

STUDIES IN DEUTERONOMY

Prepared for the Good News Network

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Message # 1: Introduction to the Study of Deuteronomy

Welcome to a study in the Book of Deuteronomy--the fifth book of the Bible. It is the concluding book of the Law or Torah and contains chiefly the great discourses of Moses before he died on Mt. Nebo. Our intention is to study through it on a verse by verse, section by section basis. This will take about 60 of these talks and will require patience and persistence for all of us! Even with this many talks there will be many things not discussed to the degree one might like so it may be necessary to put some things in groups for special study at some later time. The danger in a long series, however, is that it may break the book into so many fragments one may be confused or bewildered and miss the point of the book as a whole. I have prepared, therefore, a sort of program for our studies that indicates how our material is divided and how the subjects are unfolded. If that would be helpful to you, you could obtain a copy from the station to which you listen...and it is always good to send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request. That is all that is needed for that. If you would like my outlined notes for the messages, they are available but there is some cost for that, what, I am not sure. With all of this, I hope you will be in a position where you can follow the study with your Bible..the Word of God is basic to whatever we hope to discuss and it should always be your primary study material. But before we begin our actual work, here are a few introductory things needed for our progress.

1. A simple outline of the Book...

to Namur.

- chapters 1-4....historical review
- 5-26....restatement of the law
- 27-28....covenantal terms
- 29-34....concluding material

There is wide acceptance today for an outline of Deuteronomy following the pattern of the ancient Hittite treaties. I will discuss this briefly and an outline that follows this form is this:

- 1:1-5.....preamble
- 1:6-4:40....historic prologue
- 5:1-11:32...general stipulations *general stipulations go and by itself*
- 12:1-26:15...specific stipulations
- 27:1-28:68...blessing and cursings for acceptance
- 30:1 ff ...witnesses and historic review

More detailed outlines are found in most study Bibles...and you can implement one to suit yourself!

2. A note on authorship

- 1:1-5 to declare their law. 31:9-11 as witness*
- a. The traditional view...Moses
- b. The internal evidence *the account*
- c. Liberal Biblical scholars
- d. the book of the Law *Joshua's day*
- e. The witness of Jesus: He wrote of Me..John 5:46
3. Place in Canon
- a. Dt. 6:4
- b. Use at Qumran *Rule of the Community*
- c. Talmudic concepts
4. Regarding structure:
- a. Not much that is anecdotal
- b. Parenesis a common feature *18:18-22*
- c. An exhortational thrust is common throughout
- (And I will offer some general concepts about how structure is determined and the danger that comes in trying to make structure concrete)
5. Purpose for writing: Some aspects are obvious but a twofold purpose seems to dominate:
- a. To help the people of Israel in their identity grip.
- b. To consolidate the legal work in a corpus before the passing of Moses, the great legislator.
6. Relation to other books of the Pentateuch
7. Relations with the rest of the Old Testament and the New Testament as well.
- the third person*
- Sk 16:29-31*

II. Conclusion

Thank you for joining us today in this introductory study. From here we will move directly to the text. Our discussion will not be very technical but expressive, I hope, of the meaning of the passages with application to the truths of our day. We hope you will be able to be with us again in our next study.

THE RECORD OF HISTORYI. Introduction

Hello and thanks very much for joining us today in the study of Deuteronomy, the fifth book in the Bible and the capstone of what is known as the Torah or law. In our first discussion we looked at some of the things needed for the study of the book and in outlining the book I indicated that chapters 1-4 were a review of the history of Israel's movements that brought them to this point of history on the banks of the Jordan from which they would enter the promised land. These four chapters set the stage, so to speak, for the amplification of the law of God and in today's discussion I am going to offer a broad survey of them before looking at the details. We note, in a broad outline sense, that:

- chapter 1 introduces the occasion with a brief trip review
- chapter 2 continues with a reminder of the main problem
- chapter 3 continues this recall of the wanderings
- chapter 4 becomes a plea for obedience against the background of the past.

So for the moment, note with me how these things are done.

II. DiscussionChapter 1

Moses sets the stage in vss 1-8 to reassure the people they are where they should be--at last. In vss 9-18 he tells how the company was organized and the responsibility that was given the elders. Verse^s 19-21 carry them to the point where they should have entered the land and records the sad report of the "spies" that led the people to rebel against God. The account of their decision fills the rest of the chapter and makes note of the good work of Caleb and Joshua in passing to the conclusion of the affair and their settling in Kadesh.

Chapter 2

This chapter compresses most of the forty years into verse 1-2 and picks up with the movement of Israel through Edom and Moab in vss 3-15. After a grim notation about the death of the men of war in vs 16, Israel is told to move again and be protective of the territory of the Ammonites in vss 19-23. The blood relationship was the decisive point regarding these nations but in vss 24-37 there is no sparing of Sihon and the territory of Heshbon. These people were to be uprooted and God had promised His power to this end.

Chapter 3

The narrative continues explaining how Israel had victory over

Og, King of Bashan and notes in vss 12-17 the disposition of much of his territory to the Trans-jordanian tribes. The terms of this arrangement are reviewed in vss 18-20 and the chapter closes with a reminder of the appointment of Joshua and a reiteration of the futile request of Moses to lead the people into the land.

Chapter 4

In this chapter Moses is in an exhortational mode of thinking as he challenges Israel to obedience and commitment. In vss 1-13 he reminds them of their spiritual privilege and the fact that the arrangements were of God. He reminds them in vss 14-24 of God's stern justice and how he, Moses, was no exception before the truth of God. Consequently verses 25-32 call to mind the need for obedience while verses 33-40 urge faithfulness in the light of God's promise and deliverance. The chapter closes with the notation of the cities of refuge and a statement that certifies the reality of this setting with the data on the death of Moses...and the burial by God, Himself.

III. Conclusion

There is a fourfold purpose in this review:

1. To help Israel understand its history
2. To profile the character of God
3. To encourage obedience and trust
4. To put down a foundation of truth on which Israel may build a society to honor God and be His people indeed.

And once again, thanks for listening and may the Lord bless you and all of us richly through His Word.

Message # 3

Deuteronomy 1:1-8

A TIME FOR CELEBRATION AND PREPARATION

I. Introduction

Thanks for joining us today on the Good News Network as we continue our studies in Deuteronomy. These opening verses give the setting for the Mosaic address and while my title might be overly enthusiastic, it is certainly a time to rejoice in the providence of God as Israel nears the completion of the journey from Egypt. Some aspects in these verses are not known to us today but at the time of their being announced the whole history of the wanderings must have been on their minds. Follow with me in these opening verses and picture for yourself the excitement generated among the people of God. Verses 1-2 give the setting while verses 3-7 review the history and verse 8 calls to mind the covenantal promise and the faithfulness of God. With that in mind we proceed to the text.

II. Discussion

1:1....."these be the words" this is one of the Hebrew titles for the book. "Words" often (not always) equates law, i.e., the direction of God

....."all Israel" probably the representative mass

....."on this side Jordan" or "at the crossing of Jordan"

....."in the wilderness"---a territory of no established habitants

....."the plain"...many of the specific places named are not known in location today..they probably give a perimenter of places

....."Horeb"...another name for Sinai..maybe a particular peak more than the range of peaks.

1:2....."eleven days from Horeb to Kadesh Barnea" via Edom. The time factor dramatizes the time the trip took due to the rebellion at entry of the land.

1:3....."40th year, eleventh month" we learn from Joshua 5:10 that the children of Israel were at Gilgal on the 14th day of the first month so..we are about two months away from that time.

....."Moses spake"...the use of the third person perplexes some but it is easily understood in an editorial sense

....."according unto all".."given in commandment"..and this will include the law formally given previously and the explanations and augmentation given now.

1:4.....Sihon and Og the Amorite kings. The term Amorite is here used as a general term for all those dwelling in the hill country of Canaan--not just the Amorite peoples alone.

1:5....."on this side"

....."Moses began" --the whole work of lawgiving was not done at one instance.

....."to declare this law"--to make it known, make it applicable.

1:6....."the Lord our God"

....."you have dwelt"..cf. Numbers 11:35 A review of the move from Horeb follows..at Horeb they were constituted a nation and given the great covenant of God. There was a great test at that place as well.

1:7....."turn and go"..into the territories of the covenanted land..Lebanon to the Euphrates..the upper Euphrates..see the extent in a Bible Geography book or atlas.

1:8....."I have set" --"given" is a good translation

....."go in and possess"...this is not a war of aggression but a claiming of what the Sovereign God had long established.

.....the promise..given to the patriarchs and to their seed. But a promise is only meaningful as it is claimed..well, the services of it are only meaningful as claimed.

III. Conclusion

Thinking of the years, the trials, etc., we realize what a great moment this is. We dare not spiritualize it to death but cannot help but apply some basic ideas. The promises of God are not lost but require obedience and action. There are times when our conduct may bring some deferment but any turning to Him will restore and build confidence. We should not be discouraged at a passage of time but stand resolute, committed and faithful to His will. And thanks for listening today and being a part of our work.

Message # 4

Deuteronomy 1:9-21

REVIEWING THE ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

I. Introduction

Welcome today to our continuing study in Deuteronomy. We are looking at the historical review of the first four chapters: Moses' work in bringing the children of Israel "up to speed" as we would say it today. With the challenge of moving into Palestine looming large in the future, Moses needed to have the people aware of their position and responsibility. Part of this is a matter of having the camp in good form and having an ordered living for worship and societal practices. God, you see, is not an anarchist. The success of Israel's move and settlement will depend on obedience and order. We are able to apply that ideal to our efforts today and failure to do so will result in lost time and opportunity. So Moses reminds them of the structure set in place and the implications are that this structure is still in force and there is direction in the company. We do not need a separate outline for this section and may take it on a verse by verse basis.

II. Discussion

1:9.....Moses reminds the people of his earlier admission of inability.."I am not able to bear you myself alone.."

