

Safeguards to Assure Obedience to God's Commandments: How to Guard Against Forgetting God Deuteronomy 08:01–20

1. *Be careful! Observe! Obey every commandment of God*

- a. Assures life
- b. Assures increase in fruitfulness and population
- c. Assures an inheritance in the promised land

2. *Remember God's guidance through the wilderness wanderings*

- a. God's humbling you and testing you
 - 1) To prove your character
 - 2) To prove your obedience or disobedience
- b. God's provision of food
 - 1) He provided manna
 - 2) His purpose:
 - To teach one great truth
 - Man's life does not depend on bread alone
 - Man's life depends on the Word of God — on every word He speaks
- c. God's provision of clothing and strength
 - 1) Clothes did not wear out
 - 2) Feet did not swell

1 Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the LORD promised on oath to your ancestors.

2 Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

4 Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years.

d. God's discipline: Just as a father loves and corrects, so God loves and corrects

e. God's expectation: Obedience

1) Must walk in His ways

2) Must fear, revere Him

3. *Praise the LORD for the promised land and its wonderful provision*

a. "His great provision of the land

1) An overflowing supply of water

2) An abundance of food

3) A scarcity or lack of nothing

4) A rich deposit of minerals

b. The strong charge:

Always praise the LORD for the promised land and its wonderful provision

4. *Guard against forgetting God*

a. The cause of forgetting God

1) Failing to obey

God's commandments

2) Being prosperous, at ease, satisfied, complacent

- Plenty to eat

- Comfortable housing

- Wealth: large herds and flocks — gold and silver — all has multiplied

5 Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the LORD your God disciplines you.

6 Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in obedience to him and revering him.

7 For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land — a land with brooks, streams and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills;

8 a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey;

9 a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills.

10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

11 Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day.

12 Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down,

13 and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied,

- 3) Pride, a sense of self-sufficiency
- b. The result of forgetting God
- 1) You forget that it was God who saved you
 - 2) You forget that it was God who led you through the wilderness wanderings
 3.) You forget that it was God who provided for you
 - Provided water
 - Provided food (both physical and spiritual food, v. 3)
 - 4) You forget that it was God who humbled and tested you: Made things go well
 - 5) You forget humility: Develop a sense of self- sufficiency
- c. The protection against forgetting God
- 1) Remember the LORD
 - It is God who gives you the ability to work
 - It is God who fulfils His covenant, the gift of the promised land
 - 2) Remember the judgment of God
 - Must not forget God nor engage in false worship
 - The result — judgment: Will be destroyed just like the nations and peoples before you

- 14 then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.
- 15 He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock.
- 16 He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you.
- 17 You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.”
- 18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.
- 19 If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed.
- 20 Like the nations the LORD destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the LORD your God.