

Moses' Invitation to True and Transforming Worship
Deuteronomy 12:1-14
Veritas Class
February 17, 2013

A. The Structure of Deuteronomy 12:1-28

1. The Framework (vv. 1 and 28)
2. What are the issues here?
 - a. Moses identifies the nature of his proclamation:
 - b. Moses declares his immediate goal: to govern conduct
 - c. Moses identifies the geographic context:
 - d. Moses notes the duration of their validity:
 - e. Moses declares his [and God's] ultimate goal:

B. The Invitation to Joy and Satisfaction in the Presence of YHWH (vv. 2-14)

1. Moses' Charge to Reject All False Worship (vv. 2-4)
 - a. Moses' Charge to Reject False Worship
 - (1) The General Charge to Destroy all Canaanite Cult Centers (v. 2)
 - (2) The Specific Charge to Destroy all Canaanite Cult Paraphernalia (v. 3a-d)
 - (3) The Comprehensive Charge to Demolish all Claims of Canaanite Gods to the Land (v. 3e)
 - (4) The Concluding Charge (v. 4)

2. The Double Invitation to True and Transforming Worship (vv. 5-14)

- a. The First Invitation (vv. 5-7)
 - (1) What can we say about this place?
 - (2) What is the significance of this place in Deuteronomy?
 - (a) A place "to see the face of YHWH" (31:11; cf. 16:16).
 - (b) A place for the public reading of the Torah (31:11).
 - (c) A place to learn to fear YHWH (14:23; 31:9-13).
 - (d) A place to celebrate before YHWH (12:12, 18; 14:26; 16:11-12, 14; 26:11).

- (e) A place to eat before YHWH (12:7, 18; 14:23, 26, 29; 15:20; 18:6-8).
 - (f) A place to present sacrifices (12:6)
 - (g) A place to celebrate the three great annual pilgrimage festivals: Passover (16:1-8), Festival of Weeks (Pentecost, 16:9-12), Festival of Booths (16:13-17; 31:9-13).
 - (h) A place to settle legal disputes before the Levitical priest or the judge (17:8-13).
 - (i) A place for Levites to serve in the name of Yahweh (18:6-8).
 - (j) A place for the individual to present the offering of and to recall Yahweh's saving and providential grace (26:1-11).
 - (k) A place to demonstrate one's covenant commitment to Yahweh by gifts of charity to the marginalized (26:12; cf. 10:12-22).
 - (l) A place to demonstrate communal solidarity by celebrating with one's children, one's servants, the Levites, and the alien (12:12; 14:27-29; 16:11).
- (2) What will the Israelites do at the place that YHWH stamps with his name in 12:5-7?
- (a) Present their gifts to YHWH:
 - (b) Banquet in the presence of YHWH
 - (c) Celebrate YHWH's blessing on their work

Lessons for Life