- 1:10....He reminds them of God's blessing and the growth of the nation...like the stars of heaven for multitude!
- 1:11....Here is an insertion (parenensis) that is really a prayer for the people based on what God has done in time past.
- 1:12....an amplification of verse 9 as he speaks of inability. The question is rhetorical. Note the three things he cannot bear and remember that these are vexatious in any context.
- 1:13....The selection of leaders! Note the selection came from the suggestions of the people. The qualifications are threefold as the men must be known, must be wise, and must be understanding...aspects of life we will discuss. We know that public and mass actions are not always right but the people were to accept accountability for their selection of leaders. A great advantage is that if the leadership fails or is poor, the people can only blame themselves!
- 1:14....The people agree and approve
- 1:15....Moses acts and sees to the distribution of the territorial elders. Note the divisions of the people..on a similar pattern to a military arrangement.
- 1:16....That the elders had administrative duties in the personal affairs of the people is clear in this verse. Whether the two terms are synonymous or not is not so clear. But notice the restrictions for the "judges"...they would judge righteously...meaning the use of a standard of justice...
- 1:17....and they would judge without respect of persons. All parties would be treated equally and they would remember their service was to God so they would not stand in special reverence to any man. And if the case was beyond their skill, experience, or wisdom...they would bring it to Moses and he would settle the affairs.
- 1:18....Moses affirms that, at that time, he had told the people all in which God had given him direction.
- 1:19....The route from Horeb to Kadesh...note the difficulties through which they came and the implication that is indicated behind all of this.
- 1:20....The reality of coming to the Land
- 1:21....The Lord had "set the land before them". The challenge is to go up and possess it...doing what the Lord had said. The personal encouragement is to neither fear nor be discouraged. (At some time we will look at the occasions in which this formula is given)

III. Conclusion

Moses is building a platform for action. The activities of today are always somewhat dependent on the events of yesterday. That will help us to know why and what we should do. Things done well (or correctly) today put down a foundation for what will be done tomorrow. And the lessons of the past should now give Israel positive understanding for what they are to do in entering the land. And many thanks for being a part of our study today and may the Lord richly bless and direct us through His Word of Truth.

Message # 5

Deuteronomy 1:22-46RECALLING THE PAIN AND OCCASION OF DISOBEDIENCEI. Introduction

We appreciate having you with us today in our continuing study in Deuteronomy. These Old Testament books are sometimes overlooked but, if you consult a text survey you will find that Deuteronomy is often quoted in the New Testament and is frequently cited in the prophetic books of the Old Testament as well. Since its message is both a recapitulation and expansion of the law of God, it commands a vital place in Biblical literature and theology. We need to be observant of that to give us good intelligence on the ways of the Lord. In the portion before us today, 1:22-46, we are taken again to the days of Israel's rebellion when they refused to enter the land. It is painful to hear of it now and it must have been very fearful to hear of it then, but it was a needed lesson to encourage belief and obedience. We outline the passage like this:

1:22-28..the spies, their arrangement and /report
1:29-40..the exhortation of Moses and the judgment of God
1:41-46..a false repentance and a big mistake

II. Discussion

1:22....The spies and their assignment

1:23....the selection: Names are given in Numbers 13

1:24....the journey..note valley of Eschol and remember grapes

1:25...."it is a good land...."

1:26....but they would not go up and instead rebelled

1:27....they murmured and falsely accused the Lord of an evil purpose

- 1:28....several reasons are suggested for the disobedience but underneath all is the negative report of the majority of the scribes.
- 1:29-31. Moses exhorts them to go..he cited the Lord's promise and His providence in the wilderness but
- 1:32-33. The people would not believe God in spite of his obvious power and blessing on the earlier journey.
- 1:34....The Lord was angry and gave His oath...
- 1:35....to the effect that none of those men would live to enter the land.
- 1:36....except Caleb (who totally followed the Lord) and Joshua mentioned in verse 38
- 1:37....Moses reflects on God's anger with him. "for your sakes" he says, but this is not blaming the people for Moses sin and I will try to explain that...
- 1:38....the Lord tells Moses to encourage Joshua..he will enter the land
- 1:39....and the little ones they worried about (supposedly) would be the ones to enjoy the blessings.
- 1:43-41 The begglious group is told to return but decides for more disobedience in making an attack on their own!
- 1:42....the Lord is not with them; in vs 43 they act presumptively
- 1:44....and are severely beaten
- 1:45-46. They cry before the Lord but it is too late for corrective action and they are remanded to Kadesh.

III. Conclusion

The attempt to avoid the just sentence of God is as bad as a mistake as was the initial disobedience. The lesson needs to be remembered in every age. God is not playing games with His people. He gives the instruction and the potential consequences..His people need to read, listen and do. And it certainly applies to us in this age. Once again, thanks for being with us today and may the study of the Word of God be a daily encouragement to you.

Message # 6Deuteronomy 2:1-23A MOVE...AFTER THIRTY EIGHT YEARSI. Introduction

Well, it is nice to be with you today for our continuing work in Deuteronomy. As we read in the first four chapters, Moses is giving a historical review for the Israelites. It is something of a preamble to the law that he will soon be announcing. On the whole it is not new but the arrangement is new and since a lot of time has passed since the initial statements (Exodus) memories need to be refreshed and practices need to be reviewed. These introductory chapters set the stage for that as Moses has the eye and heart of the nation. In chapter 2, where we now proceed, he reminds Israel of the journey behind them, actually a preparation for the journey before them. And while he does not discuss much of the wilderness experience, as in Numbers for instance, he does summarize significant things as encouragement for the trip. Our portion, 2:1-23 needs no further outline but you may note a division of material at verse 16 as Moses goes on to recount some of the things that have happened more recently.

II. Discussion

2:1...the call to move out

2:2-3...the direction is by the voice of the Lord

2:4-5...going northward they are to pass the lands of Esaw without causing any grief to those peoples.

2:6....Instructions for buying what is needed

2:7....and they are to remember the provision of God throughout

2:8....passing Mt. Seir, they head for Moab

2:9....orders are given regarding relationships with Moab

2:10-12...reviewing the people who lived in the Moabite territory and who were displaced by "lesser peoples"...the implication is plain...if they had followed God they could have overcome the largest of foes and be comfortably ensconced in the land by now.

2:13...crossing Zered

2:14...a review of the time and a reminder of how they got into this position (it shows up often)

2:15...the hard times were by the hand of the Lord.

2:16-18..the order of march

2:19....instructions concerning Ammon

2:20-23..another great people who had been displaced! All done by hand of God and another reminder of the importance of being directed by His Word.

III. Conclusion

We do not have to work very hard on the obvious conclusion of this chapter. If one will but follow God one will see accomplished what God has promised. No amount of opposition can foil Him. But if we insist or struggle for our own way..no amount of effort will achieve what we really want and need. Thanks for being with us today and may the Lord daily guide you by His Word.

Message #7

Deuteronomy 2:24-37

THE MOVE FROM KADESH

I. Introduction

Hello and this is Tom Taylor welcoming you to our Deuteronomy study. This is a long book and we are moving very slowly as we come to chapter 2 where in verse 24-37 we pick up Israel's moves from Kadesh Barnea to the plains of Moab near the Jordan. Israel took a long time to get here and maybe that accounts for our slowness as well but the fact is that they made it and Moses is laying the foundation for some great teaching. In the passage we are now studying, we see the defeat of the Amorite king, Sihon, and we continue to learn that God is not at the mercy of His foes. He is, in fact, Master of all things and in trusting Him Israel is at its best strength and ready for its best performance. We need no further outline on verse 24-37 and we will look at the passage as the text unwinds.

Discussion:

2:26....a message of peace is offered to Sihon...Israel is not obliged to do it but it is a sincere gesture...

2:27-28..the terms of Israel's peace offer are certainly charitable and non aggressive

2:29....the promise of a careful step is given

2:30....but Sihon will have none of it. Note the action of the Lord in this verse .. and you will remember that God works in strange ways but always secures His purposes..

2:31....God says..."I have begun to give..."

2:32....Sihon attacks

2:33....and Israel wins a great victory

2:34....a total triumph is gained,...note the extent

2:35....the prey and the spoil are taken for the people

2:36....none of the Amorite cities could stand against God's people

2:37....but the children of Israel did not go into territories where God had told them not to go. Observing God's direction is fundamental to enjoying His victory.

III. Conclusion

In the course of life we do not understand all the ways of God but we can see His power and accept His authority. The New Testament church can learn a great deal from this Old Testament company and while I cannot discuss that in detail at this time, it is a point to remember. God will execute His program..we should not try to alter it to fit our convenience or expediency. Thanks again for joining us today and may the Word of God guide you to blessing and confidence.

Message # 8

Deuteronomy 3:1-20

WINNING THE TRANS-JORDANIAN TERRITORY; WAR WITH OG

I. Introduction

Welcome to our continuing study in Deuteronomy. As we have seen, Moses has gathered Israel to hear the law of the Lord so as to prepare them for an entrance to Canaan. As part of this preparation he has reviewed the nation's past and the recent movements as directed by God and in chapter 3 he continues his faithful recording of Israel's advance and victories. In our section today we treat two major issues:

3:1-11, the defeat of Og, King of Bashan

3:12-20..the disposition of the Transjordanian lands...much of that territory belonged to Og and in their conquest of him, the Hebrews were moving into a part of the Fertile Crescent...land promised to Abraham by God. I must note that in discussions of this material it is helpful to have some reference book such as Baker's Bible Atlas or a good Bible Geography. Sometimes seeing where places were is a good means of illuminating the meaning of a passage.

II. Discussion

- 3:1.....Og comes to attack. If our identification of Bashan is correct...well north of the Dead Sea on the East of Jordan and Galilee..it means Og went a long way out of his way to attack Israel.
- 3:2.....The Lord tells Israel not to be afraid and promises deliverance. The "fear not" is an oft repeated command and is in a mode of speaking that does not forbid fear but encourages trust .
- 3:3.....Og is overthrown
- 3:4-6...His cities are captured and destroyed
- 3:7.....The livestock and "spoil" became Israel's property
- 3:8-9...A note on the land taken
- 3:10....The extent of the conquest: a considerable territory
- 3:11....Og's lineage and an interesting note on his bed!
- 3:12....The possessed land given to Reuben and Gad
- 3:13....Manasseh's portion
- 3:14....and Manasseh's settlement
- 3:16-17.The land settlement: Reuben, Gad
- 3:18-19.The military agreement and arrangement of families that enabled Reuben and Gad to assist in the conquest of Canaan.
- 3:20....The promised return on completion of the journey.

III. Conclusion

Note the overfulness and completeness of the work of God. Nothing is done sloppily. / our problems often come in doing what God has told us to do and our lack of attention to detail is ruinous. No, I am not going to become a perfectionist but God does things right and we are never wrong to emulate His actions. It is a good thing to keep personal life and ecclesiastical life in order..and interesting note to this end is found in 1 Timothy 3:15. So thanks for listening today and may the Word of God be a guideline for the use and building of your life..we are still in something of a wilderness and need daily the direction of a great leader...our Lord and His word.

