

## Legacy

### Deuteronomy 6:1-3

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#### A. It Has to Start Here (vs. 1-2):

1. Commandments – Before they go into the land, God provides clear cut divine directives through Moses that Israel is obligated to obey. God teaches this to the adults and most likely the emphasis would be to the head of households.
2. Statutes - The divine will of God includes rules that are designed to regulate how each person behaves in their day-to-day lives. This allows God to influence the nature of the home and the nation.
3. Judgment - God also included laws for civil matters so that His government can be controlled by His Word.
4. The Lord God – Moses did not just say “God”, he said the Lord God, meaning the One who established His covenant with Israel and the One who reigns over them is God and He is the supreme Ruler over all things. He does not just lead Israel, He rules the universe. There is nothing outside of His control.
5. The Lord God – All of the commandments, statutes, and judgements are provided because of the Lord's relationship with Israel, but God is supreme over all things. The rules are established only with Israel because in God's sovereign will He has decided to have a meaningful relationship with Israel.
6. Has command – From the past to the present, the Lord God has dedicated His Word to become the constitution that directed all that Israel did. No one can faithfully obey them if there is no inner commitment to respect what the Lord has said.
  - a) Flawless obedience was the condition of Adam's continuance in the Garden; but Israel's tenure in Canaan was contingent on the maintenance of a measure of religious loyalty, which needed not be comprehensive of all Israel, nor perfect even in

those who were the true Israel. There was a freedom in God's exercise or restraint of judgment, a freedom originating in the underlying principle of sovereign grace in His rule over Israel. Nevertheless, God dispensed his judgment so that the interests of the typical symbolical message of Israel's history were preserved. (See further the comments on chs. 27–30).<sup>[1]</sup>

7. Has command – When the adults submit to God, they are the best communicators of the Word of God to their children. The man is Christ (Ephesians 5:25), washing his wife with the Word before God instructs him to discipline and instruct his children (Ephesians 6:4).

a) Therefore, obedience on the part of the Israelites demonstrated that they loved God. Jesus laid down a similar principle for Christians (cf. John 14:21).<sup>[2]</sup>

8. To teach you – The adults are required to open themselves up to learn the Word so that like David (Psalm 119:11), they keep it in their hearts so that they walk in a manner that is pleasing to Him.

a) “to teach you to do (them)” —as Craigie has noted ([1976] 167), these words refer back to 5:22–23, where Moses' mediatorial role is described, to form an envelope of sorts around the larger subunit 5:23–6:3. They also call attention to the primary function of the book of Deuteronomy in the life of ancient Israel: religious education.

9. To teach you – God's desire is to create understanding among His people so that they clearly know how to walk with Him and experience a meaningful and productive relationship with Him.

10. Might do them - God expects Israel to be obligated to His divine will. This is demonstrated by their faithful commitment to cause themselves, even when they don't feel like it, to work hard to obey all He has commanded them.

11. Might do them - Their obligation to obey God creates the discipline that is necessary to consistently walk in His ways. It takes discipline because there are other religions,

neighboring cultures, and our own weaknesses that can lead us away from God. Obeying God takes a lot of work.

12. Going over; Passed – The place that God has for them is where God expects them to cultivate and establish His divine will. It is as if God was re-establishing His people back in the Garden of Eden.

13. Possess – God would not just put them in the land; He is going to give them ownership. This makes them His people by their character and His nature by their possession. Like the church, God identifies Himself completely with Israel.

a) God's gracious promise to the patriarchs gave Israel ownership of the land, but it was their own obedience to the Lord that guaranteed their possession and enjoyment of the land. It's unfortunate that after Israel had lived in the land, they took their blessings for granted, disobeyed God's law, and had to be punished for their rebellion. First they were chastened in the land (described in the Book of Judges) and then they were removed from the land and taken captive to Babylon. Wiersbe, W. W. (1999). *Be equipped* (pp. 44–45). Chariot Victor Pub.

14. Fear the Lord God – Everything is established so that all of Israel live in the land in reverent awe of the Lord God (Hebrews 12:28-29). Their reverent respect for the Lord would take place because they have a clear understanding of His power and might, especially since they were exposed to it for forty years.

a) By fearing and obeying Him they would find prosperity (on the words so that it may go well with you, see comments on 4:40) and a long life in their new land (cf. 4:10; 5:33) which flowed with milk and honey (see comments on Ex. 3:8).<sup>[3]</sup>

b) The fear of the Lord includes awe for His greatness and holiness, love for Him, and submission to His will. Initially, the fear of God may involve fright. Yet it leads to a sense of wonder, a commitment to worship, and delight in knowing God. you ... and your grandson: Since God promised to bless generation after generation (Gen. 17:7, 8), He expected His people to follow His ways from generation to generation as well. all the days of your life. Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). *Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary* (p. 243). T. Nelson Publishers.

