

**Wilderness Period:  
The Second Law Deuteronomy 1:1-34:12**

Deuteronomy is called by the Jews, "*The five fifths of the law*" because it completes the five books of Moses. Another way the Hebrews named the books was by the first few words, thus it is also known as, "*These be the words.*" Deuteronomy is often referred to as the "*Second Law.*" It is not a second law if this is understood to mean a "new law" but simply a restating of the first law to the new generation. It also addresses some additional things necessary because of the almost 40 years that had passed and new problems had arose.

The book of Deuteronomy is very important because of the influence that it had upon the nation of Israel as well as its teaching for us today. It is quoted or alluded to a total of 195 times in the New Testament. In **Matt 4:11** Christ quotes from it when He used scripture on Satan during His temptation. It also speaks to many of the satanic movements that are pervading our society.

The book of Numbers left Israel camped on the Plains of Moab. **Deut 1:3** tells us the time now is "**...the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month...**" The children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for almost forty years until a generation of unbelievers died. Then they come again to the threshold of the Promised Land. In **Deut 1:7-8** Moses exhorts them to go possess the land.

The new generation was not familiar with the experience of Mount Sinai and the giving of the Law. In just one month they would enter this Promised Land. The new generation of

adults needs the law interpreted in light of the 38 years in the wilderness.

The book can be broken down into five parts.

**I- The Introduction Deut 1:1-4**

**II- The First Message of Moses "Looking at the Past" Deut 1:5-4:43**

**III- The Second Message of Moses "Looking at the Present" Deut 4:44-26:19**

**IV- The Third Message of Moses "Looking to the Future" Deut 27:1-30:20**

**V- The Changing of the Guard "From Moses to Joshua" Deut 31:1-34:12**

**I- The Introduction Deut 1:1-4**

**"These be the word which Moses spake unto all Israel..." Deut 1:1** Moses preached to the Nation of Israel while they are on the east side of Jordan. The journey that should have been 11 days took 40 years. **Deut 1:2-3.**

**II- The First Message of Moses**

**"Looking at the Past" Deut 1:5-4:43**

Moses begins to "**declare**" the law (**1:5**). Moses gives the new generation a history lesson about the past in his first message.

**1:6-46** Moses reminded them of the wilderness wandering. He took them on the journey from Sinai to Kadesh. He reminded them of the rebellion and constant murmuring of their forefathers.

In **2:1-15** Moses reminded them of the forty years of wilderness wandering. He quickly passed over these years and placed heavy emphasis on Edom (Esau) **2:8** and the Moabites **2:9**. God told Moses to not war against

them because He had given their land to the Hebrews.

**2:16-3:29** records the start of the conquest of the land. This had been 40 years coming. The command was given in **2:24-25** to possess the land. **2:26-3:29** records the conquest of the Trans-Jordan area. **Numbers 32** records the two tribes of Reuben and Gad desired to not cross the Jordan River but choosing to live on the east side of the river. Moses made them promise that they would help fight the battle in the Promised Land before he would grant the request.

**2:26-37** records the defeat of the King Sihon of Heshbon. Moses asked to pass through his land and he would not grant it. For this God told the Israelites to destroy all the people. **2:34**.

They were to also destroy Og who was king of Bashan, which was to the north. We might ask why did God lead His people to destroy these two kings and subdue them. **2:36** and **3:4-5** says that the cities were well defended and walled. The excuse the first generation had for not entering the Promised Land was fear of the walled cities. God gave these two nations over to this generation to reassure them that He was with them and that He could and would give them the Promised Land.

**3:21** is the beginning of the transfer of power from Moses to Joshua.

**3:23ff** Moses again pleads with God to allow Him to enter the land. God will not allow this but allowed him to view it from Pisgah. (See **Deut. 34**) **3:26** states that God told Moses to not mention it again.

