

## e-concepts

A Weekly Publication of Relational Concepts Inc.

# A Study of Deuteronomy 4: Remember and Don't Forget

Dr. David DeWitt

## Keep God's Word

**Verse 1:** Moses told them to listen to the statutes and judgments so that the people may live and take possession of the land.

**Verse 2:** You should not add or take away from the Word. To take possession of your position means to listen to the Word of God and do not add anything to it, like sacred traditions or holidays, or icons, or rosary beads, or Mariology, or sacred buildings, or take anything away from it, like Christ being the one and only way to God.

**Verse 3:** *Your eyes have seen what God has done.* A specific case is illustrated from Numbers 25:1-9 about Baal-peor when 24,000 people died for disobedience to God.

**Verse 4:** Those who held fast to the Lord are alive today. Notice how God notices each individual decision.

**Verses 5-6:** Moses taught them the commandments, so keep them. That is what makes you a wise and understanding people. Similar to the parable of the soils in Matthew 13, where Jesus said the difference between the good soil and the other soils is understanding. The step between just hearing and doing is understanding.

**Verses 7-8:** What great nation has the righteous whole law as Israel has? It wasn't to be a burden but to distinguish Israel from the other nations, by making Israel a wise people and pleasing to the holy God. In our age, the church is also to be set apart. Even though we have a Jewish people today who are lost and not following God, the memory of the Mosaic Law has made them a wise people.



## Teach God's Word

**Verse 9:** Here is the theme of the book—**remember the things** *which your eyes have seen.*

**Verse 10:** Remember is hearing God's words, fearing God, and teaching that to your children.

**Verses 11-14:** At Mt. Sinai, God spoke to Moses from the midst of a fire, but they didn't see God. He gave them His covenant without them seeing any form.

**Verses 15-18:** Because you did not see any form of God, don't corrupt yourselves by making a form to worship.

**Verse 19:** Don't worship the stars either. This is the same warning in Romans 1:19-24.

Constantine blended his worship of the sun god with Christianity. Behind the paintings of the saints or Mary was the "sun."

**Verses 20-22:** *But the Lord has taken you and brought you out of the fiery furnace...the Lord your God is giving you an inheritance...you shall cross and take possession of this good land.*

## Watch Yourself

**Verses 23-24:** Watch yourself and do not forget the covenant. It's your free will individual decision to remember and not forget God's Words (theme of book). And don't make images for yourself. If you don't make them, you won't be tempted to worship them. *For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.*

**Verses 25-31:** Moses gave the first prophecy of the nation of Israel by using the whole history of Israel to explain it.

1. They are going to remain long in the land, from 1400 to 700 B.C. (v. 25).
2. They are going to act corruptly and do evil in the sight of God during the time of Judges and Kings (v. 25).
3. They are going to perish quickly from the land, both with the Assyrian Captivity in 722 B.C. and the Babylonian Exile in 604 B.C. (v. 26).
4. The Lord will scatter them among the nations. Their will be few left (v. 27).
5. They will serve the gods of the nations, from 604 B.C. to A.D. 1947 (v. 28).
6. They will finally seek the Lord in the Millennial Kingdom. He is not referring to the Jews returning from Babylon. It was a temporary return. They were scattered again in A.D. 70 and did not include all the Israelite people. The Northern Kingdom did not return until A.D. 1947. This is not even a return today. But when they are in distress, as in the Tribulation of Revelation 4–19 and Matthew 24, then they will return to the Lord and listen to His voice (vv. 29-30).
7. Then God will not forget His covenant with them (v. 31).

## Don't Forget God

**Verses 32-39:** Moses mentioned 4 unique things about the nation of Israel. (1) v. 33—No other nation has heard the voice of God. (2) v. 34—No other nation was formed from within another nation by signs and wonders, (3) v. 34—No nation was formed by a weaker nation because always the strong survive. v. 37—They will clear away seven nations greater and stronger than Israel. (4) v. 39—No other nation has only one God.

**Verse 40:** They must keep God's statutes *that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may love long on the land which the Lord your God is giving you for all time.*

**Verses 41-43:** Moses listed three cities of refuge across the Jordan. These were where a manslayer could flee who unintentionally accidentally killed someone.

**Verses 44-49:** Moses gave a review of their history *the testimonies and the statutes and the ordinances which Moses spoke to the sons of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.*

## Applications:

- In order to possess your position, don't add to or take away from the Word of God. Don't add your traditions or practices to it or take away anything that it teaches (vv. 1-8).
- Remember what God has done through history and teach it to your children (vv. 9-10).
- Be careful not to worship icons, images, or stars (vv. 11-19).
- The objective of spiritual maturity is for you to be set apart as a possession of God, not for God to be a possession of yours. Maturity is to understand that God is not doing this for you. He is doing it for Himself. For example, why doesn't God give me what I want when I pray? Because it isn't about you and what you want, it's about what God wants.
- When you sin and live a worldly life, if you repent and return, you can find God if you seek after Him with all your heart.