THE SUCCESSION OF LEADERSHIPI. Introduction

Again we invite you to join us in our study of Deuteronomy. I am only sorry we cannot see one another and talk face to face but I hope you can have your Bible near you and watch it for yourself as we go. If you have questions or suggestions for me in this study, you may write me in care of the station to which you are listening. I try to answer all mail, well, I don't get much!, but it sometimes takes awhile due to my travelling and, at times, the communication of stations. I do value both opinion and questions. Now the text before us is the concluding verses of chapter 3...verses 21-29. It is a short portion but one of considerable interest both in God's response to Moses and the instruction given Joshua. Changes in command are often very threatening and one who must follow an outstanding leader is in a tough spot. But we will see how it develops in the text.

II. Discussion

3:21.... "I commanded Joshua at that time, saying..." Think first of Joshua's qualifications...his spy work, his military assistance, his being with Moses in the mount of revelation, and his assistance in the camp affairs. He had proved himself worthy to be a leader several times over by his competent work as a servant..and I am close to a tangent on that.

"Your eyes have seen"...an appeal to reality

"so shall the Lord"...and this is the promise of continuance.

3:22.... "Don't fear..." As I have mentioned before, observe the many times this admonition is given in this book. Fear is an easy emotion...the answer to it is assurance in faith. The basis is not raw human courage but, rather, the presence of God.

3:23.... "and I besought the Lord" (the other side of the coin)
"at that time"

3:24.... "you have begun" Moses is telling God that He has moved into a revelatory mode and he knows, as the people must, that there is no God who can do what the God of Israel has done and will continue to do.

3:25.... In the light of that truth, Moses renews his personal request that he be allowed to go over into the land. (In regard to this, see Matthew 17 and the transfiguration gathering).

3:26....But the Lord was angry (for your sakes) ... (and see my note on this phrase for 1:27) and the Lord informed Moses that His judgment was right and He did not want to hear any more about this matter...compare with 1 Cor. 12.

3:27....Instructions for where Moses will go and how he will be able to be blessed in seeing what God will do.

3:28....and the instructions for Joshua are simple and Moses is to:

- charge him
- strengthen him
- encourage him

and he will cause the people to inherit the land.

3:29....so "we stayed at Beth Peor" until....

III. Conclusion

And thanks for listening today and never be afraid to move ahead to do what God has told you to do. Be sure you are guided by His Word and remember the truth of Philippians 4:13..."I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Hopefully you will be with us tomorrow and in the meantime may you enjoy the blessing of the Word of God.

Lesson # 10

Deuteronomy 4:1-13

A COVENANT REMINDER

I. Introduction

Thank you for joining us today in our ongoing studies in Deuteronomy. We move today to chapter 4 as we follow Moses review of Israel's wilderness history. A fuller narration of that history is the book of Numbers, of course, and Moses is now simply emphasizing some key points that will serve to guide the nation in the conquest of Canaan. Having noticed the physical journey, Moses now moves to review the covenantal history--the giving of the law of God and the establishing of the nation in a political and ethical sense. Since the great advantage Israel has is her god, this becomes a very important step. Without the covenant and the promises, she is a bankrupt people but with them--she is indeed the people of God--a people of destiny and a blessing for the whole world. These verse, 4:1-13, call Israel to remember the covenant in this way:

- 4:1-2....honor what God has given
- 4:3-8....understand the spiritual heritage
- 4:9-13...remember the origin of your covenant

II. Discussion

- 4:1....."hearken" "to do" that: you may live
go on
and possess
the promised land
Obviously the blessing that would come with the land would
be related to honoring the law of God.
- 4:2....."neither add nor subtract" (cf Rev 22:19)
- 4:3.....The Baal-Peor incident is reviewed..a painful reminder of
the bad consequences of giving themselves to another god..
- 4:4 a sharp contrast is drawn between the obedient and the
non obedient.
- 4:5....".I have taught as the Lord commanded"
"that you might do"
- 4:6.....This will be Israel's signature verse..when the nations see
its wisdom in honoring the Lord they will credit them as a
wise and understanding nation.
- 4:7-8...Here is a rhetorical question..What nation is like this one?
What nation so great with a God like ours? What nation so
blessed as to have His truth? (Cf Rom 3:1-2)
- 4:9....."Take heed to thyself" "and keep" There is the suggestion
for a need of strong personal discipline.
"lest you forget "and the truths slip away
"but teach them to the coming generations"
- 4:10....Remember the revelation at--Horeb the call of God to gather
the people to hear Him.
- 4:11-12.and remember how the Lord spoke
- 4:13...and gave to you the tables of the law. Remember where you
have been and what your privileges are!

III. Conclusion

Ours is a gracious salvation but we need to remember as well as Israel was instructed..that we may give our hearts to following the instruction of God. Understanding His will and following His word is the proper and correct path for us. It is a big part of God's grace that He has so equipped and provided for us but if we do not review and commemorate we may lose the joy of His blessing and fail to see it work in the generation that follows. So, take heed and guard yourself in these spiritual realities. And thanks again for being part of our audience today

Lesson # 11

Deuteronomy 4:14-31

A CHALLENGE TO FIDELITY

I. Introduction

We continue in our Deuteronomy studies today in chapter 4, verse⁹ 14-31 where we find Moses renewing the challenge of fidelity to Israel. I am sometimes reminded of our wedding vows...how we promise things to one another...things that in the following years should guide our conduct. Alas, faithfulness is not always seen in those and that is true of Israel's performance as well. But the challenge is real and meaningful just the same. So we give you a special word of thanks for being with us today and our steady prayer is that God's Word will bless and keep our hearts and our feet on the pathway. I outline this section in two points:

- 4:14-24....the challenge of being set apart for God alone
- 4:25-31....the challenge of continuing to turn to God and receive His help in all situations.

II. Discussion

4:14.....the Lord's order to Moses: a teaching ministry

4:15-19..do not allow anything to become a worship object to you.
There was no image on the mount..make no image now! This matter is not so simple as it might seem and will continue to be a problem even in the age of the church!

4:20....Remember the deliverance of God

4:21-22.Remember the justice of God

4:23....Take heed that you do not do the very things the Lord has forbidden. (For our age..remember Eve!)

4:24....":for our God is a consuming fire: Cf. Hebrews12:29

4:25...."if you forget and provoke" The "if" does not mean they will necessarily do this...obedience is seen as possible.

4:26...."you will perish" heaven and earth are the witnesses

4:27-28.the threat of captivity and the consequences of unbelief

4:29...."if you will seek, you will find..." but it is a matter of the whole heart.

4:30...."if you will hear"... "if you will obey"

4:30....He will not forsake you..nor forget the covenant that had been made with the fathers and is still in force!

III. Conclusion

And in some ways that is how it is today. We lose by being disobedient...but we will always find God kind and gracious when we turn to Him. But it is not a matter of our convenience but one of repentance and trust. Once again we appreciate your being with us today and may yieldedness to God be the watchword of our paths.

Message # 12

Deuteronomy 4:32-49

SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES OF MOSES AND THE PEOPLE

I. Introduction

Greetings in the Lord's Name as we continue in our study of the book of Deuteronomy, the fifth book of the Bible. The name "Deuteronomy" indicates a second or repeated law and in this sense it is the legacy of Moses for the children of Israel as he readies them for entrance to Canaan. The first chapters are something of an historical review and in our portion for today, 4:32-49, we find Moses completing that preparatory account with a summary of things to guide or demonstrate God's direction for His people. We outline the section like this:

4:22-40....a reminder of God's choosing and working in behalf of His people

4:41-43....the detail of refuge cities in Trans Jordan

4:44-49....a repetition of the introductory concepts of chapter 1..."This is the Law..."

II. Discussion

4:32.....Israel is challenged to look back and see if any work like this has been done before...they have been uniquely blessed.

4:33.....a summary of the spiritual experiences

4:34.....with a memorializing note on all God has done

4:35-36.God's personal intervention

4:37...."because He loved"..no rationale is given for this..there is no explanation..it is just a fact. His love led to two key acts: He chose, He brought

4:39-40.Honor His commands and worship and serve God alone

4:41-43.The appointment of the refuge cities in Trans-Jordan

4:44-45.This is the law...after they came out...

testimonies
statutes
judgments

4:46....at the Jordan crossing...on or at the scene of victory.

4:47....the lands possessed

4:48-49....the geographical limitations

III. Conclusion

The law, as we read in John 1, came by Moses, but it came from God with the purpose of binding His people to Himself and gives them a right standing before Him,. The law does not and never did save anyone but it displayed practically the desires of God and made for an ordered life and society. It was not a trial to be borne painfully but a code of knowledge in an otherwise darkened world. Israel was blessed not only by the power of God but also by the wisdom of God. This historic background prepares the nation to honor the areas of life defined by law and be directed therein. We know they failed in many ways but the lesson is to be sensitive to God..to take Him at His word...and to be loyal to Him. It is still a great challenge for our day. Thanks for being with us today and may the Lord bless you richly by His Word.

Lesson # 13

Deuteronomy 5:1-16

THE COVENANTAL LAW REPEATED AND REINFORCED

I. Introduction

Thank you for joining us today as we move through the book of Deuteronomy. We come now into the second major section of this book as Moses reviews and expands on the testimonies, judgments, and statutes of the Lord. This is the bulk of the book in chapters 5-26 and these subdivide into two major sections:

5-11...the basis for Israel's faith
12-26...directions for practice of the faith

That is a general characterization. Biblical studies, as is true of others, are never quite that crisp and simple. But it is an easy working basis. So, in a simple word, the basis for Israel's faith is the law of God..the divinely disclosed truth about God and His will

for man. This is foundational not only to Israel's history but to all of the revealed truth in the God and man perspective. In today's discussion I will look at the first table of the law, chapter 5:1-16, and then, as the Lord allows, at the second table or tablet in our next talk.

II. Discussion

5:1-5...A reminder of the historic setting

v.1...I speak that you may learn, keep, and do
vss 2-3...it is "our covenant"
v.4...the Lord talked with you
v.5...you were afraid but I (Moses) stood between you
and the Lord to give this word,

5:6....The ten commandments proceed from here. Each one of them is a study in itself. In this series I will only speak of them in a broad sense. God identifies Himself to the nation so they will recognize His authority and right to give the covenantal decrees.

5:7....You will have no other gods before me!

5:8....You will not bow down to any other worship object or person..because of my character you will not make any other sorts of gods for yourselves.

