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DEUTERONOMY

STUDY GUIDE



DEUTERONOMY

- A. Deuteronomy is the fifth, or last, book of the Pentateuch.
- B. Deuteronomy has been described as "A Copy of This Law," "This Second Law," and "Words."
- C. The book of Deuteronomy summarizes the events that occurred during the Israelites' journey from Egypt until the death of Moses.
- D. Deuteronomy is divided into thirty-four chapters.
- E. Chapters one through three summarize Israel's journeys and conquests.
 - 1. Verses one through five of chapter five give insight into Israel's location and the number of years they have spent traveling.
 - 2. Verses seven through fourteen of chapter one reveal God's intent for the Israelites and the overwhelming responsibility upon Moses.
 - 3. Chapter one reveals the governmental structure set up by Moses. He appointed leaders over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. (Deuteronomy 1:15)
 - 4. These leaders, who had been properly trained by Moses, acted as judges to the people over whom they were appointed. (Deuteronomy 1:16-18)
 - 5. The judgment of God, not the opinion of men, was to be given. If the leader did not know the judgment of God, he was to refer the case to his superior. (Deuteronomy 1:12-18)
 - 6. Chapter one also tells why the twelve spies were sent into the Promised Land. (Deuteronomy 1:19-24)
 - 7. After scouting the land, the spies came back with fruit and declared the land to be a good land. (Deuteronomy 1:25)

8. Because of giants and fortified cities, the people refused to possess the land, they complained about their circumstances, and discouraged their brethren. (Deuteronomy 1:26-28)
9. Moses tried to encourage the people, declaring that God would fight for them, but they would not believe. (Deuteronomy 1:29-33)
10. God was displeased with the people's response and swore that not one of the men who was counted in the military census would enter the Promised Land, except for Joshua and Caleb. (Deuteronomy 1:34-38)
11. Moses' disobedience kept him from entering into the Promised Land. (Deuteronomy 1:37)
12. Moses instructed this generation to encourage Joshua, stating that he would bring them into their inheritance. (Deuteronomy 1:38)
13. God declared that the children of those who had refused to enter the Promised Land would go in and possess the land. (Deuteronomy 1:39)
14. God sent the rebellious Israelites back into the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea. (Deuteronomy 1:40)
15. After refusing to go into the Promised Land, the Israelites realized they had missed God. Although Moses advised against it, they attempted to go into the Promised Land. (Deuteronomy 1:41-45)
16. Having suffered defeat, the Israelites returned to camp and cried before the Lord, but He would not listen to them. (Deuteronomy 1:45)
17. Verses One through 23 of chapter two recounts some of the Israelites' journeys.
18. The Israelites were forbidden to fight against Esau, Moab, and Ammon. God plainly stated that He would not give the Israelites the inheritance of these nations. (Deuteronomy 2:4-5 & 19)

19. The Israelites destroyed King Sihon and all his people and possessed the territory over which he had ruled. (Deuteronomy 2:24-36)
 20. Chapter three recounts the conquest of Og and the distribution of the land on the East side of Jordan to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh. (Deuteronomy 3:1-20)
 21. Chapter three also reveals Moses' plea to the Lord for entrance into the Promised Land and the Lord's refusal to allow him entry. (Deuteronomy 3:21-27)
 22. At the time God refused to yield to Moses' plea, He confirmed to him his successor, Joshua. (Deuteronomy 3:28)
- F. Chapters four through six reiterate the giving of the covenant and Moses' instructions to the nation of Israel.
1. Moses reminds the Israelites of the statues and judgments that have been given to them and all that God has done for them. He charges the people to follow God and to keep His commandments. (Deuteronomy 4)
 2. Chapter five reiterates the Ten Commandments, Israel's response to the commandments, and God's response to Israel.
 3. In chapter six, instructions are given to teach the children the will of God.
- G. Chapter seven gives a command to the children of Israel to go in and conquer the Promised Land. They were to utterly destroy all who were designated by God to be destroyed.
1. Moses assures the Israelites that obedience to God will result in blessings from God. (Deuteronomy 7:9-15)
 2. The principle for possessing the Promised Land is revealed in verse twenty-two. The principle is: "little by little."
 3. Contrary to what many think, God does not give everything promised at one setting.

