

Knowing God Means Obeying God

Deuteronomy 1:1 These be the words which Moses spake unto all Israel on this side Jordan in the wilderness, in the plain over against the Red sea, between Paran, and Tophel, and Laban, and Hazeroth, and Dizahab. 2 (There are eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadesh-barnea.) 3 And it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spake unto the children of Israel, according unto all that the Lord had given him in commandment unto them; 4 After he had slain Sihon the king of the Amorites, which dwelt in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, which dwelt at Astaroth in Edrei: 5 On this side Jordan, in the land of Moab, began Moses to declare this law, saying, 6 The Lord our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount: 7 Turn you, and take your journey, and go to the mount of the Amorites, and unto all the places nigh thereunto, in the plain, in the hills, and in the vale, and in the south, and by the sea side, to the land of the Canaanites, and unto Lebanon, unto the great river, the river Euphrates. 8 Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them. 9 And I spake unto you at that time, saying, I am not able to bear you myself alone: 10 The Lord your God hath multiplied you, and, behold, ye are this day as the stars of heaven for multitude. 11 (The Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times so many more as ye are, and bless you, as he hath promised you!) 12 How can I myself alone bear your cumbrance, and your burden, and your strife? 13 Take you wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make them rulers over you. 14 And ye answered me, and said, The thing which thou hast spoken is good for us to do. 15 So I took the chief of your tribes, wise men, and known, and made them heads over you, captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties, and captains over tens, and officers among your tribes. 16 And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him. 17 Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it. 18 And I commanded you at that time all the things which ye should do. 19 And when we departed from Horeb, we went through all that great and terrible wilderness, which ye saw by the way of the mountain of the Amorites, as the Lord our God commanded us; and we came to Kadesh-barnea. 20 And I said unto you, Ye are come unto the mountain of the Amorites, which the Lord our God doth give unto us. 21 Behold, the Lord thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged. 22 And ye came near unto me every one of you, and said, We will send men before us, and they shall search us out the land, and bring us word again by what way we must go up, and into what cities we shall come. 23 And the saying pleased me well: and I took twelve men of you, one of a tribe: 24 And they turned and went up into the mountain, and came unto the valley of Eshcol, and searched it out. 25 And they took of the fruit of the land in their hands, and brought it down unto us, and brought us word again, and said, It is a good land which the Lord our God doth give us. 26 Notwithstanding ye would not go up, but rebelled against the commandment of the Lord your God: 27 And ye murmured in your tents, and said, Because the Lord hated us, he hath brought us forth out of the land of Egypt, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us. 28 Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there. 29 Then I said unto you, Dread not, neither be afraid of them. 30 The Lord your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for

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you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes; 31 And in the wilderness, where thou hast seen how that the Lord thy God bare thee, as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went, until ye came into this place. 32 Yet in this thing ye did not believe the Lord your God, 33 Who went in the way before you, to search you out a place to pitch your tents in, in fire by night, to shew you by what way ye should go, and in a cloud by day. 34 And the Lord heard the voice of your words, and was wroth, and sware, saying, 35 Surely there shall not one of these men of this evil generation see that good land, which I sware to give unto your fathers, 36 Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the Lord. 37 Also the Lord was angry with me for your sakes, saying, Thou also shalt not go in thither. 38 But Joshua the son of Nun, which standeth before thee, he shall go in thither: encourage him: for he shall cause Israel to inherit it. 39 Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it. 40 But as for you, turn you, and take your journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea. 41 Then ye answered and said unto me, We have sinned against the Lord, we will go up and fight, according to all that the Lord our God commanded us. And when ye had girded on every man his weapons of war, ye were ready to go up into the hill. 42 And the Lord said unto me, Say unto them, Go not up, neither fight; for I am not among you; lest ye be smitten before your enemies. 43 So I spake unto you; and ye would not hear, but rebelled against the commandment of the Lord, and went presumptuously up into the hill. 44 And the Amorites, which dwelt in that mountain, came out against you, and chased you, as bees do, and destroyed you in Seir, even unto Hormah. 45 And ye returned and wept before the Lord; but the Lord would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear unto you. 46 So ye abode in Kadesh many days, according unto the days that ye abode there.

- . The book of Deuteronomy is like Moses' farewell speech.
- . In this speech Moses will try to equip the people for their new life in the Promised Land
- . The older generation should always teach the younger the Word of God and principles of Godly living
- . In Deuteronomy Moses reviews their past
- . He reminds them of God's faithfulness
- . He reminds them that their parents were unfaithful
- . Their obedience would determine their success in the Promised Land
- . Their obedience would bring God's blessing and be a witness to the pagan nations around them
- . Moses challenges them to love the Lord
- . This book was very important and to be read publicly every seventh year at the feast of Tabernacles
- . The book of Deuteronomy is quoted nearly 100 times in the New Testament
- . Jesus quoted the book of Deuteronomy more than any other Old Testament book
- . All Scripture is inspired
- . Key verses to be considered in this book are
Deuteronomy 6:1 Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: 2 That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. 3

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Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

Deuteronomy 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Deuteronomy 6:23 And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he sware unto our fathers.

