

THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

What does *"The Andy Griffith Show"*, *"I Love Lucy"*, *"Batman"*, and *"The Law of Moses"* all have in common? *"Holy Rerun, Batman. They've all been re-released!"*

Well, the book of Deuteronomy is exactly that – *it's a holy rerun*. The word *"Deuteronomy"* literally means *"second law"*. The Greeks used the word to mean *"copy or duplicate"*. Deuteronomy was a

refresher course on the Law of Moses.

When the second generation came to the Jordan River to enter the Promised Land, God repeated to them the same standards and instructions He gave the first generation when He brought them out of Egypt to Mt. Sinai. Deuteronomy is in essence Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers repackaged and summarized.

HOW GOOD IS YOUR MEMORY?

In chapter 1, Moses takes the second generation back in time to the day when their fathers were at Kadesh ready to enter the land... but something went terribly wrong - something that cost them their opportunity, and sentenced them to death in the wilderness. Moses reminds this second generation of the failure of the first. He warns them not to repeat the same mistakes.

One of a parent's frustrations is the failure of his kids to remember... Of course, if I promise my boys a new Nintendo game their memory peaks. Every hour on the hour I get reminded.

But if I tell 'em to take out the trash they get Alzheimers. *"When did you say that..." "I don't remember that..." "No one told me that..."*

One of the key words in Deuteronomy is the word *"remember"*. It appears 14 times in the book. The second generation had a responsibility to remember the truths of God, and so do we. God goes to tremendous lengths, and enormous effort to teach us lessons we tend to forget overnight. Guys, one of the primary lessons of the book of Deuteronomy - is it's our responsibility to remember...

JESUS AND MOSES

An exciting prophecy appears in 18:18. The Lord says to Moses, *"I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him."*

In John 5:46 Jesus said to the Jews, *"For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me."* The prophet Moses anticipates here was none other than Jesus.

No one in the history of Israel rose to the stature of Moses – except Jesus. AW Pink in his commentary on Exodus lists 75 ways that Jesus was like Moses...

As infants, both were attacked by tyrants who slaughtered innocent children. Both were redeemers. Moses turned water to blood – Jesus water to wine. Both were shepherds. Both were willing to die for the nation. Both interceded. Both were rejected by their brothers. Both fasted 40 days. Both occupied all three major Hebrew offices – prophet, priest, and king. And the list goes on and on.

Hebrews 3 makes it clear: Jesus was not only like Moses, He was far greater! This becomes apparent in Deuteronomy 30.

There Moses says in verse 15, *"See, I have set*

before you today life and good, death and evil..." If they obey the Lord and walk in His ways they'll receive life and good. If they disobey – death and evil.

Moses made the choice plain, but he provided them no power to follow through. This is another way that Jesus is better than Moses. He doesn't just tell us what to do, as much as He puts it in our hearts to do it. He creates within us the will to obey. He empowers us. Jesus is a better deliverer than Moses.

It's all so symbolic that Moses failed to lead the people into the Promised Land. That job was left to *"Joshua"*, and if you were to translate his name into Greek, guess what it would be? *"Jesus"*. Moses will take you only so far. He'll teach you right and wrong, but he can't lead you into God's rest and blessing.

It takes the blood of Jesus to permanently cover our sin –to create an unbroken stream of God's power and blessing – that cleanses, matures, and makes fruitful. Only through Christ can we experience God's peace and enter His rest.

Bible Scan - Deuteronomy 1-34

November 28, 1999 T a p e # S C 1 2 A

Advice to Parents

Deuteronomy 6:6 tells us, "These words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 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."

I love how God tells us to teach spiritual truth to our kids. He doesn't say hold daily Bible classes – or sit down once a week, and have a family devotion – although both practices have value.

The preferred method though is much more hands-on and relational. The best approach to conveying spiritual truth to our kids is to integrate its application and relevance into everyday life. Teach God's truth as you live life. Apply as you go.

This is how Jesus taught His disciples. He's walking down the road, and sees a man sowing seed: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed..." Or He points to a flock of birds, "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them..." It's life application.

God also tells us in verses 8-9, "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." In other words, let the Word of God guide your activities - color your thoughts - form the atmosphere of your home.

Today, orthodox Jews take these commandments literally. They wear leather pouches called *phylacteries* that contain tiny pages of Scripture on their forehead and wrists. Mezzuzahs hang outside their doors - weatherproof containers that hold the Scripture, and are nailed to the column or doorpost of the house. When the Jews enter or exit the house they kiss it to show their love for God's Word.

Guys, we need to surround ourselves, and our kids, with the Word of God. My wife has cross-stitched verses, and decorated our house with beautiful hangings that quote Scripture. There are many ways to show your kids your love for God's Word.

Do whatever you can to keep God's Word in the forefront of your mind. Chapter 6:12 warns the Hebrews and us, "lest you forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt..." Don't underestimate the responsibility to remember!

The Trinity in Deuteronomy

Chapter 6 contains what the Jews called the "*the Great Shema*". Verse 4 is a declaration of the monotheistic nature of God, "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!" This is the Jewish creed. They're affirmation of faith.

