
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Deut. 3:23-28	Mosheh recounts his plea to enter the land; Yahweh instructs Mosheh to pass leadership to Yehoshua
Tuesday:	Deut. 4:1-49	Yahweh gives Yisra'el His laws and right-rulings
Wednesday:	Deut. 5:1-33	The 10 Commandments reviewed
Thursday:	Deut. 6:1-25	Yahweh gives Yisra'el commands, laws and right-rulings
Friday:	Deut. 7:1-11	Yahweh instructs Yisra'el on their interaction with the nations

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will look at some of the commands, laws and right-rulings Yahweh reiterates to the children of Yisra'el as they are about to enter the land. Mosheh examines prior events of the earlier generation, so that this next generation might learn from their lessons. Mosheh's speech fluctuates between present day instruction, revisitation of past events and the foretelling of future events. Now, let's read Deut. 4:1-40 & 6:1-25.

PARSHA POINTS

The Present and Future

- Mosheh instructs the children of Yisra'el to listen to the laws and the right-rulings he teaches, so that they might live, and go in and possess the land which Yahweh Elohim of their fathers is giving them (4:1, 5, 14):
 - Do NOT add to the Word which I command you, and do NOT take away from it, so as to guard the commands of Yahweh your Elohim - 4:2
 - You shall guard and do the laws and right-rulings, for this is your wisdom and your understanding before the peoples who hear all these laws, and they shall say, 'Only a wise and understanding people is this great nation!' - 4:6
 - Only, guard yourself, and guard your life diligently, lest you forget the Words your eyes have seen, and lest they turn aside from your heart all the days of your life - 4:9
 - And you shall make them known to your children and your grandchildren - 4:9



The Past

- Mosheh recounts the event at Mt. Horeb, where Yahweh assembled His people together to stand before Him. Mosheh instructed them to (4:10-14):
 - Hear His Words, so that they learn to fear Him all the days they live on the earth
 - Teach them to their children
 - Learn His laws and right-rulings, for them to do in the land which they would pass over to possess

- Mosheh told them when Yahweh spoke to them at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, that they saw no form, only a voice. Therefore, diligently guard yourselves, lest you (4:12, 15):



- Do corruptly, and shall make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure in the likeness of - 4:16-18

- male or female
- beast that is on the earth
- any winged bird that flies in the heavens
- any creature that creeps on the ground
- any fish that is in the water under the earth



- Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and shall see the sun, moon, and the stars - all the hosts of the heavens - and you shall be drawn away into bowing down to them and serving them, which Yahweh your Elohim has allotted to all the people under all the heavens - 4:19



- It was Yahweh who brought you out of Mitsrayim, out of the iron furnace, to be His people - 4:20
- Mosheh reminds them that Yahweh was enraged with him and therefore he is not going in to possess the land, and will not be there to lead them - 4:21-22

The Present

- You must guard yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of Yahweh your Elohim which He made with you, and make for yourselves a carved image in any form, which Yahweh had commanded you against making - 4:23
- You must remember that Yahweh your Elohim is a consuming fire, a jealous El - 4:24

The Future

- When you have children and grandchildren, if they make a carved image and do what is evil in the eyes of Yahweh their Elohim to provoke Him, then (4:25-28):
 - Yahweh will call the heavens and the earth to witness against them on that day
 - They will perish from the land that they crossed over the Yarden to possess
 - Their days will not be prolonged in the land, but they shall be completely destroyed
 - Yahweh will scatter them among the peoples
 - They shall be left few in number among the nations where Yahweh drives them
 - There they shall serve mighty ones, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell
- From there they will seek Yahweh their Elohim, and find Him, if they search for Him with all their heart and with all their being - 4:29
- In the latter days, when they are distressed and all these things come upon them, they will return to Yahweh and shall obey His voice - 4:30
- Mosheh reminds them that Yahweh is a compassionate El who will NOT forsake them, nor destroy them, nor forget the covenant of their fathers which He swore to them - 4:31



