

## God's People – Hear and Obey His Voice

See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking – Heb 12:25

Deuteronomy 4–8 (ESV)

### Moses Commands Obedience

**4** “And now, O Israel, **listen** to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, **and do them**, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. **2** You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you. **3** **Your eyes have seen what the LORD did** at Baal-peor, for the LORD your God destroyed from among you all the men who followed the Baal of Peor. **4** But you who held fast to the LORD your God are all alive today. **5** See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. **6** Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ **7** For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? **8** And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

**9** “Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children— **10** how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, ‘Gather the people to me, **that I may let them hear my words**, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.’ **11** And you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, while the mountain burned with fire to the heart of heaven, wrapped in darkness, cloud, and gloom. **12** Then the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice. **13** And he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments, and he wrote them on two tablets of stone. **14** And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and rules, that you might do them in the land that you are going over to possess.

### Idolatry Forbidden

**15** “Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, **16** beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, **17** the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, **18** the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth. **19** And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven. **20** But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day. **21** Furthermore, the LORD was angry with me because of you, and he swore that I should not cross the Jordan, and that I should not enter the good land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance. **22** For I must die in this land; I must not go over the Jordan. But you shall go over and take possession of that good land. **23** Take care, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make a carved image, the

form of anything that the LORD your God has forbidden you. <sup>24</sup> For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

<sup>25</sup> “When you father children and children’s children, and have grown old in the land, if you act corruptly by making a carved image in the form of anything, and by doing what is evil in the sight of the LORD your God, so as to provoke him to anger, <sup>26</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will soon utterly perish from the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess. You will not live long in it, but will be utterly destroyed. <sup>27</sup> And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. <sup>28</sup> And there you will serve gods of wood and stone, the work of human hands, that neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. <sup>29</sup> But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. <sup>30</sup> When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the LORD your God and obey his voice. <sup>31</sup> For the LORD your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.

### **The LORD Alone Is God**

<sup>32</sup> “For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether such a great thing as this has ever happened or was ever heard of. <sup>33</sup> Did any people ever hear the voice of a god speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and still live? <sup>34</sup> Or has any god ever attempted to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, and by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great deeds of terror, all of which the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? <sup>35</sup> To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD is God; there is no other besides him. <sup>36</sup> Out of heaven he let you hear his voice, that he might discipline you. And on earth he let you see his great fire, and you heard his words out of the midst of the fire. <sup>37</sup> And because he loved your fathers and chose their offspring after them and brought you out of Egypt with his own presence, by his great power, <sup>38</sup> driving out before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is this day, <sup>39</sup> know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. <sup>40</sup> Therefore you shall keep his statutes and his commandments, which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for all time.”

### **Cities of Refuge**

<sup>41</sup> Then Moses set apart three cities in the east beyond the Jordan, <sup>42</sup> that the manslayer might flee there, anyone who kills his neighbor unintentionally, without being at enmity with him in time past; he may flee to one of these cities and save his life: <sup>43</sup> Bezer in the wilderness on the tableland for the Reubenites, Ramoth in Gilead for the Gadites, and Golan in Bashan for the Manassites.

### **Introduction to the Law**

<sup>44</sup> This is the law that Moses set before the people of Israel. <sup>45</sup> These are the testimonies, the statutes, and the rules, which Moses spoke to the people of Israel when they came out of Egypt, <sup>46</sup> beyond the Jordan in the valley opposite Beth-peor, in the land of Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived at Heshbon, whom Moses and the people of Israel defeated when they came out of Egypt. <sup>47</sup> And they took possession of his land and the land of Og, the king of Bashan, the two kings of the Amorites, who lived to the east beyond the Jordan; <sup>48</sup> from Aroer, which is on the edge of the Valley of the Arnon, as far as Mount Sirion (that is, Hermon), <sup>49</sup> together with all the Arabah on the east side of the Jordan as far as the Sea of the Arabah, under the slopes of Pisgah.

## The Ten Commandments

**5** And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, “Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the rules that I speak in your hearing today, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them. <sup>2</sup> The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. <sup>3</sup> Not with our fathers did the LORD make this covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today. <sup>4</sup> The LORD spoke with you face to face at the mountain, out of the midst of the fire, <sup>5</sup> while I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the LORD. For you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up into the mountain. He said:

<sup>6</sup> “ ‘I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

<sup>7</sup> “ ‘You shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>8</sup> “ ‘You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>9</sup> You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>10</sup> but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>11</sup> “ ‘You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

<sup>12</sup> “ ‘Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. <sup>13</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>14</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. <sup>15</sup> You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

<sup>16</sup> “ ‘Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>17</sup> “ ‘You shall not murder.

