

DEUTRONOMY CHAPTER 1— The Previous Command to Enter Canaan; Tribal Leaders Appointed; Israel’s Refusal to Enter the Land; The Penalty for Israel’s Rebellion

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

The Previous Command to Enter Canaan:

Deu 1:1 These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel on this side of the Jordan in the wilderness, in the plain opposite Suph, between Paran, Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab.

Deu 1:2 It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by way of Mount Seir to Kadesh Barnea.

Deu 1:3 Now it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spoke to the children of Israel according to all that the LORD had given him as commandments to them,

Deu 1:4 after he had killed Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt in Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who dwelt at Ashtaroth in Edrei.

Deu 1:5 On this side of the Jordan in the land of Moab, Moses began to explain this law, saying,

Deu 1:6 "The LORD our God spoke to us in Horeb, saying: 'You have dwelt long enough at this mountain.

Deu 1:7 Turn and take your journey, and go to the mountains of the Amorites, to all the neighboring places in the plain, in the mountains and in the lowland, in the South and on the seacoast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the River Euphrates.

Deu 1:8 See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give to them and their descendants after them.'

Tribal Leaders Appointed:

Deu 1:9 "And I spoke to you at that time, saying: 'I alone am not able to bear you.

Deu 1:10 The LORD your God has multiplied you, and here you are today, as the stars of heaven in multitude.

Deu 1:11 May the LORD God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you as He has promised you!

Deu 1:12 How can I alone bear your problems and your burdens and your complaints?

v. 1 As Moses begins his “farewell address,” the children of Israel are camped on the east side of the Jordan River, poised to enter the Promised Land.

v. 2 This parenthetical statement must have been particularly painful for Moses to write. After all, how long would it take a man to walk from Mt. Sinai to Kadesh-Barnea, the border of the Promised Land? Eleven days. How long did it take the children of Israel? Forty years. The number forty being the number of a biblical generation, an entire generation was lost simply for lack of faith. When God brought them to Kadesh-Barnea, they were supposed to go from there and take the territory, move in to the Promised Land. But they lacked faith and were fearful of the giants about which they’d heard. I wonder how many tears will roll down our cheeks in heaven. “Tears in Heaven?” you say. “I thought there would be no tears in heaven.” Ah, but because Revelation 7:17 says Jesus will wipe away every tear, there must be tears to wipe away—possibly shed as we see how much He would have done for us and through us, in us and with us if only we had believed and claimed the territory of the Spirit-filled life rather than wandering around for a lifetime. Quoting from this very story, Paul says, “Learn the lesson” (1 Corinthians 10:11). When God puts something on your heart, do it immediately lest you wander around needlessly and waste your days in a desert experience.

vs. 3-6 After forty years, the children of Israel are back at Point A, the place they began, Mount Horeb, or Mt. Sinai, the place where the Ten Commandments were given, the place they began

vs. 7-8 Even at the height of her power, Israel only possessed a fraction of the land promised to them. That’s a lot like us. So many promises are given to us, yet we only possess a fraction of them.

v. 9-18 Here we see the beginning of eldership, where God’s people weren’t ruled by one man dictatorially but through a plurality of leaders who cared for the flock lest the flock be frustrated by not getting the help they need and lest one man get burned out, trying to do what cannot be done. And the principle still works today if the men chosen are those already doing the work, as was the case here. You’ll always find a true shepherd among the sheep. Where was David when Samuel came to Bethlehem looking for the next king? He was out with his father’s sheep. Where was Moses when he was called? He, too, was with the sheep. “Take wise and understanding men who are already known among your tribes,” Moses instructed the Israelites. It’s a principle that applies to every aspect of ministry and service.

DEUTERONOMY – Background: The fifth and final book of Moses—the final book of the Pentateuch, the final book of the Torah—and the final address to the people he had led for forty years. It’s a lengthy address, but oh, so impacting, for **in it:**

- **Moses reviews and reminds** the people of their history—**how their fathers failed miserably but how God saw them through mercifully.**
- The people of Israel are at Kadesh-Barnea in the fortieth year after their deliverance from Egypt, and their leader **Moses is about to expound God’s law and prepare the new generation to enter Canaan.**
- Although Moses himself wouldn’t enter the land, he would **explain to the people what they had to do to conquer the enemy, claim their promised inheritance, and live successfully in their new home to the glory of God.**
- God was giving **His people a second chance**, and Moses didn’t want the new generation to fail as their fathers had failed before them. Israel should have entered Canaan thirty-eight years before (2: 14), but in their unbelief they did not.

