

show that there is a change, I want to take a minute to look at historical evidence in the Bible as it stands, which as we shall see, fits with the claim of the Pentateuch. Now I shall speak particularly about the place of sacrifice. As the Bible stands, it claims that a general command is given in Exodus 20:23. Of course at that time, all sacrifice is under Moses' direction. It was not important at that time to give the people details about the sacrifice which would be forty years later in Jerusalem, nor about the location.

Then, in Deuteronomy, as they are about to go into the land, he says to the people, "When you get into the land, you are not to sacrifice all over the land but," he says, "unto the place the LORD shall choose out of all your tribes, there shall ye come and there ye shall bring your burnt offerings." Deuteronomy 12 is the only chapter that deals with this subject. Is this chapter, Deuteronomy 12, laying down a great vital important moral law, that is the most vital thing in the book of Deuteronomy? Was the book given in the time of Josiah to establish a system whereby all other altars are done away with? Or is Deuteronomy in this one chapter stressing a point which is not its main point at all – the point that it is God's will for good order that the religious life be under unified direction and consequently that the sacrificial services be concentrated in one place which the Lord will choose? When is this system to be set up? We do not find that the chapter says that this is to be set up immediately. It says that this system is to be established "when the LORD your God shall give you peace over your enemies round about" – that is, when they were established in the land. As presented here it is not a moral law or a great vital principle. It is a vital part of God's plan – an instrument for preserving unity among His people during the long period of time when they would be apt to forget Him and go in many different ways. It is not the main thing in Deuteronomy at all, but it is an important regulation for the good of the people. Limiting sacrifice to one place is a means of keeping unity among them.

Consider the command in Deuteronomy 27 that as soon as the people come into the land they are to go to a place in central Palestine where there are two high hills, Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim. There, at Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim, they are to put up stones and