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**BIBLE STUDY**

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**“YE HAVE DWELT LONG ENOUGH IN THIS MOUNT”**

**Deuteronomy 1:1-20**

The book of Deuteronomy was the fifth book penned by Moses. It is the fifth book of the Pentateuch. Deuteronomy is taken from 2 Greek words. “Deuterous” means second. “Nomos” means law. This is a stating of the law the second time. It is not exactly like the law stated in Leviticus but is giving a practical use of the law now that they are entering the promised land. In the last book, we saw the older generation of the Israelites die in the wilderness. This takes place at the end of the 40 years of wandering. Moses will expound the law to the new generation. Obedience to the LORD and His law is stressed. They must remember the deliverance of Israel from Egypt. They must, also, remember the mistakes their parents made, and not make them again. This is actually a book on the “blessings” they will receive, if they obey the LORD, or the “curses” that will be theirs, if they do not obey the LORD.

***Deuteronomy 30:19 “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:”***

***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.***

These verses form a preamble to the entire book, much like that of preambles in ancient Near Eastern treaties. In this case, they are the words of Moses. They identify the suzerain or “great king” in terms to inspire awe and fear. The spotlight in Deuteronomy landed on Moses, but not for his sake. He was speaking on the Lord’s behalf as Israel’s lawgiver and leader, the man through whom the Lord had liberated his people and revealed his covenant. When the people sinned against the Lord, Moses burned with righteous indignation and was zealous for God’s holiness. When the Lord threatened Israel with destruction for their sin, Moses interceded for them. He had led the people of Israel for forty years, never shrinking back from delivering God’s messages to them. And here, as he faced the end of his life, the words Moses spoke to all Israel were once again everything the Lord had commanded him to say to them.

***Exodus 32:11-13***

***11 And Moses besought the Lord his God, and said, Lord, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?***

***12 Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.***

***13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever.***

***Deuteronomy 1:2 "([There are] eleven days' [journey] from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadesh-barnea.)"***

***Deuteronomy 1:3 "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;"***

This is giving the location of this near three million people, who are poised to go into the promised land. Horeb is another name for Mount Sinai. Kadesh-barnea was the place where rebellion seized the camp and they refused to enter the Promised Land (Numbers 13, 14). The journey to the promised land was just a very short journey. The distance between Horeb and Kadesh-barnea should have taken 11 days. It is actually about 165 miles. However, their unfaithfulness caused the 40-year delay! Forty years have passed. Their wandering is over. This is one of the last things that Moses does. He wants this generation to fully understand the law of God. This says, he gave the message to all the people, not just the elders. These laws are for all the people. The eleventh month is very similar to our February. The message coming from Moses' mouth for these people is actually the message of the LORD. This is before they cross over Jordan to the promised land. They were between the Red Sea and the place where they will cross over Jordan.

***Deuteronomy 1:4 "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:"***

Verse 4 relates some victories which had been granted by God supernaturally, and thus anticipates further victories in the future. Moses knew before the battle with the Amorites, that he would not enter the promised land. Og and Sihon had planned to stop the Israelites from entering the promised land. Israel, commanded of God, destroyed them both. Asteroth and Edrei were places where the evil kings resided. Because Moses will not cross over Jordan, the law was to be given to the people by him, before they entered the promised land. They are in the plains of Moab, when Moses gives them the law. They are near Jericho.

***Deuteronomy 1:5 "On this side Jordan, in the land of Moab, began Moses to declare this law, saying,"***

Declare in verse 5 has the sense of making something absolutely clear or plain. On this side Jordan: “East of the Jordan” or “across” occurs 18 times in Deuteronomy and Joshua. Law comes from the word meaning “to direct,” “to teach,” and so is rendered “instruction” (Torah). Here it refers to the discourses that follow, the exposition and application of God’s Word to the people. Moses began to explain God’s law to the people. Why was this review necessary? One reason is the sad historical lead up to his message. God had decreed that everyone from Moses’s generation, those twenty years and older, would die in the wilderness for failing to trust him. So, Deuteronomy opens with a new generation of Israelites standing at the edge of the promised land, this time at Moab. These children of the previous generation needed to hear afresh how Moses’s generation had failed to obey God, and what God expected of them as they prepared to lay hold of their inheritance as his people. Only by renewing their faithfulness to God and his covenant could they hope to conquer the land and live there in peace and prosperity.

