



WEEK 3: THE HEART OF THE COVENANT

DEUTERONOMY 4-6

THE SETTING

- *"We stayed in the valley near Beth Peor."*
- *Still east of the Jordan, about to enter Promised Land.*

THE INSTRUCTION

- *Chapter 4—Obedience & Idolatry*
 - *Obedience tied to possession of the land: "Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land..." (4:1)*
 - *Warning not to repeat Baal Peor episode (Numbers 24-25)*
 - *Warning not to forget the commandments (4:9-14)*
 - *Idolatry forbidden because "you saw no form" at Horeb (v. 15)*
 - *Exile and return foretold (v. 25-31)*
 - *Monotheism commanded – there is one God, YHWH (v. 32-40)*
 - *Cities of Refuge and Law Intro (4:41-49)*
- *Chapter 5—The 10 Commandments (decatalogue)*
 - *The Commandments (5:1-21). Different rationale for Sabbath!*
 - *Invoking God's majesty, remembering Horeb/Sinai (5:22-33).*
- *Chapter 6—The Shema*
 - *Obedience = life (6:1-4)*
 - ***The Shema; the greatest commandment is LOVE (6:4-5)***
 - *How to preserve the law in family and community life (6:6-25)*

ASSIGNMENT

- *Read Deuteronomy chs. 7-11*
- *Prepare to share 2 insights and 2 questions*

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

"You shall have no other gods before me.

"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

"You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. **For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.**

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

"You shall not murder.

"You shall not commit adultery.

"You shall not steal.

"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

"You shall have no other gods before me.

"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

"You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

"**Observe** the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, **as the Lord your God has commanded you.** Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns, **so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.**

"Honor your father and your mother, **as the Lord your God has commanded you,** so that you may live long **and that it may go well with you** in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

"You shall not murder.

"You shall not commit adultery.

"You shall not steal.

"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

"You shall not covet your neighbor's **wife.** You shall not set your desire on your neighbor's house or land, his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."