Then he reiterates and repeats the Law of God—the Word given to the children of Israel in the first year of their journey. That’s where this Book gets its name, for *deutero* is the Greek word meaning “second,” and *nomos* the Greek word for “law.” Thus, in the book before us we see the Law reviewed and repeated. Your initial reaction might be, “I spent a long time already going through the Law and studying the peoples’ history in the wilderness in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. Why would I need to go through it again?” Yet it was the Book of Deuteronomy **that God commanded the people read audibly, publicly every sabbatical year at the Feast of Tabernacles**—the joyous festival wherein the people of Israel celebrated how God faithfully brought them through the wilderness and to the Promised Land.

Evidently, the New Testament writers understood the importance of the Book of Deuteronomy, for they quote it over one hundred times. But it’s importance is seen even more clearly in the fact that Jesus quotes it more than He does Genesis, Psalms, or Isaiah. In fact, He quotes it more than He does any other Old Testament book. That He used it to silence Satan three times in the wilderness speaks not only of His familiarity with it, but of the power within it (Matthew 4:4–10). God commanded it to be read audibly, because the New Testament writers quoted it repeatedly, and because Jesus valued it greatly, **wise is the believer who allows the Book of Deuteronomy to be woven into the fabric of his soul.**

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Deu 1:13 Choose wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men from among your tribes, and I will make them heads over you.'

Deu 1:14 And you answered me and said, 'The thing which you have told us to do is good.'

Deu 1:15 So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and knowledgeable men, and made them heads over you, leaders of thousands, leaders of hundreds, leaders of fifties, leaders of tens, and officers for your tribes.

Deu 1:16 "Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, 'Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the stranger who is with him.

Deu 1:17 You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid in any man's presence, for the judgment is God's. The case that is too hard

And I commanded you at that time all the things which for you, bring to me, and I will hear it.'

Deu 1 c18 you should do.

:

Israel’s Refusal to Enter the Land;

Deu 1:19 "So we departed from Horeb, and went through all that great and terrible wilderness which you saw on the way to the mountains of the Amorites, as the LORD our God had commanded us. Then we came to Kadesh Barnea.

Deu 1:20 And I said to you, 'You have come to the mountains of the Amorites, which the LORD our God is giving us.

Deu 1:21 Look, the LORD your God has set the land before you; go up and possess it, as the LORD God of your fathers has spoken to you; do not fear or be discouraged.'

Deu 1:22 "And every one of you came near to me and said, 'Let us send men before us, and let them search out the land for us, and bring back word to us of the way by which we should go up, and of the cities into which we shall come.'

Deu 1:23 "The plan pleased me well; so I took twelve of your men, one man from each tribe.

Deu 1:24 And they departed and went up into the mountains, and came to the Valley of Eshcol, and spied it out.

vs. 19-21 After establishing the leadership structure, Moses told the children of Israel not to be afraid to step out, not to be discouraged. I have found when I get discouraged or depressed it’s always due to a lack of courage in my life. Whether it be witnessing to the friend at work, beginning family devotions, worshiping with passion—or any other new opportunity the Lord has provided, we must not be discouraged by the size or scope of the task, for “faithful is He who called you who also will do it” (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

v. 22-24 “Let’s check out the land first,” said the people. So Moses sent in twelve spies—one man from each tribe. The problem is, there’s no record, no hint that he prayed about doing so.

Introductory comments (con’t) – Deuteronomy –

New generation – old has passed away because of unbelief

New land – New experience different from Wilderness

New revelation - Jesus’ favorite Book

For the first time - God’s love The first time in the Bible we hear this clearly - New Revelation

Deu 4:37 And because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them; and He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power,

New generation - saying something they’ve never heard before!

Chap. 7:7 The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;

Deu 7:8 but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Deu 7:13 And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the
Deu 10:15 The LORD delighted only in your fathers, to love them; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day.

Deu 23:5 Nevertheless the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam, but the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loves you.

Deuteronomy - deuteros (second) law (nomos)

Land - 153X

Inherit - 36X

Hear or hearken – to yield; to lean into - that idea - 71X

The heart - 46 X

Love – 16x (Gen-Num, only 7 X)

Possessing – 65X

God is making a point as we go into Deuteronomy. For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. -- That we, through the Scriptures might have hope in our lives when we come into difficulties and new situations.

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Deu 1:25 They also took some of the fruit of the land in their hands and brought it down to us; and they brought back word to us, saying, 'It is a good land which the LORD our God is giving us.'

Deu 1:26 "Nevertheless you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of the LORD your God;

Deu 1:27 and you complained in your tents, and said, 'Because the LORD hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us.

Deu 1:28 Where can we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our hearts, saying, "The people are greater and taller than we; the cities are great and fortified up to heaven; moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakim there." '

Deu 1:29 "Then I said to you, 'Do not be terrified, or afraid of them.

