

# The Christian Arsenal

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## DEUTERONOMY 6:1-25

Today's lesson is actually the continuation of a long address by Moses to the children of Israel. As we saw a couple of weeks ago, this sermon contained the **Ten Commandments**. And today, we're going to some other commandments that God expected His chosen people to follow. In fact, we're going to see the commandments that the Lord Jesus Christ said was the most important.

As I was studying this week, I was struck by the eloquence of Moses. God's Word is full of eloquent sermons. But, when we think of Moses, and how he started out, we see how far he's come.

Remember, when Moses told God that he was slow of speech? In fact Moses said, ***"Please Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither recently nor in time past...for I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."***

Well, Moses may have been slow of speech and slow of tongue then, but when we read through the book of **Deuteronomy**, we see one long eloquent sermon. We see how God can pour His eloquence into a man who is willing to be totally used by Him!

Moses so wants these people to truly understand the importance of these commandments...He tells them again that they're to **do** them and to **keep** them.

And Moses says the results of this will be

- that they will fear the Lord
- that they will enjoy long life
- that their life will go well
- that they would multiply...

Verses 1-3...

At least **six times** in this book, Moses called the land they're about to enter ***"the land of milk and honey."*** This phrase described the richness and fruitfulness of them of the land.

Milk was a staple food and honey was a luxury, so "a land of milk and honey" would provide the people with what they needed as well as with what they wanted.

There would be adequate pastures for their flocks and herds and sufficient plants in their fields for the bees to obtain pollen to make honey...

How wonderful this must have sounded to these folks after having traveled in the wilderness for 40 years. How could these folks not love and obey Jehovah when He promised to bless them so abundantly?

And Moses knew how crucial their obedience was, didn't he?

God's gracious promise to their ancestors gave Israel ownership of the land, but it was their own obedience to the Lord that guaranteed their possession and enjoyment of the land.

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And we know that there came the day after Israel had enjoyed possession of the land that they took God's blessings for granted, didn't they? They disobeyed God's law and had to be punished for their rebellion.

First, they were chastened in the land (and we're learning each Sunday morning as Bro. Bob is preaching from the **Book of Judges**.) But, not only were they chastened in the land, they were eventually removed from the land and taken captive to Assyria and Babylon, weren't they?

Moses knew way back then the danger of this happening existed, didn't he? Moses reminded them again and again that their blessings came from a good and gracious God who had made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They weren't blessed because of their goodness. They were blessed because of God's goodness!

We aren't blessed today because of our goodness. We aren't blessed because of what we are in ourselves but because of who and what we are in Christ Jesus! But when we walk in obedience, we can be certain that we will enjoy God's blessings much more than when we walk in disobedience, can't we?

## **Verse 4...**

In this verse, we see what the Jews call "**the Shema**." This comes from the Hebrew word which means "to hear."

This confession is still recited each morning and evening by devout Jews all over the world. This confession is so important that Jewish boys in orthodox homes are required to memorize it as soon as they learn to talk. The Lord Jesus quoted this as being the greatest commandment of all...**Mark 12:28-31**.