

Deuteronomy I
Instruction for Worship and Offerings
Deuteronomy 12:1-32

I. INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

A. Theme of the Chapter

- i. Obedience
- ii. Offering
- iii. Sacrifice

B. Usage of Words

- i. *"I"*
 1. Used seven (7 x) times in seven (7) verses (Deuteronomy 12:11; Deuteronomy 12:14; Deuteronomy 12:20; Deuteronomy 12:21; Deuteronomy 12:28; Deuteronomy 12:30; Deuteronomy 12:32)
 2. Used to refer to both the Lord and Moses in the chapter.
- ii. *"thou"*
 1. Used thirty-six (36 x) times in twenty (20) verses (Deuteronomy 12:5; Deuteronomy 12:13; Deuteronomy 12:14; Deuteronomy 12:15; Deuteronomy 12:17; Deuteronomy 12:18; Deuteronomy 12:19; Deuteronomy 12:20; Deuteronomy 12:21; Deuteronomy 12:22; Deuteronomy 12:23; Deuteronomy 12:24; Deuteronomy 12:25; Deuteronomy 12:26; Deuteronomy 12:27; Deuteronomy 12:28; Deuteronomy 12:29; Deuteronomy 12:30; Deuteronomy 12:31; Deuteronomy 12:32)
 2. Used to refer to the Children of Israel in the chapter.
- iii. *"thy"*
 1. Used forty-four (44 x) times in fifteen (15) verses (Deuteronomy 12:1; Deuteronomy 12:7; Deuteronomy 12:13; Deuteronomy 12:14; Deuteronomy 12:15; Deuteronomy 12:17; Deuteronomy 12:18; Deuteronomy 12:20; Deuteronomy 12:21; Deuteronomy 12:25; Deuteronomy 12:26; Deuteronomy 12:27; Deuteronomy 12:28; Deuteronomy 12:29; Deuteronomy 12:31)
 2. Used in the possessive sense, referring to the Children of Israel.
- iv. *"place"*
 1. Used eight (8 x) times in eight (8) verses (Deuteronomy 12:3; Deuteronomy 12:5; Deuteronomy 12:11; Deuteronomy 12:13; Deuteronomy 12:14; Deuteronomy 12:18; Deuteronomy 12:21; Deuteronomy 12:26)

2. Used to refer to the land, an unspecific place, and the specific place God would have them worship.

C. Usage of Phrases

i. *“Take heed to thyself”*

1. Used three (3 x) times in three (3) verses (Deuteronomy 12:13; Deuteronomy 12:19; Deuteronomy 12:30)
2. Used to admonish the Children of Israel to take great care of their actions

II. DESTRUCTION OF PAGAN WORSHIP (Deuteronomy 12:1-4)

A. Instructions For the Destruction of the Inhabitants’ Religion (Deuteronomy 12:1-3)

- i. Statutes and Judgments for the land
 - ii. All the days of their lives
 - iii. To utterly destroy all of the places where the inhabitants had worshipped (Exodus 34:12-17)
 1. Upon the high mountains
 2. Upon the hills
 - a. High places (Numbers 22:41)
 - b. And hills (2 Kings 16:4)
 3. Under every green tree (groves)
 - a. Green trees (2 Kings 16:4; 2 Kings 17:10-11; Jeremiah 3:6)
 - b. Thick trees (Ezekiel 20:28-29; Hosea 4:13)
 - iv. To overthrow the false places of worship (Deuteronomy 12:3; 2 Chronicles 34:3)
 1. The altars
 2. Pillars
 3. Groves (to be burnt with fire)
 4. Hew down the graven images
 - v. To destroy the names of them out of the land (Deuteronomy 12:3)
- ### B. The True Religion (Worship) To Be Protected (Deuteronomy 12:4; Deuteronomy 16:21-22; Deuteronomy 20:18; Leviticus 20:23)

III. DIRECTIONS OF TRUE WORSHIP (Deuteronomy 12:5-16)

A. The Place of Worship (Deuteronomy 12:5-7)

- i. God’s name to be placed there
- ii. To be sought out and go and worship at (Deuteronomy 12:6; Deuteronomy 12:11)
 1. To bring their offerings / sacrifices
 2. And their tithes
- iii. The location of this *“place”*
 1. Shiloh (Joshua 18:1; 1 Samuel 1:3, 9; 1 Samuel 4:4)
 2. The ark in the house of Abinadab (1 Samuel 7:1-2; 2 Samuel 6:1-4)
 3. The ark in the house of Obededom (2 Samuel 6:10-12)
 4. To the City of David (2 Samuel 6:13)

