

Between Us

Deuteronomy 26:16-19

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I. You vs. 16-17

a. This Day v.16

i. This Day

1. to fear YHWH,"which is the beginning of spiritual wisdom. "Today" (היום) means both the original day on which Moses spoke these words and each subsequent day when the ceremony of covenant renewal was held.
2. where the words "this day" and "today" (vv 16, 17, 18) refer to both the original day on which Moses spoke and each subsequent time thereafter when the ceremony
3. Israel must respond one way or another, because the voice of God is near. The word they must obey is not far off in the heavens or belonging to remote antiquity. Therefore do not defer your choice to still another 'today'

ii. Do...

1. Commands - *command, appoint, ordain*, of divine act
2. Statutes - what is stipulated, determined (in writing) **prescription, rule**
3. Ordinances- **decision, judgement**
 - a. framed by repetition of the words "statutes" (חֻקִּים) and "judgments" (מִשְׁפָּטִים, vv 16 and 17), which appear also in 12:1 to form an envelope around the laws of the central core (Deut 12–26
 - b. each declaration refers to the obligations undertaken by both parties to the covenant, and the reference is to a solemn legal act whereby the covenant is agreed

c.

iii. Do Carefully - Deut 6:5

1. Careful - to **take care of, preserve, protect**
2. All Your Heart
3. All Your Soul
 - a. to command": "God is commanding you" (מִצְוָה, v 16) and "his commands" (מִצְוֹתָיו, v 17). The command "to do them with all your heart and with all your soul" brings to mind the Great Commandment in 6:5–6 and 10:12–13, 20–22

- b. Though Israel, as the people of God, were commanded to observe the laws as delineated in Deut 12–26, the matter of greatest importance is their attitude.

- b. Today v.17

- i. Walk

- 1. In His Ways

- ii. Keep - watch over and guard

- 1. His Statutes

- 2. His Commandments

- 3. His Ordinances

- a. *And keep all his commandments]* explanatory of the conditions involved in Israel's agreeing to be Jehovah's

- iii. Listen to His Voice

II. Me vs. 18-19

- a. Today

- i. These two verses are framed by reference to the special relationship between YHWH and his people: the people of Israel are "his treasured people"

- ii. Israel does not cause God to say anything, nor does God cause Israel to say or do anything. The commitments made between God and Israel in covenant renewal are mutual

- iii. Declared v.18

- 1. Declared - YHWH has declared you" is intended to suggest that the covenant relationship is seen as a marriage

- a. suggests that the mutual commitments of vv 16–17 reflect a marriage ceremony between YHWH and his bride, Israel.

- 2. His People

- 3. A Treasured Possession - *valued property, peculiar treasure*, chosen people of Israel

- a. As He Promised

- b. Keep His Commandments

- i. That they were chosen as YHWH's "treasured people" is not a basis for pride. The privilege carries a heavy responsibility. If their obedience to God's laws comes from the heart, then God will exalt them in such a manner that they become a source of praise and honor among the nations.

- 4. Set You High v.19

- a. Above all the Nations

- i. Praise

1. The object of that praise is not the people of Israel; it is God himself. The name we are to lift up is not ours, but his. It is not our honor that is spoken of here, but his

ii. Fame

iii. Honor

1. YHWH's commands (v 18), "so that he will set you high above all the nations" (v 19) to be an object of praise and honor to YHWH among those peoples.
2. The net result of covenant obedience was to be Israel's exaltation above all nations, an exaltation that would render them "praise, fame and honor" (v. 19). This collocation of words (*tēhillâ, šēm, tip'eret*) forms a cliché to express renown of the highest form (cf. Jer 13:11 and 33:9, where the first two words are reversed). It is true that Israel's selection as a "kingdom of priests" and a "holy nation" carried with it a heavy responsibility. Their faithful discharge of that responsibility would, however, result in the greatest privilege and honor

b. Consecrated People

i. Consecrated-

1. "be a holy people to YHWH" (v 19). The parallel text in Exod 19:6 has "a holy nation."
2. To be a holy people is to be a people set apart for God, and for that special task among the nations to which he has called us. The keeping of God's commandments is not the means of our own vindication or justification before God. God chose Israel to be a special people on the basis of his own lovingkindness—it is a matter of God's grace, and God's grace alone. It is our heartfelt response to God's love and commitment to us as his "treasured possession" that he desires of us by means of obedience to his commands. That is what will bring forth his praise and honor among the nations.

3. From its position, the condition of being a holy people to Jehovah appears to be viewed here as a privilege conferred upon Israel by God (cf. 28:9), rather than as a duty (which it is Israel's part to realize for itself (14:2, 21). Naturally, consecration to Jehovah has this double aspect, either side of which may be brought into prominence, according to the truth which a writer on a particular occasion desires to enforce
- ii. To the Lord Your God