

5. Deuteronomy

- 1) Overview: Moses's fifth and final book detailing his final charge to the nation of Israel before his death in which Moses rehearses the law in the ears of the new generation of Men before they entered into Canaan, including a brief recap of their journeys since leaving Mt. Sinai nearly 39 years ago.
- 2) Writer: Moses; however, Chapter 34 includes a description of Moses's death so it was likely written by the same penman as the book of Joshua, which picks up the narrative. (See 1 Corinthians 9:9 referencing Deuteronomy 25:4-*For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn.*)
- 3) Time Period: The last two months of the final year of Israel's wandering in the wilderness. Specifically, starting from the 1st day of the 11th month of the 40th year and lasting until 30 days after the death of Moses on Mt. Nebo. (Joshua will lead Israel across over the Jordan river on the 10th day of the 1st Month.)
- 4) Theme: **Thou Shalt Remember!**
- 5) Key Verses:
 - a) *Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.* Deuteronomy 4:2
 - b) *And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them.* Deuteronomy 5:1
 - c) *And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?* Deuteronomy 10:12-13
 - d) *Every man shall give as his is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee.* Deuteronomy 16:17
- 6) Significant Events by Chapter:

Chapter 1 – Moses begins his final speech unto Israel on the plains of Moab by providing a brief summary of the events that transpired between leaving Mt. Sinai after receiving the law until Israel disobeys God and refuses to enter into Canaan.

Chapter 2 – Moses summarizes the next 38 years in one verse- *we compassed Mount Seir many days.* God commands the nation to go Canaan again and not to meddle with the lands of Edom, Moab, and Ammonites. As promised, God delivers the lands Sihon, a king of the Amorites into their hands.

Chapter 3 – Og, another king of Amorites and a giant (see verse 11), attacks nation and is utterly defeated. Sihon and Og's lands were given to Reuben, Gad, and 1/2 of the tribe Manasseh on the east side of Jordan. God denies Moses's request to enter land, but does allow him to see it from the top of *Pisgah* (a cleft) at the top of Mt. Nebo.

Chapter 4 – Moses strongly exhorts the people to learn and keep the law and to avoid all idolatry. Moses reveals that the consequence for the idolatry of future generations will be their ejection from the promised land into captivity among the heathens. Cities of Bezer, Ramoth, and Golan named as Cities of Refuge on the east (far) side of Jordan among the 2 ½ tribes.

Chapter 5 – Moses describes the scene at Mt. Horeb (Sinai) when God spoke unto the people while the mountain burned and gave the ten commandments and the people feared to hear God anymore and they requested Moses to hear the rest of the law.

Chapter 6 – *Hear, O Isra-el: The LORD our God is one LORD: and thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.* Moses exhorts the people to keep the commandments and to teach them to their children.

Chapter 7 – Seven nations inhabit Canaan that are "greater and mightier" than Israel (Hittites, Hivites, Gir'ga-shites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, and Jebusites). God will deliver them unto Israel

as judgment for their sins and; therefore, Israel must not show them any mercy, nor make any treaty or league, nor permit their children to marry them for any left alive will eventually lead future Israelites into idolatry. (See Gen. 15:16, Leviticus 18:27, and Deuteronomy 9 & 18)

Chapter 8 – Moses reminds Israel of God’s chastening and providential care of them for 40 years in the wilderness and exhorts them not to forget the Lord once they are brought into such a plentiful land lest they perish like the seven nations.

Chapter 9 – The seven nations are rejected and judged by God for their own wickedness, not for Israel’s righteousness. Moses admonishes them to *remember and forget not* how they had provoked God since leaving Egypt- noting the incident with the golden calf, which led Moses to break the original stone tablets bearing the ten commandments and then he fasted for 40 days pleading with God not to destroy Israel.

Chapter 10 – God writes on Moses’s replacement tablets, which were placed in the ark. Israel journeys, death of Aaron noted, and along with the separation of the tribe of Levi to minister unto the Lord.

Chapter 11 – Moses charges Israel to remember the great acts of the Lord in Egypt and in the wilderness; therefore, they should keep his commandments and lay up his Word in their hearts. A Blessing for Obedience and a Curse for Disobedience.

Chapter 12 – Israel is instructed to destroy all forms of idol worship including their alters, pillars; groves, high places, and images. They are only to worship and sacrifice in the place where God shall choose.

Chapter 13 – Those who attempt to lead others to serve other gods shall be stoned, whether they are false prophets, close relations, or even a city that knowingly harboring such idolaters.

Chapter 14 – Moses rehearses the types of animals that may be eaten and reminds them that the fourth year after entering Canaan they are to start tithing of their increase and eat it in place where God shall choose (eventually Jerusalem).

