

Obedience Brings Blessings

7– 13 NOV 2017

DT 1-26

Week 8 --- 42 Weeks to Go

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. A key theme is the love relationship between God and his people, and that of the people to 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.

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 [Days 2-7]

Key Characters

Moses
Joshua

Key Locations

Moab near the Jordan River
Mount Pisgah

Key Terms

Covenant
Obedience
Separation
Remember

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]

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."

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

Deuteronomy and “remember”

The Book of Deuteronomy sets out 10 things that should not be forgotten:

1. The giving of the law (DT 4:9-10)
2. The Lord’s covenant (DT 4:23)
3. Slavery in Egypt (DT 5:15)
4. God’s judgment on Egypt (DT 7:18)
5. God’s provision (DT 8:2-6)
6. Israel’s rebellion against God (DT 9:7)
7. Deliverance from Egypt (DT 16:3)
8. God’s punishment (DT 24:9)
9. The power of their enemies (DT 25:17)
10. The days of old (DT 32:7)

The Israelites are instructed that they should never forget what God has done for them. “Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm” [DT 5:15]

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

DEUTERONOMY

A CALL TO COVENANT FAITHFULNESS

SOME LAWS ARE NEW, BUT MANY ARE REPEATED.

ἑκκα: δευτερονομιον = "SECOND LAW"

QUESTIONS UNRESOLVED IN THE TORAH

- WHEN CALL THE REVEREND OF JUDAH COME TO REPEAT LEVEL? (GENESIS 3)
- HOW IS GOD GOING TO RESCUE THE WORLD THROUGH ABRAHAM'S SEED? (GENESIS 12)
- HOW CAN A HATE GOD BE RECONCILED TO REBELLIOUS PEOPLE? (GENESIS-NUMBERS)
- HOW WILL GOD TRANSFORM THE HEARTS OF HIS PEOPLE? (MATTHEW 20)

1-10 MOSES' OPENING SPEECH

1-5 THE STORY TO THE TORAH

6-10 THE NEW GENERATION

11-26 COLLECTION OF LAWS

11-15 CIVIL LAWS & SOCIAL JUSTICE

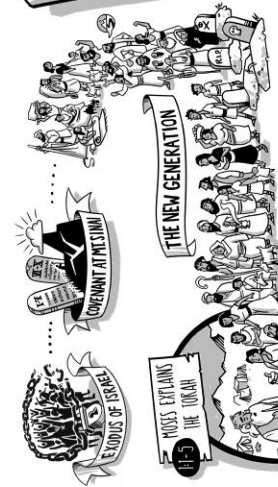
16-26 THE LAW & THE PROPHETS

27-34 MOSES' FINAL SPEECH & DEATH

27-30 LAMENTATION & ALIENATION

31-34 REBELLION, DEVASTATION & EXILE

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TIPS FOR READING THESE LAWS:

- 1) THE LAWS ARE THE TERMS OF THE SINAI COVENANT GIVEN TO ANCIENT ISRAEL.
- 2) DON'T COMPARE THEM WITH MODERN LAWS, BUT WITH THE LAWS OF ISRAEL'S NEIGHBORS.
- 3) MIRROR THE CORE PRINCIPLE UNDERLYING THE LAW.

EXTRA CREDIT:
 (1) HOW MANY TIMES DOES THIS APPEAR IN DEUTERONOMY 25:1-11?

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Notes for Discussion

What did I learn about God?

What did I learn about human nature?

How does what I read apply to my life and my relationship with God?

Insights about the time and/or customs?

Other thoughts

WEEK 8 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?