

Valley Bible Church - Bible Survey

Bible Survey Lesson 10: The Book of Deuteronomy, Part I

INTRODUCTION TO BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

The Book of Deuteronomy consists of a series of addresses by Moses just before he died, warning the Israelites of the danger of forgetting.

Moses **KNOWS** God. He talked to God face to face. He was the friend of God. The nation saw the acts of God, but never seemed get to know Him. Moses **KNEW** Him!

The word deuteronomy means "second law." Not a rote repetition of the laws of Mt. Sinai, but the law interpreted in the light of 38 years of experience gained while wandering in the wilderness and also a reflection of Moses' personal walk with God. It is considered by many to be a commentary on the Mosaic Law. If you look at in comparison to the historical accounts in Exodus and Numbers, you will find it written from a spiritual rather than a natural point of view.

Moses said again and again,

"Be careful that you don't forget. Be sure that you remember."

Deuteronomy:

4:23 Remember the covenant

5:15 Remember when you were slaves

6:12 Don't forget when God brought you out of Egypt and slavery

8:2 Remember all the ways the Lord led you in the wilderness

8:11 Don't forget God, keep His commandments

8:18 Remember the Lord who gave you power and wealth

9:7 Remember how you provoked God to wrath

24:9 Remember what God did to Miriam

Etc. etc....

We could call this: "ISRAEL'S OUTLOOK IN TEN EASY SERMONS"

Like all good sermons, it has a well-developed outline:

I. The Backward Look (Chapters 1-3)

II. The Inward Look (Chapters 4-11)

III. The Forward Look (Chapters 12-30)

IV. The Upward Look (Chapters 31-34)

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A QUICK SUMMARY:

I. Looking Backward

Deuteronomy stands at the end of the Pentateuch in relation to the other four books in much the same way that The Gospel of John follows and is related to the Synoptic Gospels.

The leading books give us a historical account (facts), and the capstone books, Deuteronomy and John show the spiritual significance of those events.

When first Israel stood at Kadesh-barnea they heard reports of giants, walled cities, powerful armies, and they were terrified. Now, in the shadows of those same obstacles Moses wants to make sure history does not repeat itself so he points back to their failures and God's faithfulness and ultimate purpose.

II. Looking Within

The source of true national greatness lies in a right relationship to God. This was particularly true for Israel--"God's chosen people." But more than that, this book really tries to teach how to love and obey God.

Moses says, "Observe what He says, to do it!" He is rather like James (1:22) in the N. T. when he says, "Be doers of the Word, and not only hearers."

True obedience comes from love. "If you love me, keep my commandments. " Deut. 6:4 and 5 -- The Schema -"Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord He is one! And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

Why should they (we) obey'

1. They (We) belong to God. (14:1)
2. They (We) are loved by God (4:37)
3. They are meant to be preserved by God and to prosper (4:1)
4. They need to be grateful to God (4:7 and 8) and show gratefulness through obedience.

Jesus realized the importance of this teaching on obedience to God and His Word and quoted from Deuteronomy a number of times, i.e. Luke 4:4, 8, 12. This is the Scripture He used to thwart Satan in the wilderness temptation.

The generation which experienced redemption from Egypt is dead. Joshua, Caleb and Moses are all that remain from that people. They stand with the new generation on the threshold of the "Promised Land." New land, New leader, New challenges, New danger, New prospects, and New opportunities to live out their faith.

Moses prepares his people for their new adventure with a sermon series. Moses warns Israel to look into their hearts and pledge, not only to not forget the law, but to determine to obey it. Few books of the Bible point out so graphically the blessing of a proper relationship to God and the curses brought by forgetting Him

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III. Looking Forward

"These are the statutes and judgments which you shall observe to do in the land."

Principles and precepts for occupying the land.

Much technical detail is imparted but also an urgent warning--

Don't make connections with pagans especially the Canaanites, who could lead into idolatry. The annihilation of all these people was based on the insidious cancerous idolatry that intruded into all society.

IV. LOOKING UP

The last four chapters are Moses' last looks over Jordan.

His last words to Israel

His prophetic vision

His song

His burial

The book ends with Joshua standing on the border of the Promised Land.

Bible Survey Lesson 11: The Book of Deuteronomy, Part II

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

Remember: The adult generation that experienced the redemption from Egypt is now dead. Only Joshua, Caleb and Moses are left. They stand on the border of the "Promised Land" where they had made the wrong decision 40 years earlier and now faced the same obstacles, but this time Moses would prepare his people to successfully enter, take it and live in it.

He will do this by presenting a series of **ten sermons** starting with a review of the past, moving on to their personal relationship to God, then previewing the application of the law for successfully occupying the land, and last, looking into the new land and giving four personal messages.

I. THE BACKWARD LOOK (Chapters 1-3)

Haven't we been here before? Why is Moses going over this ground (no pun intended) again? Many of the new generation were unfamiliar with the experiences at Mt. Sinai.

The new generation, now adults, needs to review The Law as it is interpreted by Moses in light of 38 years of trial and experience.

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A. The Journey Reviewed (1 and 2)

Mt. Sanai is in Horeb just eleven miles from Kadesh-barnea and the Promised Land. So, before they start again, Moses will review their former trip so they won't make the same mistake when they get there.