- H. Chapters eight through ten contain a plea to remember God, a rehearsal of Israel's rebellion, Moses' intercession, and God's mercy and love.
1. Chapter eight reveals another principle of God. The principle is: hardships humble and test us. (Deuteronomy 8:1-6)
 2. Israel is warned to abstain from taking credit for what God has done for them. (Deuteronomy 8:7-17)
 3. God gives unto us the power to get wealth for the purpose of establishing His covenant. (Deuteronomy 8:18)
 4. Moses testified of the certain destruction of Israel that would take place if they turned from God. (Deuteronomy 8:19-20)
 5. In chapter nine, Moses cautions the Israelites against thinking that their goodness is the reason for their possession of the Promised Land.
 - a. The inhabitants of the land were dispossessed because of their wickedness, not Israel's goodness. (Deuteronomy 9:1-6)
 - b. Israel had proven herself as rebellious and stubborn. Abraham's covenant and Moses' intercession had prevented Israel from being destroyed. (Deuteronomy 9:7-29)
 6. Moses recaps God's instructions to him concerning the second giving of the Ten Commandments. (Deuteronomy 10:1-5)
 7. The tribe of Levi was chosen to stand before the Lord. They did not receive an inheritance among their brethren; God was their inheritance. (Deuteronomy 10:6-9)
 8. God spared Israel because of Moses' intercession and gave them a mandate to go in and possess the Promised Land. (Deuteronomy 10:10-11)

9. The requirements of God are recorded in Deuteronomy 10:12-13: fear God; walk in His ways; love Him; and serve Him with all your heart and soul.
 10. Moses gave to the nation of Israel an admonition to love and serve their God. (Deuteronomy 10:14-22)
 11. Deuteronomy 10:16 introduces "circumcision of the heart."
- I. Chapter eleven is a command to study, to obey, and to teach the commandments of God.
 1. Obedience ensures victory.
 2. The blessing and the curse are set before us; the blessing is incurred through obedience, and the curse is realized through disobedience.
 3. The knowledge of the blessing and the curse was so important that God commanded they be pronounced from two mountains: the blessing was placed on Mount Gerizim and the curse was placed on Mount Ebal. (Deuteronomy 11:29)
 - J. Chapters twelve through twenty-six contain instructions concerning statues, laws, and judgments.
 1. Chapter twelve records God's command for destroying everything that related to idol worship, the mandate to build an acceptable altar to God at the place of His choosing, and total abstinence from idoltry. It also reemphasizes the command to abstain from eating blood and the importance of taking care of the Levites.
 2. Chapter thirteen warns of false prophets, God's use of them to test His people, and the punishment to be administered for misrepresenting God.
 3. Chapter fourteen declares the nation of Israel as holy people, pronounces the clean and unclean animals, and documents the law of tithe.

4. Chapter fifteen reveals one of God's methods for economic balance. It also teaches that blessing is related to obedience. Obedience makes one the lender, not the borrower, the ruler, not the servant. It also records the law concerning liberation of slaves and dedication of the firstborn males from the flock and herd.
5. Chapter sixteen emphasizes the three feasts that required all males to come to Jerusalem for their celebration. It also gives instructions concerning judgment and justice.
6. Chapter seventeen warns against dishonoring God with an unacceptable sacrifice and forbids serving any other god. It also gives instructions to those who will become kings of Israel.
7. Chapter eighteen documents the priest's portion of the sacrifices and the nation's responsibility to the Levites. It also forbids abominable practices and false prophecy.
 - a. Deuteronomy 18:15 prophesies of the "Prophet like unto me." Jesus is the Prophet like unto Moses.
 - b. Instruction is given for discerning the truth of prophecies: if they do not come to pass, they are not prophecies of God. (Deuteronomy 18:22)
 - c. It is important to remember the mercy of God when judging prophecy. Jonah's prophecy to Nineveh is an excellent example. Although Jonah prophesied accurately of Nineveh's coming destruction, God spared Nineveh because her people repented before Him.
8. In chapter nineteen, we see protection provided for those who have killed someone unintentionally and the rule of "two witnesses" before there can be a conviction.
9. Chapter twenty gives instructions concerning war.
10. Chapter twenty-one records laws concerning murder, marriage, and rebellious children.

- a. Deuteronomy 21:23 declares that anyone hanged on a tree is accursed by God.
 - b. Jesus became a curse for us by hanging on a tree. (Galatians 3:13)
11. Chapter twenty-two documents laws concerning property, clothing, animals, houses, the sowing of seeds, and marriage.
 12. Chapter twenty-three records laws concerning those who are not allowed to assemble before the Lord, the charge of interest to the brethren and foreigners, vows to the Lord, and eating from someone else's vineyard or field.
 13. Chapters twenty-four and twenty-five deal with civil laws.
 14. Chapter twenty-six documents the procedure for presenting the tithe to the Lord and a charge given unto Israel.
- K. Chapter twenty-seven is a proclamation of the curses to be pronounced from Mount Ebal.
 - L. Chapter twenty-eight declares the blessings of obedience and the curses of disobedience.
 - M. Chapters twenty-nine and thirty declare the results of disobedience and repentance.
 1. Moses reminds the Israelites of God's faithfulness to them in not allowing their clothes or shoes to wear out. (Deuteronomy 29:5)
 2. Moses warns the Israelites against breaking their covenant with God. (Deuteronomy 29:10-28)
 3. Another principle is revealed in Deuteronomy 29:29: "the things revealed belong to us; the things that are not revealed belong to God."
 4. Chapter thirty records the provision for repentance, the choice between life and death, the choice between blessing and cursing, and Moses' recommendation.

