

The Message of the Old Testament

A Book-by-Book Study

DEUTERONOMY

Background

The name “Deuteronomy” derives from the Greek for “second law,” an early mistranslation of “copy of this law” in 17:18. In fact, Deuteronomy emphasizes that its laws are _____ a _____ law but rather the preaching of the original law given to Israel at Sinai. (ESV Study Bible)

Deuteronomy 31:9 records that _____ wrote down “this law,” most likely referring to chapters 1–30. Certainly the bulk of these chapters is the speech of Moses to Israel in the plains of Moab at the end of the 40-year wilderness period and immediately preceding the conquest under Joshua. Later OT and NT statements also assume Mosaic authorship (cf. Josh. 23:6; 1 Kings 2:3; Mal. 4:4; Matt. 19:7–8; Rom. 10:19). (ESV Study Bible)

How We Got Here

Genesis: Creation, Fall, Call of Abraham, Descent to Egypt

Exodus: 400 years of Israelite slavery; 80 years of Moses wandering, Moses’ return to Egypt and encounter with Pharaoh; the Israelite escape, laws given by God

Leviticus: More laws

Numbers: From the brink of the promised land to the wilderness and back again.

Contents of Deuteronomy

Basically, Deuteronomy is a record of the three last _____ Moses gave to the nation of Israel as they stood across the Jordan, preparing to enter the Promised Land. Scholars say that the book was written in the form of a treaty or a _____: it begins with a historical prologue, it then lays out the stipulations or laws to be kept by the people, and it concludes with a list of blessings and curses that will accrue to the people according to their obedience or disobedience. (Dever, 154)

Recapitulation: The _____

Exposition: The _____

Exhortation: The Need to _____

The Message of Numbers

1. God chooses His _____.
2. God’s people must choose _____.

Lessons to be Learned

1. The God Who Chooses His people is the _____ God.

4:32-39 - - “For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether such a great thing as this has ever happened or was ever heard of. 33 Did any people ever hear the voice of a god speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and still live? 34 Or has any god ever attempted to go and take a _____ for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, and by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great deeds of terror, all of which the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord is God; there is _____ besides him. 36 Out of heaven he let you hear his voice, that he might discipline you. And on earth he let you see his great fire, and you heard his words out of the midst of the fire. 37 And because he loved your fathers and

_____ their offspring after them and brought you out of Egypt with his own presence, by his great power, 38 driving out before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is this day, 39 know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no _____.

2. The God Who Chooses His people is _____.

3:1-3 - -“Then we turned and went up the way to Bashan. And Og the king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei. 2 But the Lord said to me, ‘Do not fear him, for I have given him and all his people and his land into your hand. And you shall do to him as you did to Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived at Heshbon.’ 3 So the Lord our God _____ Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people, and we struck him down until he had no survivor left.

3:21-25 - - And I commanded Joshua at that time, ‘Your eyes have seen all that the Lord your God has done to these two kings. So will the Lord do to all the kingdoms into which you are crossing. 22 You shall not fear them, for it is the Lord your God who _____ for you.’ 23 “And I pleaded with the Lord at that time, saying, 24 ‘O Lord God, you have only begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty hand. For what _____ is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as yours? 25 Please let me go over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, that good hill country and Lebanon.’

7:18b-19 - -“remember what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt, 19 the great trials that your eyes saw, the signs, the wonders, the mighty hand, and the outstretched arm, by which the Lord your God brought you out. So will the Lord your God do to all the _____ of whom you are afraid.”

11:23 - - the _____ will drive out all these nations before you, and you will dispossess nations greater and mightier than you.

31:6-8 - - 6 Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your _____ who goes with you. He will _____ leave you or forsake you.” 7 Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “Be _____ and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the Lord has _____ to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. 8 It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do _____ fear or be dismayed.”

3. The God Who Chooses His people is _____.

9:4-6 - - “Do not say in your heart, after the Lord your God has thrust them out before you, ‘It is because of _____ righteousness that the Lord has brought me in to possess this land,’ whereas it is because of the _____ of these nations that the Lord is driving them out before you. 5 Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the Lord your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may _____ the word that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. 6 “Know, therefore, that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for _____ are a stubborn people.”

4:37-38 - - And because he _____ your fathers and chose their offspring after them and brought you out of Egypt with his own _____, by his great power, 38 driving out before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is this day,

7:6-8 - -

“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has _____ you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7 It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8 but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”

4. The God Who Chooses His people gives great _____.

4.1. The Law

-4-6 provide a nice summary of the law.

-27:1-3 shows its relevance to life - - Now Moses and the elders of Israel commanded the people, saying, "Keep the whole commandment that I command you today. 2 And on the day you cross over the Jordan to the land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall set up large _____ and plaster them with plaster. 3 And you shall write on them all the words of this _____, when you cross over to enter the land that the Lord your God is giving you, a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you.

"The Lord does not want an image of himself erected; instead he wants his _____ publicly displayed. A set of laws depicts God's character far better than any form a human can fashion." (Dever, 159)

-31:10-11: The law is to be _____ every seven years.

Why would we consider the law a gift?

► The one who obeys it is _____ while the one who disobeys it is cursed!

4:1 - - "And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules¹ that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you."

4:5-6a - - "See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. 6 Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples . . ."

11:26-28 - - "See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: 27 the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, 28 and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way that I am commanding you today."

Psalm 1:1-2 - - "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the _____ of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night."

► The one who obeys it has the opportunity to demonstrate _____ to God!

