

SERMON NOTES

*BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LIFE: Stability
Deuteronomy 6:1-4*

¹ “Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, ² so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. ³ ‘O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.’ ⁴ ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!’” *Deuteronomy 6:1-4 (NASB95)*

As Moses begins this series of addresses to the new generation in Israel, he reviews the past history of the nation. It is a sin to live in the past, but we can never understand the present or prepare for the future if we are ignorant of the past. The nation was gathered on the Plains of Moab “on this side of Jordan.” It had taken them forty years to get there, yet chapter 1 verse 2 states that the journey should have taken eleven days! In Deuteronomy 6, God was interested in building a people whose lives would be based on the right principles. The group that left the wilderness and were now ready to experience God’s abundance, was a group very new to God’s ways.

The word “Deuteronomy” comes from two words: 1) *deutero* – second, 2) *nomos* – law.

The previous generation had died in the wilderness because of sin and unbelief. The book of Deuteronomy represents a series of discourses that Moses delivered to the new generation. The generation now preparing to enter the promised land. Prior to crossing the Jordan, standing in the Plains of Moab, Moses the fatherly figurehead want his children to do well.

The key word in the book of Deuteronomy is “remember.”

Key thought: The stability of your life must be founded on the principles of absolute truth and respect for authority.

Memory Verse: “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!” *Deuteronomy 6:4 (NASB95)*

ESTABLISH THE REALITY OF ABSOLUTE TRUTH (V. 4)

Known as the shema, from the Hebrew word “hear”, these are the opening words in public worship of the Jews and have been repeated by them twice daily. The statement in this verse is the basic confession of faith in Judaism.

- Some things are non negotiable
- Some things never change
- Some things are necessary

ESTABLISH RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY (VS. 1-3)

- Recognize God’s authority - key word: do them, observe (v. 1)
- Respect God’s authority - key word: fear (v. 2)
- Remember God’s authority - key phrase: “careful to do it” (v. 3)