

Moses

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*An abridgment of the Book of
Deuteronomy. Verse references such as
5:6 indicate the original source of the text,
but don't imply a full quotation.*

5:1 Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, Hear the statutes and ordinances that I speak today. Learn them and observe them carefully. 2 GOD made a covenant with us. 3 GOD did not make this covenant with our fathers. 4 GOD spoke with you on the mountain, saying,

5:6 I am GOD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 7 Don't have other gods before me. 8 Don't make an idol for yourself in the form of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the waters. 9 Don't worship them or serve them, for I am a jealous god, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation, 10 but showing love to thousands who love me and keep my commandments.

5:11 Don't misuse the name of GOD.

5:12 Observe the sabbath day by keeping it holy. ¹³ Labor six days and do all your work, ¹⁴ but the seventh day is a sabbath to GOD. On it you shall not do any work: neither you, your children, your servant, your livestock, nor any foreigner living among you, that they may rest as you do. ¹⁵ Remember that you were slaves in Egypt, and that GOD brought you out. Therefore, GOD commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

5:16 Honor your parents so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land that GOD is giving you.

5:17 Don't murder. ¹⁸ Don't commit adultery. ¹⁹ Don't steal. ²⁰ Don't give false testimony against your neighbor. ²¹ Don't covet your neighbor's wife, house, field, servants, livestock, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

5:32 Be careful to do as GOD has com-

manded you. Don't turn aside to the right or to the left. ³³ Walk on the path which GOD has commanded you, that you may live, prosper, and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.

^{6:5} Love GOD with all your heart, soul, and strength. ⁶ These words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

^{6:10} When GOD brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would give you — a land with large and splendid cities, ¹¹ houses filled with every good thing, cisterns, vineyards, and olive trees — when you eat and are satisfied, ¹² then be careful not to forget GOD.

^{6:14} Don't follow other gods, the gods of the people around you, ¹⁵ lest the anger of GOD be kindled against you, and destroy you from the face of the earth.

^{6:20} When your son asks you, "What is the meaning of the testimonies, the

statutes, and the rules that GOD has commanded you?" ²¹ tell him, "We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, but GOD brought us out of Egypt. ²³ He brought us out from there in order to give us the land that he swore to our fathers. ²⁴ So GOD commanded us to observe all these statutes and to fear GOD for our good and our survival."

^{7:1} When GOD brings you into the land, and clears away many nations before you, ³ don't intermarry with them. ⁴ They will turn your children away from me, to worship other gods.

^{7:7} GOD didn't choose you because you were more numerous than other people, ⁸ but because GOD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers.

^{7:12} If you listen to and carefully keep these ordinances, GOD will keep the covenant of love with you that he swore to your fathers. ¹³ He will love you, bless you, and multiply you. He will

bless the fruit of your womb, the crops of your land, and the increase of your herd.

^{7:17} If you say in your heart, “These nations are greater than I. How can I dispossess them?” ¹⁸ Don’t be afraid of them. Remember what GOD did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt. ²¹ Don’t dread them, for GOD is among you, a great and awesome god. ²² GOD will clear away these nations before you little by little. You will not eliminate them all at once, lest the wild animals become too numerous for you. ²⁵ Burn the carved images of their gods. Don’t covet the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourself, lest you be ensnared by it. ²⁶ Don’t bring an abomination into your house, lest you be set apart for destruction. Instead, utterly detest it and abhor it.

^{8:2} Remember how GOD led you these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, and to test what was in your

heart, whether you would keep his commandments. ³ He humbled you, let you go hungry, then fed you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of GOD. ⁵ Know in your heart that GOD disciplines you just as a man disciplines his son. ⁶ Therefore keep the commandments of GOD by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ¹⁰ When you've eaten and are satisfied, then bless GOD for the good land he has given you.