B. An Offering to be Made There (Deuteronomy 12:7)

- i. The Tithe (Deuteronomy 12:17-18)
 - ii. The firstlings of their cattle (Deuteronomy 12:17-18; Deuteronomy 15:19-20)
 - iii. The Feast of Tabernacles (Deuteronomy 12:7; Leviticus 23:40; Deuteronomy 16:11, 13-17)
 1. To appear before the Lord at this feast in the place of God's choice
 2. The men were to appear before the Lord all total of three times in the year
 3. All of the men were to travel to the designated place (Jerusalem):
 - a. At the feast of unleavened bread
 - b. At the feast of weeks (Pentecost)
 - c. At the feast of tabernacles
- C. A Contrast of Ways (Deuteronomy 12:8-16)
- i. Doing whatsoever was right in their own eyes (Deuteronomy 12:8)
 1. God made provision against the people following their own hearts (Numbers 15:39)
 2. Occurred in Judges (Judges 17:6; Judges 21:25)
 3. Because the people had not yet come to their inheritance (Deuteronomy 12:9)
 - a. A place had not yet been set up for them to observe all of the feast.
 - b. Once they were settled in the land, then all of the irregularities in the matter of worship would cease.
 - c. Then all of the gifts and offerings must be brought to the place which the Lord would appoint to place His name.
 - ii. From Their Own Ways to a Place Appointed (Deuteronomy 12:10-12)
 1. When they begin to dwell in the land
 2. When God would give rest from all their enemies
 3. So that they dwelt safely
 4. A place was to be appointed where God would place His name
 5. They were to bring:
 - a. Their burnt offerings
 - b. Their sacrifices
 - c. Their tithes
 - d. Heave offerings
 - e. Their vows
 6. To rejoice before the Lord in their worship (Deuteronomy 12:12; Deuteronomy 12:7)
 - a. With their sons and daughters
 - b. Their menservants and maidservants
 - c. And the Levites
 - d. Example from the apostles and disciples (Acts 2:46)
 - e. For the New Testament Christian (1 John 1:3-4)

7. To only offer their offerings and sacrifices in the place appointed (Deuteronomy 12:13-14)
 - a. This was directly opposed to the customs of the heathen that had been in the land. Making sacrifices upon every high hill, and under every green tree.
 - b. The people were to bring their offerings from their herds and harvest to the tabernacle/temple (Leviticus 17:2-5)
 - c. In the days of Jeroboam, he caused the people to sin in creating a place of worship so that he might keep them from going to Jerusalem (1 Kings 12:28-32)
8. Provision for the eating of the blessings of God (Deuteronomy 12:15-16; Deuteronomy 12:21-22; Deuteronomy 15:22-23)
 - a. Whatsoever thy soul desireth
 - b. A provision for the clean and unclean person alike
 - i. For the roebuck
 - ii. The hart
 - c. No blood to be consumed at any time (Deuteronomy 12:16; Deuteronomy 12:23-24; Genesis 9:4; Acts 15:29)

IV. DIRECTIONS OF THE TITHE (Deuteronomy 12:17-19)

- A. The Tenth Part of Their Corn, Wine, Oil, and Flocks (Deuteronomy 12:17-18)
 - i. To Not be consumed in their gate
 - ii. But to be taken to the place (tabernacle/temple)
 1. A tenth of their income was to be devoted to sacred purposes
 2. In this case it was the produce of one's fields, trees, flocks, and herds (Leviticus 27:30-32)
 - a. If a man was too far from the place of tithe he could turn it into money (Deuteronomy 14:22-27); adding 1/5th to the value (Leviticus 27:30-32)
 - b. This tithe would then be devoted to the maintenance of the Levites in their respective cities. – Notice how the Lord continually repeats to “forget not, forsake not” the Levite (Deuteronomy 12:19; Numbers 18:21-24; Deuteronomy 14:27)
 - i. Renewed in the days of Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 31:5-6, 12), and in the days of Nehemiah (Nehemiah 10:37)
 - ii. The storage of these tithes and offerings (Nehemiah 10:37; Nehemiah 12:44; Nehemiah 13:5)
 - iii. Forsaken during the days of Nehemiah while Nehemiah was away (Nehemiah 13:4-13)
 - iv. The Levites would also tithe of what they had received from the people (Numbers 18:26-28)

- c. Every third year was a special tithe to the Lord (Deuteronomy 14:28-29; Deuteronomy 26:12-14)
 - i. A tithe of the increase
 - ii. Made for the Levite, the stranger, fatherless, and the widow.
 - iii. That the LORD might bless them.
 - iv. Some Bible students have disagreed as to the full application of the tithe of the third year.
 - v. Jewish tradition states that it was in addition to the basic tithe and created a double tithe every third year.
 - vi. What we can definitely say about the third year tithe from scripture is that it appears it was used to maintain the Levites, but also the stranger, fatherless, and the widow.

B. To Forsake Not the Levite (Deuteronomy 12:19)

V. DIRECTIONS FOR THE OFFERINGS (Deuteronomy 12:20-28)

A. The People Were Permitted to Freely Eat of Their Labour (Deuteronomy 12:20-22)

B. Reminded to Eat Not of the Blood (Deuteronomy 12:23-25)

- i. That it might go well with them
- ii. Eating of blood is connected to idol worship (Ezekiel 33:25)
 - 1. It is connected to using enchantments (Leviticus 19:26)
 - 2. Repeated again in the New Testament (Acts 15:20-21)

C. The Holy Things and Vows to be Taken to the Tabernacle/Temple (Deuteronomy 12:26-28)

- i. To be offered with the blood
- ii. Upon the altar of the LORD
- iii. The blood to be poured out upon the altar as an atonement for them (Leviticus 17:11)
- iv. All of these things were to be observed that it might go well with them (Deuteronomy 12:28)

VI. WARNING AGAINST PAGAN SACRIFICE AND WORSHIP (Deuteronomy 12:29-32)

A. The Third "Take Heed" (Deuteronomy 12:30)

- i. To not be snared to follow in the ways of the Idolater
- ii. To not pursue after the idols and false gods that had been in the land (Deuteronomy 20:18; Jeremiah 10:2)

B. Every Abomination Done By the Inhabitants Before Them (Deuteronomy 12:31)

- i. Which God hated
- ii. Sacrificing even their children to the gods the land (2 Kings 17:15-17)