

# The Bible From 20,000 Feet Part 20

## Overview of Deuteronomy I

Tuesday Night Bible Study, February 3, 2009

### --OUTLINE:

INTRODUCTION TO BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY  
HIGHLIGHTS FROM MOSES' REVIEW OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY  
HIGHLIGHTS FROM MOSES' REVIEW OF THE LAW PART A

### --INTRODUCTION TO BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

- the word "Deuteronomy" means "second law".
  - it wasn't a "second law" but rather a review of the law given at Mt. Sinai for the second generation of Israel after leaving Egypt.
- at the time Deuteronomy was written...
  - the nation of Israel was camped on the plains of Moab preparing to enter the land of Canaan
  - the first generation had all died in the wilderness as they failed to enter the land of Canaan 40 years earlier.
  - Moses is about 120 years old and within a couple months of passing away (as God had told him to climb Mt. Ebal and find his resting place there while looking out over the land of Canaan)
- the book Deuteronomy is Moses' final sermon to Israel, a solemn review of the law and encouragement to follow the law and not repeat the mistakes of the previous generation.

### --HIGHLIGHTS FROM MOSES' REVIEW OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY

- in the first 3 chapters Moses begins by giving a brief review of Israel's history from Egypt to their second arrival at the promise land after 40 years in the wilderness.
  - it's notable how Moses begins by pointing out that it took Israel 40 years to make an 11 day journey...
    - ch. 1:2: **"It is eleven days' journey** from Horeb [mountain range that includes Mt. Sinai] by way of Mount Seir to Kadesh Barnea [border of Canaan]. **Now it came to pass in the fortieth year...**"
- in his review of Israel's history, when Moses reaches the point where Israel passed by the region of land that God gave to Lot's descendants, Moses points out how the people that God drove out of that land in order to fulfill his promise to Lot were also regarded as "giants", similar to the "giants" (Numbers 13:31-33) that caused Israel to turn away from the Promise Land in fear.
  - Moses draws a comparison between the two as a note of encouragement... if God could drive out the giants for Lot's descendants then He could drive out the giants for Israel.
    - Deuteronomy 2:20-21: "That was also regarded as a land of giants; giants formerly dwelt there. But the Ammonites call them Zamzummim, a people as great and numerous as the Anakim. But the Lord destroyed them, and they dispossessed them and dwelt in their place..." (Deut. 2:21)
- after the historical review, Moses then begins a solemn review of the law which they must follow if they are to avoid the mistakes of the previous generation...
  - ch. 4:1: "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgements which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you..."

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM MOSES' REVIEW OF THE LAW PART A

*--in the next lesson we'll look at highlights from the remainder of Moses' review of the Law*

--Moses emphasizes the fact that we must be proactive in seeking God because it is human nature to quickly forget.

--Deuteronomy 6:5-9: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

--it isn't enough to read through the Bible once and then just rely on memory, but we need to interact with His Word on a regular basis... "teach them diligently... talk of them... write them on the doorposts of your house [*listen on mp3, the radio, video, reminder notes...*]..."

--true Christianity isn't just a compartment of our lives that we visit on occasion, but rather it affects every part of our lives. True Christianity is about having a relationship with God – seeking to be conscious of His presence in our hearts in every step that we take, being prayerful in every step that we take.

--as Jesus said, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matt. 26:41)

--Moses indicates that once they have settled in the land of Canaan God will designate a permanent place for the tabernacle and eventually the temple which will replace the tabernacle. God will designate a permanent place for the sacrifices...

--Deut. 12:5-6: "But you shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go. 6 There you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings [also called peace offerings] of your hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks."

--during the wilderness wandering whenever meat was eaten, a portion was given to the levites and the fat was burned as an offering to the Lord. Once they are settled in the land most of Israel will live too far from the temple to offer these daily sacrifices; in this case God made an exception where they did not have to make the food offering (Deuteronomy 12:20-25)

--Israel is commanded to cancel debts every 7 years, in addition to the Year of Jubilee...

