

DO NOT SERVE OTHER GODS

Vernon Merrick

Bi 105 Pentateuch

Dr. Iria Abram

07/09/2020

## DO NOT SERVE OTHER GODS

Deuteronomy is the fifth book of the Pentateuch which is also called the fifth book of Moses. The book of Deuteronomy has also been called “five-fifths of the Law.” [CITATION Tho941 \l 1033 ]. Moses is believed to be the author of this book by the Jewish people although there is some controversy as to who really wrote the Book of Deuteronomy. The scene of Deuteronomy comes towards the end of the people of Israel’s journey to the promise land which is in Canaan. A few days journey turned into a forty-year journey, and the Book of Deuteronomy shows them in the fortieth year of the journey. Throughout this Journey God has been giving the people of Israel commandments and statues to keep by way of his servant Moses. At this point in the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses is addressing a new generation of people. Moses is solidifying the commandments and statues with this new generation of people just before they are about to enter the promise land. In the fifth chapter of Deuteronomy he reiterates the ten commandments in which in verse 6-9 of this chapter God claims who he is to the people of Israel and where he has brought them from. He then tells them they should have no other gods before him. He tells them not to bow down or to serve any other god. In Deuteronomy 13:1-10, God tells them if a prophet or a family member tells them to serve another god that they should kill them. This is the first commandment out of the ten commandments. In Judaism the Shema is a prayer of the Jewish people. It is said to be one of the most important prayers. The Shema is more than a prayer to the Jewish people. “Judaism understands its recitation to be a binding legal act in which individuals pledge their commitment to God” [CITATION Ade14 \l 1033 ]. After

so many years in slavery and seeing the Egyptian gods and about to go into the promise land where other countries were serving other gods, God was making it clear to the people of Israel that they should not serve or worship any other God but him. From the Book of Genesis all the way to this point in the Book of Deuteronomy God was establishing himself as the only real God and he was using the nation of Israel to show the world who the true and living God is.

## Bibliography

Brettler, Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi. "The Jewish Study Bible." In *The Jewish Study Bible*, by Adele Berlin and Marc Zvi Brettler. 2014.

Nelson, Thomas. "Holy Bible ( New King James Version)." In *Holy Bible*, by Thomas Nelson. 1994.