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Looking to the Future

10:12 to 11:32

Now we come to a closing appeal, a conclusion of what Moses has said so far before the teaching of the commandments of the Torah, which begins in Chapter 12.



Deuteronomy 10:12 to 11:32 is a unified speech not unlike **4:1-40** (to see link click [Ba-Moshe Exhorts God's People to Obey the Torah](#)). It is, however, quite different in structure. While it has a particular function as a kind of summation of themes up to this point, it also expressly prepares **the Israelites** (and us) for life in **the Land**.

The whole speech is forward-looking, though it draws extensively on themes and motifs from **1:1 to 10:11**. There is a mixture of the familiar and giving us a fresh look at Egypt and the Sea of Reeds. Surprisingly, **Horeb** is not directly mentioned, giving way to the anticipation of a new life in **the Land** of promise. There are however, echos of **Horeb**. First, in the restatements of the heart of **the Torah (10:12 and 20; 11:16-17)**. Secondly, in the command to **keep the whole mitzvah (11:8)**. Thirdly, in the implied contrast with **Mount Ebal** and **Mount Gerizim (11:29)**. The absence of **Horeb** is intentional. The problem that arose there was in the past. **YHVH** had heard **Moshe's** intercession; now **the people** are to go into **the Promised Land**, keeping **the mitzvot** of **God** and **circumcising their hearts (10:16)**. Even so, **Isra'el** remains at a place of present decision (**10:12, 11:1-2, 8, 13, 18, 22, 26-32**).²⁷²