

Sample Responses for Deuteronomy 13 | Beth Wickliffe and Mary Hannah

From Beth: **STRUCTURE**

- I. Moses warns and instructs the Israelites before they cross into Canaan about apostasy that may/can threaten them personally and in their town and surrounding towns.
 - A. Who will attempt to entice the Israelites into apostasy? (v. 1a, 6a, 12a)
 1. Prophets (false) / visionaries
 2. Close relatives
 3. Townsfolk
 - B. How will they be enticed? Through: (v. 2)
 1. Dreams
 2. Signs
 3. Miracles
 - C. To what will they be enticed? (v. 2b, 5b, 6b, 10b, 12b)
 1. Go and worship other gods
 2. Worship gods the Israelites or their ancestors have not known before
 3. Turn away from / rebel against the Lord their God who rescued them from the land of Egypt and the land of slavery / bondage (v. 10b)
 4. Worship gods of people who live in nearby towns or gods from the ends of the earth (v.7)
 - D. How should the Israelites respond? (v. 3a-4, 8)
 1. Listen to God alone
 2. Fear God alone
 3. Obey His commands
 4. Cling obediently to Him
 5. Inquire, search, and ask diligently if apostasy is occurring in other towns, as heard (v.14)
 6. Put the offenders to death quickly without pity – along with the town inhabitants, their livestock and burn the city plunder (as a burnt offering to the Lord) never to be rebuilt, when necessary (v. 5a, 8b-10a, 15-16)
 7. Keep none of the plunder set apart for destruction (v.17a)
- II. The results if the Israelites follow Moses' warning and instructions to keep the Lord's commandments concerning apostasy, as it is really the Lord their God who tests them - their faithfulness, exclusive loyalty, fear, love, and obedience to worship and serve God alone. (v. 5b)
 - A. The Israelites will benefit from their obedience:
 1. All Israel will hear, know, and fear what will happen to those who seek to entice the Israelites from worship of the Lord their God (v. 11)
 2. To purge the evil from among the Israelites (v. 5c)
 3. As such wickedness would not be done again (v. 17c)
 - B. God will shower blessings on the Israelites due to their faithful response: (v. 17b-18)
 1. The Lord will remove his anger
 2. He will show the Israelites mercy
 3. He will have compassion on them
 4. He will multiply them, just as He swore to their fathers

From Beth: **UNIFYING THEME**

Moses warns the Israelites entering the land of Canaan that they might encounter enticements to turn away from God to other gods, and Moses instructs them how to obediently respond to these wicked enticements.

From Beth: **AUTHOR'S AIM**

Moses warns the Israelites entering Canaan about the potential for apostasy and instructs them how to faithfully and obediently respond, allowing them to benefit from God's resulting mercy and allowing them to pass God's testing of their faithfulness and exclusive loyalty to worship God alone.

From Mary: **STRUCTURE**

13:1–5 Scenario 1: A false prophet tries to seduce an Israelite to apostatize (*in this case, to commit spiritual adultery through idolatry*)

- Vv. 1–2 **Potential threat:** “if ...”
- Vv. 3–4 **Right response to such a threat, with reasons:** personal and corporate resistance
 - Vv. 3–4 Personal resistance: Refuse to listen to any tempter, since the LORD is testing you, but instead only listen to the LORD’s voice
 - V. 5 Corporate resistance: Implement death penalty for apostate to purge evil, since seducing to apostasy betrays Redeemer God

13:6–11 Scenario 2: A family member secretly tries to seduce an Israelite to apostatize

- Vv. 6–7 **Potential threat:** “if ...”
- Vv. 8–10a **Right response to such a threat:** fully resist this person and take initiative to implement process of death penalty
- V. 10b **Reason for such a response:** seducing to apostasy betrays Redeemer God
- V. 11 **Deterring effect of such a right response:** all Israel will hear, fear, and learn

13:12–18 Scenario 3: Someone seduces a whole Israelite city to apostatize

- Vv. 12–14 **Potential threat and careful investigation of situation:** “if ... and ...”
- Vv. 15–16 **Right response to such a threat:** devote city to destruction
- Vv. 17–18 **Motivation:** blessed results of responding rightly to threat

From Mary: **UNIFYING THEME**

Believer, whenever professing believers explicitly appeal to you to forsake your exclusive loyalty to Redeemer God, do not yield to their betrayal or relate to them as if they are walking after God, no matter how intimate your relationship with them or how extensive the social implications, lest you forfeit the blessing of walking after your Redeemer God.

From Mary: **AUTHOR’S AIM**

Moses aims to illustrate the urgency and gravity of the Israelites’ ongoing, exclusive loyalty to the LORD in Canaan by describing three scenarios in which the Israelites must implement the death penalty when people among them try and entice them to betray the LORD through idolatry.