

## In Order To Enter

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by Josh Kleinlein

Many of the songs that we sing use “Canaan” synonymously with “heaven.” This is done for a very good reason. Canaan was the Promised Land prepared for God’s chosen people, “Flowing with milk and honey.” If we were able to describe heaven with purely physical terms, this would be a good description of heaven. Because of this relationship, the advice Moses gives to Israel, before they entered into Canaan, is still pertinent to us today. Moses’ message is one that we must also adhere to in order to enter into heaven.

Moses’ sermon begins with two commands: **listen** and **perform** (Deut 4:1, 6). This earnest exhortation of obedience lays the groundwork for godliness. Israel was to submit and do exactly what God commanded them.

Interestingly enough, Moses emphasizes how they, “*Keep the commandments of the Lord*” (Deut 4:2). He tells them they may not add to or take away from the word. God has always required perfect compliance to His exact instructions. Anyone who did not observe God’s law in this way was not keeping the commandments, but practicing lawlessness.

Knowing the struggles ahead, Moses further advises, “*Watch yourselves carefully*” (Deut. 4:15). In context, this was not concerning small errors, but idolatry. The need for fortitude and perseverance has never been better illustrated. Satan is able to take even the smallest moments of weakness and lead us completely away from God. Such seemingly innocent actions build upon themselves, and they enrage God, a “*consuming fire*” (Deut 4:24).

Having shown God’s wrath, Moses reminds them of His **compassion**. When they fell short, God provided them an avenue of return. The path to restoration demands everyone to, “*Search for Him with all your heart and all your soul*” (Deut 4:29). Such godly sorrow and repentance has always been the avenue of restitution with God.

Moses’ conclusion is also His central message. He emphasizes its importance saying, “*Take it into your heart*” (Deut. 4:39). Moses’ point is there is but one God, no other. Therefore, let us keep his commandments (Deut. 4:39-40).

Our responsibilities are no different. Our faith also comes by hearing (Rom 10:17). God’s word is still not to be added to or taken away from (Rev 22:18-19). Our study on Wednesday showed the need for diligence and perseverance in heeding to God’s statutes (2 Pet 1:6, 10). Our sins are washed away only by penitence (Acts 2:37-38). All of this happens because we know there is, “*One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all*” (Eph 4:5-6).

Having walked with God, Moses knew exactly what the people needed to know in order to enter into the Promised Land. Our entrance into the eternal Canaan demands that same type of obedience. We, too, should listen and heed these saving words and “*make them known to our sons and our grandsons*” (Deut 4:9). All of our souls depend upon it.

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