

Sample Response for Deut 5:6–21 | Mary Hannah

Unifying theme of larger passage, Deut 5:1–6:3 | *God initiates and governs a covenant relationship with the Israelites that is a living, intimate relationship marked by mutual love and mediated by God's chosen intercessor and prophet—and that points forward to the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son who mediates the new covenant.*

STRUCTURE

5:1–5 God initiates and governs a living, intimate relationship with the Israelites ...

- 5:1 | Moses summons whole congregation and calls them to hear, learn, and do God's instruction.
- 5:2–5 | Moses summarizes the Horeb experience and underscores its personal, binding nature on the generation of Israelites gathered on Moab's plains.

5:6–21 ... that is marked by mutual love ...

- 5:6 | Preamble to Ten Words: the LORD introduces himself as Israel's redeemer.
- 5:7–15 | Call to love the redeemer LORD with exclusive, genuine devotion
 - Vv. 5–10 by worshipping God alone (exclusive covenant fidelity to the jealous LORD)
 - V. 11 by not bearing God's name in an empty/hypocritical manner
 - Vv. 21–15 by observing the sabbath and ensuring their households observe it
- 5:16–21 | Call to love one's neighbor (implicitly, as expression of love for the redeemer LORD)
 - V. 16 by honoring their parents that they may enjoy God's blessing
 - V. 17 by not unlawfully killing
 - V. 18 by not committing adultery (exclusive covenant fidelity in marriage required)
 - V. 19 by not stealing
 - V. 20 by not giving false testimony against their neighbor
 - V. 21 by not lusting after something of your neighbor's

5:22–6:3 ... and mediated by God's chosen intercessor and prophet.

- 5:22 | Recap: the LORD spoke these words to you out of the fire and wrote two copies.
- 5:23–27 | People plead for Moses's mediation: this great fire will consume us!
- 5:28–31 | The LORD honors people's request for mediator and expresses his desire for their good
- 5:32–6:3 | As mediating prophet, Moses stresses implications for/to new generation: do as the LORD has commanded you!

UNIFYING THEME of Deut 5:6–21

God has redeemed his people from slavery for a covenant relationship in which they must respond to his redeeming love by obediently loving him and their neighbor in every area of life.

MOSES'S AIM in Deut 5:6–21

Moses is recounting to the new generation the LORD's revelation of the ten commandments/words to help them remember the LORD when they dwell in the land that he's giving them.

In Christ, God has redeemed you *from slavery for a life of covenant love*

- 5:6 | **God's redeeming love**: God has proven his love by redeeming you from slavery.
- 5:7–21 | **Our responsive love**: So, you must respond by loving God and your neighbor in every area of your life, through Christ who loves you and empowers you to love.
 - 5:7–15 Loving God exclusively and genuinely
 - 5:16–21 Loving your neighbor as yourself (as an expression of loving God)

¹ John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

¹ John 3:16 By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.