

Questions

Study Procedure: Read the Scripture references before answering questions. Unless otherwise instructed, use the Bible only in answering questions. Some questions may be more difficult than others but try to answer as many as you can. Pray for God’s wisdom and understanding as you study and don’t be discouraged if some answers are not obvious at first. Do not read the study notes for this lesson until AFTER you have completed your questions.

Day One: Review of the book of Numbers

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Joshua | a) had a talking donkey |
| _____ 2. Levites | b) two Amorite kings defeated by Israel |
| _____ 3. Judah | c) population count |
| _____ 4. census | d) keepers of the tabernacle |
| _____ 5. Kibroth Hattaavah | e) Caleb’s tribe |
| _____ 6. Ephraim | f) next leader of Israel |
| _____ 7. Balaam | g) Miriam’s punishment |
| _____ 8. tassels | h) number of tribes staying east of the Jordan |
| _____ 9. Zelophehad | i) led a rebellion |
| _____ 10. Sihon and Og | j) striking the rock at Kadesh |
| _____ 11. Korah | k) graves of craving |
| _____ 12. 2½ | l) placed on corners of men’s robes to remind them to obey God’s commands |
| _____ 13. Moses’ sin | m) Joshua’s tribe |
| _____ 14. seven-day leprosy | n) father who died without male heirs and girls asked for right of inheritance |

Day Two: Read Deuteronomy 1



We will have five lessons on Deuteronomy, each focusing on one of the three sermons Moses delivered to Israel’s new generation of leaders. It has been called the book of the second chance, since the nation stood again on the threshold of the Promised Land.

- How long did it normally take to travel from Mount Horeb (Sinai) to Kadesh, the entry point to Canaan? _____
 - How long had it taken Israel this last time? _____
- What is the date of this opening speech by Moses to Israel? _____
- Read Deuteronomy 1:3 and 34:8 and Joshua 4:19 and calculate how long it took Moses to give the three sermons of Deuteronomy. _____

4. There are several details supplied in this chapter about Israel's failure 38 years before when they were at Kadesh Barnea. Record below any new information you discover about the following:
 - a) division of leadership (verse 15) _____

 - b) the request for spies (verse 22) _____

 - c) complaint in the tents (verse 27) _____

 - d) Israel's real problem (verse 32) _____
 - e) when God revealed His choice of Moses' replacement (verses 37-38) _____

 - f) why those under twenty were spared from judgment (verse 39) _____

Day Three: Read Deuteronomy 2

1. a) Esau and Lot were relatives of Israel (Jacob) as recorded back in Genesis. What promises to their descendants was God still keeping? _____

- b) How does that make you feel about promises available to you in Scripture? _____

2. What verse summarizes God's care of Israel during the previous 40 years? _____
3. Record any information you find here about giants. Consult a Bible dictionary for more help.

4. Read verse 25. Comment on God's use of "publicity" to help His people. _____

5. Verse 31 has an important principle for success in Christian work: Begin to _____ it, that you may _____ the land. Rewrite this in your own words. _____

Day Four: Read Deuteronomy 3

1. Moses reminds them of two of their most recent victories. Name them. _____

2. What was most interesting about the defeat of King Og? _____
3. What was God’s purpose in giving them these early war experiences? _____

4. List some past victories that you have experienced that should make you hopeful about current battles facing you. _____

5. a) What personal incident in verses 23-29 does Moses reveal? _____

- b) Share your thoughts or feelings about this. _____

- c) Read Matthew 17:1-5 and write down what you find about the time Moses did get to enter the Promised Land. _____

Day Five: Read Deuteronomy 4



This is a wonderful chapter on the importance of knowing God and His Word. From Deuteronomy 4:1-10, fill in the blanks with the verse numbers that express these truths:

1. The Word of God is complete as written. _____
2. The commandments of God are the source of wisdom and understanding. _____
3. It will take effort to learn and remember them. _____
4. Children must be taught them too. _____
5. Fill in the blanks with the important descriptions of God’s nature:
 - a) God is _____ (verse 24).
 - b) God is _____ (verse 31).
 - c) The Lord Himself is _____ (verse 39).
6. What verses gave help and hope to Israel whenever they sinned? _____
7. Now take a few minutes to read your study notes for this lesson.

Notes

Israel at the Edge of Canaan

The Book of Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy came from a word which literally meant the “Second Law.” It is not a set of new laws, but it is a serious review by Moses of the requirements and history of Israel’s covenant relationship with God. Moses delivered the three sermons that make up Deuteronomy during the last forty days of his life. He was making sure that the younger generation of Israelites, who had survived to take over the leadership from their unbelieving parents, was fully informed of the truths about their God: His promises to them and His requirements of them.

