

DEUTERONOMY

31:1-13

Dealing with big changes

Deuteronomy 31

CONTEXT: Moses and Joshua

- God forced a HUGE change!
- Moses had to stop being leader after 40 years!

QUESTION: HOW DO WE DEAL WITH BIG
CHANGES AS CHRISTIANS?

Answer 1.

ACCEPT THAT CHANGE IS PART OF LIFE (VV1-2)

- **Moses is too old to continue**
- **God has forbidden it**

- Some change is a result of sin (e.g. decay in the world)
- Some change is a godly response to sin (i.e. Trying to stop the decay in the world)
- **PERFECTION ≠ NO CHANGE**

***“To everything there is a season,
A time for every purpose under heaven”
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)***

2. REMEMBER, GOD IS IN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING (VV3-5)

- The LORD Himself goes before you (v3)

- He will give you victory, just as he has before (vv3-4)

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

- He has given you a job to do, and he will provide you the means to do that job (v3, 5)

- Trust that God knows what he is doing

“We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

(Romans 8:28)

3. WE MUST FIRMLY ACCEPT THAT GOD LOVES US (VV6,8)

- The Lord will not leave you nor forsake you
- God's presence is certain (i.e. He will be with us)

*“For the mountains shall depart
And the hills be removed,
But My kindness shall not depart from
you,
Nor shall My covenant of peace be
removed,”
Says the LORD, who has mercy on you”.*

Isaiah 54:10

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:38-39

4. WE SHOULD ACT (OR REACT) WITHOUT FEAR (VV6-8)

- Be strong and of good courage
- Do not fear nor be dismayed
- UNCERTAINTY does not have to lead to
INSTABILITY

- Find STRENGTH in God
(not 'deep inside yourself')
- Come into God's presence
(BE WITH GOD CONSTANTLY!)

How do we come into God's presence?

- PRAY!

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Phil 4:6-7

- **“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)**
- **IF WE PRAY, WE MUST ALSO OBEY! (VV9-13)**

5. WE SHOULDN'T BE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE (VV9-13)

- God hasn't promised you a terrible future! Quite the opposite!

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11