

A CHALLENGE TO FIDELITY

I. Introduction

We continue in our Deuteronomy studies today in chapter 4, verse 14-31 where we find Moses renewing the challenge of fidelity to Israel. I am sometimes reminded of our wedding vows...how we promise things to one another...things that in the following years should guide our conduct. Alas, faithfulness is not always seen in those and that is true of Israel's performance as well. But the challenge is real and meaningful just the same. So we give you a special word of thanks for being with us today and our steady prayer is that God's Word will bless and keep our hearts and our feet on the pathway. I outline this section in two points:

- 4:14-24....the challenge of being set apart for God alone
- 4:25-31....the challenge of continuing to turn to God and receive His help in all situations.

II. Discussion

- 4:14.....the Lord's order to Moses: a teaching ministry
- 4:15-19..do not allow anything to become a worship object to you.  
There was no image on the mount..make no image now! This matter is not so simple as it might seem and will continue to be a problem even in the age of the church!
- 4:20....Remember the deliverance of God
- 4:21-22.Remember the justice of God
- 4:23....Take heed that you do not do the very things the Lord has forbidden. (For our age..remember Eve!)
- 4:24....":for our God is a consuming fire: Cf. Hebrews12:29
- 4:25...."if you forget and provoke" The "if" does not mean they will necessarily do this...obedience is seen as possible.
- 4:26...."you will perish" heaven and earth are the witnesses
- 4:27-28.the threat of captivity and the consequences of unbelief
- 4:29...."if you will seek, you will find..." but it is a matter of the whole heart.
- 4:30...."if you will hear"..."if you will obey"