^{8:11} Be careful not to forget GOD, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes. ¹² Otherwise, once you've eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses to live in, ¹³ and when your herds multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and everything you have multiplies, ¹⁴ then your heart will become proud, and you will forget GOD, ¹⁷ and you may say in

your heart, “My power and the strength of my hand has made me this wealth.”¹⁸ But remember that GOD gives you power to make wealth in order to confirm his covenant. ¹⁹ If you forget GOD, follow other gods, serve them, and worship them, I testify against you today that you will surely perish.

^{9:4} Once GOD has driven the people out before you, don’t say in your heart, “GOD brought me in to possess this land because of my righteousness.” Instead, GOD drives them out because of their wickedness. ⁶ Understand that GOD isn’t giving you this good land because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people. ⁷ Don’t forget how you provoked GOD in the wilderness. From the day you departed Egypt until you arrived in this place, you have been rebellious against GOD.

^{10:17} GOD is not partial and takes no bribe. ¹⁸ He executes justice for or-

phans and widows, and loves the foreigner by giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹ Therefore, love the foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt.

^{11:2} Remember that your children didn't experience the discipline of GOD; his works which he did in Egypt; ⁴ what he did to the army of Egypt; how he made the water of the Red sea engulf them as they pursued you; ⁵ and what he did to you in the wilderness, until you reached this place; ⁷ but your eyes have seen every great work GOD has done.

^{11:16} Be careful not to be enticed to turn aside and serve other gods and worship them. ¹⁸ Therefore imprint my words on your heart and on your soul, bind them as a sign on your hand, and wear them on your foreheads. ¹⁹ Teach them to your children, speak of them when you sit in your house, when you walk along the road, when you lie down, and when you get up. ²⁰ Write them

on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, ²¹ that your days, and the days of your children, may be multiplied as long as the heavens are above the earth.

^{12:4} Don't worship GOD in the same way as the nations you dispossess. ⁵ Instead, seek the place where GOD chooses to establish his name. Go there ⁶ and bring your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, your contributions, your vow offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your livestock. ⁷ There, in the presence of GOD, you and your families will eat and rejoice in everything you undertake, because GOD has blessed you.

^{12:20} When GOD enlarges your territory as he has promised you, and you say, "I want to eat meat," you may eat meat whenever you want.

^{12:29} When GOD cuts off the nations before you, and you live in their land,

³⁰ be careful not to be ensnared by their ways, ³¹ for they have done every detestable act for their gods; even burning their children as sacrifices.

^{13:1} If a prophet arises among you, and gives you a sign or a wonder, ² and it comes true, but he says, “Let us follow other gods and worship them,” ³ don’t listen to that prophet. For GOD is testing you to find out whether you love GOD with all your heart and with all your soul.

^{13:6} If your brother, child, wife, or friend secretly entices you, saying, “Let us worship other gods,” ⁸ don’t yield to him and don’t listen to him.

^{14:22} Set aside a tenth of the produce that is harvested from your fields each year. ²³ Eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your livestock before GOD, in the place where he chooses to estab-

lish his name, so that you may learn to fear GOD always.

^{14:24} If the distance is so great that you can't carry it, ²⁵ then turn it into money and take the money to the place where GOD chooses to establish his name. ²⁶ Spend the money for whatever you want, for oxen, or sheep, or wine, or strong drink. Eat it before GOD and rejoice, you and your household. ²⁷ Don't neglect the Levite who is in your town, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

^{14:28} At the end of every third year, bring all the tithe of that year's produce and store it in your town. ²⁹ The Levite, the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow in your town shall come and eat and be satisfied, so that GOD may bless you in all your work.

^{15:1} At the end of every seventh year, cancel debts. ² Every creditor must cancel the loans he made to his neighbor. He must not demand payment from his

neighbor. ³ You may require payment from a foreigner, but you must forgive whatever your brother owes you. ⁶ For GOD will bless you, as he has promised. You will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow. You will rule many nations, but none will rule you.

^{15:7} If there is a poor man among you, in any of your towns, don't harden your heart or shut your hand towards him. ⁸ Instead, open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.