***Deuteronomy 1:6 "The LORD our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount:"***

This verse begins the historical prologue which extends through chapter 4:43. The historical prologue in the ancient Near Eastern treaties (and in Deuteronomy and Exodus) surveys the “great King’s” relationship, and especially his benefactions, to the vassal king (God and Israel). So, in Deuteronomy the covenant tradition of promise, from Abraham to Moses, is rehearsed. The LORD is speaking of Jehovah. The LORD speaking to the people shows that they are His people, and He is their God. The Israelites had remained at Horeb about a year. Horeb is the name of a range of mountains, of which Sinai is one of the summits. This is the place they received the ten commandments from God. Horeb was, also, the place of the Rock which gushed forth water. It would be advantageous to read the whole 19th and 20th chapter of Exodus on this subject. The following is part of the covenant God made with Israel and Israel agreed to the covenant.

***Exodus 19:5-6***

***5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth [is] mine:***

***6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These [are] the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.***

***Exodus 19:8 "And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD."***

***Deuteronomy 1:7 "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."***

***Deuteronomy 1:8 "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."***

Lebanon was the furthest point on one side, and the lands this is speaking of are near the entrance of the land near Jericho. As he reviewed the nation’s history, Moses started at the right place. He said, The Lord our God. This God, the only true God, had redeemed Israel from Egyptian bondage, just as he had promised their ancestor Abraham.

***Genesis 15:13-14***

***13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;***

***14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.***

He had chosen them for himself and entered into a covenant with them a sacred agreement in which he would be their God and they would be his people. The Lord had delivered them, revealed himself to them, and promised his faithfulness to them. In response, they were to give their faithful obedience to him and him alone. When the Lord spoke to the Israelites at Horeb (which is another name for Mount Sinai, where the Ten Commandments were given), he commanded them to leave and go to the land he promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their future descendants. But notice that even though he had set the land before them, Israel still had to take possession of it. This is an important principle for modern believers to embrace. Whatever God promises, he delivers. But laying hold of those promises still requires our obedience. We do not inherit the promises of God by sitting in our easy chairs. We love, work, serve, pray, and fight the good fight of the faith because this is our kingdom role. We follow our King’s agenda, trusting that he will follow through with his blessings. This is the same land that their fathers had spied out and decided they could not take. The LORD tells them to go into the land and take it for their own. This is the land the LORD had promised Abraham, and in turn, Isaac, and Jacob.

***Genesis 13:14-15***

***14 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:***

***15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.***

***Deuteronomy 1:9 "And I spake unto you at that time, saying, I am not able to bear you myself alone:"***

***Deuteronomy 1:10 "The LORD your God hath multiplied you, and, behold, ye [are] this day as the stars of heaven for multitude."***

***Deuteronomy 1:11 "(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!)"***

It appears, from this, that Moses had spoken to their fathers, when they decided to send the spies into the land. Though Moses was a faithful leader he couldn’t do it all by himself. The people of Israel were too numerous for him to bear all of their troubles, burdens, and disputes himself. The multitude fulfilled the promises of Genesis. Of your fathers emphasizes the continuity of relationship, stressing the theme of the covenant with the patriarchs. God's promise to them was fulfilled in the fact, that they were a large number compared to the number of stars in heaven.

***Genesis 15:5 "And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be."***

Moses is explaining to them that the near three million people they were now, is nothing to the amount they will increase to.

