

Chronological Bible Study

Week 7:

Obedience Brings Blessings

Deuteronomy 1-26

Opening Prayer

[Video Link](#)





Introductions

- What God-given gift do you most admire in others?

Questions?

Comments?

Summary of This Week's Readings

- First Sermon of Moses: What God Has Done
- Second Sermon of Moses: What God Expected of Israel

Book of Deuteronomy

[Video Link](#)



Time In The Wilderness

Exodus 16:1 - Israel Given Manna	1 mo
Exodus 19:1 - Arrive At Sinai	2 mos
Exodus 40:17 - Tabernacle Setup	1 Year
Numbers 9:5 - 2nd Passover Feast	1 Year
Numbers 1:1 - Census Of Israel	1yr, 1mo
Numbers 10:11 - Israel Leaves Sinai	1yr, 1mo
Numbers 33:38 - Aaron's Death	40 Years
Deuteronomy 1:3 - Deuteronomy	40 Years
Deuteronomy 34:5 - Moses' Death	40 Years
Joshua 5:10 - Passover In The Land	41 Years

Big Ideas in DEUTERONOMY

God enters into a
covenantal relationship
with his people

Moses reminds the
people of everything
God has done

God expects
the Israelites
to love him
and keep his
commands

Our walk with
God affects every
area of life

God cares for the
vulnerable in
society: widows,
orphans, the poor

God promises to
send his people
another prophet
like Moses

Overview

- The title comes from a Greek compound that means “second law” or “repetition of the law.”
- These are the words Moses spoke to Israel shortly before his death and the people’s entry into the Promised Land.
- They are on the plains of Moab in the year c1440 BC and book covers about one month of time.
- Three sermons by Moses:
 - What God has done for Israel since the Exodus
 - Requirements of the covenant
 - Prediction of what will befall Israel in the form of blessings and curses (next week’s reading)
- Jesus, foreshadowed in Deuteronomy, will bring about the holy kingdom foreshadowed in Deuteronomy.



Voices

- There are three voices in the Book of Deuteronomy
 - Moses
 - God
 - A Narrator
- The role of narrator will grow in the coming historical books.
- Moses alone knew God fact-to-face; the narrator alone really knows Moses.

Deuteronomy as Treaty

- Has the same outline and structure as Hittite treaties
- Relationship between God as Lord and his vassal, the people of Israel.
- Describes offerings and sacrifices to the Lord,
- Stipulates blessings and cursing following obedience or disobedience to the covenant stipulations.
- Serves as a constitution of Ancient Israel.

