

A landscape scene featuring a tree on the left with one side bare and one side green, several birds flying in a sky transitioning from blue to orange, and a green field in the foreground. The text "That They May Have Life" is overlaid in white script.

That They May Have Life

That They May Have Life

- “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity...” (Deut. 30:15)
- “So choose life in order that you may live...” (30:19)

Deut. 30:15-20

- Life & Prosperity:
 - To love the Lord your God
 - To walk in His ways
 - To keep His commandments, etc.

Life and Love in Deuteronomy



- Love God & Neighbor
 - Focus, priorities, goals, agenda
 - His desires, likes, wants, preferences

Life and Love in Deuteronomy

- Love for God is based on love from God
- Love for God is from the heart
- Love for God is due God
- Love for God is manifested in obedience, worship, and service

To Walk in His Ways

- *Way* = conduct, manner of life
- *God's ways* reflect Him
- *To walk in God's ways* = conduct yourself in righteousness; to do things as God would do them; to be like God

Deut. 30:15-20

- Life & Prosperity:
 - To love the Lord your God
 - To walk in His ways
 - To keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments

Deut. 30:15-20

- Life & Prosperity:

- How does *keeping God's commands* relate to life?

God's Judgments (Justice)

- “used to designate almost any aspect of civil or religious government” *TWOT*
- Mostly focused on God's covenant with Israel pertaining to the promised land (Deut. 4:5, 14)

God's Judgments (Justice)

- Based on God's character
 - Isa. 30:18; Ps. 37:18
- Express God's sovereignty, authority (Deut. 1:17; cf. Gen. 17:1; Ps. 103:19)
 - Lent to men (Ps. 72:1-2; Rom. 13)

God's Statutes

- *Prescription; rules to be obeyed*
- Mostly God's covenant with Israel
 - Passover – Ex. 12:14; 43 (*ordinance*)
 - Don't eat blood – Lev. 3:17
 - Uncleanness – Num. 19:10, 21

God's Commands

- Whatever God says to do
 - Individual – e.g. Noah, Gen. 6:22
 - Temporal – Ex. 35:4-9; 36:4-7
 - Universal – Deut. 6:5; cf. Rev. 14:6-7

God's Commands

- Based on God's character
- Grounded in God's authority
 - So you shall keep My commandments, and do them; I am the Lord. (Lev. 22:31)

God's Commands

- Pure – Ps. 19:8a
- Enlightening (*health-giving*) – Ps. 19:8b
- Reliable/faithful – Ps. 119:86
- True – Ps. 119:151
- Righteous – Ps. 119:172

Love and God's Commandments

- Ex. 20:4-6
 - Deut. 5:10; 7:9; Neh. 1:5; Dan. 9:4
- John 14-15
 - 1 John 2:3-5

Purpose of *God's Commands*?

- For *sanctification* (Deut. 6:25)
 1. Instruction
 2. Discipline / Testing

God's Commands: Instruction

- God wants us to know Him
- God wants us to love Him
- God wants us to be like Him

God's Commands: Instruction

- Ex. 24:12

- *For their instruction (NASB)*

- *That you may teach them (NKJV)*

- *which I have written to direct them (YLT)*

God's Commands: Instruction

- “You shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord” (Deut. 6:17-18)
- Parents teach children (Deut. 4:9; 6:7, 20-25; 11:19-21; 12:28; 32:46)

God's Commands: Instruction

- *The Fear of the Lord*

- Deut. 5:22-29

- Deut. 6:1-2

- Deut. 10:12-13

- Deut. 31:9-13

Wycliffe Bible Commentary

True fear and true love are complementary and inseparable. They are the response of a true heart to God's majesty and goodness, respectively, and together they are productive of wholehearted service in obedience to all God's good pleasure.

God's Commands: Discipline/Testing

- Deut. 8:1-10 (Ex. 16:4-7; 27-30)
 - That He might humble you (2)
 - To know what was in your heart (2)
 - “Do you love/fear/trust Me?”
 - Therefore, keep – walk – fear (6)

God's Commands: Discipline/Testing

- Deut. 8:1-10

 - *just as a man disciplines his son (5)*

 - E.g. – Leviticus 26

 - Prov. 3:11-12; Heb. 12:4-11

 - Matt. 4:1-11; John 6

Why Discipline Them?

- Because God loved them and chose them, they were to be holy
 - Lev. 11:44-45
- ...they were to be different
 - Lev. 18:1-5

What About Us?

- Because God loved us and chose us, we are to be holy
 - See 1 Pet. 1:13-21 (Heb. 12:10)
- ...we are to be different
 - See 1 Pet. 2:9-12

What About Us?

- 1 Cor. 10:1-13
 - Examples for us (6)
 - Don't be idolaters, act immorally, try the Lord, or grumble
 - Written for our instruction (11)

Summary

- God is our loving Creator
 - We are to love Him and fear Him
- God gives commands
 - To reveal Himself; to teach us to fear Him; for our good; for life

Summary

- God uses commands to test us
 - To reveal our hearts (how much we love Him); discipline us in what is good, right, and pleasing to Him
- *Life*: good, right, and pleasing to Him

Theological Wordbook of the OT

“The commandments of Yahweh provided insight into the meaning of life in order that it may be lived to its fullest significance.”

Life

- The fear of the Lord prolongs life, But the years of the wicked will be shortened. (Prov. 10:27)
- The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord Are riches, honor and life. (Prov. 22:4)

So What?

- God wants us to know Him
- God wants us to love Him
- God wants us to be like Him

So What?

- How is God testing you?
 - Any grumbling? Immorality? Testing?
- How have you been tested in the past?
 - What has God brought you through?
 - What heart issue is he addressing?