Deuteronomy refers to the second law or a repetition of the Law

The king was to make himself a copy of the law, at a minimum the book of Deuteronomy 17:18 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:

1. Time to get up and get with it Deuteronomy 1:6 The Lord our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount: 7 Turn you, and take your journey, and go to the mount of the Amorites, and unto all the places nigh thereunto, in the plain, in the hills, and in the vale, and in the south, and by the sea side, to the land of the Canaanites, and unto Lebanon, unto the great river, the river Euphrates. 8 Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them.

- a. We need to sit and learn but there comes a time when we need to get up and just go out and do what God wants us to do
- b. God has given them the land and it is right there in front of them
- c. They have the promise but they must do the work
- d. God is all powerful but He will not sit by and just give you the land
- e. They were to go in and possess the land
- f. They were to take it from the enemies
- g. They were to move in and make it theirs
- h. How long will you sit around talking about what you are going to do
 - i. Isn't it time to get up and do what you have been saying all these years
 - ii. You can only learn so much if all you do is listen
 - iii. You need to get involved in ministry

2. Teaching others to do the work Deuteronomy 1:9 And I spake unto you at that time, saying, I am not able to bear you myself alone: 10 The Lord your God hath multiplied you, and, behold, ye are this day as the stars of heaven for multitude. 11 (The Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times so many more as ye are, and bless you, as he hath promised you!) 12 How can I myself alone bear your cumbrance, and your burden, and your strife? 13 Take you wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make them rulers over you. 14 And ye answered me, and said, The thing which thou hast spoken is good for us to do. 15 So I took the chief of your tribes, wise men, and known,

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and made them heads over you, captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties, and captains over tens, and officers among your tribes.

- a. This is an example of disciple put into practice
 - b. Moses realized that the work was too big for him to do alone. 1:9 And I spake unto you at that time, saying, I am not able to bear you myself alone:
 - c. There was fighting and fussing, decisions to be made, leadership plans 12 How can I myself alone bear your cumbrance, and your burden, and your strife?
 - d. They choose leaders, the 70 13 Take you wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make them rulers over you. 14 And ye answered me, and said, The thing which thou hast spoken is good for us to do.
 - i. They were to chose wise men, men that would fear God, the beginning of wisdom
 - ii. They were to chose men who could understand as Moses taught them
 - iii. They were to choose men that everybody knew
 - e. The work was divided up 15 So I took the chief of your tribes, wise men, and known, and made them heads over you, captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties, and captains over tens, and officers among your tribes.
 - i. There were captains over thousands, hundreds, fifties, tens, etc
 - ii. Men would be working according to their ability
 - iii. Men would be accountable to others
 - iv. Each would be following and still teaching others
 - f. They were taught how to do the work 16 And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him. 17 Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.
 - i. They were to listen to the arguments among the people and the foreigners
 - ii. They were to judge as God wanted them to judge
 - iii. They were not to be partial so that the rich or popular got away with anything
 - iv. They were not to be afraid of the people that they were leading
 - v. If they found a case that they didn't understand or couldn't handle they were to take it to Moses
 - g. The counter part to what happened in the New Testament
 - i. The first deacons were elected in Acts 6
 - ii. We are to train people to do the work in Ephesians 4:11-12
 - iii. We are to keep sharing what we are learning with others
 - iv. Are you involved in discipleship
 - v. Are you teaching others what God has taught you
3. Learning from the past 21 Behold, the Lord thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged. 22 And ye came near unto me every one of you, and said, We will send men before us, and they shall search us out the