The Wonderful Word of God

In Deuteronomy 1, Moses emphasized the need for individuals to hear, study, and obey God’s Word and warned that careful teaching of Scripture to children must continue for the nation to remain strong. Unfortunately, Moses’ advice was not followed consistently. Hundreds of years later, there was an episode recorded in 2 Kings 22 and 2 Chronicles 34 which told of a time when the book of Deuteronomy was not taught to anyone—because they did not know it existed! However, after the wicked reign of Manasseh and Amon, King Josiah commanded that the house of the Lord be repaired and cleansed of all the false worship brought in by King Manasseh. In the process of cleaning out the temple, the workers found the book of Deuteronomy. Here it had been stored, unnoticed and unread for many years. King Josiah had it read before the people. The king and people alike were horrified when they heard God’s judgment against idolatry. Josiah began to make even more corrections in obedience to Deuteronomy’s clear message. Casual neglect of God’s Word leads to forgetfulness and then ignorance of it. Yet, any attempt to obey, as Josiah did, what is known about God’s will, will open the way for God to “uncover” more and more from His Word about Himself.

To neglect God’s Word today is just as serious a matter as it was in the history of Israel. Scriptural ignorance led them to heathenism and idolatry. Such ignorance leads nations today into immorality, violence, materialism, and devaluing of human life. Christians should listen to the solemn warnings of Deuteronomy about neglecting the study of the Word of God. Many churches operate today, busily unaware that Scripture has been “lost” from their seminaries or local planning boards. Its rediscovery still causes great movements of repentance and reform, and that is why Bible studies such as Explorer’s have a vital role to play in bringing groups and individuals back in contact with God’s Word.

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These are the three sermons or divisions of Deuteronomy that we will use in our study:

1. Chapters 1-4: Moses summarized God's past faithfulness to Israel and the importance of hearing and obeying God's Word.

2. Chapters 5-26: Beginning with the Ten Commandments, Moses restated and applied God's laws. Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy in His teachings more than from any other book, so students can expect to read many familiar sounding passages.

3. Chapters 27-34: Moses presented the warnings for disobedience and reviewed the blessings for obedience to God. This section ends with the account of Moses' death.

**Opening
Explanation
Deuteronomy
1:1-5**

"These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel on this side of the Jordan in the wilderness." Moses delivered a final series of sermons at the age of 120, during the final forty days of his life. He started the sermons on the first day of the eleventh month of the fortieth year. That left a total of sixty days, or two months, remaining in that year. Joshua led the people into the Promised Land on the tenth day of the first month of the next year, according to Joshua 4:19. That made a total of seventy days in that period. According to Deuteronomy 34:8, the people mourned thirty days over the death of Moses that occurred in that time frame. So, that left forty days for Moses to have given and recorded the three sermons recorded in Deuteronomy.

**Reviewing
the Past
Deuteronomy
1:6-8**

Moses first took his listeners back to the days of their childhood, when after witnessing the power of God at Mount Sinai in the region of Horeb and hearing the Ten Commandments and plans for the tabernacle issued, they were told the words of God: *"You have dwelt long enough at this mountain. Turn and take your journey...to the land of the Canaanites."* Everything had been done on the part of God and Moses to bring Israel immediately to the land promised to them since the days of Abraham. All they needed to do was to go forward in faith and possess what God had promised. However, through unbelief, they failed miserably.

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**Leaders
Appointed**
Deuteronomy
1:9-18

For the benefit of the new generation of leaders coming out of the wilderness, Moses repeated the reason leaders were chosen, their qualifications, and their varying levels of responsibility. The emphasis was on fairness to all over whom they held authority. No **partiality** was to be shown, even in the cases of strangers against Israelites or rich against poor. This command would often be repeated in the New Testament writings, too.

partiality - related to the part rather than the whole; favoritism

**Failure
Without Faith**
Deuteronomy
1:19-33

Moses continued the history lesson with the tragic story of the spies who discouraged the people with their report about Canaan and its inhabitants. The bottom line was powerfully pointed out by Moses for their learning: *"Yet, for all that, you did not believe the LORD your God, who went in the way before you to search out a place for you to pitch your tents, to show you the way you should go, in the fire by night and in the cloud by day."* Unbelief brought failure.

