

LESSON 6 - DEUTERONOMY

LOGOS

A General and Light Survey of the Bible

By Dr. Steven Wood

Lesson 6

Deuteronomy

- This book is essentially Moses' farewell address to the Israelites, given in a series of three speeches in which he recapped their history and warned them against further sin.
- This is the last book of the Pentateuch, the final book of Moses.
- The five books of Moses:
 - Genesis – Beginnings.
 - Exodus – Redemption.
 - Leviticus – Worship.
 - Numbers – Transition.
 - Deuteronomy – Arriving.
- Deuteronomy gets its name from the Greek, *deuteros* - "second," and *nomos* - "law." This is a second giving of the law, or a new explanation of it to the new generation of Israel who had grown up in the wilderness.
- The basic theme of Deuteronomy is obedience.
- It is also a book of transitions:
 - The final transition to a new generation.
 - The transition to a new possession.
 - The transition to a new experience.
 - The transition to a new revelation of God – a God of love.
 - *Because he loved your ancestors and chose their descendants after them, he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength, to drive out before you nations greater and stronger than you and to bring you into their land to give it to you for your inheritance, as it is today (4:37).*
 - *The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt (7:7-8).*
 - *To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. Yet the LORD set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations—as it is today (10:15).*

OUTLINE

- Looking Back (Chapters 1–11).
 - Moses gives a brief history of the time since Israel arrived at the Promised Land (1-3).
 - God told Israel it was time to enter the Promised Land (1:3-8).
 - Moses appointed leaders (1:9-18).
 - Spies were sent into Canaan (1:19-25).
 - Israel rebelled and refused to enter the land (1:26-46).
 - Israel wandered in the wilderness, waiting for the rebellious generation to die (2:1-23).
 - Israel defeated King Sihon the Amorite (2:24-37).
 - Israel defeated Og, king of Bashan (3:1-11).
 - Moses gave Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh the land they requested in exchange for their pledge to help the rest of Israel conquer the land (3:12-20).
 - Moses was punished and forbidden to enter the Promised Land. He appointed Joshua his successor (3:21-29; 31:1-8).
 - Moses warned Israel about the consequences for disobedience (4).
 - The Ten Commandments (5).
 - You shall have no other gods before me (5:7).
 - You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them... (5:8-9).
 - You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God,, (5:11).
 - Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy... (5:12).
 - Honor your father and your mother... (5:16).
 - You shall not murder (5:17).
 - You shall not commit adultery (5:18).

- You shall not steal (5:19)
- You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor (5:20).
- You shall not covet... (5:21).
- The *Shema* - *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength* (6:4-5).
 - This is considered the central doctrine of the Jewish faith.
 - Jesus quoted the *Shema*, “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind* (ref. Deuteronomy 6:5) and *Love your neighbor as yourself*. (ref. Leviticus 19:18) *All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments*” (Matthew 22:37-40).
 - In addition, Moses told the Israelites to remember the Law. *These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.* (6:4-9)
- Instructions for conquering the Promised Land (7).
 - ...destroy them totally...
 - ...Make no treaty with them...
 - ...show no mercy.
 - Do not intermarry with them...
 - Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles, and burn their idols in the fire.
 - Do not be afraid...
 - Moses warned Israel to love and obey the Lord (7-11).
 - *See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse—the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.* (11:26-28)
 - *You are about to cross the Jordan to enter and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you. When you have taken it over and are living there, be sure that you obey all the decrees and laws I am setting before you today.* (11:31-32)
- Looking Forward (Chapters 12–34)
 - Moses warned the Israelites to be careful and specific in obeying God.
 - Worship in the way God has told you and only in the way God has told you (12-13; 17:1-7).
 - Clean and unclean food (14:1-21).
 - Return a *tithe* (a tenth) to God (14:22-29; 26:1-15).
 - Debts are cancelled and servants are freed after seven years (15:1-18).
 - Firstborn cows and sheep belong to God (15:19-23).
 - Observe Passover, as well as the Festival of Weeks and the Festival of Tabernacles (16:1-17).
 - Every tribe is to appoint judges (16:18-20). If they cannot reach a decision go to the Levitical priests (17:8-12).
 - Let the Lord choose your king (17:14-16) and *When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the Levitical priests. It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees and not consider himself better than his fellow Israelites and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel.* (17:18-20)
 - Allotments and offerings for the priests (18:1-8).
 - *Do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, 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 things is detestable to the LORD...* (18:9-13).
 - Listen to the prophets, but make sure they are from God (18:14-22).
 - Establish cities of refuge to ensure justice is served (19:1-14).

- *A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses (19:25).*
- Rules for war (20).
- Atonement for unsolved murders (21:1-9).
- Marrying a captive woman (21:10-14).
- The right of the firstborn son (21:15-17).
- Rebellious sons (21:18-21).
- Various laws (21:22-22:12; 23:15-25:19).
- Marriage laws (22:13-30).
- Exclusion from the assembly (23:1-8).
- Uncleaness (23:9-14).
- Blessings and curses at Mount Ebal (27:12-28:68).
- Renewal of the Covenant (29).
- Additional warnings (30).
- God told Moses, *“You are going to rest with your ancestors, and these people will soon prostitute themselves to the foreign gods of the land they are entering. They will forsake me and break the covenant I made with them. And in that day I will become angry with them and forsake them; I will hide my face from them, and they will be destroyed. Many disasters and calamities will come on them, and in that day they will ask, ‘Have not these disasters come on us because our God is not with us?’ And I will certainly hide my face in that day because of all their wickedness in turning to other gods. “Now write down this song and teach it to the Israelites and have them sing it, so that it may be a witness for me against them. When I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, the land I promised on oath to their ancestors, and when they eat their fill and thrive, they will turn to other gods and worship them, rejecting me and breaking my covenant. And when many disasters and calamities come on them, this song will testify against them, because it will not be forgotten by their descendants. I know what they are disposed to do, even before I bring them into the land I promised them on oath.” (31:16-21)*
- The song of Moses (32).
- Moses blesses the Israelites (33).
- The death of Moses (34). *And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. (34:5-6)*

Read the book of Joshua.