And it certainly is a powerful statement that the true God, is but one God. But the Shema holds an even a deeper revelation. The word translated "*one*" is the Hebrew word "*echad*", which speaks not of an *absolute unity*, but of a *compound unity*. When the rabbis explain the word "*echad*" they hold up one fist, then point out that this one fist is also made up of five fingers – it's a compound unity.

This is a beautiful way to describe the Triune nature of God. Yes, God is one God, but He is a compound unity. He is one God, who exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I heard of a little girl who was asked if she knew the term for the three persons of the Godhead. She thought for a moment and said, "*The Triplets*." She was right on the three persons, but God is still one God!

Devotion Box - It's Time To Enter In

In the first three chapters Moses retraces the nation's 40-year history. They appointed leaders and march from Horeb (or Mt. Sinai) to Kadesh. There they sent out spies into the land. When the report came back that the land was occupied by giants the people began to grumble and murmur - and doubt God's faithfulness.

Moses told them in 1:29, "Do not be terrified, or afraid of them. The LORD your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness where you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son..." God carried them piggy-back.

It reminds me of the poem, "*Footprints in the Sand*". A man has a dream in which he's walking down the beach. He sees two sets of footprints, and realizes God has been walking by his side. But on occasion, during trials and difficulties, the man saw only one set of footprints. The man asked the Lord why He had left him when the times got tough. God answered, He hadn't. In fact it was during the tough times God carried him, and that's why there were only one set of prints.

But Israel at Kadesh reminds me of another poem about "*Prints in the Sand*":

"One night I had a wondrous dream, one set of footprints there

was seen, the footprints of my precious Lord, but mine were not along the shore. But then some stranger prints appeared, and I asked the Lord, "What have we here?" Those prints are large and round and neat, "But Lord, they are too big for human feet." "My child," He said in somber tones, "For miles I carried you alone. I challenged you to walk in faith, but you refused and made me wait." "You disobeyed, you would not grow, the walk of faith, you would not know, so I got tired, I got fed up, and there I dropped you on your duff." "Because in life, there comes a time, when one must fight, and one must climb, when one must rise and take a stand, or leave their duff prints in the sand."

Hey, that's exactly what happened to the first generation. God demonstrated His faithfulness over and over – He carried them piggyback - yet they refused to trust Him. And literally, God dropped'em in the sand. They died in the wilderness.

Here's an important point for us to consider - are we dragging our feet on a challenge God has set before us? Do we lack the faith to enter in? Have we caved in to doubt and fear? It's time for us to rise up and trust the Lord. He has never let us down. He never will!

Points to Ponder

Deuteronomy 7:6-8

"For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you..."

And neither did God choose us because of our natural endowments, or learned skills. He chose us just because He loves us. Again, it's His grace and mercy – not our goodness and merit.

Deuteronomy 7:22

"The LORD your God will drive out those nations before you little by little; you will be unable to destroy them at once, lest the beasts of the field become too numerous for you."

God promises His people victory, but it will be won *little by little* – in increments. We prefer the overnight, instant elimination of all our problems, but that's not how victory occurs in the Christian life. Yes, an immediate work occurs inwardly the moment we embrace Christ, but the *working out* of what *God works in* takes time. It occurs little by little, and along the way valuable lessons are learned, and a maturity develops. Be patient!

Deuteronomy 8:2

"You shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD." The wilderness was a lesson in trust and dependence.

God put them through these 40 years of hardship, so when they entered the land, and began to enjoy its blessings they wouldn't forget their need for God.

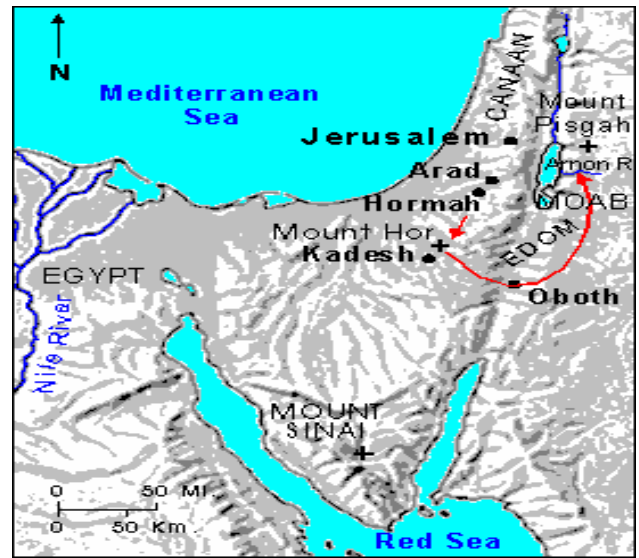
Devotion Box - Giving God the Glory

We pray, plead, and trust the Lord for His blessing, then once we've received it we make the mistake described in Deuteronomy 8:17: "then you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.'"

It reminds me of the woodpecker pecking on a tree trunk in a thunderstorm. Suddenly the tree gets struck by lightning and splits in two. The woodpecker flexes his muscles, and thinks, "Wow, look at the power in my pecks."

