

The Requirements of God

July 30, 2023 ▪ Brad Manley

What God requires is total _____. v12-13

God's requirements are _____ and _____. v14-22

Deuteronomy 10:12-11:32 ¹² "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good? ¹⁴ Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. ¹⁵ Yet the LORD set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. ¹⁶ Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. ¹⁷ For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. ¹⁸ He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹ Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. ²⁰ You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. ²¹ He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen. ²² Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

11:1 "You shall therefore love the LORD your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always. ² And consider today (since I am not speaking to your children who have not known or seen it), consider the discipline of the LORD your God, his greatness, his mighty hand and his outstretched arm, ³ his signs and his deeds that he did in Egypt to Pharaoh the king of Egypt and to all his land, ⁴ and what he did to the army of Egypt, to their horses and to their chariots, how he made the water of the Red Sea flow over them as they pursued after you, and how the LORD has destroyed them to this day, ⁵ and what he did to you in the wilderness, until you came to this place, ⁶ and what he did to Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, son of Reuben, how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households, their tents, and every living thing that followed them, in the midst of all Israel. ⁷ For your eyes have seen all the great work of the LORD that he did.

⁸ "You shall therefore keep the whole commandment that I command you today, that you may be strong, and go in and take possession of the land that you are going over to possess, ⁹ and that you may live long in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give to them and to their offspring, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ For the land that you are entering to take possession of it is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and irrigated it, like a garden of vegetables. ¹¹ But the land that you are going over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water by the rain from heaven, ¹² a land that the LORD your God cares for. The eyes of the LORD your God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.

¹³ "And if you will indeed obey my commandments that I command you today, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹⁴ he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil. ¹⁵ And he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you shall eat and be full. ¹⁶ Take care lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them; ¹⁷ then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain, and the land will yield no fruit, and you will perish quickly off the good land that the LORD is giving you.

¹⁸ "You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ¹⁹ You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ²⁰ You shall write them on the doorposts of your

house and on your gates,²¹ that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.²² For if you will be careful to do all this commandment that I command you to do, loving the LORD your God, walking in all his ways, and holding fast to him,²³ then the LORD will drive out all these nations before you, and you will dispossess nations greater and mightier than you.²⁴ Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours. Your territory shall be from the wilderness to the Lebanon and from the River, the river Euphrates, to the western sea.²⁵ No one shall be able to stand against you. The LORD your God will lay the fear of you and the dread of you on all the land that you shall tread, as he promised you.

²⁶ "See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse:²⁷ the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today,²⁸ and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way that I am commanding you today, to go after other gods that you have not known.²⁹ And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, you shall set the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal.³⁰ Are they not beyond the Jordan, west of the road, toward the going down of the sun, in the land of the Canaanites who live in the Arabah, opposite Gilgal, beside the oak of Moreh?³¹ For you are to cross over the Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving you. And when you possess it and live in it,³² you shall be careful to do all the statutes and the rules that I am setting before you today.

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What might motivate those in various spheres of authority to call those they lead to healthy expressions of obedience?

Read and Discuss: Deuteronomy 10:12-11:32

1. Obedience to God is heavily emphasized in Deuteronomy. Why was this emphasis particularly important for Israel at this moment in history? What if anything differs in the motivations of those living in the Old Covenant from those of us living in the New Covenant today? What motivations remain consistent between the two covenants?
2. Moses delineated five requirements God has for his people (10:12,13). How would you briefly describe each requirement? How can we grow in our consistency and faithfulness in each of these areas?
3. Israel is exhorted against stubbornness (10:16). Based on your understanding of biblical history, how were the Israelites stubborn? How can we identify similar manifestations of stubbornness before God in our own life? In your own words, how do we relent in our stubbornness toward God?
4. God is described as one who is not partial (10:17). Given the context which follows, why is that an important characteristic of God? How would you reconcile this truth with God's love for Israel noted in 10:15? How does God's impartiality inspire worship and obedience in God's people?
5. Israel is directed to remember God's judgment on Egypt (11:3,4), his discipline of Israel in the wilderness (11:5), and his judgment on Dathan and Abiram (11:6). How might Israel benefit from reflecting on these acts of judgment? What lessons can we learn from God's works of judgment?
6. Deuteronomy contains frequent warnings about serving other gods (11:16, 28). What are some reasons Israel might have been tempted to worship false gods? In what way are our temptations similar to theirs? What would you say to new believers to equip them against this danger?

Apply: Two mountains served as a visual reminder to Israel of the consequences of obedience and disobedience (11:29). What practical tools can you use to remind yourself of these two very different pathways?

Pray: Pray that God would make us a people who are quick to repent of our rebellious ways. Ask that God would by the power of the Holy Spirit continue his sanctifying work in each of us. Thank God for Jesus' life and death accomplishing what we did not have the strength to do.