Deu 1:30 The LORD your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt before your eyes,

Deu 1:31 and in the wilderness where you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, in all the way that you went until you came to this place.'

Deu 1:32 Yet, for all that, you did not believe the LORD your God,

Deu 1:33 who went in the way before you to search out a place for you to pitch your tents, to show you the way you should go, in the fire by night and in the cloud by day.

The Penalty for Israel’s Rebellion

Deu 1:34 "And the LORD heard the sound of your words, and was angry, and took an oath, saying,

Deu 1:35 'Surely not one of these men of this evil generation shall see that good land of which I swore to give to your fathers,

Deu 1:36 except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him and his children I am giving the land on which he walked, because he wholly followed the LORD.'

INTERPRETATION

vs. 25-26 God said, “Go take the land.” The people said, “Let’s send spies to check it out.” Big mistake. It’s always a mistake when I spy out the land because it shifts me from the place of obedience to the place of evaluation. And evaluation leads more often than not to trepidation. The Bible says we’re to walk by faith, not by sight. When we spy out the land, we want sight and insight. But the point where I’m evaluating what I’m seeing is the point faith becomes nonexistent.

vs. 27-28 “And ye murmured in your tents.” I’m convinced that the enemy enters most frequently through a conversation between a husband and a wife. Although we mistakenly think we can “let our hair down” with our husband or wife, in reality, if there’s any place we should be people of faith, it should be in our tents. Otherwise, doubts creep in, cynicism rises up, and discouragement takes up residence.

vs. 29-31 “God brought you out of Egypt, didn’t He?” Moses said. “Certainly He won’t let you down now that you’re moving out, wanting to go deeper, desiring to be used more effectively with impact for Him.”

v. 32 The reason there was no need to send spies into the Land was because God had already spied it out.

v. 33 God led by both a cloud that shielded the children of Israel from the heat of the sun and by a pillar of fire that illuminated their darkness. And He does the same today. When our path leads through darkness, the temptation is to bemoan the fiery trials that come our way not realizing that God uses the fire itself to lead us. He leads by fire in the darkness, by the comforting cloud in the light. He leads both ways.

vs. 34-35 When we speak words of faith, God hears, and, as a result, we’re saved (*Romans 10:9*). When we speak words of unbelief, He hears as well, and, as a result, we spend time unnecessarily lost in the wilderness of doubt and despair.

v. 36 Caleb was one of the twelve spies who, along with Joshua said, “Don’t back down.”

APPLICATION

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS! –Thomas Chisholm –
Willaim Runayn – sung by Tom Fetke

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; as Thou hast been Thou forever will be.*

*Refrain:
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning
by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; great is Thy
faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth. Thy own dear
presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings
all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

*Refrain:
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning
by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy
faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy
faithfulness! Lord, unto me!*

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

*Deu 1:37 The LORD was also angry with me for your sakes, saying, 'Even you shall not go in there.
Deu 1:38 Joshua the son of Nun, who stands before you, he shall go in there. Encourage him, for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.*

Deu 1:39 'Moreover your little ones and your children, who you say will be victims, who today have no knowledge of good and evil, they shall go in there; to them I will give it, and they shall possess it.

Deu 1:40 But as for you, turn and take your journey into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea.'

Deu 1:41 'Then you answered and said to me, 'We have sinned against the LORD; we will go up and fight, just as the LORD our God commanded us.' And when everyone of you had girded on his weapons of war, you were ready to go up into the mountain.

Deu 1:42 "And the LORD said to me, 'Tell them, "Do not go up nor fight, for I am not among you; lest you be defeated before your enemies." '

Deu 1:43 So I spoke to you; yet you would not listen, but rebelled against the command of the LORD, and presumptuously went up into the mountain.

Deu 1:44 And the Amorites who dwelt in that mountain came out against you and chased you as bees do, and drove you back from Seir to Hormah.

Deu 1:45 Then you returned and wept before the LORD, but the LORD would not listen to your voice nor give ear to you.

Deu 1:46 "So you remained in Kadesh many days, according to the days that you spent there.

vs. 37-38 Moses was not allowed to go in—and yet he was to encourage the one who would. How do you feel when someone younger than you gets the promotion, when someone newer than you gets the tap on the shoulder, when someone less qualified, less experienced than you seems to be raised up? Something wonderful happens in the lives of those who say, “I want to encourage people who are elevated above me, who are promoted ahead of me, who get recognition instead of me.” Moses had such a heart. He couldn’t go into the Promised Land, but we’ll see him encourage Joshua nonetheless.

v. 39 The very children the Israelites had been worried about would be the ones to possess the Land (*Numbers 14:3*).

vs. 40-46 The children of Israel didn’t do what God had told them to do when He told them to take the Land. Then they did what God had told them not to do when they attacked the Amorites. Why? Because they followed their own counsel rather than God’s. What has God told you to do? What has He put on your heart? I can make a strong case against doing what God told me to do. I can murmur and blame others. But each time I do, I end up wandering and missing the promised land of whatever area the Lord wanted me to possess. Life is either a fantastic adventure or it is an endless detour. And the only difference between the two is faith.

