



SUMMER-TIME DAILY ENCOURAGEMENTS

Carstairs-Bancroft United Church

August 18, 2023



Photo: Our Daily Bread

STAYING ON TRACK WITH GOD

Hear, Israel, the decrees and laws I declare in your hearing today. Learn them and be sure to follow them.

Deuteronomy 5:1

READ Deuteronomy 5:1-11

Years ago, a train carrying 218 people derailed in northwestern Spain, killing 79 people and hospitalizing 66 more. The driver couldn't explain the accident, but the video footage could and did. The train was going far too fast before it hit a deadly curve. The allowable speed limit had been created to protect everyone on board the train. Despite being a thirty-year veteran of Spain's national rail company, however, the driver had for whatever reason ignored the speed boundary and many people lost their lives.

In Deuteronomy 5, Moses reviewed God's original covenant boundaries for His people. Moses encouraged a new generation to regard God's instruction as their own covenant with Him (v. 3), and then he restated the Ten Commandments (vv. 7–21). By repeating the commandments and drawing lessons from the previous generation's disobedience, Moses invited the Israelites to be reverent, humble, and mindful of God's faithfulness. God had made a way for His people so they wouldn't wreck their lives or the lives of others. If they ignored His wisdom, they would do so at their own peril.

Today, as God leads us, let's make all of Scripture our delight, counselor, and the guardrail for our lives. And as the Spirit guides us, we can keep on track within His wise protection and devote our lives wholeheartedly to Him.

By Marvin Williams

PRAY & REFLECT

Dear God, help me to show my love for You through my obedience to You. Amen

When do God's boundaries seem strict, rather than liberating? How do His boundaries show His love for you?

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

The setting for the book of Deuteronomy occurs after the Israelites' forty years of wilderness wanderings because of their unbelief (1:3; Numbers 14:33-34). Geographically, the place was the Plains of Moab (Deuteronomy 1:5; 29:1) on the edge of the promised land. The English title Deuteronomy literally means "second law." The book includes the reiteration, exposition, and interpretation of the law (in Exodus and Leviticus) that was previously given to the Israelites. Deuteronomy is quoted in the New Testament more than eighty times. – **By Arthur Jackson**

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