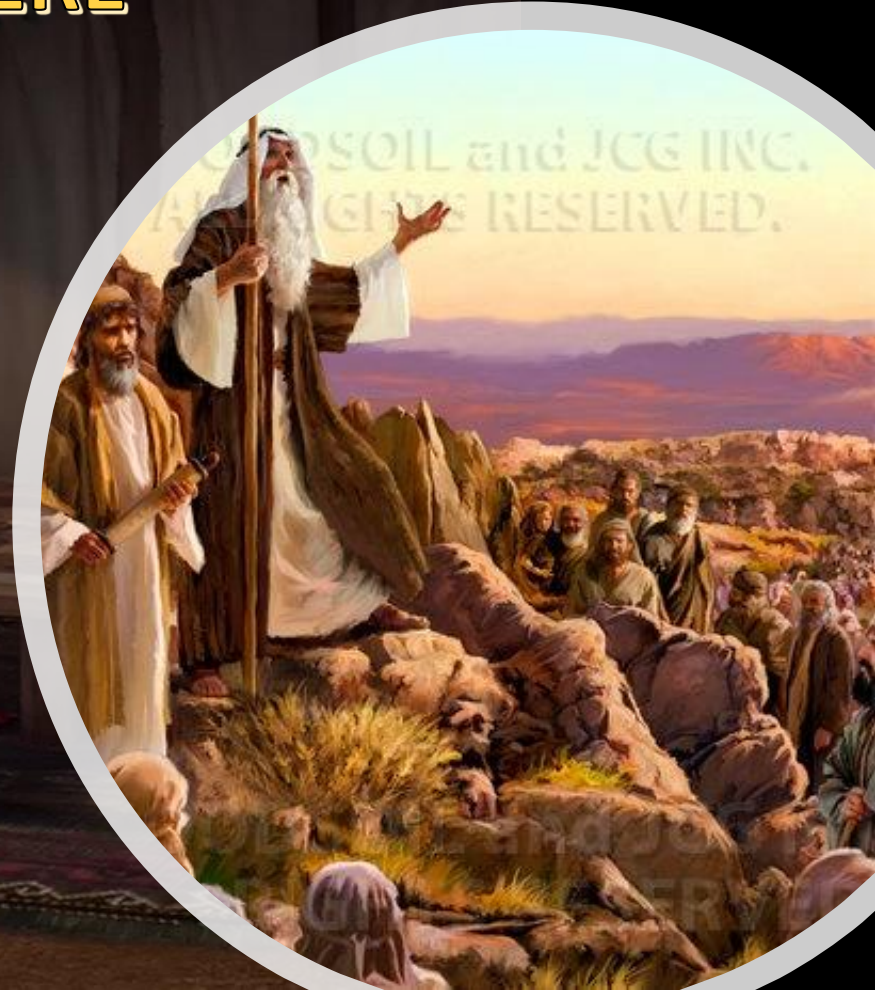
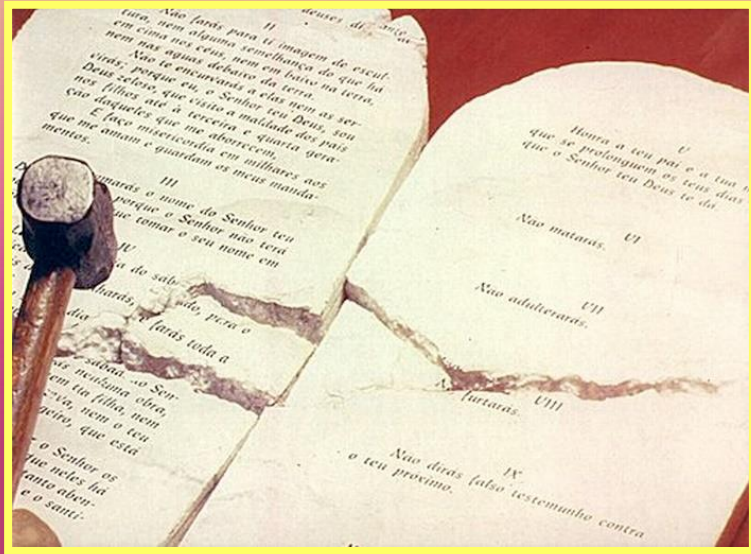
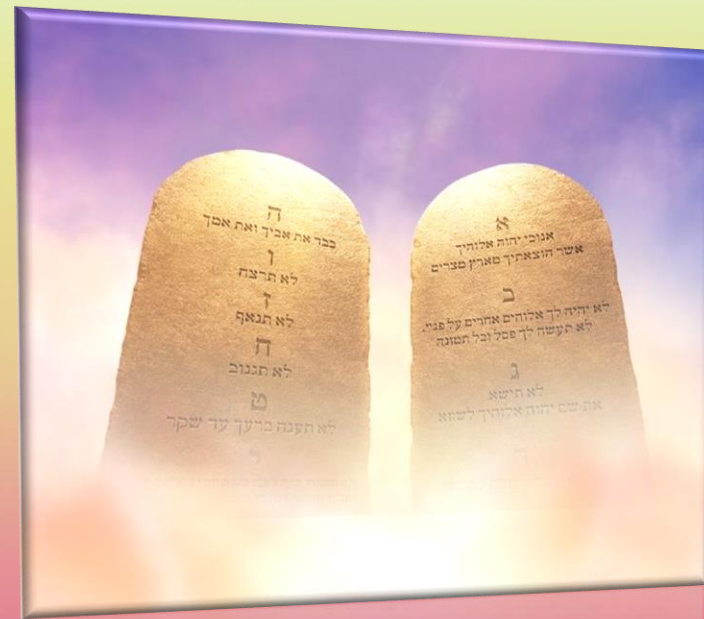