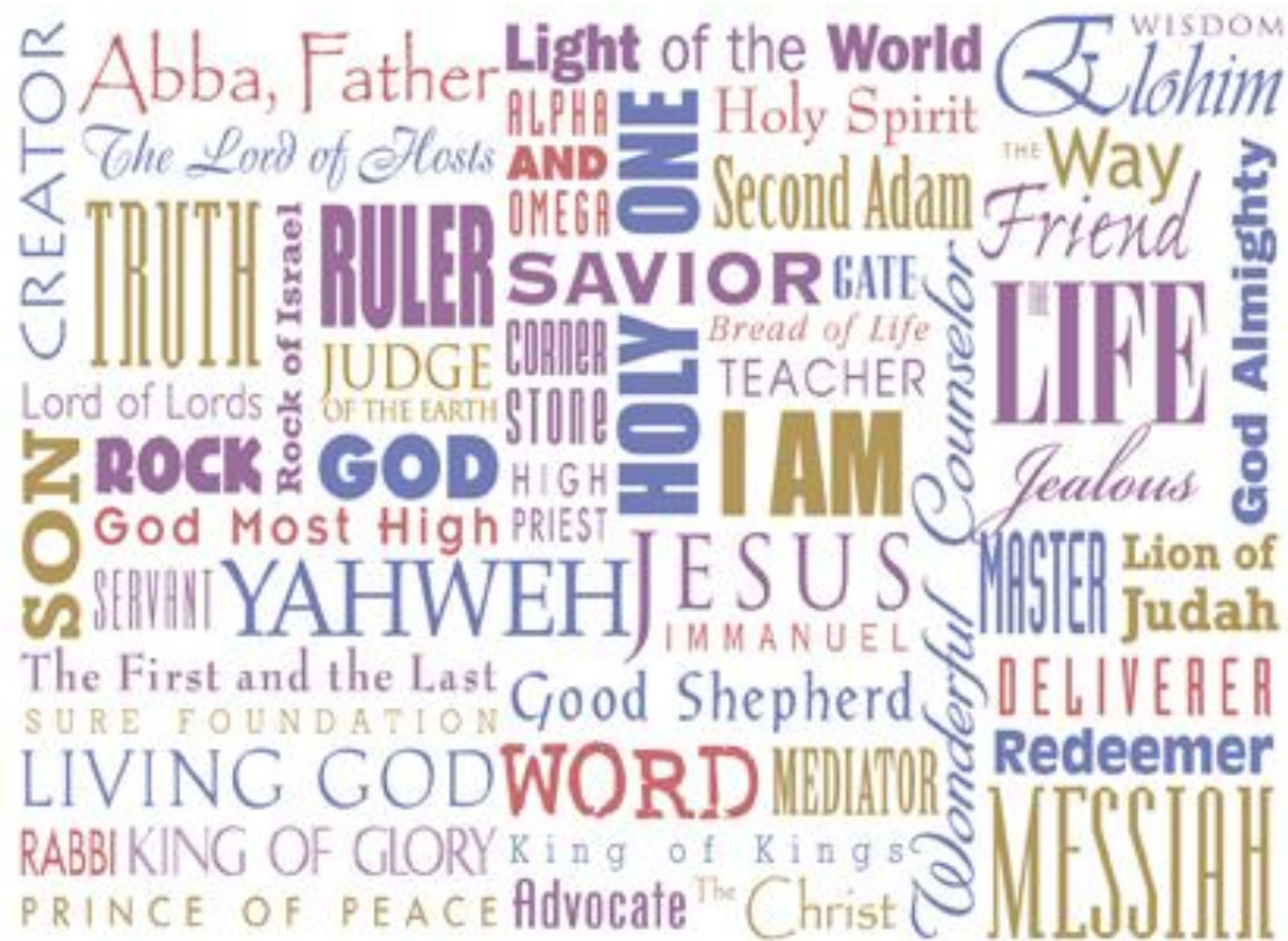
HITTITE TREATY STRUCTURE AND DEUTERONOMY

1. Preamble (1:1-5)
2. Historical Prologue (1:6-3:29)
3. Stipulations (4-26)
 - a. Basic (4-11)
 - b. Detailed (12-26)
4. Curses and Blessings, Ratification (27-30)
5. Succession Arrangements (31-34)
 - a. Invocation of Witnesses
 - b. Provision of Public Reading



Israel in Deuteronomy

- The covenant presumes an Israel that is united and unified
- National identity as a people in covenant with Yahweh.
- It is a nation set apart by a covenant that was a living relationship with commitment by both parties.
- It was a covenant nation of brothers, elected by God.

