

Tomorrow's church today

Part 3

Deuteronomy 4:1-14 – Obey the LORD

¹ Now, Israel, listen to the rules and laws I'm going to teach you. Obey them and you will live. You will go in and take over the land. The LORD was the God of your people of long ago. He's giving you the land. ² Don't add to what I'm commanding you. Don't subtract from it either. Instead, obey the commands of the LORD your God that I'm giving you.

³ Your own eyes saw what the LORD your God did at Baal Peor. He destroyed every one of your people who worshiped the Baal that was worshiped at Peor. ⁴ But all of you who remained true to the LORD your God are still alive today. ⁵ I have taught you rules and laws, just as the LORD my God commanded me. Obey them in the land you are entering to take as your very own. ⁶ Be careful to keep them. That will show the nations how wise and understanding you are. They will hear about all these rules. They'll say, "That great nation certainly has wise and understanding people." ⁷ The LORD our God is near us every time we pray to him. What other nation is great enough to have its gods that close to them? ⁸ I'm giving you the laws of the LORD today. What other nation is great enough to have rules and laws as fair as these? ⁹ Don't be careless. Instead, be very careful. Don't forget the things your eyes have seen. As long as you live, don't let them slip from your mind. Teach them to your children and their children after them. ¹⁰ Remember the day you stood at Mount Horeb. The LORD your God was there. He said to me, "Bring the people to me to hear my words. I want them to learn to have respect for me as long as they live in the land. I want them to teach my words to their children." ¹¹ You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain. It blazed with fire that reached as high as the very heavens. There were black clouds and deep darkness. ¹² Then the LORD spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of his words. But you didn't see any shape or form. You only heard a voice. ¹³ He announced his covenant to you. That covenant is the Ten Commandments. He commanded you to obey them. Then he wrote them down on two stone tablets. ¹⁴ At that time the LORD directed me to teach you his rules and laws. You must obey them in the land you are crossing the Jordan River to take as your own.

1. What has happened to Israel so far in their short history?
2. In verse 2 what does it mean to 'add' or 'subtract' from the Law? What's an example of this today?
3. Why does God remind them in verses 5-6 of the Law before they enter the Promised Land?
4. In verse 7 what does it mean to come close to God in prayer? Is it a feeling or an understanding?
5. What are the things our eyes have seen? (Verse 9) Things we need to pass down?
6. God's vision for his people was always about the next generation, why does he put this in the hearts of his people at this time in their history?
7. "The Church is a future oriented entity" – discuss why this statement is true or false.
8. What does it mean to be future focused as a church? How do we live this out in our ministries?