<sup>18</sup> “ ‘And you shall not commit adultery.

<sup>19</sup> “ ‘And you shall not steal.

<sup>20</sup> “ ‘And you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>21</sup> “ ‘And you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife. And you shall not desire your neighbor’s house, his field, or his male servant, or his female servant, his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.’

<sup>22</sup> “These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly at the mountain out of the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and he added no more. And he wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me. <sup>23</sup> And as soon as you heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes, and your elders. <sup>24</sup> And you said, ‘Behold, the LORD our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we have seen God speak with man, and man still live. <sup>25</sup> Now therefore why should we die? For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, we shall die. <sup>26</sup> For who is there of all flesh, that has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of fire as we have, and has still lived? <sup>27</sup> Go near and hear all that the LORD our God will say, and speak to us all that the LORD our God will speak to you, and we will hear and do it.’

<sup>28</sup> “And the LORD heard your words, when you spoke to me. And the LORD said to me, ‘I have heard the words of this people, which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have

spoken. <sup>29</sup> Oh that they had such a heart as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever! <sup>30</sup> Go and say to them, "Return to your tents." <sup>31</sup> But you, stand here by me, and I will tell you the whole commandment and the statutes and the rules that you shall teach them, that they may do them in the land that I am giving them to possess.' <sup>32</sup> You shall be careful therefore to do as the LORD your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. <sup>33</sup> You shall walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.

### The Greatest Commandment

**6** "Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, <sup>2</sup> that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. <sup>3</sup> Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

<sup>4</sup> "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

<sup>10</sup> "And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, <sup>11</sup> and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, <sup>12</sup> then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>13</sup> It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. <sup>14</sup> You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you— <sup>15</sup> for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

<sup>16</sup> "You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah. <sup>17</sup> You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies and his statutes, which he has commanded you. <sup>18</sup> And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may go well with you, and that you may go in and take possession of the good land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers <sup>19</sup> by thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has promised.

<sup>20</sup> "When your son asks you in time to come, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the LORD our God has commanded you?' <sup>21</sup> then you shall say to your son, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. <sup>22</sup> And the LORD showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes. <sup>23</sup> And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers. <sup>24</sup> And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. <sup>25</sup> And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us.'

### A Chosen People

**7** “When the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and mightier than you, <sup>2</sup> and when the LORD your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them. <sup>3</sup> You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, <sup>4</sup> for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the LORD would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly. <sup>5</sup> But thus shall you deal with them: you shall break down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and chop down their Asherim and burn their carved images with fire.

<sup>6</sup> “For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup> It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup> but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, <sup>10</sup> and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face. <sup>11</sup> You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment and the statutes and the rules that I command you today.

<sup>12</sup> “And because you listen to these rules and keep and do them, the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the steadfast love that he swore to your fathers. <sup>13</sup> He will love you, bless you, and multiply you. He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, your grain and your wine and your oil, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock, in the land that he swore to your fathers to give you. <sup>14</sup> You shall be blessed above all peoples. There shall not be male or female barren among you or among your livestock. <sup>15</sup> And the LORD will take away from you all sickness, and none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which you knew, will he inflict on you, but he will lay them on all who hate you. <sup>16</sup> And you shall consume all the peoples that the LORD your God will give over to you. Your eye shall not pity them, neither shall you serve their gods, for that would be a snare to you.

<sup>17</sup> “If you say in your heart, ‘These nations are greater than I. How can I dispossess them?’ <sup>18</sup> you shall not be afraid of them but you shall remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt, <sup>19</sup> the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, the wonders, the mighty hand, and the outstretched arm, by which the LORD your God brought you out. So will the LORD your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid. <sup>20</sup> Moreover, the LORD your God will send hornets among them, until those who are left and hide themselves from you are destroyed. <sup>21</sup> You shall not be in dread of them, for the LORD your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God. <sup>22</sup> The LORD your God will clear away these nations before you little by little. You may not make an end of them at once, lest the wild beasts grow too numerous for you. <sup>23</sup> But the LORD your God will give them over to you and throw them into great confusion, until they are destroyed. <sup>24</sup> And he will give their kings into your hand, and you shall make their name perish from under heaven. No one shall be able to stand against you until you have destroyed them. <sup>25</sup> The carved images of their gods you shall burn with fire. You shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them or take it for yourselves, lest you be ensnared by it, for it is an abomination to the LORD your God. <sup>26</sup> And you shall not bring an abominable thing into your house and become devoted to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is devoted to destruction.