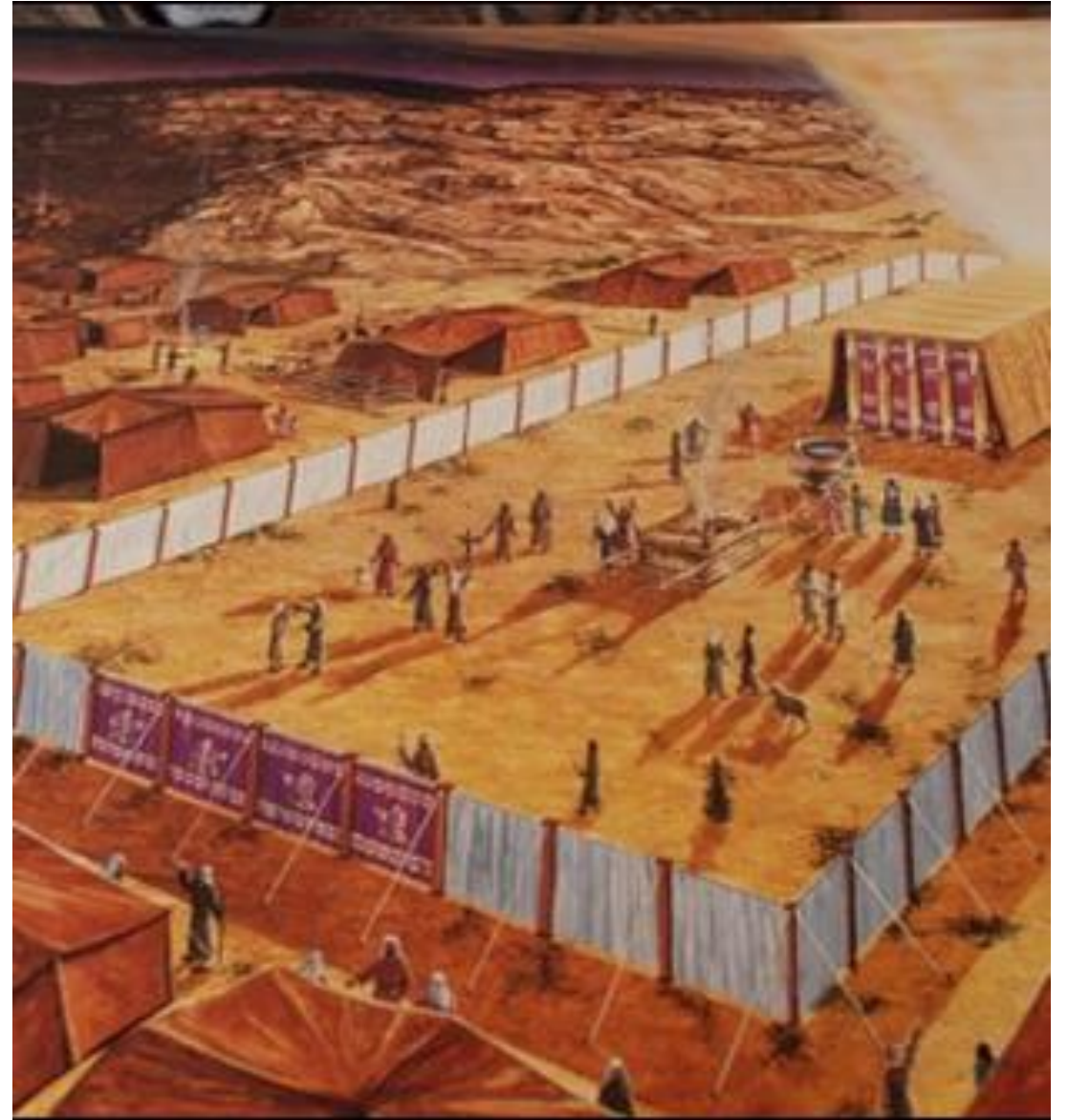


God's Name

- God's name referred to 21 times in this book.
- It is used in times of personal devotion and relationship.
- To proclaim God's name makes open declaration of God's character, as revealed in his actions toward his people.
- God's name on a place or nation implies God's ownership and expresses His presence.

Centralization of Worship

- Reflects Deuteronomy's ideal picture of “one God, one people, one sanctuary.”
- Israel's worship over time is centralized at the shrines where the ark was kept.
- Contrasts with the many places where Canaanites worshipped.
- God chooses the place and character of worship.