**Dying Off in
the
Wilderness**
Deuteronomy
1:34-46

The generation listening to Moses here had been under twenty-years-old, with *"no knowledge of good and evil,"* at the time of their parents' unbelieving response to the challenge to enter Canaan. Over the next thirty-eight years, those older than twenty had died, and the younger generation grew up to start again. Moses **frankly** pointed out to his listeners his own disqualification from entering the Promised Land because of his sin at Kadesh (Numbers 20:2-12).

frankly - sincerely expressed

**God's Care
and Warning**
Deuteronomy
2:1-37

God had directed their travels in the wilderness, too. He had not abandoned His people even while **chastening** them. God warned them to leave the people of Esau, Moab, and Ammon alone in their settlements, since He had given them their lands long ago. All three were only distantly related to this present Israel, and not very godly, but God kept His word to them through the years. Certainly, then, He would keep every promise to His own covenant people.

chastening - pruning of excess; correcting through punishment

God had never forsaken Israel: *"For the LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hand. He knows your trudging through this great wilderness. These forty years, the LORD your God has been with you; you have lacked nothing"* (Deuteronomy 2:7).

Emim - "terrible ones";
giants

Giants Galore!

Deuteronomy
2:10-12, 20-23;
3:1-11

The old generation had feared entering Canaan the first time because of the report of giants. But God allowed the younger generation to be exposed to giants in the wilderness—the **Emim**, Zam Zummin, and Anakim were mentioned. Israel even had success in defeating a giant Amorite king named Og, whose bed was described as 13 ½ feet long by 6 feet wide. The two victories over Sihon and Og were to encourage this new Israeli leadership in going forward bravely to face the enemies of Canaan. "You must not fear them," Moses explained, "for the LORD your God Himself fights for you" (Deuteronomy 3:22).

2 ½ Tribes Ready to Stop

Deuteronomy
3:12-22

After the conquest of the two Amorite kings, the conquered territory east of Jordan was divided among the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh at their request. The tribe of Manasseh received one-half of its inheritance on the east side of the Jordan and the other half on the west. Even though these tribes settled here, they were to cross over Jordan and help in the conquest of the Promised Land. Their wives and children would stay in the shelter of the cities east of Jordan while the men went to war.

Stop Right There!

Deuteronomy
3:23-29

Moses did not hide his own problems from the people. He told them of trying to appeal to God for another chance to go forward with the nation he loved. But God had already settled that and responded firmly, "Enough of that! Speak no more to Me of this matter." God urged Moses to go up to a high point and look the land over but reminded him that Joshua was the one chosen to take them in. Moses did not cross Jordan, as David did not see the temple, nor Daniel the return, nor John the Baptist the revelation of Christ's glory. Yet to all these servants God gave a prophetic vision that was sure to come to pass.

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Conclusion of First Message

Deuteronomy
4:1-14

Moses ended his first message with an emphasis and an appeal. The emphasis was on the unique power and value of the Word of God, and the appeal was for obedience to it. This really was a no-brainer. God's commands were so perfect that if Israel obeyed them, she would be blessed and enter and remain in the land God had promised. Moses reminded his listeners of the terrible damage caused by their earlier disobedience at Baal Peor. In fact, only because of a return to obedience of God's word were the members of his present audience alive to hear him at that moment (verse 4).

How good are the laws God gave through Moses? They became the foundation for godly governments which still exist today, including America's. God's truths must be preserved for generations to come. The fact that Moses repeatedly emphasized the teaching of these laws should warn us of the danger of a nation's minimizing or neglecting the religious and moral education of her young, as we have seen with tragic results in our own country.

**"Take Heed to
Yourselves"
Deuteronomy
4:15-31**

Three times Moses warned them in this section to "take **heed**," or beware of being drawn away from the true God to idols. He reminded them that God had never revealed Himself to them in any kind of form that could be copied, manufactured, and then falsely worshiped. Even the majesty of the heavenly bodies was not to be idolized, for God created them and gave them to the world. God is "a consuming fire, a jealous God," and will not tolerate false worship. The way to worship the true God is to "seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul...turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice."

**Israel: One of
a Kind
Deuteronomy
4:32-40**

Moses challenged Israel to "ask now concerning the days that are past...since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other..." Has there ever been a nation to which God has revealed Himself so clearly and protected so publicly? The answer is no. And we Christians could ask the same question! Has there ever been a group of people who were allowed to know and love God as we the people whom He has redeemed by the blood of His only Son?

Now, as then, our God is worthy of wholehearted obedience. This fourth chapter of Deuteronomy closes with a serious appeal that has value today: "Keep His statutes and His commandments which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you" (verse 40).

heed - to pay attention

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