Moses emphasizes two major failings from that first trip, one of his and one of the entire nation:

1. Hiking to Kadesh (1:1-19)

The first was accounted in Exodus 18 when Moses became burdened and frustrated with the settling of disputes among the people. He thought he was carrying all the burden of his people alone. The Lord permitted him to appoint elders and a committee of seventy was appointed (Foundation for the Sanhedrin). It was wise from a human standpoint, but **he didn't remember** that God was carrying the burden.

2. Humbling at Kadesh (1:20-45)

Second was the refusal to follow Moses into the Promised Land because of their fear and unbelief based on the negative report of ten of the ten spies. **They didn't remember** that God had already spied out the land and promised it to them.

3. Holding at Kadesh (1:46)

When God refused to let them enter they repented but God said it was too late. Still they armed themselves and went to battle against the Amorites even though God said He would not go with them. They were routed and ended up stuck in Kadesh for "many days."

B. The Journey Renewed (2 and 3)

Finally God gave the order and they moved out Kadesh and moved on to Beth-Peor.

1. Conquest of Eastern Lands (East of Jordan) (2:1-3:17)

a. Giants are still there (2:1-23)

b. Giants are nothing against God (2:24-3:17)

2. Contemplation of Western Land (West of Jordan) (3:18-29)

a. Tribes of Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh ask to have the land on the East of the Jordan

b. Moses divides the land but makes them promise to worship God and to fight to help Israel possess all the western lands before settling in the east.

II. THE INWARD LOOK (Chapters 4 -11)

As the nation prepares to cross the Jordan and take "The Land," Moses is concerned with their holiness. He clarifies in simple words what the law is and how they shall keep it.

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A. Moses Speaks of the Law (4-6) *Read Chapter 4:1 and 2*

1. They are to "observe the laws carefully" --v 6 Why?

a. So they will be blessed b. To serve as an example to the world

2. They are to avoid idolatry

3. The Lord is God, proven "by testing, miraculous signs, wonders, war, . . . by great and awesome deeds"--v 34 "You were shown these things that you might know that the Lord is God, beside Him there is no other."--v 35

4. Moses presents the Ten Commandments--Ch.5

B. Moses Speaks of the Lord (7-8)

Moses explains why God will drive out all the nations and bring them success.

Read Chapter 7:7 and 8

God chose them by grace! God will not forget you, so don't ever forget Him (more rehearsing)--
Chapter 8

C. Moses Speaks of the Land (9-11)

Moses again goes back through important events such as the Golden Calf incidence, the broken and replaced Tablets reminding them that the possessing of the new land is the proof of their love and obedience of God.

4:5 Chapter 11:26--"*See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse--the blessing if you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the Lord your God and turn from the way I commanded you today by following other Gods.*"

Chapters 7 and 8 prove God's love, chapter 11 proves the peoples love.

III. THE FORWARD LOOK (Chapters 12-30)

"These are the decrees and laws you must carefully follow in the land that the Lord . . . has given you to possess."--Ch. 12:1

A. Laws for Settling the New Land (12-18)

1. Purity (12-14)

Centralized Worship of God (12) Avoiding Idol Worship (13) Clean and unclean food and tithing (welfare) (14)

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2. Property (15)

Property owned by God, a stewardship Jubilee Year reminder

3. Piety (16:1-7)

Relationship to God and Holy living accomplished by the ongoing reminders or the Feasts and the Offerings, get close, feasts, stay close offerings

4. Positions (16:18-18:22)

Appointment of Judges to bring justice Setting up a court system Request for a king predicted and controlled Offerings for Priests and Levites

B. Laws for Separation in the New Land (18-30)

1. Protection (19-20)

Cities of Refuge for innocent accused Punishment for criminal acts Military rules of war (exemptions)

2. Persons (21-25)

Personal laws: everything from dealing with unsolved murder, or a rebellious son, to marriage violations, or taking care of the poor.

3. Priorities (26)

First fruits, tithes are to be a response of the heart.

4. Permanence (27-30)

The renewal of the covenant and prosperity came when turning to the Lord. The restating of the offer of life and death were made.

IV. THE UPWARD LOOK (Chapters 31-34)

A. Moses the Statesman (31)

Moses commits the nation to God and presents Joshua, their new leader.

Moses wrote down the law and had it read to the people. God predicts future rebellion in Israel and charges Joshua to "Be strong and courageous, for you will bring them into the land I promised, and I myself will be with you."

B. Moses the Singer (32)

Moses proves to be a poet and songwriter as he presents a long and complex ditty recapping all of Israel's history and God's grace and faithfulness.

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C. Moses the Seer (33)

Moses, with the insight of God, blesses each tribe telling some of their future.

D. Moses the Saint (34)

Moses climbs Mt. Nebo and God takes him home, literally.

Read: Chapter 34:10-12

Next time we see Moses we see him along with Elijah on Mount Hermon as they talked to Jesus about His coming death.

Homework:

Read: The Book of Joshua

Think: What kind of a man was Joshua?

Apply: Does Joshua exhibit character traits that I can imitate.