5:9-10..God underscores His authority with a declaration of His continuing judgment and mercy. There is a numerical speech figure used to show that His mercy is vastly more expansive than the judgments

5:11....You will honor my name!

5:12....You will honor my day

vs 14 shows the expansive nature of this command
vs 15 shows that it will now honor the deliverance from Egypt. The significance of the "Sabbath" has taken an important turn. It is an age long principle but will now commemorate a specific thing in the life of the nation.

5:16....You will honor my institution of family...honor father and mother. The necessity of order in family and society is certified in this command.

III. Conclusion

The law of God has never lost its significance but remember...

the keeping of it does not save. It does bring many blessings but salvation is the gift of God and is not given on the basis of works but on faith in the Lord Jesus. Be sure your faith is in Him today and that your feet in life are guided by the Word of God. Thanks again for listening and we hope you will be with us tomorrow as we continue working with the law of God. , The great lesson in the first table of the law is to honor God: His Person, His name, His day, His order for life.

Lesson # 14

Deuteronomy 5:17-21

THE LAW OF GOD; THE SECOND TABLE

I. Introduction

Welcome to our continuing studies in the Book of Deuteronomy. We are working in chapters 5-11 where we have a presentation of the basis for Israel's faith. That basis is the law of God expressed by divine revelation at Sinai and given further public hearing by Moses in this present setting. One needs a much deeper study on the meaning and thrust of the law than I can give in these discussions but, as we read in Romans, it is just and holy and good and, as we read in Galatians, by the keeping of it no one can be saved because....among other things, no one can keep it fully. It brings to us in a pointed way the knowledge of sin and that realization forces us to look to God for health and spiritual vitality. The law served Israel as a schoolmaster to bring the nation to Christ and while our situation is a little different, it continues on that way today. By faith in Jesus we are saved, in Him we have kept the law and it now is a guide of health for us in the things that please and honor God. So we do not speak disparagingly of the law but, rather, appreciatively of it. Now there are other aspects of the law, civil and ceremonial applications, etc., but in these chapters we will face that fact that God has a will for His people and that will includes the five laws of the second table on a daily, life-regulating basis.

II. Discussion

5:17....Don't kill...murder is the idea although the term "kill" is also used in a wider sense. But understand that God orders some killing so it is not just the matter of ending life but of ending life for a malicious or worthless cause.

5:18....Don't commit adultery..do not enter into sexual relationships without a life commitment..the term "adultery".....

5:19....Don't steal...See how this is emphasized in Ephesians 4. There are many aspects to stealing and we can elaborate on these for a minute or so.

5:20....Don't bear false witness against your neighbor..and there are wider applications to this as well.

5:21....Don't covet...covetousness is a great sin and the root of many other sins..the regular Biblical attitude as expressed in Hebrews 13 is to be content with what God provides..

(And, in passing, note that the first half of the law is essentially what you do and the second half is basically what you don't do.)

III. Conclusion

These are foundational principles for all of society and it is regrettable in these days that we have legal battles over the simple display of them. Apart from the Divine origin, the simple common sense of them would seem to commend them to any ordered group. But in a world where man wants to be his own God, all sorts of values are set aside and all sorts of aberrations are brought in. While it appears we cannot force these God-given standards on everybody, they should be received enthusiastically and practically by those who know the Lord. Thanks for joining us today and may the blessing that comes from obedience to God mark your path today.

Lesson # 15

Deuteronomy 5:22-33

THE AUTHORITY OF THE LAW

I. Introduction

We have just taken a quick look at the ten commandments as the foundational expression of the law of God...the truth given Israel at Sinai that would enable her to enjoy the reality of the relationship the nation had with God. This revealed truth was the basis of Israel's faith...God had manifested His presence and power and given His word. But in chapters 5, verses 22-33, we are reminded of the authority of the Word and the right of exercise it had over the nation. We appreciate your being with us today as we continue our study and refresh our minds on the authority behind and within the law of God. With Israel we need to remember we are not hearing the words of deep thinkers or even very wise men..but of God Himself.

ii. Discussion

5:22....here is a summary of the (origing) of the law:

these words
with a great voice
from the cloud
and added not more so
God wrote them, delivered them to me (Moses)

5:23-26. The witness of the elders and heads of the tribes. Note the confidence that has been gained in Moses (v. 24)...he has talked with God and lived.

5:27.... The commitment is not a mistake (cf. Ex 20:19) but was not a very deep commitment ~~thought~~

5:28.... the Lord heard and was pleased

5:29.... The Lord expresses a desire that their words are accurate

5:30... but the arrangement is accepted

5:31.... The people return to their tents but Moses remains to hear:

commandments
statutes
judgments

all \ / of which he will teach Israel to do.

5:32.... Moses speaks to the people advising them to follow the law of God directly, turning neither to the left nor right...

5:33.... And they shall walk that way in order that they

may live
have things well
and prolong their days.

III. Conclusion

The voice of God is the authority of the law. Moses is His spokesman but God is the giver both in form and content. Moses is reminding his followers of an event that took place about 38 years ago and implicit in his thought is the fact that if Israel had really meant what they said, the whole of history would have been better and his personal lot much advantaged. The past, however, cannot be changed but it gives a big clue as to how to live in the present and prepare for the future. We will see more of it in lessons to come and hope you are able to be with us then. For the present, may God bless you and keep you.

Lesson # 16

Deuteronomy 6:1-25

THE PLACE OF THE LAW

I. Introduction

Hello and welcome again to our Deuteronomy study. We come today to chapter 6, a happy chapter where we get a good picture of the place of the law in the lives of the Lord's people. We may use the word "law" in different ways. It may mean, of course, just the ten

commandments but more generally it refers to all that God has said and more specifically to these first five books of the Bible. In the broad sense, God's law is the whole of the revealed Scripture and needs to be held in an honored place in our thinking. We outline this chapter like this:

- 6:1-2.....exhortation
- 3-15....the certainty of God's truth
- 16-25....the ground of moral integrity

II. Discussion

- 6:1.....Here is the bulk of the law...and what it should do
- 6:3.....the purpose of the whole is to institute a "fear of God" for the immediate group and the following generation.
- 6:4....."Hear, O, Israel"...the Shema
- 6:5.....the greatest commandment(Mt. 22:37). It summarizes the first table of the law
- 6:6.....the words are in your heart..shall be, that is
- 6:7.....you will teach them at all times and in all situations!
- 6:8.....you will wear phylacteries..the idea being you will make them part of your total being.
- 6:9.....and attach them to your buildings (Mezzuah)
- 6:10-11.and when prosperity comes..don't forget God or His laws
- 6:12....and the deliverance He gave from Egypt
- 6:13-15.you will not set yourself apart from the Lord and give no observance to the pagan gods
- 6:15....because of the character of God and His concern for your welfare.
- 6:16....don't tempt God as you once did!
- 6:17....keep His teaching
- 6:18....and this is the key to success..you will do right
- 6:19....the territorial promises of God are reviewed
- 6:20....and when your sons ask you about the law....

6:21-23. Tell him about Egypt and God's deliverance

6:24.... And how God gave us these commands

6:25.... That we may live, enjoy good, and be morally upright in His sight and (although not said in so many words) right with one another.

III. Conclusion

The teaching of God's Word is to impact our lives at every level and every area. Generation to generation we are to stress that truth for the honor of the Lord. The revelation of God has relevance in moral, societal, political, educational and all other areas of life. As we give it its place we are the better enabled to live, enjoy the blessing of God, and pass on to others the joy of knowing Him. We are glad you have been with us today and trust for God's blessing for you through His Word.

Lesson #17

Deuteronomy 7:1-11

PROTECTING THE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

The Ban's

I. Introduction

Thank you for being with us today in the study of Deuteronomy. It is not easy to picture in our minds the setting in which this work was done and it is not possible to know how all this truth was made available to Israel. When a work is written it has greater longevity and this book combines the oral deliverance with the written record. Israel had the law and the law was definitive for the people...that much was very clear. The purpose in the book is not only to reaffirm the law but also help the nation understand the position it had with the Lord...a position that needed protection and enrichment gained by obedience and commitment. We read a bit about this in chapter 7...more will come later and I have divided the chapter into two units...just to allow us to think through it a little more clearly. In the first 11 verses, where today's study centers, we are looking at the love of relationship between Israel and her God and observing something of the protectiveness that was given to it.

II. Discussion

7:1..... "When the Lord will bring you"...a condition of time and not of fact...and
"has cast out 7 nations greater and mightier"

7:2..... God will cast them out but Israel will be His tool and it is their land so Israel will make no unions or covenants with the inhabitants of the land as they are enemies of God.

7:3.....But in particular they will make no marriages with them for that is the ultimate compromise

7:4.....This sort of covenant or union with the false gods will lead God's people away from Him.

7:5.....Israel will remove everything that belongs or pertains to paganism

7:6.....Here is the support for God's closeness to Israel:

They were a "holy" people...
the Lord's choice
elevated above the other peoples of the earth.

7:7.....The reality of the Lord's choice..not for ulterior purposes

7:8.....But He just loved them and for that fact, He

would keep His oath
brought them out and
redeemed them.

7:9.....Know then...the Lord is God faithful in keeping covenantal mercies and

7:10.....judgmental to those who hate and oppose Him. love and justice are combined in the character of God..perfectly.

7:11.....So you will protect the relationship by no compromise with evil nor making concessions to paganism in defiance of God.

III. Conclusion

The concept is that God loved His people...they should have responded by loving Him. In our age we have a similar setting in 1 John..He first loved us, we are able to love Him. But compromise with evil and pagan ideals are serious threats to the reality of the relationship and every believer needs to be aware of that threat and desirous of the health of the body. We appreciate your listening today and trust the Word of God to guide and enrich us as time continues.

Lesson # 18Deuteronomy 7:12-26THE CHALLENGE OF BELIEFI. Introduction

Welcome to another study session in Deuteronomy. Our lesson today is Deuteronomy 7:12-26 where we see how belief in the Lord is the key to many things. Belief is always associated with obedience, of course, as faith is with works so we are not talking about an academic or purely theoretical subject. The earlier part of the chapter emphasizes the relationship of God and His people and the second part outlines how the nation can be blessed in honoring God. Obedience ought to grow from love ~~but~~ the blessings it produces are a powerful inducement to follow it as a way of life. Well, there is a lot that works against it as well but in this passage, the emphasis is on the positive: the law of God is the basis of Israel's faith, the love of God is the foundation for its living. Verses 12 through 26 need no further outlining and we proceed to the text.