^{15:9} Be careful not to have this wicked thought: "The seventh year, the year of release, is near," and you look grudgingly on your poor brother and give him nothing. He will cry to GOD against you, and you will be guilty. ¹⁰ Give generously to him without a grudging heart. Because of this GOD will bless you in everything you do. ¹¹ There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore freely open your hand to your

brother, to the poor, and to the needy.

^{15:12} If a fellow Hebrew is sold to you, and serves you for six years, free him in the seventh year. ¹³ When you free him, don't send him away empty-handed. ¹⁴ Furnish him liberally from your flock, from your threshing floor, and from your winepress. Give to him as GOD has blessed you. ¹⁵ Remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and GOD redeemed you. That is why I am giving you this command. ¹⁸ Don't consider it a hardship when you set him free, for he served you six years at half the cost of a hired servant. GOD will bless you in all you do.

^{15:19} Dedicate to GOD every firstborn male of your livestock. Do no work with the firstborn of your herd, nor shear the firstborn of your flock. ²⁰ Each year you and your family are to eat it before GOD in the place GOD chooses. ²¹ If it has any defect, is lame or blind, don't sacrifice it to GOD.

^{16:1} Observe the month of Aviv and celebrate the Passover to GOD, for in the month of Aviv GOD brought you out of Egypt by night. ³ For seven days you are to eat unleavened bread—because you left Egypt in haste—so that you may remember the day you left Egypt for the rest of your life. ⁴ Let no yeast be found in your territory for seven days. ⁶ Sacrifice the Passover at sunset, at the time you came out of Egypt. ⁸ On the seventh day hold a solemn assembly to GOD, and do no work.

^{16:9} Seven weeks after you start the grain harvest, ¹⁰ celebrate the Feast of Weeks to GOD by giving a freewill offering in proportion to how GOD has blessed you. ¹¹ Rejoice before GOD; you, your children, your servants, and the Levites in your town; the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow, who are among you.

^{16:13} Celebrate the Feast of Tabernac-

les for seven days after gathering the produce from your threshing floor and winepress. ¹⁴ Rejoice during your feast; you, your children, your servants, and the Levites; the stranger, the orphan, and the widow who are among you. ¹⁵ Celebrate the feast to GOD for seven days, because GOD will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful.

^{16:16} All males must appear three times a year before GOD where he chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles. None shall appear before GOD empty-handed. ¹⁷ Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to how GOD has blessed you.

^{16:18} Appoint judges and officers for your tribes in all your towns. They shall judge the people righteously. ¹⁹ Don't pervert justice or be partial. Don't take a bribe, for it blinds the wise and twists

the words of the righteous. ²⁰ Pursue justice, and only justice.

^{17:1} Don't sacrifice to GOD an ox or a sheep with any blemish or defect, for that is detestable to GOD.

^{17:2} If anyone in any of your towns ³ has worshiped other gods, ⁴ and if you hear about it, then investigate diligently. If it is true and certain, ⁵ bring him to your city gates and stone him to death. ⁶ He shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses, but not on the testimony of one witness. ⁷ The hands of the witnesses shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people.

^{17:8} If a case is too difficult for you to judge, whether homicide, lawsuit, or assault, then go to the place GOD chooses, ⁹ and ask the priests or the judge who is in office, and they will give you the verdict. ¹⁰ You must abide by the verdict they give you. Be careful to do

everything they tell you.

^{17:14} When you enter the land GOD is giving you, and you possess it, and live in it, and say, "I will set a king over me like all the nations around me,"¹⁵ appoint a king whom GOD chooses, one from among your brothers. Don't appoint a foreigner who is not your brother. ¹⁶ He must not acquire many horses for himself or send the people to Egypt to acquire many horses. For GOD has told you, "Never return that way again." ¹⁷ He must not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart go astray. He must not acquire excessive silver and gold for himself.

^{17:18} When he sits on the throne, he must write for himself a copy of this law, in the presence of the Levites. ¹⁹ He must read from it all the days of his life, so he may learn to fear GOD by observing this law and these statutes,²⁰ lest his heart be lifted up above his countrymen or he turn aside from the

commandment.