Guys, God doesn't bless your business, family, and finances for you to take the bows. Give the glory and honor to whom it belongs. Live humbly before God.

Places in Deuteronomy



Devotion Box - Do You Hate Sin?

Deuteronomy 7:26 is an important verse. It teaches us to hate... that's right we need to hate... sin! "Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is an accursed thing." We need to detest and abhor anything sinful.

Evangelist Billy Sunday once said: "I'm against sin. I'll kick it as long as I've got a foot, and I'll fight it as long as I've got a fist. I'll butt it as long as I've got a head. I'll bite it as long as I've got a tooth. When I'm old and fistless and footless and toothless, I'll gum it till I go home to glory and it goes home to perdition!"

Hate sin, and love God – both are needed to live a victorious Christian life.

Devotion Box - Don't Blur the Boundaries

Deuteronomy 22:5 is, in my opinion, an extremely significant verse. We're told, "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the LORD your God."

Cross-dressing and masquerading as the opposite sex is not a fun harmless, innocent fascination – it's a distortion of sexual identities. When God created us, He created us male and female. We should never blur the boundaries.

Even if done jokingly, I still think cross-dressing is an unhealthy practice. I believe in our homes and society we should do all we can to promote masculinity among men, and femininity among females. It reminds me of the elderly lady who said, "Oh for the day, when men were men, and women were proud of it!"

Bible Scan - Deuteronomy 1-34

Calvary Chapel

If you have questions on tonight's study email Pastor Sandy - sandyadams@calvarychapel.org

Calvary Chapel Announcements - November 28, 1999

- 11/28** Tonight tickets are available in both foyers for the Ladies Christmas Tea to be held on 12/11 @ 2:00 p.m. Cost \$5/person, and tickets are to be purchased by 12/8. Please use this special occasion as an outreach opportunity by inviting friends, family and co-workers.
- 11/30** Ladies Morning Bible Study 10:00 a.m. and Ladies Evening Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- 12/1** HS Impact 7:00 p.m. and Café 7:30 p.m. (Bible Study: Pastor James Special Music: Eddie King)
- 12/3** Horizons 7:30 p.m. (Steve Lee's home)
- 12/4** Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 a.m. and Crossroads 7:00 p.m. (David & Denise Brown's home)

Next Bible Scan - December 5 - Joshua 1-12

"Take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart..." - Deuteronomy 4:9

Bible Scan Memory Verse

Chunks to Chew On

The Arnon River marked a turning point. It's amazing how big movements often turn on small events. If a pass gets tipped, or an outfielder makes a catch, or a crucial free throw goes down it can change the outcome of a whole game. Here was Israel crossing a meaningless puddle – just a brook - but it marked a huge turning point!

Chapter 6:5 says, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." In Matthew 22:38 Jesus called this verse "the first and great commandment". Be passionate about your love for God.

Chapter 8:4 tells us, "Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years." Our boys can wear out a pair of tennis shoes in six weeks. Imagine, going 40 years with the same clothes and shoes!

In chapter 12 God appoints only one designated place to worship. This is still the case. People who tell you they worship God in their own way, don't understand worship. God forbids that kind of mentality. Worship is highly centralized. God gives limited options. There has always been just one place to worship God. Today, that one place is Jesus Christ!

Be careful about the evil influences in today's culture that try to "*secretly entice your kids*". They too need to be reported and punished.

In chapter 17 the future king is forbidden to accumulate three items – *horses, or a cavalry – wives, or a harem – and silver and gold, or financial reserves*. In times of war God wanted the king to trust in Him, not his horses or military

machinery. In times of peace God wanted the king to strengthen his ties with heaven, not with foreign nations through the practice of exchanging daughters. And at all times, God wanted the king's wealth to consist of his spiritual abundance, not his money. Don't you fall prey to the *lure of power*, or the *lust of sex*, or the *love of money*.

There's hope for an incorrigible kid. We need to turn him over to Jesus. Jesus can transform his life!

Gal 3:13—Jesus bore our curse, so we could be blessed.

Don't be unequally yoked with an unbeliever.

Halley's Bible Handbook states, "The 28th chapter of Deuteronomy placed alongside the history of the Hebrew nation, constitutes one of the most astounding and indisputable evidences of the Divine inspiration of the Bible."

Chapter 29:29 says, "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law." Don't let the things you don't know distract you from what you do know. There are a million mysteries in life and Scripture that won't be unraveled until we get to heaven. Don't let the secret mysteries divert you from the clear commands. Mark Twain once said, "It ain't those parts of the Bible I don't understand that bother me – it's the parts I do understand, and need to obey."

TERMS

- 2:1 "skirted" means "circled"
6:4 "echad" means "one" but refers to a "compound unity"
6:8-9 "phylacteries" are the leather pouches on the hands
"mezzuzahs" are the containers on the doorpost
9:13 "stiff-necked" means "stubborn"
14:4 "kosher" means "proper"
32:15 "Jeshurun" means "upright"