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Catching Up (DEUTERONOMY 1— 5) Before you begin ... •Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson. •Read Deuteronomy 1— 5.

This lesson references chapters 1 and 2 in Be Equipped. It will be helpful for you to have your Bible and a copy of the commentary available as you work through this lesson.

Getting Started

From the Commentary Our journalism instructor taught us that the first paragraph of every news article had to inform the reader of the “who, what, where, when, and why” of the event being reported. Deuteronomy 1: 1– 5 isn’t a news article, but it does just that.

The people of Israel are at Kadesh-barnea in the fortieth year after their deliverance from Egypt, and their leader Moses is about to expound God’s law and prepare the new generation to enter Canaan.

Although Moses himself wouldn’t enter the land, he would explain to the people what they had to do to conquer the enemy, claim their promised inheritance, and live successfully in their new home to the glory of God.

God was giving His people a second chance, and Moses didn’t want the new generation to fail as their fathers had failed before them. Israel should have entered Canaan thirty-eight years before (2: 14), but in their unbelief

Going Deeper From the Commentary After the nation left Egypt, they marched to Mount Sinai, arriving on the fifteenth day of the third month (Ex. 19: 1), and there the Lord revealed Himself in power and great glory. He delivered the law to Moses, who declared it to the people, and they accepted the terms of the covenant. The Jews left Sinai on the twentieth day of the second month of the second year after the exodus (Num. 10: 11), which means they were at Sinai not quite a year. While the nation was camped at Sinai, the tabernacle was constructed and the priests and Levites were set apart to serve the Lord. —Be Equipped, pages 16– 17 3. Why did the Lord have the Jews tarry so long at Sinai? What was the purpose of teaching them His law during that time? Why did God give them the law? What did the law reveal about God? About the relationship He wanted with His people? How did the law also prepare the way for the coming of Israel’s Messiah (See Gal. 4: 1– 7)? From the Commentary Kadesh-barnea was the gateway into the Promised Land, but Israel failed to enter the land because of fear and unbelief. They walked by sight and not by faith in God’s promises. “See, the LORD your God has given you the land,” Moses told them. “Go up and take possession of it.... Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged” (Deut. 1: 21 NIV). It has well been said that faith is not believing in spite

From the Commentary Twelve men explored the land for forty days and returned to the camp with the enthusiastic, unanimous report that everything God had said about the land was true. The report shouldn’t have surprised anybody because God’s Word can always be trusted. But then ten of the spies gave their opinion that Israel wasn’t able to conquer the land because the cities were protected by high walls and there were giants in the land. The minority (Joshua and Caleb) boldly affirmed that the Lord was able to give His people victory because He was greater than any enemy. Unfortunately, the nation sided with the majority and became discouraged and even more afraid. Twice Moses told them not to be afraid (Deut. 1: 21, 29), but his words fell on deaf ears. Instead of the leaders singing their victory song and marching forward by faith (Num. 10: 35), they and the people sat in their tents complaining, weeping, and plotting to return to Egypt. With the exception of four men— Moses, Aaron, Joshua, and Caleb (14: 5– 6)— the entire nation rebelled against the Lord and failed to claim the land He had promised them. The Lord could bring them out of Egypt, but He couldn’t take them into Canaan! —Be Equipped, page 20 6. Why did the people trust the majority opinion over God’s promise? What did this say about the people’s faith? What had they forgotten about God? How is this a challenge in today’s church as well? From the Commentary When the Jews heard God’s judgment declared, they tried to undo

More to Consider: The verb “hear” is used nearly one hundred times in the book of Deuteronomy. The traditional Jewish confession of faith (Deut. 6: 4– 5) is called the Shema, from the Hebrew word that means “to hear, to pay attention, to understand, to obey.” What does “hearing” really mean in this context? How is this true for today’s Christian too? From the Commentary Israel’s persistent sin was idolatry and the immoral practices associated with it. While living in Egypt, the Jews got a taste of idolatry and even practiced it during their wilderness wanderings (Acts 7: 42– 43). When Moses was with God on Mount Sinai, the people in the camp were worshipping a golden calf (Ex. 32). Idolatry was a grievous sin because Israel had been “married” to Jehovah when the nation accepted the covenant at Mount Sinai, so their worship of idols was really adultery (Jer. 3; Hos. 1— 2). It was a sin against God’s love as well as a violation of God’s law. The Lord finally had to send His people to Babylon to cure them of idolatry. —Be Equipped, pages 35– 36 9. How did the tragedy of Israel’s sins at Baal Peor relate to the message about idolatry (See Deut. 4: 3– 4; Num. 25)? What does it mean to truly fear the Lord? How were the Jews failing at this? From the Commentary God’s Word is the revelation of God’s wisdom, and we need to know and follow His wisdom if our lives are to please and glorify Him. The world’s wisdom is foolishness with God (1 Cor. 3: 19), and those who follow