15. Keep His statutes and His commandments – A reverence for the Lord’s power and might should drive them to pay close attention to what they have learned causing them to make every effort to remember His rules that are written in stone, meaning they are unchangeable and the clear cut directives of His moral will.

a) Here God asked Israel to put the commands on her heart for her own good (6:4–6). In the new covenant in Christ, God did that work himself and placed the law within the believer (Heb. 8:10; Phil. 2:12–13). The section 6:4–9 is known in Jewish tradition as the *Shema* (literally, “hear” or “listen”) which declares the uniqueness and unity of God. This is emphasized by the words, “the Lord alone.”<sup>[4]</sup>

16. Which I command – The Lord God has dedicated His Word to become the constitution that directed all that Israel did. No one can faithfully obey them if there is no inner commitment to respect what the Lord has said. This is emphasized because everything depends on it.. This attitude would transfer to the children which creates a legacy that blesses everyone forever.

17. All the day of your life – When there is a reverent fear of the Lord causing believers to be faithful in their obedience, the Word of God provides prosperity and vitality to their day to day lives.

18. Prolong – Being respectfully responsive to the Word of God not only provides prosperity and vitality, but it also lengthens a person’s life (Psalm 128:5-6) providing them a long life at a time when there are no hospitals or sophisticated medical practices taking place in the Promise Land.

## **B. It is a Blessing (vs. 3):**

1. O Israel you should listen – Israel, as a result, was called upon to provide their undivided attention for the purpose of gaining a full knowledge and understanding of all that was being taught.

2. Careful to do - They were expected to be careful to always provide vigilant attention to all that has been thought so that they know specifically how to channel all their energy to obeying all that the Lord has required of them.

3. Careful to do - Our respect of God's Word, reverence of His mighty power, and appreciation of His blessings should cause us to be most willing to do whatever He commands us to do.

4. It may be well with you – Israel would become prosperous, accumulating much wealth because their inner commitment to obey God's standards pleased Him.

a) Believers today need to be reminded that all our blessings come to us because of God's eternal covenant with His Son (Heb. 13:20) and the New Covenant which Jesus made through His sacrificial death on the cross (Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25; Heb. 8–9). We aren't blessed because of what we are within ourselves, but because of what we are in Christ (Eph. 1:3–14). Wiersbe, W. W. (1999). *Be equipped* (p. 45). Chariot Victor Pub.

5. Multiply greatly – When this structure is maintained, without hospitals and sophisticated medical practices, they will without measure increase in number to become a powerful nation (this took place under David).

6. The Lord God – Moses did not just say God, he said the Lord God meaning the One who established His covenant with Israel and reigns over them is God and He is Supreme and is Ruler over all things. His loyalty and supremacy was demonstrated when the Lord God served the fathers of Israel.

7. Promised – No matter the opposition or obstacles God proved how committed He was to His covenant with Israel and how supreme His power was when He established them to be a powerful nation in accordance with everything He said He would do.

a) The land of Canaan is described as a land "flowing with milk and honey." This refers to the bounty of the land for a pastoral lifestyle, but not necessarily in terms of agriculture. Milk is the product of herds, while honey represents a natural resource, probably the syrup of the day rather than bees' honey. A similar expression to this is found in the Ugaritic epic of Baal and Mot that describes the return of fertility to the land in terms of the wadis flowing with honey. Egyptian texts as early as the *Story of Sinuhe* describe the land of Canaan as rich in natural resources as well as in cultivated produce.<sup>[5]</sup>

8. Promised – God’s Word should be trusted because they were living in the evidence. So it is important to pass His Word down from generation-to-generation since it is by His Word we live and find our being forever and forever (Proverbs 13:13).

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[1] Pfeiffer, C. F. (1962). [The Wycliffe Bible Commentary: Old Testament](#) (Dt 6:1). Moody Press.

[2] Deere, J. S. (1985). [Deuteronomy](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 274). Victor Books.

[3] Deere, J. S. (1985). [Deuteronomy](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 274). Victor Books.

[4] Hughes, R. B., & Laney, J. C. (2001). [Tyndale concise Bible commentary](#) (pp. 72–73). Tyndale House Publishers.

[5] Matthews, V. H., Chavalas, M. W., & Walton, J. H. (2000). [The IVP Bible background commentary: Old Testament](#) (electronic ed., Dt 6:3). InterVarsity Press.