Remember

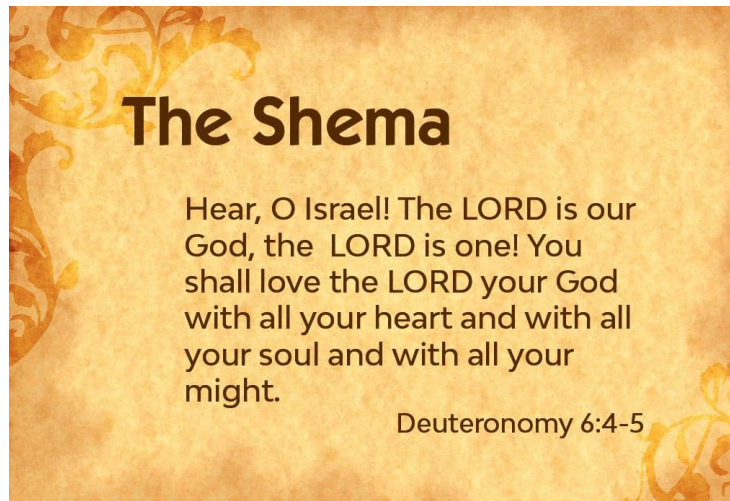
- Moses reminds the people that they must pass on the history of God's faithfulness
- The Israelites are reminded to not forget the Lord
- Teach future generations God's commandments
- Review various laws, reminding Israel to remember to obey God's commandments to be blessed

Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him. You will eat the fruit of your labor. Blessings and prosperity will be yours.

Psalm 128:1-2

The Shema

- The Israelites have been steeped in polytheistic cultures for generations.
- Loyalty, obedience, and love for their one true God is the only way to live.
- Jesus references the Shema as the most important commandment.
- John references the Shema in Revelation.



DISCUSSION

What is the relationship between remembering and obedience?

What does this say about how God works?



Shema: Listen

[Video Link](#)



Shema: Love

[Video Link](#)



Driving Out the Nations

- 7 nations, larger and stronger than Israel, possess the Promised Land
- God promises to deliver these people over to Israel to fulfill the Covenant promise
- The Israelites must destroy them completely, making no treaty and showing them no mercy – Most people have trouble with this language.
- God declares Israel a Holy nation – a people holy to the Lord. God has chosen them as his treasured possession, not because of anything the Israelites have done or are – but because of God's love and covenant.
- Israel's success in the Promised Land is contingent on following God's law and staying faithful





Retribution and the Land

- The Promised Land: The land that the God of your fathers is giving to you.
- God's giving requires a response of obedience from Israel.
- Obedience brings prosperity and well being.
- Disobedience brings disaster, disease, death and loss of the land.
- There is a tension between law and grace.

Why Does God Sound so Angry?

[Video Link](#)



Harshness of God

[Video Link](#)



Distorted Views of God

- A distant and demanding parent
- A divine drill instructor
- A cosmic monster
- A God that can't be trusted
- An indulgent grandparent
- An impersonal force
- A heavenly tyrant
- A scrupulous bookkeeper



Violence In the Old Testament

[Video Link](#)



DISCUSSION

Your thoughts on the God of the Old Testament.





- So far we have been reading in the order of the canon
- Next week we begin seeing some of the chronological aspects of the study
- Psalm 90 is fit between Deuteronomy and the beginning of Joshua

Closing Song: Only a Holy God

[Video Link](#)



Obedience Brings Blessings

24-30 OCT 2023

DT 1-26

Week 7

Deuteronomy relates three sermons delivered by Moses as he prepares to die and turn leadership over to Joshua. Each sermon reviews the history of deliverance from Egypt and the journey to Canaan. We concentrate this week's reading on the first two sermons. Remembering matters! A key theme is the love relationship between God and his people, and the need for the people to keep fidelity with God. We are asked to keep our focus on God in everything we do, to pass our faith to our children, and we learn that even the little things in our lives matter to God. We are urged to avoid practices that might be acceptable in our society but may be detestable in God's eyes. It is a book full of choices about life or death, blessing or curse. The book is a farewell message from Moses to a new generation and documents a covenant renewal. So important was Deuteronomy to early Christians that the New Testament writers cited it more than 50 times.