II. Discussion

7:12.....the "if" of the KJV may be better a "when"...and note the response of God to obedience.

7:13.....God's love will lead to abundant blessing

7:14.....Israel will stand out as a favorite

7:15.....The Lord will remove the reproach of Egypt and the plagues that touch unbelief.

7:16.....and Israel will have victory in the land

7:17.....But if they (you) think the job is too big...

7:18.....your hesitation will be answered by the facts of remembrance and reassurance.

7:19.....the Lord will continue to execute powerfully

7:20.....He will discomfit the enemy

7:21.....God among you is your strength

7:22.....He will give victory in a reasonable progression

7:23.....And will \empower eventual success

7:24.....no one can withstand Him

7:25.....but dislodge the pagan images!

7:26.....and allow nothing of the evil abominations to be brought into the domestic scene of the Lord's settlement.

III. Conclusion

The challenge of belief is to allow God to bless us by His Word. If you want to see how Israel failed in this, read Psalm 81. If you want to see how failure has come in our age, look at the spiritual status of churches that no longer believe the Bible or proclaim a personal salvation. Our economy is not that of the Old Testament Israel but the ideology is the same. Obedience is the key to blessing. Some think that the Old Testament blessing was only material. It certainly had a material side to the extent that a landed kingdom was the developed economy. But blessing is both physical and spiritual in that obedience in every age leads to a richer and fuller life. The challenge of belief is to trust God enough to do what He says. And ..once again..thanks for listening to our program today.

Lesson # 19

Deuteronomy 8:1-20

THE BLESSING OF GOD AND THE CHALLENGE OF THANKFULNESS

I. Introduction

Hello. and welcome to another study in Deuteronomy. This is a long book and we are moving slowly as we come to our 19th study and find ourselves in chapter 8. Chapters 5-11, as you may recall, give us the basis for Israel's faith: the law and the love of God. Chapter 8 challenges Israel to be thankful and appreciative of all God has done...and especially not to allow the temporal blessings to lure them into spiritual forgetfulness. This is a regular problem we might say, for when things are going really well we are tempted to just, well, take it for granted. And there are times when we even take the credit! Moses, therefore, calls on the people to remember and live appreciatively for God. It is a lesson that is very practical today...one we cannot do without! Our chapter may be sub-divided on these lines:

8:1-10....remember the way of God
11-17....guard your heart against conceit
18-20....be careful in your devotion

II. Discussion

8:1.....Observe all the commandments..do not pick and choose or pretend to be selective.

8:2.....Remember the way and what God taught: humility and honesty

8:3.....Remember the lessons: the manna

8:4.....And the temporal mercies: your clothes, for instance

8:6.....So walk in His ways

8:7-9...For He is bringing you to a good land:
 one of natural benefits (v. 7)
 agricultural advantages (8)
 fertility resources (9)

8:10....When you have eaten and are full..bless the Lord

8:11....Beware of forgetting and not honoring the law of God.

8:12-13.In a time of surplus

8:14....You may become proud and self satisfied and forget the Lord!

8:15....yet He is the One who is responsible for your well-being...

8:16....He led you and fed you with the intent of doing you good and
 bringing blessing.

8:17....But you may easily get a wrong and vain notion.

8:18....So remember it is the Lord who enables you to do whatever is
 accomplished.

8:19....If you do forget, you will fall into trouble and---

8:20....Perish like the nations who preceeded you!

III. Conclusion

Even in our day we take credit for achievement and blame power^s beyond us for failure. This is not true of everyone, of course, but it is a broad perspective that describes too many of us. Keeping the heart honest about the ways and work of God is a meaningful responsibility and we may all lay it to heart. The end is not to make us fearful but to stimulate worship and thankfulness. So I am glad you have been listening today and pray God's blessing for you by His Word as we remember His love and commit ourselves to His truth.

Lesson # 20

Deuteronomy 9:1-10:11

REBELLION AND GRACE IN REVIEW

I. Introduction

Welcome to another Deuteronomy study. In this, our twentieth lesson, we are taking a much larger portion of Scripture than usual due to the basic nature of the contents....matters we have been over before. It is very important material in the life of the nation

as it recalls national disobedience and reviews God's gracious dealing. But for that reason we may take it in larger segments and we outline the section like this:

- 9:1-6....The need for humility
- 9:7-24...Various rebellions
- 10:1-5....the law renewed
- 10:6-7....remembering the journey
- 10:8-9....the Levitical appointment
- 10:10-11..Instructions leading to the move.

The practical plea is that Israel should not model its behaviour after the rebellious practices of the past but should respond with obedience to continue the journey. We may now look at these events in summary form.

II. Discussion

- 9:1-6....The Lord will give victory but not because we are righteous but because He is gracious and will honor the covenant..but, beware, this is a stiff necked people who have often earned God's wrath. This is told to the nation as Moses tells them of their journey to come and what they will face. They should not forget how they have behaved in the past and should not repeat it in the future.
- 9:7-21....Moses will rehearse past failures...and we know we cannot brood on this sort of thing but it should be a reckoning factor:
 - v. 7...the general provocation
 - 8...the Horeb rebellion: the giving of the law and the great sin.
 - 14....the threat of God at the golden calf episode at at v. 16
 - 17....the broken tablets
 - 18-21...Moses intercession
 - { 22....other moments of rebellion }
 - { 23...the Kadesh rebellion }
 - 25-29. Moses prayer and the resolution...they had always been a rebellious bunch!
- 10:1-5....The Lord graciously restored the tables of truth
- 10:6-7....the journey summarized: Aaron's death and the present priestly appointment
- 10:8-9....the Levitical arrangement
- 10:10-11..a reminder of his intercession and the instruction to resume the journey.

III. Conclusion:

This was a grim reminder of national failure and disappointment. But it stressed anew the fact that Israel's faith is based on God's law and love. They are a stiffnecked people but have a just and responsive God. That is their hope and it is the best they have going for them. We do not want to brood on the past but in it we see the material that keeps us humble and reassured in the providence of God. To understand His working and to remember Him and His ways..that is a good start for us on any progress or activity. And thanks very much for listening today.

Lesson # 21

Deuteronomy 10:12-22

A SPIRITUAL CHALLENGEI. Introduction

Our studies in Deuteronomy pick up today at chapter 10 and will cover verses 12-23. In our last study we had a long section while today's is less extensive. But, long or short, we are glad to have you with us today for this study and pray God's blessing on the Word in our lives. Some ask why a long study in Deuteronomy anyway? Well, it is the Word of God and we should study all of it but this book is the strongest of the Pentateuchal books in theological flavor and the most quoted of them in the New Testament. It is also somewhat overlooked in the circles where I am most familiar and I suppose this series is a feeble attempt at correcting that course. Following the introductory chapters 1-4, we are working on the second law, so to speak, the basic content of chapters 5-26 and this is divided so that chapters 5-11 give the basis for Israel's faith while 12-26 give expressions of that faith in practice. And now to the spiritual blessings of chapter 10.

II. Discussion

10:12.....Here are the requirements of God for His people. You will find a later reference to this in Micah 6:8 but basically what God wants from His own is:

--a proper respect
an obedient attitude
a relationship of love
a service for Him alone

10:13.....with an honoring of His word. "Isn't that what He wants?, asks Moses, "and isn't that intended for your good?"

10:14.....The Lord is self-sufficient

10:15.....but He took delight in your fathers and chose them to be with Him.

10:16.....Therefore "circumcise the heart" remove the false fleshiness of self and don't be hard-headed.

10:17.....For the Lord is great

10:18.....He always acts justly^Q

10:19.....And you must apply this in daily life by being to^others what God is to you.

10:20.....Four life directions are given in this verse:

--respect God
serve God
hold to Him
devote yourself to Him

10:21.....The Lord is your praise (cf. 1 Peter 2)

10:22.....If any proof is needed...go back and see His work with the fathers.

III. Conclusion

The challenge is to be what the Lord wants us to be...a people who exalt, and live for Him. We often make it more complicated than that but the requirements and desires of God seem direct and simple...almost to a fault. It is interesting how some try to do what God does not ask them while patently not doing what He has asked them. It may be time for a personal life survey...just to see how we are dealing with the desires of God. Thanks for listening today and I hope to have your company again for our next study as well.

Lesson # 22

Deuteronomy 11:1-12

THE CALL TO OBEY

I. Introduction

There are some themes in Deuteronomy that are recurrent in a degree larger than we might have expected. My thinking is that repetition is a means of stressing importance and I feel sure that is the case in this instance. The continuing calls to obedience in this book remind us of the necessity of a behavioural pattern that is based on the reality of obedience to the Divine Will. If it is repeated often it is because the people of God need to hear it often. And that

is perhaps more true today than than it has been for a long time for the great emphasis in modern culture is to "do your own thing" and not be hampered by absolutes. Well, thanks for joining us today as we come to Deuteronomy 11:1-12 and a fresh call to obedience. These twelve verses need no special outline..it will be helpful if you can follow me with your Bible but, if not, we are still very glad for your participation.

II. Discussion

11:1.....first the charge to love then to keep "always"

11:2.....know that the message is for you...it is a temptation to try to pass it to others

11:3.....remember and reflect on what you have seen of God's work

11:4.....especially the Red Sea crossing and the protection

11:5.....and remember the guidance in the wilderness

11:6.....and don't forget the rebellions and the end results

11:7....."the things your eyes have seen"...it is not rumor nor gossip nor traditional tales..they are facts of life that have passed before your eyes..real, actual happenings.

11:8.....Therefore honor the law of God with the result that:

---you may be strong

---you will be able to go in and claim what is already your possession

11:9.....This is the key to continuity and enjoying the fullness of the promise of God.

11:10....You are going to a land that differs from Egypt...

11:11....a land that depends on God..in a special sense

11:12....a land loved by God! A land nourished by Him in all seasons of the year. What a glorious land is that!

III. Conclusion

It is a wonderful land and obedience to God is the key to entering it and enjoying it. We live in a different age and a different economy. Yet the lesson is not different. To believe and certify that belief by obedience is an enormous point of truth not only in this chapter but also in all of life. It is impossible to

estimate what we lose by disobedience and a lack of concern for the will of God. But God is still faithful and the spiritual prodding continues: to love Him and obey Him. Thanks for giving us your ear today and may God bless you by His Word and the Work of His Spirit.

