

In this chapter Moses renews the covenant made at Mount Horeb (Sinai) forty years earlier. Why is this necessary?

One clue may be in verse 4: “*But to this day the Lord has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear.*” The people of Israel have seen remarkable acts of God in their liberation from Egypt and the sustenance given them in the barren desert. Yet these sights have somehow not penetrated their hearts. The apostle Paul quotes this verse in Romans 11:8 when speaking of the hardening of Israel’s heart. The Lord in Matthew 13:13 says, “*This is why I speak to*

them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.”

But why is it the Lord Himself who has closed the eyes and ears of His people? Let’s look ahead to verse 29 of this chapter: “*The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*” There will always be things of God that we do not understand. But what He does give us we are to obey. And only trusting obedience will lead to greater revelation of His truth.

Questions:

1. Has all of Moses’ audience seen the wonders he describes in verses 2-3?
2. Explain verses 5-6.
3. Who are the intended recipients of the message that Moses is delivering?

4. A word used for the “turning away” in verse 18 is *apostasy*. Where in the New Testament do we find the issue of apostasy addressed?
5. Carefully read verse 19. Can we make similar assurances to ourselves? What are the consequence for us as believers?
6. Why are the people of Israel particularly accountable to God?
7. Explain verse 29.