--Deut 15:1-6: "At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts. 2 This is how it is to be done: Every creditor shall cancel the loan he has made to his fellow Israelite. He shall not require payment from his fellow Israelite or brother, because the LORD's time for canceling debts has been proclaimed. 3 You may require payment from a foreigner, but you must cancel any debt your brother owes you. 4 **However, there should be no poor among you, for in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, He will richly bless you, 5 if only you fully obey the LORD your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today.** 6 For the LORD your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you."

--individual debts being cancelled is a reflection of Israel's sins being forgiven... They didn't deserve any of the blessings God was giving them.

--Moses makes it clear that it is not because of Israel's righteousness that they are entering the land... it is because of God's promise and His righteousness!

--Deut. 9:3-6: "Therefore understand today that the LORD your God is He who goes over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and bring them down before you; so you shall drive

them out and destroy them quickly, as the LORD has said to you. 4 "**Do not think in your heart, after the LORD your God has cast them out before you, saying, 'Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land'**"; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is driving them out from before you. 5 It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 6 **Therefore understand that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people.**"

--after slavery in Egypt and living in the desert for 40 years and making just about every mistake they could possibly make, Israel is now headed towards an era of supernatural prosperity and peace – "However, there should be no poor among you, for in the land the LORD your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, He will richly bless you..." (Deuteronomy 15:4)

--one question that naturally arises is *why*?

--because God made an unconditional covenant with Abraham... in the words of Deuteronomy 9:5 – "that He may fulfill the word which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

--and why did God make a covenant with Abraham? Because at the beginning of history He declared that He would provide a means of salvation and undo the effects of the fall. In the words of His covenant with Abraham – "in you [Abraham] all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3) or "Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him." (Genesis 18:18)

--what is the significance of this period of supernatural prosperity and peace that Israel is entering?

--first of all, it demonstrated the purpose of life...

--the only thing Israel had to worry and the only thing God cared about for Israel was that they sought Him first and followed Him in the middle of a world that was drowning in idolatry and worship of false gods. All other matters were just details that God would take care of.

--secondly, Israel's rest in the land of Canaan is a foreshadow of the future...

--the world is conditioned to expect a life of hardship and worries... but that is not how God intended it to be!

--suffering is the result of living in a fallen world

**--the period of supernatural prosperity and peace that Israel was entering was a foreshadow, the primitive beginning, of God's restoration of the way He intended the world to be.**

--and at the heart of this beginning is the ceremonial law and temporary means of atonement which pointed to the permanent means of atonement through Christ.

--ch. 14:3-21 reviews laws about clean and unclean meat.

--objects, places, food, and physical states of being could all be ceremonially clean or unclean.

--when they were unclean, strict regulations had to be followed to either dispose of the unclean thing or make it ceremonially clean again.

--these regulations served a dual purpose...

--they fostered healthy environment (these were primitive times with no modern medicine)

--they also served as an object lesson about the spiritual state of being clean and unclean.

--everybody is born in a state of spiritual uncleanness as a result of the fall and therefore we must be cleansed.

--if a person dies in an unclean state, it is a law of the universe that they cannot live in the presence of God in heaven.

--the regulations for unclean fabric that isn't properly cleansed is a picture of what happens to a person if they die in an unclean state... just as the fabric "must be burned with fire" (Leviticus 13:57) so unclean people enter "the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15) in eternity!

--when we become clean through the shed blood of Christ, our names are written in the book of life – Revelation 20:15: "If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

--when spiritual cleansing (forgiveness of sins) was made available through Christ the ceremonial law and all its strict regulations became obsolete...

--in Acts we see Peter wrestle with this profound change when he finally realizes that he could eat unclean meat for the first time. In a vision God told Peter to eat unclean meat because He all meat was now clean. Peter replied, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean." And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." (Acts 10:14-16)