

Introduction to the Ten Commandments and the Structure of Deuteronomy

The Ten Commandments (Deut. 5:1-21) form the foundation of the legal material in Deuteronomy and its structure. Following the giving of the Ten Commandments, the rest of Deuteronomy acts as means of further elucidating how to obey and follow these commandments.^[1] All other commandments given in Deuteronomy are a means of defining one of the ten commandments. Note the following ...

Commandments taken from Deut. 5:^[2]

1. I am the Lord – You shall have no other gods before me (5:6-7) [Love God]
2. You shall not make for yourself an image ... (5:8-10) [Love God]
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God (5:11) [Love God]
4. Observe the Sabbath (5:12-15) [Love God]
5. Honor your father and mother (5:16) [Love Others]
6. You shall not murder (5:17) [Love Others]
7. You shall not commit adultery (5:18) [Love Others]
8. You shall not steal (5:19) [Love Others]
9. You shall not give false testimony (5:20) [Love Others]
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, house (5:21) [Love Others]

Elaborating the First/Great Commandment: (Deut. 6:1-11:32) – Everything in this subsection relates back to the first commandment (You shall have no other gods before me).

Elaborating the Ten Commandments (Deut. 12:1-26:15):

- Elaborating the First and Second Commandments (no other gods/idols) – 12:1-13:18
- Elaborating the Third Commandment (do not misuse God's name) – 14:1-21
- Elaborating the Fourth Commandment (Sabbath) – 14:22-16:17
- Elaborating the Fifth Commandment (father and mother) – 16:18-18:22
- Elaborating the Sixth Commandment (do not murder) – 19:1-22:8
- Elaborating the Seventh Commandment (do not commit adultery) – 22:9-23:18
- Elaborating the Eighth Commandment (do not steal) – 23:19-24:7
- Elaborating the Ninth Commandment (do not give false testimony) – 24:8-25:4
- Elaborating the Ten Commandment (do not covet) – 25:5-26:15

Studying “Law” in the New Testament (*exemplōrum gratia*):

Deuteronomy 8:3:

Note Jesus' use of Deuteronomy 8:3 in Matthew 4:4 during the temptations in the wilderness. Using Hall's structure above, one notes that Deut. 8:3 falls under the sub-section of

commands/words that explain the first commandment. One would then need to explicate the first commandment and how Jesus might be using it in replying to Satan. What is it really that Satan is trying to do (does it help to view Deut. 8:9&10 as well)?

It is helpful to understand how God revealed/manifested his glory to Israel through the manna (Exodus 16:7; LXX reads μᾶν) and Israel, in despising the manna, despises and defames God (Exod. 19:8, 19:31-35, manna serves as a witness against Israel). The role of hunger in Deut. 8:3 is to test Israel's obedience and humility as they relate to God as the only God and to God as Israel's father. God provided them manna as a father looks after his children (Deut. 1:31, Deut. 8:5, Deut. 32:6; see also Exod. 4:22-23 – note the LXX' use of *lex talionis* – son for son, firstborn for firstborn). When Israel complains about it (See also The Rebellion in Numbers 12-14), they are rebelling against God and saying their provision in the wilderness did not come from him (claiming the provision from “other” gods?).

Charles Quarels' notes on Matthew 4:4 are helpful for those who study the Greek New Testament. Jesus indicates that life is not dependent on bread only, but also on the word of God. This highlights that the point of the law is life (Deut. 6:10, Deut. 30:15 & 30:19-20, see especially Deut. 32:47).^[3]

Note also, Jesus' reference to Deut. 8:4, in part, in Matthew 6:25-34.

Bibliography

Hall, Gary Harlan. *Deuteronomy* The College Press Niv Commentary. Joplin, MO: College Press Publishing Co., 2000.

Pietersma, Albert and Benjamin G. Wright, eds. *A New English Translation of the Septuagint*. New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Quarels, Charles L. *Matthew Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2017.

^[1] This structure is from Gary Harlan Hall, *Deuteronomy*, The College Press NIV Commentary (Joplin, MO: College Press Publishing Co., 2000). Dr. Hall's commentary is an outstanding introduction to Deuteronomy. Dr. Hall explains technical issues relating to Deuteronomy so fluidly that it is tempting to overlook the complexity of the discussion. *Nota Bene* (even a *Caveat Lector*): Dr. Hall was Dr. Hansen's professor of Old Testament at Lincoln Christian Seminary, thus there is a personal, though not naive bias favoring Dr. Hall's presentations.

^[2] The commandments and wording here are from the LXX tradition, which largely underlies the N.T. tradition concerning the commandments. See Albert Pietersma and Benjamin G. Wright, eds., *A New English Translation of the Septuagint* (New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), 151.

^[3] Charles L. Quarels, *Matthew*, Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament (Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2017), 39-40.