MESSAGE SUMMARY
Every person is hardwired to be a worshiper, but we often worship the wrong things or worship God in the wrong way. In Deuteronomy 4-5, Moses transitioned from reviewing the Israelites’ past to offering regulations for their present, touching on true worship and God’s character before reviewing the Ten Commandments.

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction
   A. What do you picture God as?
   B. We live in a world that continually creates God in their image rather than responding as God’s creation made in His image
      1. Usually the picture you have is inadequate
      2. John 1:1
   C. Israel had a problem throughout its history: making images
      1. Peer pressure: other nations had visual representations
         a. Psalm 115:2-8
         b. You become like what you worship
      2. Personal loss: you have lost the awareness of the presence of God
         a. You are desperately trying to regain that awareness
         b. If you have a living, abiding relationship with the Lord, you don’t need a reminder
   D. An idol is anything that takes the supreme place of God in your life
   E. 1 John 5:21

II. Deuteronomy 4:15-43
   A. Verse 19: Mankind is hardwired to be worshipers
      1. Ecclesiastes 3:11
      2. Romans 1:25
      3. The heavens were a fascination to ancient peoples
         a. God can use this impulse
         b. Magi
            I. Babylon: originator of the idea that the heavenly bodies controlled life on earth
            II. Herodotus: magi were a priestly caste of the Medes
            III. Matthew 2
   B. Egypt: "the iron furnace" (v. 20)
      1. For refining gold
2. Rabbis’ interpretation: shows that the Israelites were God’s precious people and God used the experience to make them better

C. Verse 23: What about art?
   1. If this does refer to art, then God has a problem: He ordered art to be made for the tabernacle
   2. God didn’t violate His command
      a. Those images were not used to remind people to worship God; they didn’t represent God
      b. The tabernacle was a model of heaven
         i. Hebrews
         ii. Revelation 1-5
   3. When something becomes an aid in your worship, it can become bad
      a. Bronze serpent
      b. Numbers 22:4-9; 2 Kings 18:4

D. Verse 24: quoted in Hebrews 12:29
   1. Jealous is Hebrew word qanna, to get red in the face
   2. Describes someone who stakes their claim of ownership over something to guard it
   3. Jealousy isn’t always a sinful act
   4. 2 Corinthians 11:2
   5. Everything that fire touches becomes like the fire: consumed

E. Grow old (see v. 25) literally means grow stale
   1. As you grow old, make sure you don’t grow stale
   2. Stay fresh and enlivened
   3. Prosperity becomes a narcotic

F. 722 BC: ten tribes in the north taken captive by the Assyrians
   1. 586 BC: Judah deported by Babylonians
   2. A prediction of the sin cycle
      a. Apostasy: settled, soft, sassy
      b. The Lord forsakes them: expelled from the land
      c. Realize their sin and repent
      d. God sends a deliverer

G. Verse 31: the covenant of the land given to Abraham
   1. They were under the Mosaic covenant at this time
   2. Abrahamic covenant = unconditional
   3. Covenant of the law = conditional
   4. The fulfillment of the land covenant will be in the millennial kingdom

H. Verse 33: reference to Mount Sinai
   1. The overarching theme of the Old and New Testament is that God loves you
      1. The problem with the love of God is our perception of it
      2. We don’t always experience it
         a. You can carry an umbrella so that you don’t experience the love of God
         b. Jude 1:21

J. Rabbis: verse 39 shows a principle
   1. Their idea: God should be discovered every day afresh
   2. Have you discovered today that the Lord is God?

K. Cities of refuge: sanctuary cities
III. Deuteronomy 4:44-5:21
A. Deuteronomy 1-4: a review of the past
   1. Verse 44: second speech of Moses; regulations for the present
   2. The core of Deuteronomy
B. The Ten Commandments
   1. 613 total commandments in the Torah: 248 positive, 365 negative
   2. Ten sum up all of life
      a. First four: Godward; honor God supremely
      b. Second six: manward; respect man affectionately
      c. Matthew 22:37-40
      d. Hebrew: a decade of words, Aseret haD’varim
C. Verse 6: all-capital Lord is a special designation
   1. The tetragrammaton: Yhwh
   2. The ineffable, unpronounceable, holy, covenant name of God
   3. God staked His claim based on His name
      a. God is separate, distinct, and transcendent from His creation
      b. God is God, and we are not
      c. "Don't bother to give God instructions; just report for duty" —Corrie ten Boom
D. First commandment: God is to be worshiped exclusively
   1. Second commandment: God is to be worshiped correctly
   2. Only two sources for information about God
      a. Revelation: God reveals Himself
      b. Imagination: if it doesn't come from God, it's made up
E. Vain (v. 11) is Hebrew word shav
   1. To empty something of its content or meaning
   2. You shall not speak God's name in a frivolous, lighthearted, or empty manner
F. Old Testament speaks of the Sabbath ninety times
   1. New Testament speaks of the Sabbath fifty-five times
   2. It was a covenant made with the genetic Hebrew nation
   3. Christ is the Sabbath; He fulfilled the commandment
   4. You're free to keep the Sabbath
      a. You're also free to not keep the Sabbath
      b. All Ten Commandments are restated in the New Testament except this one
      c. Romans 14:5
   5. In the New Testament, the Sabbath became a burden
      b. Thirty-nine regulations added
      c. Twenty-four chapters devoted to this in the Talmud
G. If you don't believe you're a special creation of God, then you're given to believe the imagination, not the revelation
H. Eighth commandment (see v. 19): every society seems to believe this
I. Ninth commandment (see v. 20): Proverbs 6:16-19
J. Tenth commandment (see v. 21): set apart from all other commandments

Figures referenced: Herodotus, Corrie ten Boom
Hebrew words: qanna, Aseret haD'varim, shav

Cross references: Numbers 22:4-9; Deuteronomy 4:15-5:21; 2 Kings 18:4; Psalm 115:2-8; Proverbs 6:16-19; Ecclesiastes 3:11; Matthew 2; 22:37-40; 23:4; Luke 11:46; John 1:1; Romans 1:25; 14:5; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Hebrews 12:29; 1 John 5:21; Jude 1:21; Revelation 1-5

Topic: The Law

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