Lesson # 23

Deuteronomy 11:13-32

THE NATIONAL OPTION: BLESSING OR CURSINGI. Introduction

Welcome again to our continuing study in Deuteronomy. I can only hope you are enjoying the study as much as I am although as I read through the book I am often challenged by my lapses in faithfulness and the love of God. The latter is the great theme of this book, the former is the record of Israel's performance. And while we are in another age, it is not bad at all to see the correspondence of love and obedience and the results that flow from them on the negative side if they are omitted. This part of Deuteronomy (chapters 5-11) stresses the basis of Israel's faith: the law and the love of God. And now, as Moses concludes this segment, he says in a very direct way: it is up to you, Israel, to determine what your future and destiny will be. We outline this section, Deuteronomy 11:13-32 like this:

- 13:13-17....promise of Divine response
- 18-25....the means and fruit of blessing
- 26-32....the determination of the option

II. Discussion:

11:13....."if"...you love and serve...the potential is there

11:14-15.."then" I will give...the rain and the produce

11:16-17..But if you turn away and aside after other gods, then the Lord's anger will be kindled against you and you will suffer the consequences.

The challenge is pretty straightforward.

11:18-20..The key to the option is to honor the Word

- v. 18....in your person
- v. 19....in your family
- v. 20....in your possessions

11:21.....The result being a happy continuance in the land

11:22-25..The promise of God is spelled out:

vs. 22...."if" "cleave"
vs. 23...."then" will drive out
vs. 24....every place your foot treads
vs. 25....no one will stand before you

11:26.....The option is stated simply: a blessing or a curse

11:27-28..The blessing~~or~~ the curse "if"

11:29-30..The representative mountains: Gerizim: blessings----
Ebal: cursing

11:31-32..You will go over Jordan..and you will do what is
commanded. The first is a simple statement of fact
and the second a statement of intent.

III. Conclusion

God put before them a clear path and a clear choice: They would honor Him and He would honor them or they would dishonor Him and He would punish them. It was not a matter of what circumstances might control their lives or of a sudden turn in destiny that would deprive them of their heritage. It would be a simple option by the people who heard: love and obey; disregard and follow idols. One path led to blessing, the other to a curse and multiplied trials. The options were clear and no Israelite of the future could excuse self on the basis of ignorance nor of a lack of clarity about the Divine Will. There is a lot to be learned there and our minds need to grip it and live it as well. It is not a matter of legalism but one of spiritual integrity. Thanks for your fellowship today and may the Lord bless you richly as you obey and live for Him.

Message # 24

Deuteronomy 12:1-16

A PLACE OF WORSHIP

I. Introduction

Thank you for joining today in our continuing Deuteronomy study. We are moving into the part of the second law where Israel is given instructions for the practice of truth...the matter of living responsibly in the world of their time for the glory of God. The basis of their faith is noted in chapters 5-11 and that basis is the law and love of God. Now the thrust is to see how that faith operates and chapters 12-26 discuss that material to a considerable extent. In this passage ~~under our observation~~ the first item is the place of worship. We remember that the call of God was to love Him and to worship Him alone..so the designation of a worship center is basic to keeping a devotional attitude before God. These 16 verses discuss this point and we need no further outline for our study.

II. Discussion

12:1.....a summary statement of the law and its necessity

12:2-3...all pagan worship is to be ended

12:4.....particular care will be given to the things of our God

12:5.....there will be a central place for sacrifice that will hold your attention..the Lord will choose it. This does not necessarily mean the same place will be used for all time.

12:6.....there you will bring your offerings

12:7.....there you will have a place of rejoicing

12:8.....there you will forego your "independence"

12:10-11.The Lord will appoint you a place when this journey is over..there His name will be central, there He will dwell in representative fashion

12:13-14.Be sure to offer your burnt offerings in the right place

12:15....And you can eat what you want or need but...

12:16....observe what is proper with God as you eat it..and do not defile yourself with what is wrong.

III. Conclusion

There are a number of questions about the place of worship that I cannot address right now. The point that is apparent in these verses is that there is to be order in Israel's religious life and that it is to contrast sharply with the pagan life that had existed in the land. God's people are a unique people and they are to demonstrate that in the total process of life. We cannot make an exact parallelism but it does seem that if the worship life is right it puts down a solid foundation for the other aspects of life. But if the worship life is not right, other things are easily skewed in the wrong direction. Keep your relationship with God healthy and a lot of other things will fall in place as well. And may you delight in the word of God today and enjoy the life of obedience it describes.

HONORING GOD'S SERVICEI. Introduction

Welcome to another of our studies in the Book of Deuteronomy. We are now in chapter 12 at verses 17-32 and seeing that the services (and servants) of God must be honored by His people. Israel's faith is not a "do it yourself" faith but a "this is what the Lord wants" faith and the practice of that faith is defined by His love and His law. Every effort is made to stress the heart nature of the faith. We sometimes miss that because the externals are sketched so practicably. But if the order does not proceed from love, it will not accomplish much. Now, in our study, the people of Israel are given some instruction about the practice of worship with the constant emphasis that it will be well with them if they do what God says, and it will not be well if they do not do what God says. We divide this passage of text like this:

12:17-28....provision for yourself and God
29-32....avoiding the pagan rites

II. Discussion

- 12:17.....the tithe or the freewill offering must not be kept for yourself...and this relates to anything vowed as well.
- 12:18.....the offerings must be celebrated in the Lord's presence by all who take part and all can rejoice thereby.
- 12:19.....and in the giving of the offerings one must remember the Levites..they are the servants of God who have no land of their own (territorial land).
- 12:20-22..food provided for yourself at your option..must be clean..this is not an offering
- 12:23-25..but be sure you do not eat the blood..the blood is the very life and you cannot eat it. Verse 25 emphasizes the truth that when you do things right it will go well with the settlement.
- 12:26-28..the holy things or consecrated items are taken to the holy place..there is no exception to this
- 12:29....."when"...the land is secured
- 12:30.....do not be led into the trap of following pagan practices that existed in the land previously. I will discuss this sort of temptation.

12:31.....abstain from all things that are an abomination before the Lord.

12:32.....and be careful to observe the Lord's word correctly..do not add, do not diminish.

III. Conclusion

A number of things are being offset in this passage. Religious hypocrisy for one, self-will for another, and spiritual syncretism for a third. God is to be worshipped in integrity and as the only God of the nation. When His people honor Him..well, it is good for them...but defiance is ruinous and cannot be tolerated. The attitude of being careful with God's Word has real application to us and in this age of grace there is no excuse for dishonoring our God by mixing up His revelation and truth with false philosophies so common about us. Thanks again for your participation and we hope you will join us again for our next study.

Message # 26

Deuteronomy 13:1-18

GUARDING THE REVELATION OF TRUTH

I. Introduction

Deuteronomy 13 is our area of study for today..a very interesting chapter in helping us discern truth. This is a needed study in a world where so many claim to have the answers and multiplied ideas are advanced as being the "truth". Maybe it was harder in Old Testament times when people came out to say something was from God and there was not much material available for a basis of judgment. In light of that the Lord gave His people a basis for deciding who was true and who was not and with that, advice on how they should order things. The emphasis in this chapter, combined later with chapter 18, continues to give us a ground for determining things true or false and were we to apply it rigorously we would be better protected and advantaged. The chapter divides like this:

13:1-5.....the prophetic test
6-11....the family test
12-18....the popular test

You will remember that these are instructions for Israel as a nation...a theocracy. Our established governments today are not that but the essential principles in judgment are not limited to economies. And by judgment in this case we mean discernment.

II. Discussion

13:1....."if" a prophet or dreamer of dreams comes with a sign or wonder to authenticate the message...

13:2....."if it comes to pass" and the giver uses it to encourage following other gods...

13:3.....you will not listen to him...the Lord is allowing you to be tested to determine the reality of your love. (And you must know the enemy can perform signs and wonders)

13:4.....You will walk with, fear, keep, obey, serve only the Lord

13:5.....And you will rid yourself of that false prophet and spare yourself and the people much evil.

This becomes the first test of truth...anything that leads away from God, the God of deliverance, the God of the Bible, is false..don't follow it and you don't even need to do any research on it.

13:6.....if a family member

13:7.....wants to follow the gods of the ~~and~~

13:8.....you will not listen

13:9-10..you will destroy that party because of the evil nature of the movement.

13:12....if you hear a report

13:13....of men of Belial in one of your cities

13:14....you will check it out

13:15....and deal with the abomination if the charge is true

13:16....and all that is wrong will be destroyed

13:17....none of it will be left with you so that the Lord will not need to pronounce a harsh judgment.

13:18....obedience will deliver from grief!

III. Conclusion

This is the first step in determining truth. Anything that leads us from the God of redemption is wicked and must be given up. It does not make any difference what the source is or how powerful a sign might be given. The test of truth is: "does it lead us to worship and obey the God who provided an indisputable deliverance?" If it does not, it is wrong. Other aspects will come later but this is basic and ..thanks for listening today.

THE DIETARY CODE

I. Introduction

Greetings. Welcome to our continuing Deuteronomy studies as we come to chapter 14 and the dietary code. It is not so much a study of nutrition as it is of practical advice in honoring God in the simplest of things: eating. This chapter parallels Leviticus 11 and I must tell you a story that came into my life in 1961

Dr. Pohl and the Kosher meal at University of Pennsylvania

Well, he may have overstated his case but I have never forgotten it and have tried to incorporate the idea when I am giving thanks for my daily food. But we can look at the code on these lines:

14:1-2...you will remember your special position
14:3....the general charge
14:4-8...the test of beasts
14:9-10...the test of sea creatures
14:11-20...the designation of fowls

II. Discussion

14:1-2...you will remember you are a holy people and will not indulge yourselves in wicked worldly practices!

14:3....you will carry sanctification to your diet

14:4-5...Legal animals...kosher, fit to eat

14:6....testing the beasts: the clean beast parts the hoof and chews the cud

14:7-8...Animals that just do one of these are ²⁰unclean...you will not eat them or be contaminated by them in any way. Note the swine and remember the miracle in Luke and ask yourself....

14:9-10...of sea creatures: fins and scales. A lot of things were unclean...like oysters, shrimp...woe is me!

14:11-20...we are not told what they are but in vss 12-19 we are told what they are not and the lists includes raptors, carrion eaters, etc., without telling us why ²⁰they are unclean. The assumption is that what is not outlawed is okay. Leviticus 11 adds notes on creeping things...things that have four feet and fly and things that have four feet made mostly for leaping. But the locust may be eaten and beyond this one must use one's judgment.