***Genesis 22:17 "That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which [is] upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;"***

***Deuteronomy 1:12 "How can I myself alone bear your cumbrance, and your burden, and your strife?"***

***Deuteronomy 1:13 "Take you wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make them rulers over you."***

***Deuteronomy 1:14 "And ye answered me, and said, The thing which thou hast spoken [is] good [for us] to do."***

***Deuteronomy 1:15 "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."***

"Cumbrance" means burden or trouble. The troubles that came on Moses as their leader had been tremendous. It was almost more than one man could bear. The necessary organization of the Israelites was dictated by God’s blessing the people and multiplying them, so he includes this portion of their history. Moses’ father-in-law Jethro advised a viable leadership strategy to help him bear the load. Leaders wise, understanding, and respected men were appointed for every tribe to help Moses. These are the men that are to take on the tremendous task that Moses had endured by himself. The people, themselves, decide who their leaders are. This greatly pleased the people, because they had not liked many of the decisions Moses had made. Moses approved (validated and trained) their choices and set them over hundreds, or thousands, as their ability warranted. Thus, every person in the community would have a place of appeal to obtain a hearing, with Moses ruling only on the most difficult cases.

***Exodus 18:13-27***

***13 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening.***

***14 And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even?***

***15 And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God:***

***16 When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws.***

***17 And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good.***

***18 Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.***

***19 Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God:***

***20 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.***

***21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:***

***22 And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee.***

***23 If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace.***

***24 So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said.***

***25 And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.***

***26 And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves.***

***27 And Moses let his father in law depart; and he went his way into his own land.***

***Deuteronomy 1:16 "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."***

***Deuteronomy 1:17 "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."***

***Deuteronomy 1:18 "And I commanded you at that time all the things which ye should do."***

The judges of these people were to judge them on most matters. The only time something was to be settled by Moses, was if it were of great magnitude. These judges were like the lower court of our day, and Moses was like the higher court. These judges were responsible to God for the decisions they made. They were to judge the rich and the poor in the same manner. They were not to respect the person, because of his wealth or position. The major things, they could not decide, they brought to Moses. This would take the trivial problems off Moses. There really was no question what they were to do. God had given commandment covering every aspect of their lives.

***Deuteronomy 1:19 "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."***

***Deuteronomy 1:20 "And I said unto you, Ye are come unto the mountain of the Amorites, which the LORD our God doth give unto us."***

The Israelites’ journey from Horeb to Kadesh-barnea was anything but easy. They had to cross a terrible wilderness. This is speaking of that nearly 40 years of wanderings, where there was very little grass for the animals, and very little water. This could easily be called a desert land. God fed them miraculously, and when they were out of water, He provided water. The terribleness of this journey had to do with the hardships they endured. We must remember, they would not have had these hardships had they been obedient to God. But once they reached the edge of Canaan, Moses could point to it and say, See, the Lord your God has set the land before you and hath given to us. This was a welcome relief from the desert land they had endured. Notice the statement, "The LORD our God". As long as they remember He is their God and obey His commandments, they will be blessed of the LORD. They get in trouble, when they forget, do not have faith, and turn from God.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who penned the book of Deuteronomy?
2. This is stating the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ time.
3. Why is the law being stated again?
4. What is stressed by Moses to these people?
5. What are the conditions set forth in the covenant here?
6. Where did Moses speak this from?
7. How many days journey is it from Horeb to Kadesh-barnea?
8. Why was there the 40 year delay?
9. Verse 3 says, Moses spoke to them when?
10. Their eleventh month is similar to our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
11. Who had they slain to get this far?
12. LORD, in verse 6, is who?
13. What special things happened at Horeb, or mount Sinai?
14. What city were they near?
15. The LORD God of your fathers make you a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ times so many more as you are.
16. What does "cumbrance" mean?
17. Who advised Moses to get some help?
18. Who decided who the leaders were?
19. Who were made heads over the people?
20. How were they to judge?
21. The judges were like the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ court of our day.
22. Who would decide the major things?
23. The great and terrible wilderness was actually a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
24. What statement, in verse 20, must we take note of?