Weekly Reading Plan

Day 1: DT 1:1 – 4:43
Day 2: DT 4:44 – 10:11
Day 3: DT 10:12 – 11:32
Day 4: DT 12:1 – 16:17
Day 5: DT 16:18 – 19:21
Day 6: DT 20:1 – 22:30
Day 7: DT 23:1 – 26:19

Outline

Preamble of the Covenant [Day 1]
God's Mighty Acts [Day 1]
What God Expects of Israel (the laws) [Days 2-7]

Key Characters

Moses
Joshua

Key Locations

Moab near the Jordan River
Mount Pisgah

Key Terms

Commandments Separation
Covenant Remember
Obedience

Key Verses

See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the Lord my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. [DT 4:5]

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. [DT 6:5]

But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. [DT 7:8]

You must recognize that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land because you are good, for you are not – you are a stubborn people. [DT 9:6]

Fear the Lord your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. [DT 10:20]

Love the Lord your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always. [DT 11:1]

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your own people. You must listen to him. [DT 18:15]

EPOCH 3
(1500 – 1200 BC)

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Dt1: The words of Moses: We journeyed from Horeb. You would not go up to take the land, so the LORD said, "This generation will not see it."

Dt2: We went into the wilderness. Thirty-eight years passed, then the LORD told us to cross by Moab. He delivered Sihon the Amorite to us.

Dt3: The LORD delivered Og of Bashan to us. I gave Gilead to Reuben, Gad and Manasseh. The LORD said that I would not cross into the land.

Dt4: Now, Israel, hear the commandments and obey them. You heard the LORD speak from the fire. Take care not to make idols. The LORD is God.

Dt5: The LORD made his covenant with us: Have no other gods; Keep the Sabbath; Honor your parents. You shall do all that he has commanded.

Dt6: Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one. Love the LORD with all your heart, soul and strength. Teach your children these commandments.

Dt7: Make no treaty with the nations of the land. You are a holy people, the LORD has chosen you. He will drive out the nations before you.

Dt8: The LORD led you in the wilderness and tested you. He is bringing you into a good land. Do not forget the LORD or you shall perish.

Dt9: It is not for your righteousness that you will occupy the land. You rebelled and made the calf so I broke the tablets of the covenant.

Dt10: The LORD wrote on new tablets. What does the LORD ask? That you fear him, walk in his ways, love him, serve him and keep his commands.

Dt11: You have seen all that the LORD has done. Keep these commands so that you may live long in the land. There is a blessing and a curse.

Dt12: Destroy the high places where the nations worship their gods. You shall bring your offerings at the place that the LORD will choose.

Dt13: If a prophet or anyone else entices you away from the LORD they must be put to death. If a town has turned away it must be destroyed.

Dt14: You may eat animals with cloven hooves that chew the cud. Bring a tithe from your fields to eat before the Lord and for the Levites.

Chapter Summaries (from @biblesummary)

Dt15: Every seven years you shall cancel debts. Hebrew slaves shall go free in the seventh year. Set apart every firstborn male animal.

Dt16: Celebrate the Passover in the month of Abib. Celebrate the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Booths. Appoint judges in all your towns.

Dt17: Anyone who breaks the covenant shall be put to death. Go to the priests with hard decisions. Appoint the king that the LORD chooses.

Dt18: The priests shall eat the offerings made by fire. You shall not practise divination. The LORD will raise up a prophet from among you.

Dt19: Set aside three cities so that anyone who kills accidentally may flee there. A matter must be established by two or three witnesses.

Dt20: When you go to war, do not be afraid; the LORD is with you. As you go to attack a city, offer terms, except to the cities of the land.

Dt21: If a dead body is found, the city elders must cleanse the guilt. Give your eldest son his portion. A rebellious son shall be stoned.

Dt22: If you find your neighbor's ox you shall return it. If a man falsely claims that his new wife was not a virgin he shall be punished.

Dt23: No Ammonite shall enter the assembly of the LORD. When you go out to war the camp must be holy. Be careful to do what you have vowed.

Dt24: If a man divorces his wife he must not remarry her. Do not withhold wages. Leave the gleanings of your harvest for widows and orphans.

Dt25: A judge may give up to forty lashes. If a man dies and has no son, his brother shall marry his widow. You shall have honest weights.

Dt26: Bring the first fruits of the land to the LORD. Bring a tithe in the third year and say to the LORD, "Look down and bless your people."