III. Conclusion

You may be able to understand Peter's vision in the Book of Acts and why the church has not followed the dietary code. These were restrictions of the theocracy but as I have said, many times, the principles are important in every age. For our own dietary development we might well follow the Pauline instruction of 1 Corinthians 10:31.. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God." So I hope you have a good lunch, dinner,, breakfast and snack time today but that you will remember the Lord when you have it and seek to honor Him in indulging. Thanks for listening today and may the Word of God bless your life in the practice of truth as we live in the hope of the Lord's coming.

Lesson # 28

Deuteronomy 14:21-29

OF THE MATTER OF GIFTS AND TITHESI. Introduction

Welcome to another discussion in the Book of Deuteronomy..and this is our 28th lesson and we are in Dt. 14:21-29...a shorter portion than usual but one that is vital in the covenantal community. There are many lessons to learn and be applied in this community arrangement and the great principles are identity with the Lord and separateness ~~for~~ ^{from} what the Lord opposes. Identity with Him is shown in dedication to Him and this leads to a movement away from idolatry and things contrary to God. On the one hand we give to God, on the other we give nothing to pagan deities or ideals. By giving we mean, of course, worshipful or devotional acts. Well, we will proceed to the text and it needs no further outlining other than to say again it is Deuteronomy 14:21-29.

II. Discussion

14:21.....the thing that dies of itself..you will not eat (it has the blood in it!).. a stranger or alien with no connexion to God..may eat it if one wishes. There is an implicit lesson in this about applying the Divine standards for His people to the masses outside the community.

You will not seethe a kid in its mother's milk..this was a pagan fertility rite and the idea has been extrapolated to fit a lot of kosher food traditions.

14:22.....a tithing of the increase of the fields (seed)

14:23.....the tithe is taken to the sacred site and one shall eat (as in the case of a meal offering) and rejoice in that place..and learn the ways of God.

14:24.....God prepares for an exceptional case..when distance makes the obligation technically impossible...

14:25.....then sell, take the money and

41;26.....use it to buy what you need at the place of sacrifice..so you can worship and eat and rejoice in God's work.

14:27.....be sure to provide for the Levite

14:28.....at the end of three years a tithe is set aside for the Levite. We need a note here on tithing and I will try to streamline it a bit.

14:29.....and provide a blessing for all who are in need or in a place of fellowship.

III. Conclusion

God is a great God, deserving of our worship and praise in every degree. It should be a joy to give to Him and His work and not a trial at all. When we bring this concept to the New Testament age we find we are to give in proportion to how God has blessed us (1 Cor.16:1 ff), that God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9) and that it is better to give than to receive (Acts) The proportions of our giving is not assigned in this age but certainly what is required by law should not be minimized in grace. Thanks again for listening today and may God's Word always be a blessing to you.

Lesson # 29

Deuteronomy 15:1-23

THE SERVICE YEARS

I. Introduction

Hello and welcome to our continuing study in Deuteronomy. Today's study is in Deuteronomy 15 and I hope you may be in a position to read the Scripture with me but, if not, it is nice to have you listening all the same. We are in that part of Deuteronomy where Moses, having explained the basis of Israel's faith, is showing how that faith works out in the life of the community. These were practical chapters in Israel's history and continue to have practical applications to us today, Chapter 15 discusses the nature of servitude in Israel and we outline it like this:

- 15:1-6,,,the regulation of release
- 7-11..care of the poor in light of release
- 12-18..indentured and bond servants
- 19-23..(insertion about sacrificial animals)

II. Discussion

- 15:1.....every seven years a release (The sabbatical year? or the seventh year of a serving term?)
- 15:2.....end of obligation for a neighbor or a brother
- 15:3.....but not necessarily for a foreigner
- 15:4.....if there are no poor among you..no worries!
- 15:5....."if" you hearken..you will know the blessing
- 15:6.....you have been..will be..blessed and in that blessing will be able to be a help to others.
- 15:7.....don't turn away a poor brother
- 15:8.....open your hand to meet the need
- 15:9.....don't allow the ^{year} of release to condition your love (must be the Sabbatical year)..it may cause a grief to a brother and he will call out your injustice to God.
- 15:10.....give freely for the Lord has blessed you
- 15:11.....there will always be poor (Mt. 26:11) but as God has blessed you, but a blessing to others.
- 15:12.....the Hebrew man indentured for 6 years..in the 7th year...
- 15:13.....do not send him away empty
- 15:14.....furnish him liberally as God has blessed you
- 15:15.....because you will remember the Egyptian days
- 15:16.....if he wants to stay because he loves you....
- 15:17.....then, the ear. He is a bond servant and will serve you forever.
- 15:18.....when you release a servant don't feel bad...he has served you well
- 15:19-23..the giving of the firstlings of the flock. Note that if the animal has a blemish, you cannot give it to God but you can eat it yourself..observing the normal dietary laws.

III. Conclusion

The great underlying principle is that of mercy and justice. Remembering what God has done for us induces us to serve God in ministering to others. And in yieldedness to God we have our continuing strength and deliverance. Thanks for joining us again in our Deuteronomy studies.

Lesson # 30

Deuteronomy 16:1-17

THE YEARLY FEASTS

I. Introduction

Welcome to our continuing series of studies in the book of Deuteronomy. We are not rushing in our study and, hopefully, not bogging down too much or losing your interest. The Scripture is instructive and edifying in all of its parts and it is unfortunate that some books are nearly forgotten in the process of preaching. But, as with other things, we can only do so much or go so far and it is good to have you with us on this part of the journey. Chapter 16 deals chiefly with the three great yearly feasts and reminded Israel of her dependence and expected devotion to the Lord. In the press of life nothing was more important than honoring the Lord and the feasts and religious celebrations were intended to keep Israel on that track. While the mere observances could not do this or keep the heart in line, they did provide a service vehicle that should have made the relationship more meaningful. But Israel shared with us some of the complications of life, however, and the events planned and ordered by God too easily became rituals just practiced by men. Our chapter has these divisions:

- 16:1-8...Passover and Unleavened Bread
- 9-20...Feast of Weeks (Pentecosts)
- 13-15...Tabernacles
- 16-17...the Gift principle
- 18-22...practical spiritual conduct.

II. Discussion

- 16:1....."Abib"...alternate name for Nisan...Prepare to remember how God delivered His people.
- 16:2.....the worship center
- 16:3-4...the bread--bread of affliction
- 16:5-7...the appointed place and manner of eating

16:8.....the seventh day...no work

Note on the place where God put His Name: a community center after the original household meeting and now returned to a household meeting because....

16:9.....count seven weeks

16:10.....a freewill offering in accord with God's blessing

16:11.....rejoicing in the gathering

16:12.....remember you were in bondage and do God's will

16:13.....15th of Tishri, seven days of commemoration

16:14.....rejoice!

16:15.....reflect on and expect to see the blessing of God

16:16.....all the males shall appear, all bring gifts

16:17.....as they are able

16:18-22.An insertion regarding the economic life of the people

--18-20.....deeds for judges and officers

--21.....no groves near the Lord's altar

--22.....no images set up

III. Conclusion

The great lesson is to remember and live. We learn from experiences and if we put into practice what we learn we are wise in development and growth. The Lord gives us every reason and every opportunity to grow in this area...it is important that we take advantage of all He has provided. Why not make the Lord's Day a rallying point for our lives and give some honest time together? to reflect on what the Lord has done and how it should move us to the future? Thanks again for listening and may God's Word be a daily source of strength for our lives.

Lesson # 31

Deuteronomy 17:1-20

LAWS FOR AN ORDERED SOCIETY

I. Introduction

Welcome to another study in Deuteronomy. We are in the part of the book that shows how Israel's faith is to be expressed as the nation

gives itself to live as the people of God...a nation ruled by God and serving as a witness to God. Israel's faith is based on the law and love of God but is seen in the community life as the people of God. Chapter 17 tells a little about laws that will order the societal life. This material is found throughout Deuteronomy and is interspersed in the fabric of the book. Whether this is done for variety or emphasis is something we cannot know for certain but it is consistent with the way material is presented in Exodus, Numbers, and Leviticus. It means that the Israelites needed to be careful students of the total law of God and in their dedicated study they would learn much of God's requirements and directives for His people. Chapter 17 has these divisions:

- 17:1-7.....matters of unbelief
- 8-13....settling community controversies
- 14-20....the role of the King.

And while it might seem that the latter is in a different category from the former, the fact is that the correct ordering of government is fundamental to all other areas of life.

II. Discussion

- 17:1.....a direct statement tying this chapter to the correct order or worship as in 18:21-22.
- 17:2....."if ...any" has wrought wickedness in transgressing this covenant...
- 17:3.....and has worshipped a false deity
- 17:4.....and it is reported and found to be true...
- 17:5.....the guilty party will be brought forth and stoned!
- 17:6.....but note the witnesses and the certainty of the act
- 17:8.....a matter of controversy arises that cannot be resolved... don't take it into your own hands
- 17:9.....take it to the proper authorities
- 17:10....and the judgment will be observed and accepted
- 17:11....there is no departure from the statement of justice
- 17:12....the man who will not listen will die...self will is no substitute for obedience
- 17:13....and all will profit by the lesson (the rules for the judges are back in 16:18-20)

17:14....when they will want a king (out of envy)

17:15....accept the Lord's choice from your own..do not look for a stranger

17:16-17.His office guidelines: positive and negative

17:18....he shall receive a copy of this book...

17:19....and master it! ..so he will be able to do what the Lord has said.

17:20....and stay humble to give his kingdom lasting respect, dignity, and honor

III. Conclusion

These are foundational necessities and failures in the observation of any or all of them is enormously damaging to society at large. It is the health of the body that is at stake and it is to this the Lord gives this instruction. The principles are good today even though we are not in the theocratic society. Actual practices must be developed in the light of the whole revelation of the Word of God. And thanks again for your part in being with us today.

Lesson # 32

Deuteronomy 18:1-14

PROPER CARE FOR GOD'S SERVANTS

I. Introduction

Thank you for joining us today in our ongoing Deuteronomy studies. As we go through this book we touch on many unusual things which, however, are very important in the development of Israel as a responsible nation representing God. The institution of the Levites is one of these things...a whole family set apart for God as a serving order. With no land of their own they depended on the rest of Israel for many things. And while some of Levites became distinguished leaders in Israel, most of them were, or are, unknown. Yet much of the obligation of the spiritual life of the nation depended on them. In Deuteronomy 18:1-14 we have part of the teaching given Israel for the care of the Levites. We outline this portion of the chapter like this:

- 18:1-2....the situation
- 3-5....the assigned portion
- 6-8....the ministering servants
- 9-14....protection against idolatry

II. Discussion

18:1.....the inheritance right of the Levites: they shall eat of the offerings of the Lord

18:2.....The Lord is their inheritance

18:3-5...The portions designated for the priest:

v. 3....the meat

v. 4....Produce, beverage, wool

Because the Lord has chosen them!