## Remember the LORD Your God

**8** “The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. <sup>2</sup> And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, **whether you would keep his commandments or not.** <sup>3</sup> And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. <sup>4</sup> Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. <sup>5</sup> Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. <sup>6</sup> So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. <sup>7</sup> For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, <sup>8</sup> a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup> a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. <sup>10</sup> And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

<sup>11</sup> “Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, <sup>12</sup> lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, <sup>13</sup> and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, <sup>14</sup> then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, <sup>15</sup> who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, <sup>16</sup> who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. <sup>17</sup> Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ <sup>18</sup> You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. <sup>19</sup> And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. <sup>20</sup> Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.

### Covenant –

- made them His people – delivers them (from Egypt)
- and in giving them His commandments

**Call** – be His people – a holy people

### Command –

- to keep the covenant by fearing Him –
- walking in His ways and keeping (doing) His commands

**Promise** – of blessing and that would live long in the land

## **Inheritance –**

- the land given by God for them to take possession of – entering into His rest
- by walking in His ways
- and fighting the battles He gave them to fight

**Conditional** (the inheritance) – if they would obey His voice

## **God reveals Himself**

- in speaking to them
- and in the way He works with them
- and the way He works on their behalf.

## **He reveals Himself**

- as the only God,
- as the God who loves them,
- as a Holy God,
- as a jealous God – a consuming fire,
- as a gracious God,
- as the almighty God,
- as a God who dwells in their midst – as their God

## **God tests them,**

He humbles them,

He disciplines them –

- in the wilderness
- and in the battles He gives them to fight

To see what was in their hearts,

whether they would obey His commands or not,

to do them good in the end

To give them the opportunity

- to humble themselves before Him
- and turn their hearts toward Him
- to put their faith and trust in Him

So that they would walk as His people and receive all that He desired to be to them and to give to them as their God.

### A Rest for the People of God

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,

“Today, if you hear his voice,  
<sup>8</sup> do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,  
on the day of testing in the wilderness,  
<sup>9</sup> where your fathers put me to the test  
and saw my works for forty years.  
<sup>10</sup> Therefore I was provoked with that generation,  
and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart;  
they have not known my ways.’  
<sup>11</sup> As I swore in my wrath,  
‘They shall not enter my rest.’ ”

<sup>12</sup> Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. <sup>14</sup> For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. <sup>15</sup> As it is said,

“Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

<sup>16</sup> For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? <sup>17</sup> And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup> And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? <sup>19</sup> So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

- He is speaking to His people – not those who were not His people
- “We who have come to share in Christ
- Is not speaking about ceasing to be His people, but failing to walk as His people and thus fail to enter His rest

**4** Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. <sup>2</sup> For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. (They did not receive and respond to the promises of God with faith = disobedience). <sup>3</sup> For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said,

“As I swore in my wrath,  
‘They shall not enter my rest,’ ”

although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. <sup>4</sup> For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.”  
<sup>5</sup> And again in this passage he said,

“They shall not enter my rest.”

<sup>6</sup> Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, <sup>7</sup> again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted,

"Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts."

<sup>8</sup> For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. <sup>9</sup> So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, <sup>10</sup> for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

<sup>11</sup> Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Writer of Hebrews shifts focus to Jesus as our High Priest and what that means for us

### **Jesus the Great High Priest**

<sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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<sup>6</sup> But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. <sup>7</sup> For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

<sup>8</sup> For he finds fault with them when he says:

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord,  
when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel  
and with the house of Judah,

<sup>9</sup> not like the covenant that I made with their fathers  
on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt.  
For they did not continue in my covenant,  
and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord.

<sup>10</sup> For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel  
after those days, declares the Lord:

He is speaking of the new covenant. When we put our faith in Jesus as savior and are born again by His Holy Spirit, this is the covenant we are brought into:

I will put my laws into their minds,  
and write them on their hearts,  
and I will be their God,  
and they shall be my people.

