

The Book: Deuteronomy

Prayer

Review Genesis through Numbers

Deuteronomy: We come to the fifth book of the Bible. The fifth book of the Pentateuch. Penta means five. It is also called the Torah by Jews. Tradition says Moses wrote first 5 books: **PPT** Deuteronomy 31:9 – says Moses wrote the law down. Also 31:24.

Leviticus and Numbers are usually ignored. Not so Deuteronomy. It is revered. Deuteronomy is quoted extensively in the NT. It was a favorite of Jesus. I am going to guess that you had no trouble finding a favorite verse in Deuteronomy. In fact, you may have many.

The word Deuteronomy means careful study, a careful study of the law. It can also mean “second law.”

The Israelites have been wandering in the wilderness for 38 years. Moses stands up and goes down memory lane, reviewing everything that happened to them starting with their rescue from Egypt and the wandering in the wilderness. Keep in mind this is a whole new generation that has not experienced the great miracles of the rescue from Egypt, but they have heard the stories...so Moses reviews it all, including their distrust of God.

The second part of Deuteronomy is what to do when they enter the promised land.

Moses knows his time is near, and he gives this last speech, exhortations, drills it into them, he wants them to do good, to follow and obey God so all will be well with them. And repeats this over and over again. This is his legacy.

PPT Overall review is in 2:7 – the Lord your God has been with you and you have not lacked anything.

Me: as I expect to retire in 1 ½ years – I have been thinking what I want to tell you. This class is born out of that. My desire to have you know the Bible and love it and use it. So, I will be drilling this into your head for the next year and a half! I probably will be repeating myself over and over again. I want to leave that legacy with you.

PPT Outline:

Moses' first address, chapters 1-4 (review of Israel's history)

Moses' second address, chapters 5-28 (review of the Law)

Moses' third address 29-30 (renewal of the covenant)

The last days of Moses, chapter 31-34

Themes in Deuteronomy

PPT Love

God's love is emphasized in this book more than any other OT book.

7:7-9 God rescued the people because the Lord loved them. What word does this remind you of? Grace

We don't keep it to our ourselves. They were called to be a blessing to other nations. .

We are to be a blessing to others, extend that grace to others.

Israelites are called to love God back

What it means to love God: 10:12-13

PPT Obedience

Re-read verse 13 of chapter 10

Big theme: 5:29 God wishing the Israelites would obey the commandments "so it might go well with them and their children forever." (just like parents have rules for their children so it will go well with their children.) Also verses 32-34.

Read 11:13-15 – notice the connection between God, people and land. The covenant includes all three.

If they don't obey: 11:16-17

PPT Remember God

The shema: 6:4 hear, O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Most important prayer in Judaism. Read the rest: 5-9. Talk about the Mezuzah.

What happens when they do not pass it down to their children: book of Judges

Read verse 10-12 when everything is provided for you, do not forget God.

PPT Other themes?

Interesting observations:

Moses denied Promised Land

3:21-29 Moses pleads with God to let him see the promised land (when God says no)

All other places Moses reminds the people he can't enter promised land: 4:21, 31:2. God reminds him: 32:48-52; 34:4

Encouragement for Joshua

Encourages Joshua: 31:7- 8 Be strong and courageous, 31:23 (sounds like Joshua needed encouragement. Even God encouraged him (31:23) For many years, knew this day was coming. Perhaps like King Charles waiting for his mother to die, knowing he will take over after waiting so long. He was heard to say, "I have dreaded this day."

Troubling verses: 2:32-35 – the killing of everyone in a town including women and children. 20: 16-18 Do this when you enter the promised land.

This is all throughout scripture. In some parts of the Bible, it says God told them to do this. Many Christians are troubled by this...to the point that some don't read the OT, some say the God of the NT is different from the God of the OT.

Do these verses bother you? How do you deal with them?

Some explanations:

*Larry DeLong: everything changed with Jesus. Same God, but God treats us differently.

*I was given one explanation as an early Christian. God had the Israelites kill all the women and children when they defeated one of their enemies because these people were so evil. They were so thoroughly corrupted by sin that they needed to be exterminated. They had lost their ability to turn back to God. If Israel kept some of these people alive, they would cause the Israelites to walk away from God. So there had to be a complete cleansing in order to keep the Israelites holy. This defeats the purpose of being a light to other nations.

*Another explanation: this is what the culture around them did. when you read in the Bible that someone wins a battle and gives credit to their god, that's what people did at that time. When you read in the Bible after winning, they killed all the women and children and then said their gods told them to do it, that's what people did at that time.

At times, Israel viewed God the same way their neighbors viewed their gods. They wanted their God to be the same as the neighbor's gods. So they went in and killed all the women and children and gave God credit because that's what their neighbors did. It was their view of the world. You will see this when we get into 1 and 2 Samuel. Their neighbors have a king, so they want one. Even though God said I will be your king.

So, these stories tell you more about the people of that day than about God. Adam Hamilton said in his book *Making Sense of the Bible* to look and see if how God is presented in the OT is inconsistent with Jesus' life and message (love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you, etc) . If it is, the story is telling you more about the culture than about God. If a particular teaching or story in the OT is at odds with Jesus, then the passage reflects the culture or the worldview of the human author of scripture rather than the heart of God, God's character. So when we read that passage in Deuteronomy 20 where God said kill all the women and children, it may be more about the culture and the human author of scripture rather than God.

*Another explanation: This is war language. Remember after 9/11: let's go and kill them all. It's an exaggeration just like, "I caught a fish this big..."

What do you think?

PPT Moses death: chapter 34 read

PPT Map: Note review of covenant

V5-8 death and people mourn. I thought of England at the loss of their queen. 70% of England only knew her as queen. The current Israelites only know Moses as their leader. Beautiful way to end the book of Deuteronomy (last paragraph)

Verse 9 Joshua is given the ability by God to lead

Next week: Joshua becomes the leader after Moses death, and we hear his story as they enter the promised land.

Favorite verse?

Questions?