

Handout: Deuteronomy Lesson 6

Key words: “hear,” “remember,” and to not “forget.” The command to “Hear, Israel” [*Shema Ysrael*] is given five times (5:1; 6:3, 4; 9:1; 20:3). The command to “remember” is [*zakar*] repeated thirteen times in Moses’ second homily (5:15; 7:18, 8:2, 18; 9:7, 27; 15:15; 16:3, 12; 24:9, 18, 22; 25:17) and again in the final homily (32:7) for a total of fourteen times. The command not to “forget” [*shakach*] is repeated nine times in Moses’ homilies, with six of those warnings in his second homily (4:9, 23, 31; 6:12; 8:11, 14, 19; 9:7; 25:11).

Moses describes God’s bountiful blessings for Israel living in the Promised Land in terms that are similar to what God provided for Adam and Eve in Eden:

Deuteronomy 8:1-10	Genesis 1:28; 2:8-10
<i>... so that you may survive [live] and increase in numbers and enter the country [land] which Yahweh promised (Dt 8:1).</i>	<i>... ‘Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it (Gen 1:28)</i>
<i>But Yahweh your God is bringing you into a fine country [good land], a land of streams and springs, of waters that well up from the deep in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines, of figs, of pomegranates, a long of olives, of oil, of honey ... (Dt 8:7).</i> <i>10 You will eat and have all you want and you will bless Yahweh your God in the fine country [good land] which he has given you (Dt 8:10).</i>	<i>Yahweh God planted a garden in Eden, which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. From the soil, Yahweh God caused to grow every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river flowed from Eden to water the garden ... (Gen 2:8-10a).</i>
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Dt 9:1-29: Moses used five negative examples of past historical events to support the main theme of his address that the Israelites must be vigilant in their obedience to God and that possession of the Promised Land is not based on their own merits but on God’s grace:

- The rebellion of the Golden Calf at Sinai (Ex 32:1-29)
- The rebellion at Taberah (Num 11:1-3)
- The rebellion at Massah (Ex 17:1-7; Num 20:2-11)
- The rebellion at Kibroth-ha-Tavvah (Num 11:4-35)
- The rebellion at Kadesh-Barnea (Num 13:25-14:4)

Dt 10:1-11: Moses reflected on five positive historical events:

- The second forty days on Mt. Sinai and the command to put the tablets of the covenant in the Ark (Ex 25:16; 34:1-2, 28-29)
- The Ark of the Covenant (Ex 37:1-9; 40:20)
- The succession of the office of high priest from Aaron to Eleazar (Num 20:24-26)
- The dedication of the Levites as the lesser ministerial priesthood (Num 8:5-22)
- The second forty days on the mountain and the command to depart from Sinai (Ex 34:1-2, 28-29)