

Deuteronomy 4:1-14

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| v1 – Israel | (proper noun) | a nation; the chosen people of God in the Old Testament |
| v1 – decrees | (noun) | official orders or decisions made by the ruler of a nation |
| v1 – possession | (noun) | physical control or occupancy of land |
| v2 – command | (verb) | tell someone to do something |
| v2 – commands | (noun) | instructions that must be obeyed |
| v3 – Baal | (proper noun) | the name of many false gods in Canaan |
| v4 – held fast | (phrase) | held tightly |
| v6 – observe | (verb) | obey, follow |
| v6 – wisdom | (noun) | good judgment |
| v6 – ‘the nations’ | (noun) | all peoples that are not Israel |
| v8 – righteous | (adjective) | just; doing what is right |
| v8 – body | (noun) | large collection |
| v9 – slip | (verb) | accidentally fall |
| v10 – assemble | (verb) | gather together |
| v10 – revere | (verb) | respect and greatly admire |
| v11 – blazed | (verb) | burned strongly and brightly |
| v11 – very | (adjective) | <i>used to give emphasis the extreme position of a noun</i> |
| v13 – declared | (verb) | stated something officially and formally |
| v13 – covenant | (noun) | a solemn agreement between two parties |
| v13 – tablets | (noun) | large flat pieces of stone used for writing |

Deuteronomy 4:1-14 (New International Reader’s Version)

¹Now, Israel, listen to the rules and laws I’m going to teach you. Obey them and you will live. You will go in and take over the land. The LORD was the God of your people of long ago. He’s giving you the land. ²Don’t add to what I’m commanding you. Don’t subtract from it either. Instead, obey the commands of the LORD your God that I’m giving you.

³Your own eyes saw what the LORD your God did at Baal Peor. He destroyed every one of your people who worshiped the Baal that was worshiped at Peor. ⁴But all of you who remained true to the LORD your God are still alive today.

⁵I have taught you rules and laws, just as the LORD my God commanded me. Obey them in the land you are entering to take as your very own. ⁶Be careful to keep them. That will show the nations how wise and understanding you are. They will hear about all these rules. They’ll say, “That great nation certainly has wise and understanding people.” ⁷The LORD our God is near us every time we pray to him. What other nation is great enough to have its gods that close to them? ⁸I’m giving you the laws of the LORD today. What other nation is great enough to have rules and laws as fair as these?

⁹Don’t be careless. Instead, be very careful. Don’t forget the things your eyes have seen. As long as you live, don’t let them slip from your mind. Teach them to your children and their children after them. ¹⁰Remember the day you stood at Mount Horeb. The LORD your God was there. He said to me, “Bring the people to me to hear my words. I want them to learn to have respect for me as long as they live in the land. I want them to teach my words to their children.” ¹¹You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain. It blazed with fire that reached as high as the very heavens. There were black clouds and deep darkness. ¹²Then the LORD spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of his words. But you didn’t see any shape or form. You only heard a voice. ¹³He announced his covenant to you. That covenant is the Ten Commandments. He commanded you to obey them. Then he wrote them down on two stone tablets. ¹⁴At that time the LORD directed me to teach you his rules and laws. You must obey them in the land you are crossing the Jordan River to take as your own.

Ephesians 2:11-22

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| v11 – formerly | (adverb) | previously |
| v11 – Gentiles | (proper noun) | people who are not Jews; people who do not belong to the nation of Israel |
| v11 – circumcision | (noun) | removal of the male foreskin |
| v12 – citizenship | (noun) | the status of being a legally recognised member of a country |
| v12 – covenants | (noun) | solemn agreements between two parties |
| v14 – barrier | (noun) | something that prevents two things or groups from mixing together |
| v14 – hostility | (noun) | unfriendly or aggressive behaviour |
| v15 – abolishing | (verb) | formally putting an end to something |
| v15 – flesh | (noun) | physical body |
| v15 – commandments | (noun) | rules; instructions that must be obeyed |
| v15 – regulations | (noun) | rules to control the way something is done or the way people behave |
| v16 – reconcile | (verb) | make two parties friendly to each other again |
| v18 – access | (noun) | permission to see or meet someone |
| v19 – consequently | (adverb) | as a result |
| v19 – aliens | (noun) | people who belong to a foreign country; opposite of citizens |
| v19 – citizens | (noun) | people who are legally accepted as belonging to a country |
| v19 – household | (noun) | all the people who live together in a house |
| v20 – foundation | (noun) | underlying basis or principle |
| v20 – apostles | (noun) | eyewitnesses of Jesus who were commissioned by Jesus to tell others about him |
| v20 – prophets | (noun) | people who received and communicated God’s message to his people |
| v20 – chief | (adjective) | main; most important |
| v20 – cornerstone | (noun) | a stone in the bottom layer of a building that sets the direction for the rest of the building |
| v21 – holy | (adjective) | set apart for God’s purpose; perfect |
| v21 – temple | (noun) | the place where God dwells |
| v22 – dwelling | (noun) | a place where someone lives |

Ephesians 2:11-22 (New International Reader’s Version)

¹¹You who are not Jews by birth, here is what I want you to remember. You are called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “circumcised.” But they have only been circumcised in their bodies by human hands. ¹²Before you believed in Christ, you were separated from him. You were not considered to be citizens of Israel. You were not included in what the covenants promised. You were without hope and without God in the world. ¹³At one time you were far away from God. But now you belong to Christ Jesus. He spilled his blood for you. This has brought you near to God.

¹⁴Christ himself is our peace. He has made Jews and Gentiles into one group of people. He has destroyed the hatred that was like a wall between us. ¹⁵Through his body on the cross, Christ set aside the law with all its commands and rules. He planned to create one new people out of Jews and Gentiles. He wanted to make peace between them. ¹⁶He planned to bring both Jews and Gentiles back to God as one body. He planned to do this through the cross. On that cross, Christ put to death their hatred toward one another. ¹⁷He came and preached peace to you who were far away. He also preached peace to those who were near. ¹⁸Through Christ we both come to the Father by the power of one Holy Spirit.

¹⁹So you are no longer outsiders and strangers. You are citizens together with God’s people. You are also members of God’s family. ²⁰You are a building that is built on the apostles and prophets. They are the foundation. Christ Jesus himself is the most important stone in the building. ²¹The whole building is held together by him. It rises to become a holy temple because it belongs to the Lord. ²²And because you belong to him, you too are being built together. You are being made into a house where God lives through his Spirit.