

The Book of Deuteronomy – Introduction

1446 B.C.

Exodus from
Egypt

1408 B.C.

Moses addresses
Israel in Moab

1406 B.C.

Israel enters
Promised Land

▶ **THEME:**

- ▶ The final book in the Pentateuch contains Moses' last three sermons and two prophetic poems about Israel's future.
- ▶ Reflecting on the nation's past mistakes, Moses urges the people not to repeat those errors when they enter the Promised Land.
- ▶ Possessing Canaan will fulfill the promises made to the patriarchs, but if the people fall into idolatry or fail to keep the law, they will be exiled.

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▶ **SETTING:**

- ▶ Moses wrote most of the book.
- ▶ 1406 B.C. [B.C.E]
- ▶ The book records Moses' final words to the Israelites as they waited on the plains of Moab to enter Canaan.
- ▶ Moses begins by reviewing the events of Israel's journey from Mount Sinai to the plains of Moab.

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▶ AUDIENCE:

- ▶ All the nation of Israel, assembled across the Jordan in the wilderness known as the Arabah.
- ▶ At this place, 40-years after what should have been no more than an 11-day journey, Moses speaks to Israel!
- ▶ Moses includes in the book several serious warnings!



Moses Warns Israel

The Book of Deuteronomy

Moses Warns Israel

2nd & 3rd Generation

Deuteronomy 4:9-10

⁹ Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. **Make them known to your children and your children's children** – ¹⁰ how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, “Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and **that they may teach their children so.**”

Judges 2:7,10

⁷ And the people served the LORD **all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua**, who had seen all the great works of the LORD had done for Israel.

¹⁰ And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. **And there arose another generation after them** who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel.

Moses Warns Israel

2nd & 3rd Generation

Most of us are second or third generation Christians!

- Our parents/grandparents stood for strict adherence to Scripture.
- The Lord will judge how faithfully we have done so.
- We must:
 - Continue to make this our goal.
 - Teach our children to go to the scriptures for guidance.

Moses Warns Israel

2nd & 3rd Generation

Most of us are second or third generation Christians!

⁶ And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

⁷ 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. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

(Deuteronomy 6)

Moses Warns Israel

Dealing With Prosperity

Deuteronomy 6:10-12

¹⁰ And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you – with great and good cities that you did not build, ¹¹ and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—**and when you eat and are full,** ¹² then take care lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Amos 6:4-6

⁴ Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, ⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, ⁶ who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

Moses Warns Israel

Dealing With Prosperity **We are extremely prosperous!**

- ▶ “And Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven.’” **(Matthew 19:23)**
- ▶ “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.” **(Luke 6:20)**
- ▶ ¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. **(1 Timothy 6)**

Moses Warns Israel

Alliances with Unbelievers

Deuteronomy 7:1-2

¹ When the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and mightier than you, ² and when the LORD your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction. **You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them.**

Joshua 9:2-4a,15

² [The nations of Canaan] gathered together as one to fight against Joshua and Israel. ³ But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, ⁴ they on their part acted with cunning ...

¹⁵ **And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them,** to let them live, and the leaders of the congregation swore to them.

Moses Warns Israel

Alliances with Unbelievers

**We are in a war with today's
culture!**

- Many “Christians” have already surrendered.
- Some stand with us in our resistance.
- Doctrinal issues are often the “battlefield” where this war is being fought.
- The scriptures warn as much against false doctrine as against immorality!

Moses Warns Israel

Evil Outside Influences

Deuteronomy 12 & 13

^{12:30} ... do not inquire about their gods, saying, “How did these nations serve their gods? – that I may do the same.” ^{12:31} ...

You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way.

^{13:6} If your brother ... entices you secretly, saying, “Let us go and serve other gods,” which neither you nor your fathers have known, ^{13:7} **some of the gods of the people who are around you,** ... ⁸ **you shall not consent to him or listen to him...**

Judges 3:5-6

⁵ So the people of Israel lived among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

⁶ And their daughters they took to themselves for wives, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, **and they served their gods.**

Moses Warns Israel

Evil Outside Influences

We are surrounded by ungodly influences!

- Immorality; injustice; hatred; violence; human philosophy; disregard for God; false religion.
- “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” **(Romans 12:2)**
- ¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. ” **(Ephesians 5)**

Moses Warns Israel

Conclusion

- If the Lord delays his coming long enough, this local church will eventually leave the Lord – our task is to delay that departure as long as possible!
- *²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.*
- *³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (Acts 20)*