In **Deut 4** Moses exhorts the new generation to obey and hearken unto God's law. Obedience is a constant theme in this book. **4:14ff** especially

warns about making and worship of idols.

### III- The Second Message of Moses "Looking at the Present" **Deut 4:44-26:19**

Several important things are contained in the second message of Moses. We will not have time to look at many. I wish to offer some important ones for today.

**Deut 5:1-21** is a reiteration of the 10 commandments. Moses reminds them of the giving of them. These moral laws are very important for us.

**6:4-5** is a very important section. **6:4** is known to the Jews as the "Shema" after the first word "Hear". This verse contains a strong support for the Trinity. The Hebrew word for "**one**" (*edadh*) expresses a plural meaning and not singular. It is the same word that is used when it said the Adam and Eve became "**one**".

Christ used **6:5** as the first and greatest Commandment in **Mark 12:28-31**.

**6:20; 11:18-20** is a very important need not only in the nation of Israel but in America today. They were told to constantly teach their children about the things of God. They were to always have the things of God and His Word before their eyes. We have this responsibility also today to our children.

**10:12** states the things that God required of Israel as they entered the Promised Land. "**fear the Lord,..walk in his ways,..love him..serve...with all thy heart and with all thy soul.**" Does He require any less of us today? No!

**18:9-14** speaks concerning somethings that is of utmost importance in our world today. This speaks strongly against several things that have become common place and accepted in our

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society. This section contains stern warnings against indulgence in sorcery. Allow me to quote these verses from the **NIV** to help us understand them God's warning concerning these.

Notice anyone **"...who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these thing is DETESTABLE to the Lord..."** (My underline and caps for emphasis.)

**18:15-22** is a prophecy of a prophet who was to come like Moses.

### **IV- The Third Message of Moses "Looking to the Future" Deut 27:1-30:20**

Moses in his third Message looks forward to the time of the Promised Land being possessed.

**27:1ff** They were instructed to have a ceremony upon Mount Ebal and Mt. Gerisim overlooking the city of Shekem. On Mount Ebal they were to set up memorial stones and the curses of the law pronounced. There were no stones upon Gerisim nor curses pronounced only blessings. Mount Ebal pictures the Law and Mount Gerisim pictures Grace. There are no stones with any curse on it in grace. Christ nailed the curse of the law to the cross. (see **Col 2:14**)

**Deut 28-30** give the Palestinian Covenant. The blessings and curses are given in relation to obedience. This covenant however is an unconditional covenant. There is no if you will then I will in this covenant. This has been called "Israel's prewritten history." There are 7 parts to this covenant.  
1- Israel will be dispersed for disobedience. **28:36,63-68; 30:1**

2- They will repent while dispersed. **30:2**

3- The second advent of Christ. **30:3**

4- Restoration of the land. **30:5**

5- Future national conversion. They receive a new heart. **30:6**

6- The nations that were her enemies will be judged. **30:7**

7- Prosperity as a nation during Millennial. **30:9.**

### **V- The Changing of the Guard "From Moses to Joshua" Deut 31:1-34:12**

The final chapters record the changing of the guard from Moses to Joshua.

Moses dies and God buries him. **34:1-6.** Moses was wept for by the nation for 30 days. **34:8.**

Joshua will become the leader of the nation of Israel. This man Joshua will be the one who will lead them into the land promised to Abraham. **34:9**

### **Application to Life:**

- 1- **I Cor 10:11** teaches us that these things were for our benefit.
- 2- God is the one who fights our battles.
- 3- God wants us to teach our children about Him and His ways.
- 4- Sorcery, witchcraft & consulting spirits are still detestable to the Lord.
- 5- God is a covenant God who can bring the covenants to pass.

### **Review of Session:**

- 1- Who buried Moses? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2- Who was Moses successor?  
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- 3- What does God say about all types of sorcery? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4- What did God require of Israel in **Deut 10:12?** \_\_\_\_\_  
Of Us? \_\_\_\_\_