<sup>11</sup> And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor  
and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,'

for they shall all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest.

<sup>12</sup> For I will be merciful toward their iniquities,  
and I will remember their sins no more.”

<sup>13</sup> In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

### **The Earthly Holy Place**

**9** Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness.

Hebrews 9:15 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

Hebrews 10:12–25 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup> waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. <sup>14</sup> For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

<sup>15</sup> And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

<sup>16</sup> “This is the covenant that I will make with them  
after those days, declares the Lord:  
I will put my laws on their hearts,  
and write them on their minds,”

<sup>17</sup> then he adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

<sup>18</sup> Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

### **The Full Assurance of Faith**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, <sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

The writer moves from here to speak of how we are to be a people who walk by faith – who receive and respond to the promises of God in faith. Chapter 11 gives examples from the OT of those who did this....

### **Jesus, Founder and Perfecter of Our Faith**

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

### **Do Not Grow Weary**

<sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. <sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup> And have you forgotten the exhortation (the encouragement) that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,  
nor be weary when reprov'd by him.

<sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

<sup>7</sup> It is for discipline (or, for the purpose of the discipline) that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup> If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup> Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup> For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. (This is the purpose of the discipline). <sup>11</sup> For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, <sup>13</sup> and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. <sup>14</sup> Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. <sup>15</sup> See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; <sup>16</sup> that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. <sup>17</sup> For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing (his inheritance), he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

### **A Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken**

<sup>18</sup> For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” <sup>21</sup> Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” <sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup> See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. <sup>26</sup> At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will

shake not only the earth but also the heavens.”<sup>27</sup> This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.<sup>28</sup> Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,<sup>29</sup> for our God is a consuming fire.

### **Covenant –**

- a new covenant in the blood of Jesus –
- He delivers us from sin and makes us His people.

**Call** – be His people – a holy people – holy and blameless (Eph 1:4)

### **Command –**

- a ‘new commandment’ to love the Lord our God with all our hearts and to love our neighbour as ourselves.
- We still show our honouring of the new covenant by
  - fearing Him –
  - walking in His ways,
  - doing His will
  - and keeping His commands

**Promise** – blessing and fruitfulness

### **Inheritance –**

- allocated to us by God (Eph 1:11-14)
- for us to take possession of
- by walking in His ways – by faith
- and fighting the battles He gives us to fight – by faith

**Conditional** (the inheritance) –

- if we will obey His voice (abide in Him, love Him)
- Salvation is not conditional in this way – it is received by grace through faith – a gift

### **God reveals Himself**

- through Jesus
- and then as He dwells – the Holy Spirit
- In speaking to us
- in the way He works with us
- and in the way He works on our behalf

## He reveals Himself

- as the only God,
- as the God who loves us,
- as a Holy God,
- as a jealous God – a consuming fire,
- as a gracious God,
- as the almighty God,
- as a God who dwells in our midst and in each of us – as our God

## God tests us,

He humbles us,

He disciplines us –

- in the trials and temptations we are called to endure or overcome
- and in the battles He gives us to fight
  
- to do us good in the end
  
- so that we will share in His holiness

## He teaches us

- to humble ourselves before Him
- and turn our hearts toward Him
- and put our faith and trust in Him

So that we would walk as His people (holy and blameless) and receive all that He desires to be to us and to give to us as our God.

## CALL is:

- **BE** his people
  
- **DO** His commands – obey His voice, See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking – Heb 12:25

Cannot have the one without the other

The grace of God is so amazing, the freedom we have in Christ so complete, that it is easy to enjoy the BEING part and live as if all that God revealed of Himself and His ways in the Old Testament does not apply anymore.

We can fail to see that He is the same in the New Testament.

We have His promises – they are great and precious promises

Let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe (Heb 12:28)

- as we give Him loving obedience,
- the obedience of faith.
- In so doing we will be able to mix the promises with faith and patience (perseverance, endurance)
- and receive the fulfilment of the promises – the inheritance He has allocated to us
- and enter into the rest He has promised us

## Greeting

**1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

**2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Spiritual Blessings in Christ

**3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, **4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love **5** he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, **6** to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. **7** In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, **8** which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **9** making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

**11** In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, **12** so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. **13** In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.