### Deuteronomy

## Chapter 4

1‘And now, O IsraEl,  
  
 ‘Listen to the rules and decisions – everything that I’m going to teach you today – so that you can live, grow, and inherit the land that Jehovah the God of your ancestors is giving to you!  
  
 2‘Don’t add anything to or take anything away from these Commandments that I’m giving you today. Just obey the Commandments of Jehovah our God and do everything that I’m commanding you.  
  
 3‘For, you’ve seen everything that Jehovah our God did to the men [who started worshiping] BeEl PhoGor… Jehovah destroyed them all from among you! 4And it’s only because you stayed close to your God that you’re all still alive today!  
  
 5‘{Look} I’ve shown you all the rules and decisions, just as Jehovah gave them to me... So you must follow them in the land that you’re traveling to and which you’ll inherit. 6Obey them, and do them... Because this is what will brand you as a wise and understanding people to the nations!  
  
 ‘For when they hear all these rules they’ll say:  
  
 ‘Look! They’re a great nation of wise and understanding people!’  
  
 7‘What other nation is there that’s so great that they have a God as close to them as our God Jehovah is [to us], and to whom we may call about anything?  
  
 8‘And what other nation has rules and decisions that are as righteous as all these laws that I’m setting before you today?  
  
 9‘So, keep an eye on yourselves and carefully guard your hearts! Don’t forget any of the things that you’ve seen… Keep them in your hearts throughout the rest of your lives!  
  
 ‘You must teach your sons and your grandsons 10the things that happened when you gathered before Jehovah our God at Horeb… When the Lord said to me:  
  
 ‘Gather the people to Me and have them listen to My words, so they can learn to fear Me for as long as they live in the land, and then teach this to their sons.’  
  
 11‘You yourselves went and stood at the base of the mountain as it burned with fire all the way into the heavens… And there was darkness, blackness, and wind. 12Then the Lord spoke to you from the midst of the fire with a voice and with words that you heard… Yes, although you saw no shape, you heard the voice!  
  
 13‘Then He proclaimed His Sacred Agreement with you, and He ordered you to keep the Ten Commandments that He wrote on the two tablets of stone.  
  
 14‘And then Jehovah commanded me to teach you His rules and decisions, which you should obey in the land that you’re going to inherit.  
  
 15‘Yes, keep them in your hearts! For you’ve never seen another day like the one when Jehovah spoke to you on Mount Horeb from the midst of the fire!  
  
 16‘So, don’t sin by carving images of any kind… No, not in the shape of males or females, 17of any animals on the ground, of any winged creatures that fly in the sky, 18of any slithering animals that crawl on the ground, or of any creatures that live in the waters below the ground.  
  
 19‘Nor should you look up into the sky and see the sun, moon, stars, or any of the other heavenly bodies that Jehovah your God provided to all the nations under the heavens, and then go off and worship and serve them.  
  
 20‘For God took you and led you out of the land of Egypt – out of that iron furnace – to be His people and His inheritance today.  
  
 21‘Then Jehovah God became very angry with me over things that you said, and He swore that I wouldn’t cross the JorDan and enter the land that He’s giving to you as your inheritance!  
  
 22‘So, I will now die in this land and I won’t [be allowed to] cross the JorDan… But you will cross it and inherit that good land.  
  
 23‘Therefore, pay attention to yourselves and don’t forget the Sacred Agreement that Jehovah our God made with you.  
  
 ‘Don’t sin by carving images of any of the things that Jehovah your God told you not to [worship]. 24For Jehovah your God is zealous, and He can be a consuming fire!  
  
 25‘Then, after you’ve fathered sons and they’ve grown old and had grandchildren… If they sin and carve images of things and start acting wickedly towards Jehovah your God and anger Him... 26I swear before heaven and earth that they’ll be destroyed from the land that you’re going to inherit across the JorDan… They won’t live to get any older and they’ll be cut off!  
  
 27‘Then Jehovah will scatter them among all the nations and they’ll become the minority among all the [people] wherever Jehovah sends them. 28There they’ll serve other gods… Things that men make with their hands from wood and stone… Gods who can’t see, hear, eat, or smell.  
  
 29‘But if they’ll search for Jehovah their God in that place, they’ll find Him!  
  
 ‘For, whenever you’re oppressed and you search for Him with your whole hearts and souls, [you’ll find Him]… 30And that’s what’ll happen to [your people] in the last days.  
  
 ‘They must turn to Jehovah their God and listen to His voice... 31Because, Jehovah your God is also a God of pity, so He won’t forget the Sacred Agreement that He made with your ancestors, and He won’t leave you or destroy you.  
  
 32‘Ask from one end of the sky to the other… Since the time that God created man on the earth, has anyone ever heard of such a great thing happening?  
  
 33‘Has any other nation ever heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of fire, as you’ve heard it and experienced it?  
  
 34‘What [other] nation has God elevated and taken as His own with trials, signs, wonders, and war (with His mighty hand and mighty arm)… Yes, with all these great things that we saw Jehovah our God do in Egypt?  
  
 35‘So, you should know that Jehovah your God is The God, and that there’s no other, than just Him!  
  
 36‘For it was His voice that you heard coming from the sky and teaching you when He showed you His great fire and when you heard His words from the midst of that fire!  
  
 37‘It was only because He loved your ancestors that He chose you (because you’re their offspring) and drew you to Him; and then with His great strength, He brought you out of Egypt... 38Thereafter, He destroyed nations that were much greater and stronger than you are – right in front of you – to bring you here today and to give you their land as your inheritance.  
  
 39‘So, recognize all of this and consider it in your hearts. For Jehovah your God is the God of the skies above and of the lands below them… And there’s no other!  
  
 40‘So if you keep His Commandments and rules – all that I’m giving you today – it will go well for you and your descendants, and you may live on the land that Jehovah your God is giving to you for a long time… Throughout the ages!’  
  
  
41Then Moses set aside these three towns on the east side of the JorDan 42as refuge cities where men who have unintentionally killed a neighbor (someone whom they’ve never hated) can run to and live:  
  
 • 43Bosor in the plains of ReuBen,  
 • RamOth in GileAd (Gad’s land), and  
 • GauLon in BaShan (ManasSeh’s land).  
  
44These were the laws that Moses laid out before the children of IsraEl…  
45They are the testimonies, rules, and decisions that Moses told the sons of IsraEl after they left Egypt 46and while they were on the other side of the JorDan in the valley near the house of PhoGor in the land of SeOn (the king of the Amorites who lived in Hesh-EbonEh) and whom Moses and the sons of IsraEl destroyed.  
  
47So they inherited this land; the land of Og (the king of BaShan) and that of the two Amorite kings, which is east of the JorDan 48and runs from from AroEr (which borders the Arnon Wadi) to Mount SeOn (or HerMon)… 49All the plains from the JorDan east and down to [Mount Pisgah].