- N. In chapter thirty-one, Moses gives a charge to Joshua and to the nation of Israel. It also records the future sins of Israel.
- O. Chapter thirty-two records the prophetic "Song of Moses." This song was given unto Moses by God to serve as a witness for God against the children of Israel. (Deuteronomy 31:19)
 - 1. The principle of "one chasing a thousand and two putting ten thousand to flight" is recorded in this song.
 - 2. The day Moses spoke the song to the children of Israel is the day God told him to go to the mountain range of Abarim, to the place called Pisgah, ascend Mount Nebo, view the Promised Land, and die.
- P. Chapter thirty-three is Moses' blessing to each of the twelve tribes of Israel. Simeon is excluded.
- Q. Chapter thirty-four tells of Moses' ascent to Mount Nebo, his viewing of the Promised Land, his death, burial, and greatness.
- R. Joshua is received by the children of Israel as Moses' successor. (Deuteronomy 34:9)
 - 1. He was full of the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands upon him. (Deuteronomy 34:9)
 - 2. The principle of "impartation and separation" is illustrated through this event of laying on of hands.
- S. At the time of the writing of this book, no one could compare with the power and might of Moses.
- T. The Christ of Deuteronomy is found in Deuteronomy 18:15. "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear."

OVERVIEW

- A. The Pentateuch is a foreshadowing of Jesus, the Christ.
- B. The various events, feasts, ceremonies, and Levitical law and procedures all point to the coming Messiah, Jesus.
- C. Not only is the Pentateuch an historical insight into the creation of man and a nation, but it also reveals Jesus and His redemptive work for all those who accept and follow Him.
- D. It has been appropriately stated that the Old Covenant is the New Covenant concealed, and the New Covenant is the Old Covenant revealed.
- E. We must recognize the Pentateuch as something more than a history lesson; it is a revelation of Jesus and the Church.
- F. Israel is a type of the Church; we must learn from her example, being cautious not to repeat her pattern of disobedience.
- G. Remember! The first four feasts of the Lord were fulfilled as a result of Jesus' first coming; the last three feasts will be fulfilled at the second coming of Jesus. All seven feasts will be fulfilled!

SUMMARY

- A. Genesis is the first book of the Pentateuch. It reveals the creation in relation to its Creator.
- B. Exodus is the second book of the Pentateuch. It reveals the natural power of man and the supernatural power of God.
- C. Leviticus is the third book of the Pentateuch. It reveals God's unalterable ways and the importance of man's absolute obedience.
- D. Numbers is the fourth book of the Pentateuch. It reveals man's obligation to follow God's order and structure.
- E. Deuteronomy is the last book of the Pentateuch. It reveals the faithfulness of God and the rebellion of man.

CONCLUSION

- A. The Pentateuch gives tremendous insight into proper Christian living.
 - 1. Natural man does not follow God's methods and procedures; therefore, natural man cannot please God.
 - 2. We must be led by the Spirit; otherwise, we will find ourselves repeating history. We, too, will violate the methods and procedures of God.
- B. One who objectively studies the Pentateuch will place God and man in their proper perspective.
- C. The Pentateuch reveals that our lives should revolve around Jesus and the ways of God.
- D. The Jews refer to the Pentateuch as the *torah* or *towrah* (to-law'), which is defined as a precept or statute.
 - 1. The *torah* is direction and guidance from God.
 - 2. The *torah's* emphasis is on the purpose of the guidance rather than its origin.
 - 3. Authoritative direction constitutes law; therefore, *torah* is the law of God.
 - 4. Other words cover special kinds of laws, such as judgments, statutes, and commandments; *torah* is the overall term, the supreme law.
- E. The Pentateuch is the foundation for the entire Bible; every other book in the Bible is, in some way, connected with the Pentateuch.
- F. The Pentateuch is a tremendous teaching to which all Christians should adhere--not in rules, regulations, and ceremonial rites, but in principle and character.