^{18:9} When you enter the land which GOD is giving you, don't imitate the detestable practices of those nations.

¹⁰ No one among you is to sacrifice his child in the fire, practice divination, tell fortunes, practice sorcery, ¹¹ cast spells, consult a medium or spiritist, or inquire of the dead.

^{18:15} GOD will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your countrymen. Listen to him. ¹⁸ I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. ¹⁹ I will hold accountable those who do not listen to my words that he speaks in my name.

^{18:21} You may ask yourself, "How can we know when a message is not from GOD?" ²² When a prophet speaks in GOD's name and it does not come true, then GOD has not spoken that message. The prophet spoke presumptuously. Don't be afraid of him.

^{19:2} Set apart three cities for yourselves in the middle of the land that GOD is giving you. ³ Divide the land into three parts, so that any manslayer can flee to these cities. ⁴ A manslayer is one who kills his neighbor accidentally without previous hostility. ⁵ He may flee to one of these cities and live, ⁶ lest the avenger of blood pursue the manslayer in anger, and kill him, though he did not deserve death.

^{19:14} Don't move your neighbor's boundary mark, established by your predecessors.

^{19:15} One witness is insufficient to establish wrongdoing by any man. A charge must be established on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁶ If a malicious witness accuses someone of wrongdoing, ¹⁷ then both people in the dispute must appear before GOD, before the priests and the judges. ¹⁸ The judges must investigate thoroughly, and if the witness has accused his broth-

er falsely, ¹⁹ then you must do to him as he intended to do to his brother.

^{20:1} When you go to war against your enemies and see horses, chariots, and an army larger than yours, don't be afraid of them, for GOD, who brought you out of Egypt, is with you. ² When you approach the battle, the priest shall come forward and speak to the army, ³ saying, "Hear, O Israel, today you approach battle against your enemies. Don't be fainthearted. Don't fear or panic or be terrified of them, ⁴ for GOD goes with you to fight against your enemies, to give you victory." ⁵ The officers shall speak to the army, saying, "Has any man built a new house and not dedicated it? ⁶ Has any man planted a vineyard and not yet enjoyed its fruit? ⁷ Has any man become engaged to a woman and not yet married her? ⁸ Is any man afraid or fainthearted? Let them return home."

^{20:19} When you besiege a city for a

long time, don't destroy its trees. Are the trees human that you should besiege them? ²⁰ You may only cut down trees that you know to produce no food. Use them to construct siegeworks against the city until it falls.

^{21:15} If a man has two wives, one loved and the other unloved, and both bear him sons, and the firstborn belongs to the unloved, ¹⁶ then, when his sons inherit what he has, he may not favor the son of the loved wife over the son of the unloved wife. ¹⁷ He must acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the unloved wife, by giving him a double portion of all he has. The right of the firstborn is his.

^{22:1} If you see your brother's animal straying, don't ignore it. Bring it back to him. ² If he lives far away or you don't know who he is, bring it home and care for it until your brother looks for it, then return it to him. ³ Do the same

with anything else that your brother loses and you find. Don't ignore it.
⁴ Don't ignore your brother's donkey or ox when it collapses on the road. Help him lift it up again.

^{22:5} A woman shall not wear men's clothes, neither shall a man wear women's clothes, for GOD detests those who do it.

^{22:6} If you come across a bird's nest with chicks or eggs, and the mother is sitting on them, don't take the mother with the young. ⁷ You may take the young but let the mother go so that you may prosper and have a long life.

^{22:8} When you build a new house, construct a railing around your roof, lest you bring bloodguilt on your house if anyone falls from it.

^{23:9} When you are encamped against your enemies, ¹² designate a place outside the camp where you can go to relieve yourself. ¹³ Keep a digging tool in

your equipment so that when you relieve yourself you can dig a hole and cover your excrement. ¹⁴ For GOD walks through your camp to protect you and to defeat your enemies. Your camp must be holy lest he see something indecent among you and turn away from you.

