



## Understanding the Parsha

Devarim Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25

We will Learn how to

- 1) **interpret the main theme (subject) of a Parsha** (weekly reading from the Torah),
- 2) **make thematic connections to that Parsha** (study the Scriptures related by a common theme [subject], line upon line and precept upon precept)
- 3) **learn how to gain greater understanding of the Parsha we are looking at through its thematic connections to other portions of Scripture.**

## Understanding the Book of Devarim

Earlier, we discovered that the book of Devarim was a collection of four speeches Moses gave to Am Yisrael (the people of Israel) during the last five weeks of his life. The basic outline of the book is as follows:

Scripture Reference	Topic
Devarim 1-4	Introductory Speech
Devarim 5-26	Main Speech
Devarim 27-28	Tochachah (Admonition)
Devarim 29-30	Teshuvah (Repentance)



Right now we are studying Moses' main speech, Devarim 5-26. In last week's lesson, we learned that this main speech is divided into two main subjects.

The first subject is The Commandment (singular). This subject begins in Devarim 6:1 and lasts until Devarim 11:25. Even though this section of the speech is called, The Commandment, Moses actually gave many commandments (mitzvot). So let's see why this section is called The Commandment.

This section begins with the Shema (Devarim 6:4-5). Mark 12:29-30 tells us, the Shema is the greatest commandment! Being that it is the greatest commandment, it is also The Commandment.

**After the Shema (Devarim 6:4-5), what does Adonai command Am Yisrael?**

He commands Am Yisrael to keep the "matters" He commands them upon their H HEARTS.

In other words, all the other "matters" (commandments) given after the Shema— need to be upon Am Yisrael's HEART.

**How is Devarim 6:4-5 thematically connected to Devarim 6:6?**

Both passages talk about the H HEART of the people.

Thus it seems that Adonai wants Am Yisrael to guard their hearts as they enter the land.

**Read Devarim 6:12. How is this passage thematically related to one's heart?**

Moses used the words, b beware and lest you f forget. These are matters of the heart.

**In order for Am Yisrael to maintain a heart devoted to the Holy One, they will need to**

- 1) g guard their hearts and
- 2) r remember certain facts.

By guarding their hearts and remembering certain facts they will prevent their hearts from going astray.

**Read Devarim 7:6-9. How is Devarim 7:7 related to the heart of Am Yisrael?**

The people's knowledge of WHY the Holy One chose them will affect HOW they respond to Him. Therefore, He must make sure that they understand WHY He chose them, or their heart motivation can become corrupt.

You see, if Am Yisrael was allowed to think they were chosen because of some merit of their own, they may not appreciate His choice of them. This is a heart issue.

**What two reasons does the Holy One give for choosing Am Yisrael?**

Because of His l love for them and His f fidelity to the Abrahamic covenant.



Thinking about His love for them, how is this thematically related to The Commandment?

Adonai is showing us the i IMPORTANCE of LOVE. Am Yisrael needs to love Him with all their H HEARTS. So likewise, Adonai loves us with all of His heart. He loves us so much that He chose us despite our faults.

**Read Devarim 7:8-9 very carefully. Let's look at what the Holy One wants Am Yisrael to know.**

*Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments (mitzvot) (Devarim 7:9).*

**What two things does the Holy One want Am Yisrael to know?**

That He is a f faithful God and He will g guard guard (keep) His covenants.

Did you notice how Adonai makes reference to the Abrahamic covenant to prove His faithfulness? In Devarim 7:8, Adonai specifically makes mention of the covenant promises in Genesis 15, that He would redeem Am Yisrael from their oppressors. **Can you think of a passage that says how Abraham fulfilled his responsibilities to Adonai within the context of his covenant with the Holy One? Yes, Genesis 26:4-5.**

*And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; 5 because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments [mitzvot] , My statutes [chukim] , and My laws [Torah's] [In the sense of teachings or instructions.]"*

Now you should see why this was the perfect example for Moses to choose. Moses is trying to show Am Yisrael that Adonai will be faithful to them if they obey His commandments (mitzvot), statutes (chukim) and judgments (mishpatim). To prove His faithfulness, He showed Am Yisrael how Adonai was faithful to fulfill the covenant to Abraham, who was also called upon to follow commandments [mitzvot] , statutes [chukim] , and laws [Torahs]!

We have seen before that the Torah teaches us through repetition of words and phrases. In order to ensure that Am Yisrael keeps the correct "heart attitude" towards Adonai, notice how many times Moses tells them to remember. **Draw a line to connect the "remember" to the correct Scripture reference below:**

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Devarim 7:18 | Remember that Adonai is the provider.   |
| Devarim 8:2  | Note how forgetting Adonai is the same as not observing Torah!                      |
| Devarim 8:11 | Remember how He led them through the wilderness.                                    |
| Devarim 8:18 | Remember what Adonai did to the Egyptians.  |
| Devarim 9:7  | Remember how many times Am Yisrael provoked the Holy One, yet received forgiveness. |

In order to make sure that Am Yisrael keeps the correct "heart attitude" towards Adonai, notice how many times Moses reminded them to remember the correct reason why they were chosen. He doesn't want their hearts to go astray by thinking they had some inborn honor.

### Devarim 8:17-18

*It is not their strength that gains them wealth. Note the phrase "lest you say in your heart."*

### Devarim 9:4-6

*Adonai did not bring them to the Land because of their righteousness. Note the phrase "lest you say in your heart."*



Once again, we see that this sidra (Torah portion) focuses on Am Yisrael's heart attitude.

**Did you see how many times the word love is used in this week's sidra (Torah portion)?**

**See Devarim 7: 8, 9, 13; 10:12, 15, 18, 19; 11:1, 13, and 22.** These passages speak of

the Holy One's love for A Y, His love for the P, His love for the O, w and p, and their love for H. Most of the

references to love are exhortations for Am Yisrael to love Adonai with all of their hearts by obeying the commandments (mitzvot). As we have seen from last week, Devarim 11:22-25 forms a neat ending to this first subject of Moses' main speech. He began this section with an exhortation for Am Yisrael to love YHVH with all of their hearts and he ends this section with another exhortation to love the Holy One.

## Can you find the words from this Parsha?

E	I	K	E	V	C	H	S	E	S	O	M
O	A	M	V	A	C	Y	H	S	O	B	E
S	G	T	O	R	P	H	A	N	A	E	T
E	W	S	L	O	E	I	D	H	B	Y	Y
C	O	M	M	A	N	D	M	E	N	T	L
V	D	E	T	C	H	A	N	A	A	N	E
Y	I	B	O	H	S	P	N	R	R	E	S
E	W	E	V	U	N	H	E	T	O	E	O
G	L	F	D	R	A	U	G	S	T	B	R
R	E	M	E	M	B	E	R	U	H	I	P



MOSES  
EIKEV  
LOVE  
COMMANDMENT  
ORPHAN  
WIDOW  
PROSELYTE  
HEART  
OBEY  
GUARD  
REMEMBER