

Moses as Mediator

22. "These words, and nothing more, the Lord spoke with a loud voice to your entire assembly on the mountain from the midst of the fire and the dense cloud. He wrote them upon two tablets of stone and gave them to me. 23. But when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was ablaze with fire, you came to me in the person of all your tribal heads and elders, 24. and said, 'The Lord, our God, has indeed let us see his glory and his majesty! We have heard his voice from the midst of the fire, and have found out today that a man can still live after God has spoken with him.' 25. But why should we die now? Surely this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the Lord, our God, any more, we shall die. 26. For what mortal has heard, as we have, the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of fire, and survived? 27. Go closer, you, and hear all that the Lord, our God, will say, and then tell us what the Lord, our God, tells you; we will listen and obey."

28. "The Lord heard your words as you were speaking to me and said to me, 'I have heard the words these people have spoken to you, which are all well said.' 29. Would that they might always be of such a mind, to fear me and to keep all my commandments! Then they and their descendants would prosper forever. 30. Go, tell them to return to their tents. 31. Then you wait here near me and I will give you all the commandments, the statutes and decrees you must teach them, that they may observe them in the land which I am giving them to possess."

32. "Be careful, therefore, to do as the Lord, your God, has commanded you; not turning aside to the right or to the left, 33. but following exactly the way prescribed for you by the Lord, your God, that you may live and prosper, and may have long life in the land which you are to occupy."

## CHAPTER 6

THESE then are the commandments, the statutes, and decrees which the Lord, your God, has ordered that you be taught to observe in the land into which you are crossing for conquest, 2. so that you and your son and your grandson may fear the Lord, your God, and keep throughout the days of your lives all his statutes and commandments which I enjoin on you, and thus have long life. 3. Hear then, Israel, and be careful to observe them, that you may grow and prosper the more, in keeping with the promise of the Lord, the God of your fathers, to give you a land flowing with milk and honey.

## The Great Commandment

4. 1. "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! 2. Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. 3. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today. 4. Drill them in to your children. 5. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest. 6. Bind them at your wrist as a sign, and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. 7. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates."

## Fidelity in Prosperity

10. "When the Lord, your God, brings you into the land which he swore to your fathers, Abraham

<sup>1</sup> Deut. 4, 33. — <sup>2</sup> Deut. 18, 16. — <sup>3</sup> Ex. 20, 19. — <sup>4</sup> Deut. 18, 17. — <sup>5</sup> Deut. 4, 40. — <sup>6</sup> Deut. 4, 1; 5, 31. — <sup>7</sup> Deut. 4, 40; 5, 29; 10, 12. — <sup>8</sup> Mark 12, 29. — <sup>9</sup> Luke 10, 27. — <sup>10</sup> Deut. 4, 9; 11, 18; 32, 46. — <sup>11</sup> Deut. 11, 18; Ex. 13, 9, 16; Matt. 23, 5. — <sup>12</sup> Deut. 11, 20.

1-Ver. 4f. This passage contains the basic principle of the whole Mosaic Law, the key-note of the Book of Deuteronomy: since the Lord alone is God, we must love Him with an undivided heart. Christ cited these words as "the greatest and the first commandment," embracing in itself the whole law of God [Matt. 22, 37f (37) and parallels].

2-Ver. 8. Bind them... as a sign: these injunctions were probably meant merely in a figurative sense, cf. Ex. 13, 9, 16. (90). However, the later Jews understood them literally, and tied on their wrists and foreheads "phylacteries," boxes containing strips of parchment on which these words were inscribed; cf. Matt. 23, 5 (38).

Jaddo and Jacob, that he would give you, a land with fine, large cities that you did not build, 11. with houses full of goods of all sorts that you did not garner, with cisterns that you did not dig, with vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant; and when, therefore, you eat your fill, 12. take care not to forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. 13. The Lord, your God, shall you fear; him shall you serve, and by his name shall you swear. 14. You shall not follow other gods, such as those of the surrounding nations, 15. lest the wrath of the Lord, your God, flare up against you and he destroy you from the face of the land; for the Lord, your God, who is in your midst, is a jealous God.

16. "You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test, as you did at Massa. 17. But keep the commandments of the Lord, your God, and the ordinances and statutes he has enjoined on you. 18. Do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, that you may, according to his word, prosper, and may enter in and possess the good land which the Lord promised on oath to your fathers, 19. thrusting all your enemies out of your way."

## Instruction to Children

20. "Later on, when your son asks you what these ordinances, statutes and decrees mean, which the Lord, our God, has enjoined on you, 21. you shall say to your son, 'We were once slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with his strong hand.' 22. and wrought before our eyes signs and wonders;

<sup>1</sup> Jos. 24, 13. — <sup>2</sup> Deut. 5, 6. — <sup>3</sup> Deut. 10, 20; Matt. 4, 10; Luke 4, 8. — <sup>4</sup> Deut. 8, 19; 11, 16, 28. — <sup>5</sup> Num. 13, 13. — <sup>6</sup> Ex. 23, 27; 34, 11. — <sup>7</sup> Ex. 12, 26; 43, 14. — <sup>8</sup> Ex. 20, 2. — <sup>9</sup> Ex. 23, 23; 33, 2. — <sup>10</sup> Ex. 34, 12. — <sup>11</sup> Ex. 34, 16; 3 Egs. 11, 1f. — <sup>12</sup> Deut. 12, 3; Ex. 34, 12. — <sup>13</sup> Deut. 14, 2; 26, 18; Ex. 19, 6.

