



DEUTERONOMY

A CHALLENGE TO A NEW GENERATION

GOD'S PEOPLE SEPARATED

BIG IDEA: We have been sent into the world, but we must not allow the world to get in us.

DATE: Sunday, June 21, 2026

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 6:6-7, 11-26

OPENING QUESTION

Have you ever been on a boat and something goes awry? Maybe someone fell overboard, a big storm came up, or the boat sprung a leak? What was that experience like?

SETTING THE STAGE

As Generation 2.0 approached Canaan, God required that they remain holy. They would be entering a country where the customs and cultures were not only different but unholy. To remain holy, they must refuse to embrace those pagan customs and cultures. But Israel was vulnerable to the influences around them. In this section we read of God's plan to keep Israel separate from the influences that would corrupt them.

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 6:6-7, 11-26 (CSB)

⁶ For you are a holy people belonging to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be his own possession out of all the peoples on the face of the earth. ⁷ "The LORD had his heart set on you and chose you, not because you were more numerous than all peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples... ¹¹ So keep the command – statutes and ordinances – that I am giving you to follow today.

¹² "If you listen to and are careful to keep these ordinances, the LORD your God will keep his covenant loyalty with you, as he swore to your ancestors. ¹³ He will love you, bless you, and multiply you. He will bless your offspring, and the produce of your land—your grain, new wine, and fresh oil—the young of your herds, and the newborn of your flocks, in the land he swore to your ancestors that he would give you. ¹⁴ You will be blessed above all peoples; there will be no infertile male or female among you or your livestock. ¹⁵ The LORD will remove all sickness from you; he will not put on you all the terrible diseases of Egypt that you know about, but he will inflict them on all who hate you. ¹⁶ You must destroy all the peoples the LORD your God is delivering over to you and not look on them with pity. Do not worship their gods, for that will be a snare to you.

¹⁷ "If you say to yourself, 'These nations are greater than I; how can I drive them out?' ¹⁸ do not be afraid of them. Be sure to remember what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and all Egypt: ¹⁹ the great trials that you saw, the signs and wonders, the strong hand and outstretched arm, by which the LORD your God brought you out. The LORD your God will do the same to all the peoples you fear. ²⁰ The LORD your God

will also send hornets against them until all the survivors and those hiding from you perish. ²¹ Don't be terrified of them, for the LORD your God, a great and awesome God, is among you. ²² The LORD your God will drive out these nations before you little by little. You will not be able to destroy them all at once; otherwise, the wild animals will become too numerous for you. ²³ The LORD your God will give them over to you and throw them into great confusion until they are destroyed. ²⁴ He will hand their kings over to you, and you will wipe out their names under heaven. No one will be able to stand against you; you will annihilate them. ²⁵ Burn up the carved images of their gods. Don't covet the silver and gold on the images and take it for yourself, or else you will be ensnared by it, for it is detestable to the LORD your God. ²⁶ Do not bring any detestable thing into your house, or you will be set apart for destruction like it. You are to abhor and detest it utterly because it is set apart for destruction.

DISCUSSION

GOD HAS CHOSEN US TO BE DIFFERENT

READ: Deuteronomy 7:1-11

- What does this have to do with living a holy life? Why was holiness, living differently than everyone else, such a big deal?
- When people examine your conduct and vocabulary, what are the noticeable differences between your lifestyle and those who don't claim to be followers of Jesus Christ? What about in the area of social media or media choices in general?
- How does it make you feel to consider yourself "holy"?

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

READ Deuteronomy 7:12-16

- What are some forms of contracts (covenants) that we enter into today?
- What is our responsibility in regard to this new covenant? What is God's responsibility?

GOD IS MIGHTIER THAN YOUR ENEMIES

READ: Deuteronomy 7:17-26

- How is God's desire that His people live separated lives seen in these verses? If God were writing these verses specifically to us today, how might these verses be worded?
- How is this a picture of what Moses described in verse 25? What are some other examples of things used to ensnare prey?
- What are some ways that we bring "abhorrent" things into our homes today? What can a believer in Christ do about that?

RESPONSE

Are you an "out-of-the-ordinary" Christian? Remember to be holy means to be dedicated or consecrated to God; sacred; set apart. Take time this week to ask God to search your heart and reveal any unholiness that has crept in. Ask God to keep you from evil and to guard your witness. Remember, just a tiny leak can eventually sink a boat.