of fear in our lives

2-But we absolutely must have the right kind of fear in our lives, in Christ!

How are we to hear?

2-Hearing without Works Leaves One Deaf

-Hearing is incomplete, useless like Software is useless without hardware without software is useless

-‘Hear’ is found 91 times in Deuteronomy alone

-The same word ‘shema’ is translated ‘obey’ or ‘diligently obey’ or ‘earnestly obey’ or ‘carefully obey’ 23 times!

-So which is correct ‘hear’ or ‘obey’? The answer is Yes!

-There is no hearing without obedience!

-To hear and not obey is to be stone deaf!

3-When the Correct ‘How’ Meets the Correct ‘What’ we are Hearing Truth

-Jesus said in Luke 8:18a 18 Therefore take heed ‘how’ you hear.

-Jesus said in Mark 4:24a Take heed ‘what’ you hear.

-Paul adds to this a warning to Timothy and to us in **2Timothy 4:3-4a** 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions *(to justify or be silent about their lifestyle)*, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off.... ESV

4-Ask the LORD to Give You Ears to Hear

Deut. 29:4 Yet the LORD has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.

- You do not have because we do not ask
- They were not given these great gifts, let us be sure to ask for them
- A heart to perceive, eyes to see beyond what we see, ears to hear what's behind the words

5-It Takes Two Balancing Ears to Walk the Tight Rope Called Life

- Most Biblical Teachings are balanced by Two sides
- Jesus is 100% God and 100% Man, that is called the Hypostatic Union
- We are to look for the Lord to come any day and be about the Father's business at the same time
- We are saved by grace and not works, but the Graced believer works very hard
- We are to be in the World but get rid of the world in us
- We are in Christ and yet our sinful nature is still in us
- We humbling see how He chose us and Yet we received Him by faith
- These are but a few examples of balanced hearing, keeping us on the narrow tightrope of life

6-Come to Hear With Your Ear to the Ground

- and you come ready to hear what the Spirit says to His Church
- Ps. 34:2The humble shall hear**, because His words are found near the ground
- Jer. 13:15** says the same thing differently: **Hear and give ear: Do not be proud, For the LORD has spoken.**

7-Listen with One Hand Closed and the Other Open

Gripped in the right hand

- You are sure of who you are in Christ
- You are sure that two hands hold you
- In your Open left hand be open to doctrine, to correction, reproof, instruction in the right way
- all for good works that you were ordained to walk in...

In Summary (show one at a time)

1-'Hear' is the First Command

2-Love is the First and in All Commandments

3-Allow the Right Fear to Dwell with Love

4-Ready Yourself to Hear Everyday

5-'Hear' is the First Command