12. How do you determine when someone or something is leading you astray from God’s Word? If you’re comfortable doing so, share a time when you were tempted to follow the ways of your culture or the people around you instead of the teaching of God. When do you struggle most to trust God’s Word?

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

13. What does it mean to you to fear the Lord? What does that look like in practical terms? What happens when you don’t fear the Lord but rely on your own wisdom? Going Forward

14. Think of one or two things that you have learned that you’d like to work on in the coming week. Remember that this is all about quality, not quantity. It’s better to work on one specific area of life and do it well than to work on many and do poorly (or to be so overwhelmed that you simply don’t try). Do you want to take some action because of your fear of the Lord? Be specific. Go back through Deuteronomy 1— 5 and put a star next to the phrase or verse that is most encouraging to you. Consider memorizing this verse.

Real-Life Application Ideas: The first part of Deuteronomy is spent remembering what God has already done. Though this doesn’t prevent the Jews from making future mistakes, it’s certainly a worthy practice. This week, take time to review the significant events in your own faith life when God showed up or spoke to you. Write these down, and as you do, thank God for all He has done for you thus far. Revisit this history periodically to be reminded that God has been there for you in the past and that He will be there for you tomorrow. You might want to take a small-group session just to share

Wiersbe, Warren W. (2015-07-01). The Wiersbe Bible Study Series: Deuteronomy: Acquiring the Tools for Spiritual Success (Kindle Locations 172-185). David C. Cook. Kindle Edition.

Book of transition

God was giving His people a second chance, and Moses didn’t want the new generation to fail as their fathers had failed before them. Israel should have entered Canaan thirty-eight years before (2: 14), but in their unbelief they rebelled against God. The Lord condemned them to wander in the wilderness until the older generation had died, with the exception of Joshua and Caleb (Num. 13— 14).

New generation – old has passed away because of unbelief

New land – New experience different from Wilderness

New revelation - Jesus’ favorite Book – for first time _ God’s love Deu 4:37 And because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them; and He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power,

New generation - saying something they’ve never heard before! Chap. 7:7 The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; Deu 7:8 but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Deu 7:13 And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the Deu 10:15 The LORD delighted only in your fathers, to love them; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as *it is* this day.

Deu 23:5 Nevertheless the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam, but the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loves you.

The first time in the Bible we here this clearly - New Revelation

Deuteronomy - deuteronomy (second) law

Land 153X

Inherit 36X

Hear or hearken – to yield; to lean into - that idea 71X

The heart - 46 X

Love – 16x (Gen-Num – 7 X)

Possessing – 65X

God is making a point as we go into Rom 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. -- That we, through the Scriptures in might have hope in our lives when we come into difficulties and new situations.

1Co 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,

1Co 10:2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

1Co 10:3 all ate the same spiritual food,

1Co 10:4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

1Co 10:5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness.

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1Co 10:6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

1Co 10:7 And do not become idolaters as *were* some of them. As it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND ROSE UP TO PLAY."

1Co 10:8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;

1Co 10:9 nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;

1Co 10:10 nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

1Co 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Paul is writing that to the Corinthian church. We think that our culture is different?? In the last days! But Rome was place were Bacchus was worshipped, temple prostitutes.

Multiple women. Rome was not that different from the world we live in!

There are things that the Corinthian can learn, how much more for us now in this age!

Volume 6 volumns by Wiersbe. His outline is wonderful. First 11 chapters looking back! All of God’s goodness and faithfulness.

From chapter 12 on – looking forward propsectively

Deuteronomy 1

Tape #7051
Deuteronomy 1-4
By Chuck Smith

Shall we turn now in our Bibles to Deuteronomy. Moses has come to the end of his journey. He has led the children of Israel as far as God will allow him. He is on the east side of Jordan, he cannot cross Jordan to come into the land. Three times in the first five chapters, he mentions the fact of his inability. For their sakes, God would not let him lead them in. He kept saying, “It’s for your sake, that God won’t let me lead you in. You see, God was wanting to teach the people the importance of obedience. Moses had disobeyed God.