The Past

- Mosheh then tells them to ask themselves these questions (4:32-34):
 - Has there been a Word as great as Yahweh's? Has anyone heard anything like it?
 - Has any people heard the voice of Elohim out of the midst of the fire, as they have heard, and live?
 - Has any other nation had an Elohim who went and took for Himself a nation from the midst of a nation by trials, by signs, and by wonders, by battles and by a strong hand and outstretched arm, and by great fearsome deeds, as He did for them in Mitsrayim, right before their eyes?
- Only Yisra'el was shown this, to know that Yahweh Himself is Elohim; there is no one beside Him - 4:35
- He reminds them that they heard His voice from the heavens, to instruct them and they saw His great fire on earth and heard His Words out of the midst of the fire - 4:36
- Because He loved their fathers, He chose their seed after them, and brought them out of Mitsrayim, with His Presence and His great power - 4:37
- He drove out nations greater and stronger than they, to give them their land as an inheritance - 4:38



The Present

- You shall know today, and recall to your heart that Yahweh Himself is Elohim in the heavens above and on the earth beneath; there is none else - 4:39
- These are the commands, the laws and right-rulings which Yahweh your Elohim has commanded, to teach you to do in the land which you are going to possess (6:1-9):
 - Fear Yahweh your Elohim so that you guard all His laws and His commands - you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, so that your days are prolonged
 - You shall Hear, O Yisra'el, and guard to do, that it might be well with you, and that you increase greatly as Yahweh Elohim of your fathers has spoken to you, in a land flowing with milk and honey
 - Hear, O Yisra'el: Yahweh our Elohim, Yahweh is one!
 - You shall love Yahweh your Elohim, with all your heart, and with all your being, and with all your might
 - These Words which I am commanding you today shall be in your heart
 - You shall impress them upon your children, and shall speak of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up
 - You shall bind them as a sign (**oth**) on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets (**totaphoth**) between your eyes
 - You shall write them on the doorposts (**mezuzot**) of your house and on your gates (**shaar**)



The Future

- When Yahweh brings you into the land that He swore to your fathers to give you, great and good cities which you did not build, and houses filled with all kinds of goods, which you did not fill, and wells dug which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant - and you shall eat and be satisfied (6:10-19):
 - Be on guard, lest you forget Yahweh who brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim, from the house of bondage
 - Fear Yahweh your Elohim and serve Him, and swear by His Name
 - Do NOT go after other mighty ones, the mighty ones of the peoples who are all around you for Yahweh your Elohim is a jealous El
 - Do NOT try Yahweh your Elohim as you tried Him in Massah (testing) - also Ex.17:7
 - Diligently guard the commands of Yahweh your Elohim, and His witnesses, and His laws which He has commanded you
 - You shall do what is right and good in the eyes of Yahweh, that it might be well with you, and you shall go in and possess the good land of which Yahweh swore to your fathers to drive out all your enemies from before you, as Yahweh has spoken

The Past

- When your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is the meaning of the witnesses, and the laws, and the right-rulings which Yahweh our Elohim has commanded you?' Then you shall say (6:20-25):
 - We were slaves of Pharaoh in Mitsrayim, and Yahweh brought us out of Mitsrayim with a strong hand
 - Yahweh sent signs and wonders, great and grievous, upon Mitsrayim, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes
 - He brought us out from there, to bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers



The Present and Future

- Yahweh commanded us to do all these laws, to fear Yahweh our Elohim, for our good always, to keep us alive, as it is today
- It is righteousness for us when we guard to do all this command before Yahweh our Elohim, as He has commanded us

DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- Over and over Yahweh reminds and instructs Yisra'el to guard His Word. What is the Hebrew word for 'guard'?
- What are laws, right-rulings, His Word, Torah, commands, witnesses? Do a study on the 8 words King David used over and over in Psalm 119 to show his love for all of Yahweh's Words.
- What does it mean to walk in all His ways? What does it mean to shema? What does it mean to love Yahweh with all our being, and with all our might?
- What does Yahweh mean when He says NOT to make an image in the likeness of anything that He has created? Over and over Yahweh reminds His people NOT to create idols. What was the one command that Yisra'el disobeyed over and over again?