^{23:15} Don't return a slave to his master after he has escaped to you. ¹⁶ Let him live among you wherever he chooses. Don't mistreat him.

^{23:17} No man or woman of Israel shall be a shrine prostitute. ¹⁸ Don't bring the earnings of a prostitute, female or male, into the house of GOD to pay any vow, because both are detestable to GOD.

^{23:19} Don't charge your brother interest. ²⁰ You may charge interest to a foreigner, but not to your brother, so that GOD may bless you in everything you undertake.

^{23:21} When you make a vow to GOD,

don't delay fulfilling it, for GOD will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin. ²² But it's not a sin to refrain from making a vow. ²³ Be careful to do what you say, because you made your promise freely to GOD with your own mouth.

^{23:24} If you enter your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes, but don't put any in your basket. ²⁵ If you enter your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck grain with your hand, but don't harvest it with a sickle.

^{24:1} If a man marries a woman, but she displeases him because he finds some indecency in her, then let him write her a divorce certificate, and send her out of his house. ² When she leaves his house, she may marry another man.

^{24:5} When a man takes a new wife, he shall not go to war or be liable for any public duty for one year. He is free to stay home, so that he can bring joy to his new wife.

^{24:6} Don't take a mill or an upper millstone in pledge, for that would be taking a life in pledge.

^{24:10} If you lend anything to your neighbor, don't enter his house to collect his pledge. ¹¹ Remain outside and let your neighbor bring the pledge out to you. ¹² If the man is poor, don't keep his pledge overnight. ¹³ Return it to him when the sun sets, so that he may sleep in his cloak and bless you.

^{24:14} Don't oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether he is a brother or a foreigner living in your land. ¹⁵ Give him his wages each day before the sun sets, for he is poor and depends on them; lest he cry to GOD against you, and you become guilty of sin.

^{24:16} Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin.

^{24:17} Don't deny justice to a foreigner

or an orphan, and don't take a widow's cloak as a pledge. ¹⁸ Remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and that GOD redeemed you from there.

^{24:19} When you reap your harvest and forget a sheaf in the field, don't go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow, so that GOD may bless you in all the work of your hands. ²⁰ When you beat the olives from your trees, don't go over the branches again. ²¹ When you gather the grapes from your vineyard, don't go over the vines again. What remains is for the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow. ²² Remember that you were a slave in Egypt.

^{25:4} Don't muzzle the ox while it treads out the grain.

^{25:13} Don't carry differing weights in your bag, one heavy and one light. ¹⁴ Don't have differing measures in your house, one large and one small. ¹⁵ Use

accurate and honest weights and measures. ¹⁶ For GOD detests those who are dishonest in such things.

^{26:2} Put into a basket some of the first fruit of the harvest. ³ Go to the priest. ⁴ The priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of GOD. ⁵ Say before GOD, “My father was a wandering Aramean. He went down to Egypt with a few people, sojourned there, and became a great, mighty, and populous nation. ⁶ The Egyptians mistreated us, humiliated us, and imposed hard labor on us. ⁷ Then we cried to GOD, the god of our fathers, and GOD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression, ⁸ GOD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand, an outstretched arm, great deeds of terror, signs, and wonders. ⁹ He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ I bring the first fruit of the ground, which you, O GOD, have

given me.” Set it before GOD and worship before GOD. ¹¹ You, the Levite, and the foreigner shall rejoice in all the good things which GOD has given to you and your household.

^{26:12} When you have finished paying all the tithes of your produce in the third year, give it to the Levite, the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow, so that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied. ¹³ Say before GOD, “I have taken the sacred portion out of my house. I have given it to the Levite, the foreigner, the orphan, and the widow, according to all the commandments you gave me. I have not transgressed or forgotten your commandments. ¹⁴ I have not eaten any of the tithe while in mourning, or removed any of it while unclean, or offered any of it to the dead. I have obeyed GOD. I have done all you commanded me. ¹⁵ Look down from heaven, your holy habitation, and bless your people Israel and the land you

have given us, as you swore to our fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey.”