He was a great leader. In fact, no one before or since, seemed to have such a close communion with God. God speaking to him as He did. Mightily used of God. A hero for the nation. For he is the one that God used to lead them out of their bondage, and to bring them to the borders of the land. But, for the people’s sake, He could not lead them into the land. For the sake of teaching the people the importance of obedience. That really is the theme of the book of Deuteronomy. In almost every chapter, Moses is calling them to obedience, and speaking of the importance of their obedience; and, the dangers that will befall them when they disobey the commandment of God.

Years to come throughout the centuries. As the mothers of Israel held their children upon their laps, and rehearsed to them the story of the beginning of their nation. How that God chose Moses and used Moses, to give them the law, to lead them out of Egypt. They tell of this great hero, but then in hushed voices they whisper in their children’s ear, “But he could not lead us into the promised land because, he disobeyed the voice of

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God”. Oh what a powerful lesson on obedience! Here is this man, prohibited by God in the fulfilling of his life’s ambition, his failure resulting from disobedience.

Deuteronomy is known as the second law. It isn’t that God is giving them new law, but it is sort of a repetition and in it there is the enhancement, we are learning much. Moses in the book of Deuteronomy, for the most part, puts down the mantle of the lawgiver, and takes up the mantle of the prophet. He speaks much concerning the future of the nation, and the things that will transpire to them, as he, by the Spirit of God, looks down the centuries and sees what is going to happen to these people, that God has used him to lead out of the bondage of Egypt. So...

These are the words which Moses spoke to all of Israel on this side of the Jordan in the wilderness, [the eastern side] and in the plain [opposite of Succoth] between Paran, and Tophel, and Laban, and Hazeroth, and Dizahab (1:1).

Now here is sort of a sad commentary of failure. A failure of obedience to God.

It is an eleven day journey from mount Horeb by way of mount Seir to Kadesh Barnea (1:2).

There is an eleven day journey from mount Horeb to the border of the promised land. It should only take them eleven days to go through the wilderness. It’s only an eleven day journey. The next verse...

Now it came to pass in the fortieth year, and in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spoke to the children of Israel, all of these commands (1:3);

The eleven days was stretched into forty years, because of their failure to obey the voice of God. It was the failure due to unbelief. It was the failure that came as a result of the fear, because ten of the spies said, “Their cities have walls that are all the way up to heaven! And we saw the sons of Anak, or there are giants in the land”! So, Moses will point out to them, as he is encouraging them now, to do go ahead and do what they should’ve done forty years ago. “Go in and take the land, sure there are giants there, but God has delivered other nations of giants into the hands of people, because of His promise to give them the land.” We’ll see that as we move along.

So, Moses began to explain the law, and that’s really what the book of Deuteronomy is all about. The explaining of the law, the going back and rehearsing.

And the Lord [verse six] our God spoke to us in Horeb, saying, You have dwelt long enough at this mountain: Turn, and take your journey, and go to the mountains of the Amorites, to all the neighboring places in the plain, the mountains, the low land, the south, the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates (1:6-7).

“Okay. You’ve been here long enough. You’ve encircled this mountain, long enough. Time now to move. Go and take that land that I’ve promised!” So, He’s going back and rehearsing now for them, their movement through the wilderness.

See, the Lord said, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give to their descendants after them. And I spoke to you at that time, saying, I alone am not able to bear you: [The pressures were getting to heavy upon Moses.] Because [he said] the Lord has multiplied you (1:8-9),

There were six hundred thousand adult men. So a total population of up to three million people! Potentially. Three million people. Moses said, “That’s too much. I can’t handle it”. So he said...

May the Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, [So may God just add to your numbers. Make you a thousand times more numerous.] as he has promised you, and bless you! But I can’t bear the problems, and the burdens alone, so the Lord said, Choose wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men from among your tribes, and I will make them the heads over you. And you answered

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and said, The thing which you have told us to do is good. So I took the heads of your tribes, the knowledgeable men, and made them officers over fifty and ten, and over the tribes. And then [verse sixteen] I commanded your judges at that time, saying, Hear the cases between you and your brethren, judge righteously between man and his brother, or the stranger who’s with him. And you shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid in any man’s presence; for the judgement is God’s: if the case is too hard for you, bring it to me, and I will hear it (1:11-17).

So Moses sort of became the Supreme Court Justice, and if the cases were too difficult for them to handle, then they would bring it to Moses. But, they were to judge. Now it is interesting that he gives the way they were to judge. First of all, without partiality. They’re not to show favor. They’re not to be impressed by man, because really the judgement is God’s. If judgement is really God’s, then it follows that Judges should be, godly men.

