Shepherding Handbook Ch. 8, A Life of Communication

**Deuteronomy 6**

**6**These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, **2**so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. **3**Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

**4**Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.**5**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. **6**These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. **7**Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. **8**Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. **9**Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

**10**When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, **11**houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, **12**be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

**13**Fear the Lord your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. **14**Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; **15**for the Lord your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land. **16**Do not put the Lord your God to the test as you did at Massah. **17**Be sure to keep the commands of the Lord your God and the stipulations and decrees he has given you. **18**Do what is right and good in the Lord’s sight, so that it may go well with you and you may go in and take over the good land the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors, **19**thrusting out all your enemies before you, as the Lord said.

**20**In the future, when your son asks you, “What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the Lord our God has commanded you?” **21**tell him: “We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. **22**Before our eyes the Lord sent signs and wonders—great and terrible—on Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household. **23**But he brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land he promised on oath to our ancestors. **24**The Lord commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the Lord our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today. **25**And if we are careful to obey all this law before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.”

**Psalm 145**

**1**I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

**2**Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

**3**Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

**4**One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

**5**They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

**6**They tell of the power of your awesome works—and I will proclaim your great deeds.

**7**They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

**8**The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

**9**The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

**10**All your works praise you, Lord; your faithful people extol you.

**11**They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might,

**12**so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

**13**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.

**14**The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

**15**The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.

**16**You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

**17**The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.

**18**The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

**19**He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.

**20**The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

**21**My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

**Psalm 29**

**1**Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**2**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of hisholiness.

**3**The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.

**4**The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic.

**5**The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

**6**He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirionlike a young wild ox.

**7**The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning.

**8**The voice of the Lord shakes the desert; the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh.

**9**The voice of the Lord twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, “Glory!”

**10**The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever.

**11** The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.