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- land, and bring us word again by what way we must go up, and into what cities we shall come. 23 And the saying pleased me well: and I took twelve men of you, one of a tribe: 24 And they turned and went up into the mountain, and came unto the valley of Eshcol, and searched it out.
- a. They had been told to go and possess the land 38 years before
 - b. They were commanded to go up and possess the land and not get discouraged
 - i. Every time God sends us to do something it will involve risk
 - ii. There will always be good excuse to get discouraged
 - c. They got Moses approval to send in some spies. Which was a mistake.
 - i. They should have just trusted God and taken the land
 - ii. When they say the land they knew it was good but they became deathly afraid
 - iii. Had they truly gone to simply search the best way to attack that would have been fine
 - iv. Instead they searched and became afraid
 - v. Do not forget that God was directing every step until now by the cloud and the pillar
 - d. They knew that God was giving them the land 25 And they took of the fruit of the land in their hands, and brought it down unto us, and brought us word again, and said, It is a good land which the Lord our God doth give us.
 - i. We often know that God will do something
 - ii. We believe that He can
 - iii. We doubt that He would really do that with us
 - iv. We are afraid of the pain of stepping out by faith
 - v. We want God to just give it to us
 - e. They refused to obey God 26 Notwithstanding ye would not go up, but rebelled against the commandment of the Lord your God:
 - i. They accused God of hating them 27 And ye murmured in your tents, and said, Because the Lord hated us, he hath brought us forth out of the land of Egypt, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us.
 - ii. They said that God wanted to hurt them and see them destroyed
 - 1. Isn't this where we get when things get scary
 - 2. We blame God
 - 3. We accuse Him of not loving us
 - 4. Of not taking care of us
 - 5. Of allowing bad things to happen to us
 - iii. Listening to the 10 evil spies they became very discouraged 28 Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there.
 - 1. How often do we listen to the wrong people, the wrong voices
 - 2. How often do we allow circumstances to discourage us
 - 3. How often do we let the baggage from the past affect us
 - f. Moses tries to talk to them and tell them not be be afraid of their enemies 29 Then I said unto you, Dread not, neither be afraid of them. 30 The Lord your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes;

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- i. Moses reminds them that God has taken care of them up until today 31 And in the wilderness, where thou hast seen how that the Lord thy God bare thee, as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went, until ye came into this place.
 - 1. God has been good to us for many years
 - 2. He has met every need and taken us through many storms
 - 3. He will continue to take care of us but we will make excuses to disobey Him
- ii. They still would not believe God even though they knew He had been good in the past 32 Yet in this thing ye did not believe the Lord your God, 33 Who went in the way before you, to search you out a place to pitch your tents in, in fire by night, to shew you by what way ye should go, and in a cloud by day.
 - 1. We want to be able to figure out what is going to happen
 - 2. We are afraid to take God at His Word
 - 3. We want to understand everything on a human level when God is not in that attitude
- iii. God got angry 34 And the Lord heard the voice of your words, and was wroth, and sware, saying, 35 Surely there shall not one of these men of this evil generation see that good land, which I sware to give unto your fathers,
- iv. God will only allow Caleb and Joshua to enter the promised land 36 Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the Lord. 37 Also the Lord was angry with me for your sakes, saying, Thou also shalt not go in thither. 38 But Joshua the son of Nun, which standeth before thee, he shall go in thither: encourage him: for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.
 - 1. Joshua needed the encouragement of the people
 - 2. They had tried to discourage Moses
 - 3. They had caused him great headaches
 - 4. We should be working at encouraging those that are taking these big steps of ministry
 - 5. We should be encouraging not discouraging. Stop looking for the reasons of why not
- g. God gave their little ones the promise. They had used their children as an excuse not to obey God 39 Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it.
 - i. Whatever we use as an excuse is just that
 - ii. God even blessed the children with the promise that the parents never got to enjoy
 - iii. Sometimes you will not follow God in ministry, do not want your children to do so, but they will
 - iv. Do not miss what God has for you by making so many excuses
- h. They decided that they would disobey God by obeying His previous command 40 But as for you, turn you, and take your journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea. 41 Then ye answered and said unto me, We have sinned against the Lord, we will go up and fight, according to all that the Lord our God commanded us. And when ye had girded on every man his weapons of war, ye were ready to go up into the hill.
- i. They decided to go ahead and do what God had told them to do earlier

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- ii. God was not going to go with them 42 And the Lord said unto me, Say unto them, Go not up, neither fight; for I am not among you; lest ye be smitten before your enemies.
 - 1. We can't just decide to obey God when we want
 - 2. He is doing things at a certain time
 - 3. He wants obedience
- iii. They rebelled again and went up presumptuously 43 So I spake unto you; and ye would not hear, but rebelled against the commandment of the Lord, and went presumptuously up into the hill.
- iv. God refused to listen to their prayers that were in disobedience to Him 45 And ye returned and wept before the Lord; but the Lord would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear unto you.
 - 1. There comes a point when God will not listen to your prayers
 - 2. If your prayers are about you then God will not be interested
 - 3. God wants His will done and not ours

- . There comes a time when you just need to get up and go do God's will for your life
- . Everyone of us should be involved in teaching others
- . All of us should be in the ministry
- . All of us should be making sure that the younger ones are learning to follow God and serve Him
- . We should look at the past and learn great lessons
- . Share the stories of how God has blessed.
- . Share the stories of how your disobedience has cost you and others
- . Share the stories so that they can learn from the past

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Vision Baptist Church is an independent Baptist church pastored by Austin Gardner. We are located in Alpharetta, GA, in the southern end of Forsyth County.

We are a missions-minded church with a goal of fully honoring God and helping families draw closer to Him.

You will feel welcome and loved, and you will receive a wonderful blessing from God's Word when you visit Vision Baptist Church.

You can learn more about us by visiting our site here: [Learn More About Vision Baptist Church, Alpharetta](#)

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