Now, in the Primary that will be coming up in a couple of weeks, three weeks I guess, there are two men running for Judgeship, here in Orange County, that are godly men. I really have no intention of voting on other issues, but there are two men that I’m going to go to the polls and vote for. Just because I know that they are godly men, and they’re running for Judgeship. We’ll be sharing with you the names of these men, and be giving you some records, so that you can determine whether or not you feel if these men are worthy of your vote. One of them has been a part of our congregation here at Calvary, for a long time. His name is Bob Thomas, running for the Harbor Court Municipal Judgeship. Another man is running for the Superior Court. I don’t remember his name off hand, or I’d give it to you. It’s a “ski” on the end, and it starts with a “W”. So there’s, uh I think there’s only one man with a “ski” on the end of his name, and it starts with a “W”. But this man teaches bible studies, and is really a God fearing man. I think that we as Christians should strongly consider the supporting of those men that we know to be God fearing men, and godly men. So if you don’t vote for anything else. You should go ahead and vote just so that you can cast your vote for these two men running for Judgeship. Men who will not show partiality in judgement, who will listen to the small as well as the great, and will not be intimidated by the persons of men. Knowing that judgement is really of God. So verse nineteen,

We departed [God said, “You’ve been in this mountain long enough. Time to move in and take the land”. “So, we departed,] from Horeb, we went through that great and terrible wilderness, we passed through that on eleven days. And I said to you, You’ve come to the mountains of the Amorites, which the Lord has given us. Look, the Lord has set the land before you: let’s go up and possess it, as the Lord God of your fathers has spoken; do not fear, or be discouraged. And every one of you came, and said to me, Why don’t we send some men into the land to look it over, so we can determine the best route to go into the land (1:19-22).

So the people came to Moses, suggesting that they send these men in as scouts to sort of look over the land, find out the way they should go in.

And the plan [Moses said] pleased me well: so I took twelve of your men, one from each tribe: And they went up into the mountains, and they came to the valley of Eshcol, and spied it out. They also took some of the fruit of the land in their hands, and they brought it down to us, and they brought back word to us saying, It’s a good land which the Lord our God has given us (1:23-25).

Of course referring to Joshua and Caleb who had gone to the valley of Eshcol, and came back with a bunch of grapes, and a good report.

Nevertheless [Moses said] you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of the Lord your God (1:26):

The importance of obedience. One thing I should’ve mentioned concerning Deuteronomy, it is the most oft quoted book of the Old Testament, in the new testament. Jesus quoted more from the book of Deuteronomy than any other book. Jesus was extremely familiar with

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Deuteronomy, and it is interesting to me, when Satan came to Jesus with the three temptations, and He answered the temptations of Satan with the word of God, “It is written”. In all three cases, He quoted the book of Deuteronomy, unto Satan. So Jesus was very familiar with this book, quoted it often.

People rebelled. They would not go into the land, they would not obey the command of the Lord.

You murmured in your tents, and a horrible accusation of God, Because the Lord hates us, he’s brought us out of the land of Egypt, to kill us here (1:27).

What a horrible accusation against God! The bible tells us concerning Job in all of his afflictions, that Job maintained his integrity. He did not curse God, neither did he charge God foolishly. I think that sometimes we are guilty of charging God foolishly. That’s what they were doing here. When they said, “Oh the Lord hates us, that’s why He’s brought us here”. That’s charging God foolishly. “I don’t think that God’s concerned with me at all!” That’s charging God foolishly.

Many times people are guilty of making foolish charges against God. “God doesn’t love me, He hates me. Look what’s happened to me! God must hate me!” Foolish charges against God. We ought to be careful of those in the time of distress, that we don’t speak rashly and make foolish accusations against God. What a horrible accusation. “Because God hates us. He’s brought us up here to kill us.”

Where can we go up? [they said] our brothers have discouraged our heart saying, The people are greater and taller than we; the cities are great and fortified up to heaven; moreover we have seen the sons of Anakim (1:28).

“The giants are in the land!” The Anakins, boy that was one of the names that struck fear in the hearts of everybody! The Anakins! In the other land, it was the Zanzumins, that really sounds awesome you know. They were the giants that were in the land of Moabite. The land of Moabites that Ammon took. The Zanzumins were there.

But I said to you, Don’t be terrified, don’t be afraid of them. For the Lord your God who goes before you, he will fight for you, according to all that he did to the Egyptians before your eyes; And in the wilderness, where you saw how the Lord carried you, as a man carries his son, in all the way that you went, until you came to this place. And yet for all of that, you did not believe the Lord your God, Who went in the way before you, to search out a place for you to pitch your tents, to show you that way that you should go, in the fire by night and in the cloud by day (1:29-33).