1-Ver. 13. Him shall you serve: here, to "serve" God means especially to "worship" Him; in this sense it is quoted by our Lord [Matt. 4, 10 (11)] as an argument against worshipping the devil.

4-Ver. 5. Sacred pillars... poles: see note on Ex. 34, 13 (116).

great and dire, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and his whole house. 23. He brought us from there to lead us into the land he promised on oath to our fathers, and to give it to us. 24. Therefore, the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes in fear of the Lord, our God, that we may always have as prosperous and happy a life as we have today; 25. and our justice before the Lord, our God, is to consist in carefully observing all these commandments he has enjoined on us."

## CHAPTER 7.

## Destruction of Pagans

WHEN the Lord, your God, brings you into the land which you are to enter and occupy, and dislodges great nations before you—the Hethites, Gergesites, Amorrites, Canaanites, Pherezites, Hevites and Jebusites: 2. seven nations more numerous and powerful than you—2. and when the Lord, your God, delivers them up to you and you defeat them, you shall doom them. Make no covenant with them, and show them no mercy. 3. You shall not intermarry with them, neither giving your daughters to their sons nor taking their daughters for your sons. 4. For they would turn your sons from following me to serving other gods; and then the wrath of the Lord would flare up against you and quickly destroy you.

5. "But this is how you must deal with them: 6. Tear down their altars, smash their sacred pillars, chop down their sacred poles, and destroy their idols by fire. 6. For you are a people sacred to the Lord, your God; he has chosen you from all the nations on the face of the earth to be a people peculiarly his own. 7. It was not because you are the largest of all nations that the Lord set his heart on you and chose you, for you are really the smallest of all nations. 8. It was because the Lord loved you and because of his fidelity to the oath he had sworn to your fathers, that he brought you out with his strong hand

2. And during the supper,<sup>1</sup> the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray him, Jesus, 3. knowing <sup>p</sup> that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come forth from God and was going to God, 4. rose from the supper and laid aside his garments, and taking a towel girded himself. 5. Then he poured water into the basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples, and to dry them with the towel with which he was girded.

6. He came, then, to Simon Peter. And Peter said to him, "Lord, dost thou wash my feet?" 7. Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter." 8. Peter said to him, "Thou shalt never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash thee, thou shalt have no part with me." 9. Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!" 10. Jesus said to him, "He <sup>q</sup> who has bathed needs only to wash,<sup>2</sup> and he is clean all over. And you are clean, but not all." 11. For <sup>r</sup> he knew who it was that would betray him. This is why he said, "You are not all clean."

12. Now after he had washed their feet and put on his garments, when he had reclined again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13. You <sup>s</sup> call me Master and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. 14. If, therefore, I the Lord and Master have washed your feet, you also ought to wash the feet of one another. 15. For I have given you an example, that as I have done to you, so you also should do. 16. Amen, amen, <sup>t</sup> I say to you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than he who sent him. 17. If you know these things, blessed shall you be if you do them. 18. I do not speak of you all. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, <sup>u</sup> He who eats bread with me has lifted up his heel against me. 19. I tell you now <sup>v</sup> before it comes to pass, that when it has come to pass you may believe that I am he. 20. Amen, amen, <sup>w</sup> I say

to you, he who receives anyone I send, receives me; and he who receives me, receives him who sent me."

#### The Betrayer

21. When Jesus had said these things he was troubled<sup>3</sup> in spirit, and said solemnly, <sup>x</sup> "Amen, amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me." 22. The disciples therefore looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking.

23. Now one of his disciples, <sup>y</sup> he whom Jesus loved, was reclining at Jesus' bosom.<sup>4</sup> 24. Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, and said to him, "Who is it of whom he speaks?" 25. He therefore, leaning back upon the bosom of Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" 26. Jesus answered, "It is he for whom I shall dip the bread, and give it to him." And when he had dipped the bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. 27. And after the morsel Satan entered into him.<sup>5</sup> And Jesus said to him, <sup>z</sup> "What thou dost, do quickly." 28. But none of those at the table understood why he said this to him. 29. For some thought that because Judas held the purse, Jesus had said to him, "Buy the things we need for the feast"; or that <sup>a</sup> he should give something to the poor. 30. When,

<sup>p</sup> John 3, 35; 17, 2; 11, 27. — <sup>q</sup> John 15, 3. — <sup>r</sup> John 6, 65. 71f. — <sup>s</sup> Matt. 23, 8. 10. — <sup>t</sup> Matt. 10, 24. — <sup>u</sup> Pa. 40, 10. — <sup>v</sup> John 8, 24; 14, 29. — <sup>w</sup> Matt. 10, 40. — <sup>x</sup> 21-30: Matt. 26, 21-25; Mark 14, 18-21; Luke 22, 21-23; John 11, 33; 12, 27. — <sup>y</sup> John 19, 26; 20, 2; 21, 7. 20. — <sup>z</sup> Luke 22, 3. — <sup>a</sup> John 12, 5f.

