

**Deuteronomy**  
**THE HEART OF THE LAW**  
**Lesson Text: Deuteronomy 10:12–22, 16:18–20**

**Aim for Change**

By the end of the lesson, we will: **CONSIDER** what our response should be to God’s unconditional love; **APPRECIATE** God’s love and justice; and **EVALUATE** how loving and just we are toward others.

**In Focus**

Our lesson today reiterates love is sweet, love is kind, love is understanding, and love conquers all. God’s love for us is so great that He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. There is no greater love.

**Keep In Mind**

*And now, Israel, what does the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command thee this day for thy good? Deuteronomy 10:12-13 (NKJV)*

**Lesson Text**  
**Deuteronomy 10:12–22, 16:18–20 (NKJV)**

12 “And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

**13 to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command thee this day for thy good?**

14 Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord’s thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.

**15 Only the Lord had a delight in thy fathers to love them; and He chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day.**

16 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiff-necked.

**17 For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty and a fearsome, who regards not persons nor taketh reward.**

18 He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger in giving him food and raiment.

**19 Love ye therefore the stranger, for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.**

20 Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God; Him shalt thou serve, and to Him shalt thou cleave and swear by His name.

**21 He is thy praise, and He is thy God, who hath done for thee these great and fearsome things which thine eyes have seen.**

22 Thy fathers went down into Egypt with threescore and ten persons, and now the Lord thy God hath made thee as the stars of heaven for multitude.

### **Deuteronomy 16:18–20 (NKJV)**

**18 “Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates which the Lord thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes; and they shall judge the people with just judgment.**

19 Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a bribe; for a bribe doth blind the eyes of the wise and pervert the words of the righteous.

**20 That which is altogether just shalt thou follow, that thou mayest live and inherit the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.**

## **The Lesson**

### **The People, Places and Times**

**God:** Known as YHWH (YAHWEH), Lord of Hosts, Almighty, Spirit of the Lord, Holy One, God Most High, Master, Sovereign Lord.

**Israelites:** An Israelite can be (a) a descendant of the patriarch Jacob; (b) a member of the holy and inclusive community of those who follow the God of Israel, keeping the laws divinely revealed to the prophet Moses, without any ethnic identification; (c) a member of the holy and exclusive community of Israel defined by ethnic and religious purity.

## Background

The book of Deuteronomy concentrates on the events that took place in the final weeks of Moses' life. The major event of that period was the verbal communication of divine revelation from Moses to the people of Israel" (MacArthur Study Bible, 243). These speeches were then written and given to the priests and elders to pass on to future generations of Israel. It is estimated they were written somewhere in the 11th month of the 40th year after the Exodus from Egypt. Some other scholars place the time frame from January-February, 1405 B.C. "Having shown the impossibility of self-dependence (chapter 8) and the impossibility of spiritual pride in light of her rebellious history (9:1—10:11), Moses called Israel to exercise her only option for survival: total commitment to the LORD" (Walvoord, 281).

## In Depth

**1. Let Your Love Show (Deuteronomy 10:12–22)** Moses lets the Children of Israel know God requires some things of them. There must be a fear of God because of who He is—His greatness. When the Israelites are instructed to fear God, Moses is not telling them to be afraid. He simply wants them to hold God in awe and submit to Him. We, too, must surrender and submit to God, who should be the Head of our lives. Moses also instructs the people to love God. We know God is love, and He loved us first. But because of all God has done for us, we need to love Him in return. And if we truly love Him, we will willingly serve and obey Him. Our love for God will move us to serve Him with our whole heart and soul. And while serving Him, we will have a true desire to walk in all His ways. In addition, when our love for God is pure, it will be our desire to please Him in all we do. One thing always pleases God is our obedience. When we are obedient, we demonstrate our sincere love for God.

**Remove it (Deuteronomy 10:16).** Moses instructs the people to "circumcise...the foreskin" of their hearts. We must cut away all the sin in our hearts today and pull back all the unrighteousness inside of us and totally surrender to the Lord. When we remove what is blocking our heart from being true, then we can have a loving relationship with Him.

**There's enough love for everybody (Deuteronomy 10:18– 19).** Moses reminds the people God is a just (righteous) God. He also reminds them they were once strangers in the land. Therefore, they must treat everyone with love. Even those they didn't know personally, they were to show them love and those they had never seen before and might not ever see again, they were to treat them with love. They were to help the stranger in whatever way they could. If strangers needed food, feed them. If they needed clothes, clothe them. If they needed money, give it to them. The people were to show God's love to everyone because God constantly showed love to them.

**God should be the Receiver of our praise (Deuteronomy 10:21–22).** Moses lets the Israelites know God should be the Recipient of their praises; He has done great and awesome things for them. God multiplied 70 persons to be as numerous as the stars in the sky. Sometimes we, too, lose sight of all God has done in our lives. We wrongfully give humanity praise for what goes on in our lives and in the world. But we must always remember God should be the Receiver of our praise—“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s” (Psalm 103:2–5).

- 2. God’s Administrators (Deuteronomy 16:18–20)** Moses instructs the people on how to select the judges and officials in the land. He lets them know God has a say in this selection as well. There are judges the Lord gives will provide righteous judgment. We must make sure we seek God’s advice on persons that we put in leadership positions. Those who are called to serve must serve through the leading of God’s Spirit. God does not want His leaders being bought and bribed by persons who want things to always go their way. There must be justice in the world, and this comes through those who judge with the Spirit of God leading them. Those who are just in their judging will be blessed by God.

### **Application for Activation**

Begin to show love everywhere you go. Recipients of your love shouldn’t always have to be family members or friends. God calls for us to love one another, as He has loved us. This means we must love all our neighbors, near and far. Love is what makes the world a better place. Let people see the love of God in you each day.

### **Take Aways**

### **Closing Prayer**



**Week of 01 Oct 2023**  
**Daily Bible Readings**

**Monday** ~ Exodus: 33-35

**Tuesday** ~ Exodus: 36-38

**Wednesday** ~ Exodus: 39-40

**Thursday** ~ Leviticus: 1-4

**Friday** ~ Leviticus: 5-7

**Saturday** ~ Leviticus: 8-10

**Sunday** ~ Leviticus: 11-13