

Deuteronomy 4:22-40

22 "But I must die in this land, I must not cross over the Jordan; but you shall cross over and possess that good land. 23 **"Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget** the covenant of **the LORD your God** which He made with you, and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of anything which the LORD your God has forbidden you. *[God wants to be acknowledged and remembered]* 24 **"For the LORD your God** is a consuming fire, a jealous God. *[This adds another dimension the marriage metaphor]* 25 **"When** you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do **evil** in the sight of the LORD your God to **provoke Him to anger**, *[Note this isn't if, but when. God knows we will fall short, but he still calls on us to get to know him and do our best. Also, deliberate corruption and doing evil angers God]* 26 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed. 27 "And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. 28 "And there you will serve gods, the **work of men's hands**, wood and stone, which **neither see nor hear** nor eat nor smell. *[verses 27 & 28, serving dead idols, speaks of a meaningless life outside the Kingdom of God. Living without the knowledge of God is meaningless. It becomes random and absurd, even seeming surreal at times.]* 29 **"But from there** you will seek the LORD your God, **and you will find Him** if you seek Him with all your **heart** and with all your **soul**. *[This is one very special verse.. But from there... From the most desperate faraway place imaginable, you will find him. This is a promise. There is no chance that you will not find him, if you seek with all your heart and soul.]* 30 "When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you **turn to** the LORD your God and **obey** His voice 31 '(for the LORD your God is a **merciful** God), **He will not forsake you nor destroy you**, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them. *[God wants us to turn to him and obey. He is merciful, not mean. He is not legalistic in the sense that he is arbitrary, but he wants us to obey because he will only ask us to do what is good even if we don't understand such as when God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac.]* 32 "For ask now concerning the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether any great thing like this has happened, or anything like it has been heard. 33 "Did any people ever **hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire**, as you have heard, and live? *[God has spoken and we have a reliable record of it. If we lack faith to believe this, it is because we have not sincerely asked for the faith to believe it. If someone has asked for the faith, and really desires to believe and still can't, they need to keep on asking and keep on seeking. God has guaranteed that those who seek him with all of their heart and soul will find him.]* 34 "Or did God ever try to go and take for Himself a nation from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? 35 "To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD Himself is God; there is none other besides Him. 36 **"Out of heaven** He let you **hear** His **voice**, that He might **instruct** you; on **earth** He showed you His great **fire**, and you **heard** His words out of the midst of the fire. 37 "And because He **loved** your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them; and He brought you out of Egypt with His **Presence**, with His **mighty power**, *[Note: God's manifest Presence on earth]* 38 "driving out from before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land as an inheritance, as it is this day. 39 "Therefore **know** this day, and **consider** it in your **heart**, that the LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. *[we need to think reflectively about the big questions in life. God is in heaven and on earth.]* 40 "You shall therefore keep His statutes and His commandments which I command you today, **that it may go well** with **you** and with **your children** after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD your God is giving you for all time." *[Obedience results in things going well. Also the existence of the Jewish race testimony to the existence of God and the validity of the Old Testament as the word of God, but also illustrates that God often works in timeframes of centuries. He is not a cosmic bellhop taking orders.]*