11:13-17 - - "And if you will indeed obey my commandments that I command you today, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, 14 he³ will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil. 15 And he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you shall eat and be full. 16 Take care lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them; 17 then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain, and the land will yield no fruit, and you will perish quickly off the good land that the Lord is giving you.

► By it we become aware of our _____!

Romans 3:20 - - "For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin."

Galatians 3:21-16 - - "Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law. 22 But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. 24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith."

Romans 7:7 - - "What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the _____, I would _____ have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, 'You shall not covet.'"

4.2.

10:22 - - "Your fathers went down to Egypt _____ persons, and now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the _____ of heaven."

4.3.

11:10-12 - - "For the land that you are entering to take possession of it is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and irrigated it, like a garden of vegetables. 11 But the land that you are going over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water by the rain from heaven, 12 a land that the Lord your God cares for. The eyes of the Lord your God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year."

4.4. His Own

Sacrifices and festivals are held "in the _____ of the Lord." (12:7; 14:23, 26; 15:20; 27:7)

4:5-7 - - "See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. 6 Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' 7 For what great nation is there that has a god so _____ to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?"

31:6 - - "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes _____ you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

31:8 - - "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will _____ leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

"When God chooses a people, above all other things he gives them _____. The children of Israel may be standing on the banks of the Jordan poised to enter the Promised Land, but God's promise to dwell with them on the land is far more important than inheriting the land itself. Have you ever thought about that in terms of your own life? That God's most precious gift to us is Himself? Every other gift He gives you, every blessing you have received, is meant to draw your eyes and heart to this first gift—the Giver Himself. . . . money, job, health, or even guidance . . . are great things to thank God for. But do you realize that all those things, good in and of themselves, are _____ meant to be what a believer is ultimately thankful for? They are meant to direct the believer's mind to God as we acknowledge that he is the giver of everything. He is the one we should ultimately love and treasure. God's people are made special because God gives Himself to them. . . . Above all this is what being chosen means." (Dever, 161)

5. God's People Must Choose _____ by keeping His law.

27:9 - - "Then Moses and the Levitical priests said to all Israel, 'Keep silence and hear, O Israel: this day you have become the people of the Lord your God. 10 You shall therefore _____ the voice of the Lord your God, keeping his commandments and his statutes, which I command you today.'"

29:9-13 - - "Therefore keep the words of this covenant and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do. You are standing today all of you before the Lord your God: the heads of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, all the men of Israel, 11 your little ones, your wives, and the sojourner who is in your camp, from the one who chops your wood to the one who draws your water, 12 so that you may enter into the sworn _____ of the Lord your God, which the Lord your God is making with you today, 13 that he may establish you today as _____, and that he may be your God, as he promised you, and as he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

On the New Testament side of things, we are free from the law that was intended strictly for Israel as a nation, but we are not free from God's commandments. Jesus said, as recorded in John 14:21, "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who _____ me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." He also said, "If you love me, you will keep my _____" (John 14:15). We choose Christ by the obedience of faith.

6. God's People Must Choose Him by loving Him and rejecting all _____.

6:1-5 - - "Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, 2 that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

6:10-15 - - "And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, 11 and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, 12 then take care lest you _____ the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 13 It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. 14 You shall not go after other _____, the gods of the peoples who are around you—15 for the Lord your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the Lord your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

30:15-20a - - "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. 16 If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God¹ that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. 17 But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other _____ and serve them, 18 I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, 20 loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to _____, for he is your life and length of days . . ."

4:25b-28 - - "if you act corruptly by making a carved _____ in the form of anything, and by doing what is evil in the sight of the Lord your God, so as to provoke him to anger, 26 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will soon utterly perish from the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess. You will not live long in it, but will be utterly destroyed. 27 And the Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord will drive you. 28 And there you will serve gods of wood and stone, the work of human hands, that neither _____, nor _____, nor eat, nor smell."

8:17-20 - - "Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' 18 You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. 19 And if you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. 20 Like the nations that the Lord makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the Lord your God."

► Sin is a personal matter with God. Every choice we make to disobey God is a choice to dishonor Him, _____ Him with someone else. And that someone else is a _____ god.

Dever writes, "every sin, no matter how unconnected with religion it seems, is really a short, sharp message to God, saying, 'I don't like you. I would rather have these things than you. They give me what I want.'" (168)

7. When God's People Reject Him, there are _____.

Already this has been apparent, but there remains the opportunity for God's people to repent.

4:29-31 - - "But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. 30 When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the Lord your God and obey his voice. 31 For the Lord your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them."

8. What is needed is a provision of God even greater than His _____.

30:1-10 - - "And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God has driven you, 2 and _____ to the Lord your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, 3 then the Lord your God will _____ your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you. 4 If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there he will take you. 5 And the Lord your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. 6 And the Lord your God will circumcise your _____ and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. 7 And the Lord your God will put all these curses on your foes and enemies who persecuted you. 8 And you shall again obey the voice of the Lord and keep all his commandments that I command you today. 9 The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your cattle and in the fruit of your ground. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, as he took delight in your fathers, 10 when you obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, when you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Dever writes, "In context, Moses is referring to God's promises to restore the people as they repent and turn back from their sin. Moses knows that God himself will need to act in order for the people to love God." (169)

The same is true for you and me. What happens in the new birth by the Spirit of God is the very circumcision of heart about which God speaks in Deuteronomy. This "heart surgery" is what enables human beings to love God and obey him. And how beautifully he brings them to Himself and delights in blessing them and pouring His compassion on them.

This promise is most completely fulfilled when the people of God are changed completely. What a day that will be!