Moses tried to encourage them. He said, “Hey, God will go in for you! God will go in and fight for you. God will deliver the land. You’re making a mistake in measuring the cities and the sizes of the people by yourselves. You’re leaving God out of the equation and that’s always a dangerous thing to do.” When you just look at the situation in your own strength, your own power, fear grips your heart, and you’re prone to just sort of say, “Well it can’t be done. Why did we ever come out here anyhow? This is impossible!” The moment God is introduced into the equation, the word impossible has to go out. And Moses is saying, “You’re leaving God out of this. Remember what God did to the Egyptians. Remember how God carried you through that awesome wilderness, like a father carries his son”.

You probably read that little pamphlet on the footprints, how that the fellow when he got to heaven, he was able to look back at his life and saw how that all the way along there were two footprints, as he walked along, the Lord was walking with him. Except on certain areas there was only one footprint, and he happened to notice that in those areas where there was only the single footprints, were some of the areas of the greatest danger in his life. They were the times of some of the heaviest duty things that he went through. And he said, “Lord! How is it that when I was going through the worst places, you seemed to desert me? There’s only one set of footprints!” And the Lord said, “Those are my footprints. I

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carried you through those places”. Here it is. The Lord said, “He carried you like a father carries his son”. It was a rough place. It was a tough situation! They couldn’t do it on their own. So what does the Lord do? He carries them through the rough places.

But then he goes on, and he declares, “I went before you to prepare a place for you to pitch your tent”. I love that! God goes before your life. You never arrive at any place, for what God has not preceded you there. But not only has God preceded you there, He said, “I’ve prepared the place for you to pitch your tent”. He has preceded you there, and He has prepared that place for you. We get to that place say, “Wow! What a perfect place! Look at this! Neat place to put our tents! It’s all laid out! What a great place!” Of course it is, God was already there and He’s already prepared it for you. “I went before you to prepare the places for you to pitch your tents”.

God does the same for you. He goes before your life and He prepares the path ahead, and He prepares the place for you to pitch your tents. You don’t arrive at any place in life, but what God hasn’t preceded and prepared. But, He also prepares you for that place. As God is working in our lives, preparing us for each step, for each experience, for each trial, or whatever that is ahead, He prepares, not only the places for me, but He prepares me for the places.

The Lord heard the sound of your words. [He heard your murmurings. He heard you say that He must hate you.] And he took an oath, and he said, Surely not one of these men of this evil generation shall see the good land, that I swore to give to their fathers, [I swore to give to their fathers.] Except for Caleb and Joshua [verse thirty eight] Joshua, and I am giving the land on which he walked because he wholly followed the Lord (1:34-36).

He’s promised it, “I’m going to give the land to Caleb, the land on which he walked”. So, interesting thing. When they came into the land, Caleb of course, was about a hundred and twenty years old, at this point, and after they had taken a lot of the land in the upper part, the other tribes were settled, Caleb, this old fellow, came to Joshua, he said, “Alright, we’ve helped those guys take their land, now I want permission to take my sons and go down and get the land that God promised me”. So Joshua said, “Alright. Go for it Caleb!” And this old man went down and led the people, and he dispossessed the inhabitants of the land, and he took the land that God had promised him. We’ll get to that when we get to Joshua. But I love this fellow Caleb, who wholly followed the Lord. That was the secret. His obedience to God. Wholly following the Lord.

The Lord was angry, [Moses said, and this is the first reference, and he reminds them three times as I told you.] The Lord also was angry with me for your sakes, saying, Even you shall not go in there. But Joshua shall go in there: and encourage him: for he shall cause Israel to inherit it (1:37-38).

So, “Encourage Joshua”. The mantle of leadership is to be turned over to him.

Moreover your little ones, and your children, whom you say will be the victims, who today have no knowledge of good and evil, they shall go in there, and to them I will give it, and they shall possess it. But as for you, turn, and take your journey into the wilderness by way of the Red sea. Then you answered and said, Oh we’ve sinned against the Lord, we’ll go in (1:39-41),

And Moses says, “No you’re too late. God won’t be with you. But they presumed to go in without the help of God, and were defeated before their enemies. So Moses said, “I spoke to you, but you wouldn’t listen”. And that’s sort of the history of these people.

You rebelled against the command of the Lord, and presumptuously went up to the mountain (1:43).

Be careful of that presumption. God won’t honor presumption. He honors obedience. But if you go forth, make sure that God is in it. Make sure that God is guiding you. Make sure that you’re not just moving presumptuously. There’s a lot of presumption today, in the things of the Lord.

So he remained in Kadesh for many days, the days that you spent there (1:46).

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