FOR WHAT NATION IS THERE SO GREAT?



Deuteronomy 4:1-9 contains a study on God's Law and the consequences of obeying it or rejecting it. God's Law is holy, perfect, and wise.

Can we add or change anything in the Law to make it "more perfect"? How is Law related to wisdom? Can we get renown in this life by obeying the Law?



- ➡ Do not add or take away. Deuteronomy 4:1-2
- ➡ The consequences of rebellion. Deuteronomy 4:3
- ➡ Following God. Deuteronomy 4:4
- ➡ Our wisdom. Deuteronomy 4:5-6
- ➡ A great nation. Deuteronomy 4:7-9

DO NOT ADD OR TAKE AWAY

“You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.” (Deuteronomy 4:2)



We would be taking God's place if we tried to make the perfect Law even “more perfect” by adding or removing something from it. That was Satan's desire. His propaganda during his rebellion defended that the Law was imperfect, so changing it was urgent.

Satan has induced the people of God to add new rules to the Law through history. For example, by mixing truth with pagan customs, inventing new laws, establishing traditions (2K. 17:33; 1K. 12:33; Mt. 15:3-6).

He even encouraged them to remove commandments like the second one, in order to worship God through images. The people of God has suffered the consequences in every instance.



THE CONSEQUENCES OF REBELLION

"Your eyes have seen what the Lord did at Baal Peor; for the Lord your God has destroyed from among you all the men who followed Baal of Peor." (Deuteronomy 4:3)

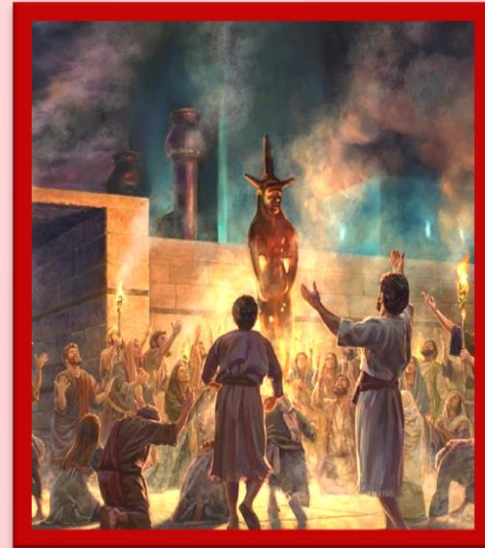
Trying to change the Law has consequences, and openly breaking it also has.

