**Week of Oct 6, 2019**

**Deuteronomy 4:1-8, 12-13**

**Key Verse:** “Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you.”

(Deuteronomy 4:2)

**1** Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you. **2** Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. **3** Your eyes have seen what the LORD did because of Baalpeor: for all the men that followed Baalpeor, the LORD thy God hath destroyed them from among you. **4** But ye that did cleave unto the LORD your God are alive every one of you this day. **5** Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. **6** Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. **7** For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for? **8** And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

**12** And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice. **13** And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.

**Understanding the Scriptures**

This week’s lesson takes us to the book of Deuteronomy. It is the last book of the Law with authorship attributed to Moses. Reading the book of Deuteronomy, one will quickly discover that it is Moses’ sermonic review of the Law, as well as an instructional book to guide the Israelites in the occupation of Canaan. These sermons with given just prior to Moses’ death. The Israelites were encamped at the Trans-Jordan. The Trans-Jordan is the territory each of the Jordan River. The Israelites were planning their move militarily across the Jordan River into the promised land to Abraham nearly seven hundred years before. Moses introduced this chapter with the words “Now Therefore”, indicating the speech now turns from reviewing the past to obedience to the law that he is about to proclaim. The people are warned not to add or subtract from God’s laws. The comprehensive nature of God’s Law did not rule out addition to its written text, but the essential content of the Law could not be altered. The written Law could receive clarification and revision, but its fundamental truth as God’s covenant law would remain unchanged so as to not weaken God’s laws. Numbers 25:1-9 speaks about the incident of Baal of Peor. It is mentioned in Psalm 106:28 and Hosea 9:10. During the incident at Baal of Peor, some Israelites got involved with idol-worshipping Moabite women and were punished with death. The Israelites who remained faithful to God and obeyed God’s Law were not killed. God appeared to the people at Mount Horeb (Sinai). A dark cloud appeared, and God’s voice bellowed from the heavens. God’s people were moved with fear and awe. Moses reminded the people of this experience at Horeb to encourage the people to obey God and resist the temptation to fall into idolatry when they settled in the idolatrous land of Canaan.

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