Chapter 15 – Every 7th year is to be a year of release were all debts owed between Israelites are forgiven and all Hebrew manservants were to be released from their indentured servitude, unless they elected to remain with their master permanently.

Chapter 16 – Instructions for keeping Feasts of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles: the three times each year all males must appear in the place where the Lord shall choose.

Chapter 17 – Sacrifices can’t be flawed, Idolaters are to be stoned at the mouth of two or more witnesses, the priests and judges are authorized to settle controversies. Instructions to the future kings of Israel: he shall not multiply horses or wives, and he is to write out a copy of the book of the law so he may fear the Lord and not depart from his ways.

Chapter 18 – The inheritance of the Levites is in the Lord. The nation is commanded not to learn the specific evils of the seven nations that God is now judging including child/human sacrifices (pass through the fire), divinations, witches, and necromancers. Identify false prophets by their words not coming to pass.

Chapter 19 – Once the land is conquered, they are to divide the land in thirds and place in each third a city of refuge so one who accidentally kills someone can reach one before from the family of the dead, the avengers of blood, catch up to him on the road. (Total of Six - Three on each side of the river). False witnesses shall be punished with the same punishment the wrongly accused would have received.

Chapter 20 – Priests are to encourage people before a battle and certain groups of men are to be excused from particular battles: new home owners, new vineyard owners, newly wedded men, and those that are fearful. Israel may only offer terms of peace to far-off cities outside of the promised land, but the locals, those of the seven nations, must all be annihilated and save nothing that breathes. (See Joshua 9- Hivites of Gibeon trick Joshua into making a league with them)

Chapter 21 – Instructions for handling an unsolved murder. Regardless of preference of father, the first-born son (elsewhere described as his father’s strength) was to receive his birth right- a double portion of the inheritance. Stubborn, rebellious, gluttonous and drunkard sons, who refuse to obey their parent’s chastening are to be stoned.

- Chapter 22 – A variety of laws including the duty to return lost property and render aid; the first housing safety code; prohibitions on co-mingling of: (i) seeds, (ii) oxen and asses for plowing, and (iii) wool and linen clothing; and prohibitions on crossdressing, adultery, rape, and incest.
- Chapter 23 – Individuals that shall not enter into the congregation of Israel: eunuchs, illegitimate by birth; Ammonites and Moabites (Descendants from Lot) even unto the 10th generation; Edomites (Esau) and Egyptians but their children may enter into the congregation in the 3rd generation. The camp is to remain clean and free of unclean people. Fugitive slaves are not to be returned to their masters. Prohibitions of male and female prostitution. The practice of lending money for interest (Usury) is permitted to strangers, but not fellow Israelites.
- Chapter 24 – Laws regarding divorcement, pledges for debts, prohibition on selling Israelites as slaves (a men stealer), leprosy, prompt payment of wages, justice and leaving the corners of fields and not gleaning as provisions for the poor (See Ruth).
- Chapter 25 – Various instructions: a whippings are capped at 40 stripes, “don’t muzzle the ox” (See application to ministers 1 Timothy 5:18); duty of brothers to widow and children of a deceased brother; use perfect just weights and measures for commerce; and an explicit charge to destroy Amalek because they came and fought against Israel when they came out of Egypt.
- Chapter 26 - First fruits to be offered; covenant between God and Israel reaffirmed
- Chapters 27-30 – Israel is instructed to write a copy of the law in plaster on great stones and an altar built of whole stones and then to divide the people onto two mountain tops (Mt Ebal and Mt Gerizim) after they cross into the land. The Levites are then to recite both curses for disobedience and blessings for obedience in ears of all the people. The curse includes foreshadowing of the captivity of Israel (Assyrian and Babylonian) and the release from captivity.
- Chapter 31 – Moses, now 120 years old, encourages Joshua and the people ‘to be strong and of good courage’ for the LORD thy God doth go with thee. The law is to be read in full every 7 years. God tell Moses of Israel’s disobedience in the future and gives him a song to be witness against the people so they will know why the evil things are befalling them; Joshua receives a charge. Moses writes out the law in a book, which is placed in the ark.
- Chapter 32 – Moses’s song (verses 1-43); Moses is told to go up to Mt. Nebo to the top of ‘Pisgah’ (Hebrew 6449 for a cleft) to see the land and there die.
- Chapter 33 – Moses’s final blessing upon Israel.
- Chapter 34 – On Mt Nebo, Moses sees the promised land and dies, but God buries him in a secret location. (See Jude 9) Joshua and the nation of Israel mourn for Moses 30 days.

7) How Does the Book Point to Jesus?

- a) Messianic Prophecy: *The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken . . . I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.* Deuteronomy 18:15,18-19
- b) Christ was accursed for us. (See Galatians 3:13- Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree- Referencing Deuteronomy 21:22-23) *And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.*