1-Ver. 2. *During the supper*: or, "When the supper was finished." Both readings are well attested, but the context shows that the meal was at least resumed. Cf. vv. 12, 18.

2-Ver. 10. *Needs only to wash*: the words "his feet" are added here in some MSS. If we retain them, the sense is: He who has bathed, on returning home needs only to wash the dust from his feet. Or it might also mean that the liturgical and social requirements are satisfied with this partial bathing.

3-Ver. 21. *Troubled*: sadness at seeing one of the chosen disciples ready to commit this enormity.

4-Ver. 23. *At Jesus' bosom*: John reclined at the right of Jesus. He thus had only to lean back and his head rested on our Lord's breast. This fact is often mentioned as evidence that John was "the beloved disciple."

5-Ver. 27. *Satan entered into him*: Judas now gave himself entirely into the power of Satan (St. Thomas). It probably marks a definite decision on the part of Judas to carry out the betrayal of his Master at once.

therefore, he had received the morsel, he went out quickly. Now it was night.

#### The New Commandment

31. When, therefore, he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. 32. If <sup>b</sup> God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and will glorify him at once.

33. "Little children, yet a little while I am with you. <sup>c</sup> You will seek me, and, as I said to the Jews, 'Where I go you cannot come,' so to you also I say it now. 34. A new commandment I give you, that you love one another: that as I have loved you, you also love one another. 35. By this will all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

#### Peter's Denials Predicted

36. Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where art thou going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going <sup>e</sup> thou shalt follow later." 37. Peter said to him, "Why can I not follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thee." 38. Jesus answered him, "Wilt thou lay down thy life for me? Amen, amen, I say to thee, the cock will not crow <sup>f</sup> before thou dost deny me thrice."

### CHAPTER 14.

#### A Word of Comfort

**L**ET not your heart be <sup>g</sup> troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me. 2. In my Father's house there are many mansions. Were it not so, I

<sup>b</sup> John 17, 1-5. — <sup>c</sup> John 7, 33; 8, 21. — <sup>d</sup> John 15, 12f. 17. — <sup>e</sup> 36-38: Matt. 26, 31-35; Mark 14, 27-31; Luke 22, 31-34; John 7, 34; 21, 18f. — <sup>f</sup> John 18, 27. — <sup>g</sup> John 14, 27. — <sup>h</sup> John 8, 19; 12, 45. — <sup>i</sup> John 8, 28; 12, 49. — <sup>j</sup> John 15, 7; 16; 16, 23f. — <sup>k</sup> John 15, 10. — <sup>l</sup> John 14, 26; 15, 26; 16, 7. — <sup>m</sup> John 16, 13. — <sup>n</sup> John 15, 4-7; 17, 21-23.

1-Ver. 7. *If you had known me*: the meaning is rather encouragement than censure. Their present imperfect knowledge will later be elevated to a better understanding.

2-Ver. 16. *Advocate*: or Paraclete. The latter is a Greek term which is better rendered into English by Advocate or Intercessor. Cf. 1 John 2, 1 (315). The function of the One thus designated is protection, assistance, defense. The thought of Consoler is not wanting from the context (St. Thomas, St. Jerome, St. Augustine).

3-Ver. 19. *But you see me*: i.e., the world will not see me, but you will see me.

should have told you, because I go to prepare a place for you. 3. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again, and I will take you to myself; that where I am, there you also may be. 4. And where I go you know, and the way you know."

5. Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where thou art going, and how can we know the way?" 6. Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life: No one comes to the Father but through me. 7. If you had known me, you would also have known my Father. And henceforth you do know him, and you have seen him."

8. Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father and it is enough for us." 9. Jesus said to him, <sup>h</sup> "Have I been so long a time with you, and you have not known me? Philip, he who sees me sees also the Father. How canst thou say, 'Show us the Father?' 10. Dost thou not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me? The words that I speak to you I speak not on my own authority. But the Father dwelling in me, it is he who does the works. 11. Do you believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me? 12. Otherwise believe because of the works; themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, he who believes in me, the works that I do he also shall do, and greater than these he shall do, because I am going to the Father. 13. And whatever you ask in my name, that I will do, in order that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

15. "If you love me, keep my commandments. 16. And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate<sup>2</sup> to dwell<sup>1</sup> with you forever, 17. the Spirit of truth<sup>m</sup> whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you shall know him, because he will dwell with you, and be in you.

18. "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. 19. Yet a little while and the world no longer sees me. But you see me, for I live and you shall live. 20. In <sup>n</sup> that day you will know that I am in my Father,