

## Chapter 4

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- 4:1 Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you,  
for to do them,  
that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.
- 4:2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you,  
neither shall ye diminish ought from it,  
that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.
- 4:3 Your eyes have seen what the LORD did because of Baalpeor:  
for all the men that followed Baalpeor, the LORD thy God hath destroyed them from among you.
- 4:4 But ye that did cleave unto the LORD your God are alive every one of you this day.
- 4:5 Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it.  
thought: *Sometimes, the relationship between Moses and God becomes so unitarian that, I find myself not keeping track of when Moses is speaking for himself, and when he is speaking for God. It is as if, this portion of Moses' service for the LORD is an extension of what the LORD said about Moses' impact of service for Him during Moses' time with Pharaoh; in this way: Moses has become the god to the people of Israel, too . . . but only as the representative of God. Thus, the words that Moses says to the people of Israel are, too, the words of God. Therefore, in Moses' faithfulness of service to the LORD, there really is no need to make a separation between when Moses is speaking of the words of God, as setting it beside when God is speaking the words directly, as occurred in the way that the LORD spoke to Moses, and, oftentimes, Aaron.*
- 4:6 Keep therefore and do them;  
for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations,  
which shall hear all these statutes,  
and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.
- 4:7 For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for?
- 4:8 And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?
- 4:9 Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life:  
but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;
- 4:10 Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.
- 4:11 And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness.
- 4:12 And *the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words,* but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice.  
thought: *How difficult it is to understand mankind, sometimes: for, even though the people heard the voice of God, directly; and, by the nature of the voice, they knew it was God; still, they did not retain this impression, in their souls. In times to follow, they would be found murmuring about the LORD'S instructions, and otherwise questioning the wisdom and grace of God, which was extended toward them. So very much like children we are; but like children with the minds of adults. Wherefore we think that; because we are adults, we know what is best. And yet, still, we whimper, like children . . . because we do not get what we want, even though we have everything that we need. We must be willing to think thusly: in God's longsuffering restraint, as seen in His*

*indulgence of this kind of human behavior, God is indeed worthy (and worthy simply because He is God) of the title Father. Moreover, we must rest our spirit in this realization: that, there is no one else, and nothing else, which can ever match the indulgent (longsuffering) Spirit that is from God; and so, too, there is none else that should ever be instantly entitled to be called, Father. Even though we may refer to our earthly guardian as father, we should NEVER refer to any human one as, Father: God alone has the eternal Lock on that 'right'; as was evidenced in His outreach with the children of Israel -- with Israel serving, then, as a category of peculiar being into which we, all, are able to be included, now.*

- 4:13 And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.
- 4:14 And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go over to possess it.
- 4:15 Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the LORD spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire:
- 4:16 Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female,
- 4:17 The likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air,
- 4:18 The likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the waters beneath the earth:
- 4:19 And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.
- 4:20 But the LORD hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day.
- 4:21 Furthermore the LORD was angry with me for your sakes, and swore that I should not go over Jordan, and that I should not go in unto that good land, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance:
- 4:22 But I must die in this land, I must not go over Jordan: but ye shall go over, and possess that good land.
- 4:23 *Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee.*

thought: *Please forgive me for interjecting, here; but, the force of this is too much for me to ignore. If, as is stated, these laws still apply to us, to this day -- and I think they do, and this is my belief because it is my understanding that all the prophets and priests, and the Prophet and Priest, himself, mentioned this commandment as still operative, today -- wherefore it is true that, these laws still apply; and, we have a whole host of individuals who are in serious violation of God's commandment. These violations are so because . . . there is a multitude of images that claim to be the representatives of God, on this earth. These images are in the form of, pictures, statues, cards, indulgences and other things that purport to represent the power of God, today. Since, as it is mentioned, there is no way for anyone to know the "similitude" of God; then, there is no way for these images to reflect the true God; therefore, they are idols. This is true, no matter how 'religious' one feels that the images are: no matter what an individual's "feelings" are; such images are still forbidden by God, and they are idols. And the harm of them is in that, they distract from the true Living God, as they give a false sense of worship that is not received by the LORD, nor will it ever be accepted by God. Be very careful what you see, when you are striving to worship God . . .*

- 4:24 For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.

- 4:25 When thou shalt beget children, and children's children, and ye shall have remained long in the land, and shall corrupt yourselves, and make a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, and shall do evil in the sight of the LORD thy God, to provoke him to anger:
- 4:26 I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed.
- 4:27 And the LORD shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the LORD shall lead you.
- 4:28 And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.
- 4:29 But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.
- 4:30 *When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice;*
- 4:31 (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.
- thought: *This will also give Israel an excellent opportunity to move both in, and out of, adversity. Though Israel will be scattered among the nations, it will still have many opportunities for it to be a most potent force for the LORD. From their place within these nations, and as the people start to return to God; then, by their prospering; even in that experience, they will show forth the majesty of God, and, too, they will tell the stories of His blessed work that was done among their ancestors. And by doing those things, they will be able to turn many to the way of the LORD God. If only they will rise to the challenge, and seize the opportunity; then, wonders will be seen!*
- 4:32 For ask now of the days that are past, which were before thee, since the day that God created man upon the earth, and ask from the one side of heaven unto the other, whether there hath been any such thing as this great thing is, or hath been heard like it?
- 4:33 Did ever people hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as thou hast heard, and live?
- 4:34 Or hath God assayed to go and take him a nation from the midst of another nation, by temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?
- 4:35 Unto thee it was showed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him.
- 4:36 Out of heaven he made thee to hear his voice, that he might instruct thee: and upon earth he showed thee his great fire; and thou heardest his words out of the midst of the fire.
- 4:37 And because he loved thy fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought thee out in his sight with his mighty power out of Egypt;
- 4:38 To drive out nations from before thee greater and mightier than thou art, to bring thee in, to give thee their land for an inheritance, as it is this day.
- 4:39 Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.
- 4:40 Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day,

that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, for ever.

- 4:41 Then Moses severed three cities on this side Jordan toward the sun rising;  
4:42 That the slayer might flee thither, which should kill his neighbour unawares, and hated him not in times past; and that fleeing unto one of these cities he might live:  
4:43 Namely, Bezer in the wilderness, in the plain country, of the Reubenites; and Ramoth in Gilead, of the Gadites; and Golan in Bashan, of the Manassites.
- 4:44 And this is the law which Moses set before the children of Israel:  
4:45 These are the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which Moses spake unto the children of Israel, after they came forth out of Egypt,  
4:46 On this side Jordan, in the valley over against Bethpeor, in the land of Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt at Heshbon, whom Moses and the children of Israel smote, after they were come forth out of Egypt:  
4:47 And they possessed his land, and the land of Og king of Bashan, two kings of the Amorites, which were on this side Jordan toward the sun rising;  
4:48 From Aroer, which is by the bank of the river Arnon, even unto mount Sion, which is Hermon,  
4:49 And all the plain on this side Jordan eastward, even unto the sea of the plain, under the springs of Pisgah.