Balaam encouraged the Moabite women to seduce the Israelite men (Nm. 31:15-16). The Israelites that accepted their provocation quickly turned their physical adultery into spiritual adultery (Nm. 25:1-2).



By hardening their consciences with the first sin, the physical one, they were ripe for falling into the latter one, the spiritual one, which must have been Satan's ultimate goal.

God intervened by demanding a drastic response to that flagrant sin (Nm. 25:5-8). Accepted sins lead to rebellion, and to complete separation from God eventually.



FOLLOWING GOD

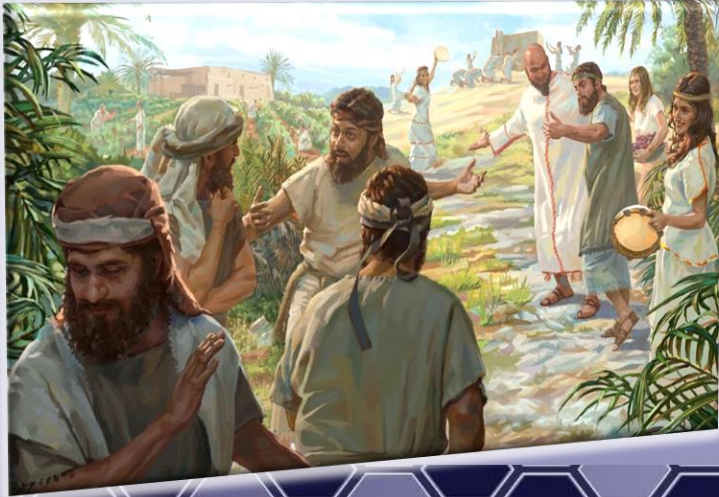
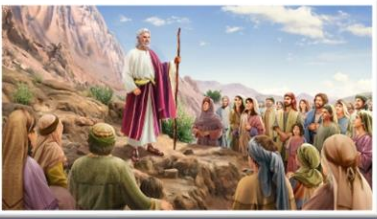
"But you who held fast to the Lord your God are alive today, every one of you." (Deuteronomy 4:4)



About 24,000 people followed Baal Peor. Moses introduces those who followed God instead.

There's no middle ground. You can only follow either God or the enemy (Mt. 12:30). You must decide to cling to God, and the power to resist temptation will come from Him (Jude 24).

God is able to keep us from falling. But we have to make the conscious choice, as did the faithful at Baal Peor, to cleave to God. If so, then we can be assured that, whatever the temptation, we can remain faithful.



OUR WISDOM

"Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'" (Deuteronomy 4:6)

According to this verse, when will people say that Christians are "a wise and understanding people"?

When they hear about the laws that govern us. And they will hear about them only when we keep them and put them into practice. That is, when we live according to God's Law, living a life consistent with our preaching.

The laws that governed the people of Israel were perfect. However, they failed as God's representatives and light of the world, because they disobeyed them.

We are the salt of the earth, the light of the world (Mt. 5:13-16). Let's shine by giving a daily testimony with our obedience to the perfect Law.



A GREAT NATION

“For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?” (Deuteronomy 4:7-8)



God chose the descendants of Abraham to make a great nation of them, and to bless all humanity through them (Gn. 12:2-3).

God was with them.
He was a close God

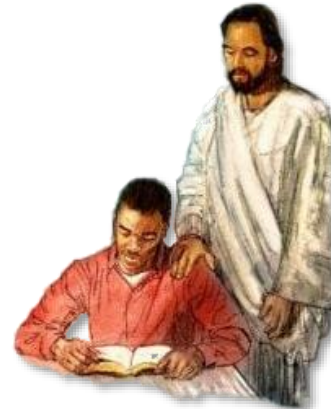


God has also chosen us to bless humanity with the message of Salvation.

Why are you a “great person”?

Why was Israel a “great nation”?

They had fair laws and trials



“The purpose which God seeks to accomplish through His people today is the same that He desired to accomplish through Israel when He brought them forth out of Egypt. By beholding the goodness, the mercy, the justice, and the love of God revealed in the church, the world is to have a representation of His character. And when the law of God is thus exemplified in the life, even the world will recognize the superiority of those who love and fear and serve God above every other people on the earth.”