

## Old Testament Basics

### Deuteronomy Chapters 1-34

#### Chapters 1-11

##### Second Law-Giving

- The Book *Deuteronomy* means “second law-giving”.
- The Book of Deuteronomy reviews many of the laws to be followed once Israel entered the Promised Land.
- Many of these laws are contained in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers.
- The Lord had multiplied Israel’s number and now they were ready to possess the land (1:10).
- Moses reiterates God’s promises to Israel and reminds them of their stubborn unbelief (1:19-22; 29-36).
- Moses pleaded with God to let him go into the Promised Land (3:23-27).
- Deut. 4:7-9 gives us an insight into the importance of not departing from God’s law.
- Deut. 4:25-31 states a prophecy of Moses for Israel if it failed to abide by God’s laws.
- This prophecy of destruction did come to pass when Assyria and Babylon captured Israel.
- Vs. 30 came to pass when Israel was allowed back into the Promised Land under King Cyrus of Persia (538 B.C.-Ezra 1:1).
- This verse also alludes to the final restoration of Christ’s earthly kingdom.
- Moses again stressed the importance of loving and obeying God’s commands (6:1-7).
- Deut. 6:10-12 gives a warning not to place one’s confidence in self but in God.
- Deut. 7:1-6 gives Israel a very strict warning to completely destroy all the nations in the land of Canaan.
- Moses stressed the importance of not associating with the heathen and immoral people in Canaan.
- God used the 40 years of wandering to teach the Israelites God would supply all their needs (8:3).
- Jesus quoted this verse when rebuking Satan after His 40 days of fasting in the wilderness (Matthew 4:4).
- Deut. 8:4-5 reminds us God’s discipline is one of love not anger.
- God disciplines us to bring us closer to Him, not to drive us away.
- Deut. 11:13-17 shows God’s blessings upon those who obey and keep His commands.

#### Chapters 12-26

## **A Review of God's Laws**

- Chapters 12-26 are a continued reiteration of God's Laws.
- God gives a stern warning in 12:2-4 to completely destroy the idols and unholy places within the Promised Land.
- God knew any compromise with heathen practices would corrupt the nation.
- Chapter 12:4-5; 29-30 states God would direct the people in establishing places of worship.
- These places were to be Gilgal, Bethel, and Shiloh.
- Chapter 12:23 gives us an insight into the importance of Christ's ultimate blood sacrifice for our sins.
- All debts were to be cancelled every seventh year. The people were told to give generously even prior to the seventh year because the Lord would bless them and provide for them (14:22; 15:1-6).
- Chapter 16 reviews three required feasts:
  - the Passover;
  - the Feast of Weeks or Passover;
  - and the Feast of Booths.
- God gave strict warnings to the people concerning the behavior of a king.
- Although God was their ultimate king, He knew they would fall by the way of other nations and demand an earthly king.
- Compare Ch. 17:14-20 with I Kings 4:26.
- Moses gives a prophetic message concerning the coming Messiah in chapter 18:15-19.
- See Luke 24:19; John 1:21; and John 6:14 for references concerning this prophecy.
- Chapter 20:1-8 gives us an important lesson for trusting God.
- Chapter 20:10-18 gives military conduct and conquest concerning far away nations.
- Only the men were to be destroyed.
- However, the nations within the Promised Land were to be utterly destroyed lest the conquered people become a snare to Israel.
- God reiterated the importance of staying away from evil.

## **A Review of God's blessings and curses**

### **Chapters 27-30**

- God's promises are given in chapter 28:1-2; 7.
- God's curses are given in chapter 18:15 (see Daniel 9:11).
- Chapter 28:36; 49-50 gives a prediction of the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities as well as the dispersion in AD 70.
- Chapter 29:4 gives a sad account of Israel's blindness concerning all God's plans (See Psalm 106:7).
- Chapter 30:1-9 gives a prediction of Israel's return to God during Christ's millennial reign.

### **Chapters 31-34**

### **Moses' final conclusion**

- Moses was 120 years old, yet his physical strength remained (31:1; 34:7).
- God instructed Moses that his time to die was near and Joshua was to be commissioned in his place.
- Chapter 31:16; 20 gives us further insight into Israel's destiny.
- God's commission to Joshua in 31:23 can be an inspiration to us as we have been commissioned by God to carry out His work.
- The Song of Moses was recorded in Chapter 32 which reminded Israel of God's promise of blessings and curses.
- Moses gave Israel another final warning to obey God's laws (Chapter 32:44-47).
- Moses blessed the tribes of Israel with song in Chapter 33.
- Chapter 34 gives insight to Moses' death (34:5-8).
- God gives Joshua wisdom in Chapter 34:9.

### **Conclusion**

- God understood Israel's weaknesses.
- God warned them repeatedly not to compromise with the heathen nations.
- Israel did not listen to God's warnings and eventually adopted the heathen practices.
- As a result, God sent Israel into exile.
- Not until the millennial reign will Israel fulfill its priestly mission.
- It is important for the Christian to ask for God's guidance and to obey His laws.
- God's laws are not meant to keep us in bondage but are designed for our good and prosperity.
- Pray that our ears will hear and our eyes will see God's wonderful plan for our lives.