Teachings About God

- Emphasizes the unity of God in the Shema.
- God's love is the basis for his covenant, his acts on Israel's behalf, and his commands.
- Idolatry is a serious affront to God's glory.
- God builds his nation (Israel).
- God wants his people to honor him and teach his ways as we go about our everyday lives.
- God's standard criteria for selecting a king is someone who studies and teaches the Word of God [DT 17:14-20].

Teachings About Humanity

- Deuteronomy faithfully records Israel's failures and gives solemn warnings of divine curses on disobedient and rebellious people.
- Living according to God's commands is a true delight. Obedience is not drudgery but a response of love and faith.
- If God is not with us, our enemies will have their way with us.

Teachings About Salvation

- Salvation is entirely God's provision.
- God's redemption of Israel from Egypt was based on his love – not any quality in Israel.
- Redeemed people demonstrate their love and faith by their obedience.

Reflections of Christ/Holy Spirit

- Jesus quotes the Shema [DT 6:4-9] when asked the most important commandment.
- During His desert temptation, Jesus quotes DT 6:13 and 6:16 to the devil.
- Jesus fits the criteria of King of Kings [DT 17:14-20].
- Moses tells of a prophet like him whom God will raise up from among Israel (DT 18:15-22). Christ fulfills that prophecy.
- The law states that whoever is hung on a tree is under God's curse [DT 18:15-22]. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by himself becoming a curse for us.

Literary Genres/Techniques

- Began as oral communication and later put in written form in Hebrew.
- Sermonic style using prose discourse. The speeches are a combination of narrative and repetition of law.

Author/Date of Writing

- Moses
- Events in Deuteronomy occur just before Israel crosses the Jordan River and began conquest of the promised land c 1406 BC.
- Written for the new generation of Israelite people on the plains of Moab.

WEEK 7 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did I learn about God?

- In DT 1:21, is God making an offer the Israelites can't refuse or can? Was the Israelite strategy in DT 1:22 borne out of fear or faith? Head or heart? Wisdom or folly? How did God address the real issue in DT 1:29-33? Why is God so angry?
- What part does God play in Sihon's refusal to allow the Israelites to pass through his territory (DT 2:24-37)? What does this reveal about God? What does this story reveal about how God works to prepare his people to carry out His plan?
- "Do not forget the things your eyes have seen" (DT 4:9). What is the relationship between the directive and obedience to the law? What does this tell you about how God works?
- What five responses does God want from his people (DT 10:12-13)? How do you define each? What kind of relationship with God would these produce? How is God described in DT 10:14-22? How does this explain the quality of relationship God seeks with Israel?

What did I learn about human nature?

- Why is Moses eager to share leadership (DT 1: 9-18)? What is the wisdom of his proposal? In what ways is Moses' job now both lighter and heavier? How will this help the Israelites as they enter the Promised Land?
- As the Israelites prepare to enter the Promised Land, what fears might they have about the people who live there? How might God's care for the Moabites, Ammonites and Edomites (DT 2: 5-12) help the Israelites face their fears?
- What does Moses' prayer (DT 3:24-25) reveal about his relationship with God? How do you think Moses felt looking at the Promised Land? About commissioning Joshua?
- What was the purpose of the tithe (DT 26:5-12)? How is tithing related to worship? Why is tithing important?

What did I learn about my life/relationship with God?

- What shared ministry model do you see in the way Moses organized the Israelites? For what counsel might your peers look to you? Where do you find justice?
- What part of your life seems directionless? How do you go about seeking God's will in such areas? If God solves life's problems in different ways, what advice would you give someone approaching God with a problem? Why is it sometimes hard to discern God's guidance?
- When have you, like Moses, been prevented from experiencing a much anticipated event? How did you feel? What did you do?
- What situations are most stressful for you? What affect does it have on your relationship with others? With God? Are your stress management techniques similar to the Israelites in DT 9?

Shared Time/Culture Insights

- What laws today are similar to the ancient cities of refuge (DT 19)? What do the cities of refuge affirm about human life and justice and mercy?
- Ancient peoples used animal figurines to represent their gods. In DT 4:15-31 how is the God of Israel differentiated from other gods?