18:6.....a sojourning Levite from a distant place

18:7.....ministers as an equal with the locals

18:8.....and all participate alike

Note: The sale of his patrimony

18:9-14..Warnings against compromise with false worship in the land

v. 9....purity to be the rule

v. 10...no participant in pagan rites

v. 11...no one familiar with the dead (necromancy)

v. 12...these practices have all been judged and condemned by the Lord and should not be found among His people..instead...

18:13....You will be "perfect" (Matthew 5)

18:14....You will respect the Lord your God in all things

III. Conclusion

The holiness of God's people is seen in their absolute worship of Him and the care of His work. The two are hand in hand and we may easily apply it today. So we will talk about it awhile and keep it in the context of 1 Peter 1 and simply say..we are to be a holy people as He is a holy God. And thanks again for listening today.

Lesson # 33

Deuteronomy 18:15-22

THE PROMISE OF A PROPHET

I. Introduction

Hello and welcome again to our studies in Deuteronomy. Our work today is in chapter 18 where Moses speaks of a prophet who is to come. You must recall there was instruction in chapter 13 regarding

the identification of true prophets . That material must now be added to this portion so as to give us a full picture of a prophet and a more complete way of recognizing him in his service. While this passage indeed looks to the future, it had or has a real message for the present. Those who claim to be speakers for God appear in every age and the people of God are often deceived by them. Well, that is another story, but if we apply the Biblical standards in a competent way we are not so easily misled. It is another corrective on the pathway. We look at Deuteronomy 18:15-22 and use it as a practical criterion for discernment. As this is a short section we need no added outline and may proceed directly to the text.

II. Discussion

18:15.....the promise is for another prophet like Moses. Think of what is involved in that.

18:16.....to meet the needs of the people...comfortably

18:17.....The Lord, having recognized the need of the people, agrees that it should be met.

18:18.....He promises an enlightened prophet...

--I will raise Him up
--I will put my words in His mouth
--He will speak to you as I instruct Him

18:19.....and you will listen..those who will not listen will be in a position for divine rebuke

18:20.....But, if He speaks contrary to what God has said...

18:21.....amd you wonder how to know the truth...

18:22.....if it comes to pass or does not...then the verdict is clear

The witness of Jesus
4/14/10
3:19
7:16
8:26

III. Conclusion

The prophetic test is straightforward and simple. Putting Deuteronomy 13 and 18 together...the one who claims to be a prophet (speaking in the name of God) must lead the people to God, must agree with God's Word as known, and must have what he predicts come to pass. Otherwise he is a false prophet. I will elaborate on that for one can be a true prophet but have a lapse and make a prophesy that is not true...all tested by the same standard. The New Testament usage of this passage will be found in Acts 2:27 (as well as 3:19 ff), Acts 7:37, amd John 1:45. The Lord Jesus is that prophet in final form and the word of God is ultimate in that one must listen to Him or have no part in the kingdom of God. And for one more time, may God bless you richly with His Word today.

THE REFUGE CITIESI. Introduction

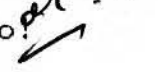
Welcome to another study in Deuteronomy. This is our 34th study and we come today to chapter 19 where we are given some further data on community life. The interrelation of domestic, societal and religious life in these chapters is very instructive for it shows us that one's faith should be seen in all aspects of life. The totality of our being is woven together so that the relationship with God should be apparent in all that is done. In other words, no part of life is without sanctification and commitment to God. This chapter divides in this way:

19:1-13....the cities of refuge
14-21....problems in personal relationships

II. Discussion

- 19:1....."when"..there is no doubt that the Lord will do it...Israel must be ready when He does.
- 19:2.....set apart three cities in the midst of your land..(there are also three cities over the Jordan)
- 19:3.....situated in a proportional manner so that all who may have need of them will have access
- 19:4.....the application is to the one who causes death to his neighbor through some innocent action" he did not hate him, feud with him, etc.
- 19:5.....the guiltless person may flee to a city of refuge
- 19:6.....to save him from a blood avenger..he is not worthy of death.
- 19:7.....set apart three cities
- 19:8.....if you prosper you may add three other cities (v. 9) *g*
- 19:10.....to avoid the shedding of innocent blood
- 19:11....but if one is a murderer
- 19:12....he will be delivered for the penalty
- 19:13....there is no pity or overlooking
- 19:14....you will honor the Lord's appointments

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- 19:15....but the number of witnesses is two?  -51
- 19:16....if a false witness shows up
- 19:17....both men are guilty before the Lord and His people
- 19:18....the judges determine the guilt
- 19:19....and the penalty will be exacted..the false witness will pay the penalty he intended for the victim
- 19:20....the whole camp will profit
- 19:21....and you will not hesitate to administer justice.

III. Conclusion

The justice of God is seen in these arrangements for His people. Sinners must be punished, innocent and victims must be protected. The principle is true in life and death as well as in personal matters. When we observe these things we make for peace and harmony in all levels of society. And thanks again for listening to these studies.

Lesson # 35

Deuteronomy 20

SOME LAWS ABOUT WAR

I. Introduction

Welcome to another study in the book of Deuteronomy. Today we move into chapter 20 as we discuss the ways in which Israel's faith is expressed. This chapter tells of some guidelines for war--a necessary function in the middle east at that time. The conquest and defense of Canaan is a mighty endeavor and there is a tendency to overlook personal right and privilege at such times. God wants an ordered society where justice and consideration rule and all persons are important. You will remember that these laws are for the theocracy and we live in another age and a different development of government. The particular enactments relate to Israel's setting but the general principles apply to us all. I hope you understand that but if not, write and I will try to make it more clear..as I am able..it is a basic point seen well in this chapter. Our division of material is this:

- 20:1-9....military arrangements
- 10-20...military engagements

II. Discussion

20:1.....when you go to war, remember the Lord is there!

20:2.....the priest will speak to encourage the people

20:3.....note the words of encouragement..they will remind you of many similar times in the Scripture. Don't faint, fear, tremble, the Lord is with you.

20:4.....the Lord, in fact, is fighting for you

20:5-8...the officers speak:

v 5...dedicate your new home if necessary

v.6...care for your new vineyard

v.7...stay with a new wife

(All of these can be seen as things that would contribute to poor morale in the battle)

v.8...the faint or fearful need not go..another morale fact that could work to the harm of the company..

20:9.....the officers will arrange the company for effective service

20:10....but before fighting, first offer peace...

20:11....if the foe agrees they will become tributaries

20:12....if not they will be besieged and overcome

20:13....when the Lord delivers every male is slain

20:14....but women, little ones, cattle, spoil ~~are~~ taken

20:15....this is the policy for distant cities

20:16-18. But the cities of the land will be exterminated that Israel does not become contaminated with their unbelief or wicked practices.

20:19....sieging a city but caring for the trees that produce the goods for life.

III. Conclusion

War is never a pleasant thing and the conditions that attend it are frightening. Israel is not a pacifistic country however and must learn to conduct herself well in times of strife as in times of peace. God gives instruction for both and all aspects of life are to be lived under the order of God. And we trust you will be blessed in the study of the Word of God and hope ~~you~~ you can join us again tomorrow as we continue our work.

Lesson # 36Deuteronomy 21JUST PRACTICES IN SOCIETYI. Introduction

Welcome to our continuing study in the book of Deuteronomy. We are at our 36th lesson and at the 21st chapter of the book. We have not been rushing but have still treated many things in a very limited way. After the historical review of chapters 1-4, Moses work of the "second law" is seen essentially in chapters 5-26. 5-11 sketch the basis of Israel's faith while chapters 12-26 show the expression of that faith as the knowledge of the will of God surfaces in the events of everyday life. In chapter 21 we deal with a number of societal and domestic issues and we are reminded that those who belong to the Lord are expected to live that way in all of life. The material in our chapter is organized on these lines:

- 21:1-9...clearing in an uncertain killing
- 10-14 a captive wife
- 15-17 two wives and a kinship question
- 18-21 a rebellious child
- 22-23 qualifications on a death penalty

Well, it is a diverse collection of teachings and we will look at them section by section.

II. Discussion

21:1-9....this amounts to a murder mystery..one is found slain and it is not known who is responsible..

- v. 2..the elders and judges will determine the nearest city
- v. 3..a sacrificial animal is taken from that city
- v. 4..and is slain in the valley
- v. 5..the priests will come for adjudication
- v. 6..the elders wash their hands over the heifer (those of the nearest city)
- v. 7..and shall deny complicity
- v. 8..they pray not to be charged with innocent blood
- v. 9..and when all is done as the Lord has instructed..the potentiality of guilt is ended..innocence is set.
We still don't know who did it..but know who did not do it and that will have to suffice for the moment.

21:10-14...the captive wife.

- v. 10..Israel has taken prisoners
- v. 11..and an Israelite takes a captive for a wife
- v. 12..she is brought to his home where she spends a month in mourning and then becomes his wife.
- v. 14..and if she proves not to be a good wife..she is allowed to leave, not to be sold or abused

21:15-17...an inheritance problem

- v. 15..a man has two wives, loves one, hates one, his first born son is by the hated wife!
- v. 16..he cannot take the first born of the loved one in place of the first born of the hated.
- v. 17..he must acknowledge the right son.

21:18-21...the rebellious son

- v. 18..his errors and character of rebellion
- v. 19..he is brought to the elders
- v. 20..the official denunciation
- v. 21..the sentence and punishment..We have no record of this legislation every having been carried out but it sure is a stern warning.

21:22-23...the quick burial of one who is hung. Cf Galatians 3:3

III. Conclusion

This is a wide range of law intended to establish and keep peace in the community. It deals with situations not familiar to us but obviously of potential trouble for the community. So note that many of our problems would be speedily resolved if we take seriously to heart the guidance of the Word of God. And, once again, thanks for your participation with us today.

Lesson # 37

Deuteronomy 22:1-12

OF DOMESTIC PRACTICE AND RELATIONSHIPS

I. Introduction

Welcome to our further discussions in the book of Deuteronomy. Our immediate portion is Deuteronomy 12:1-12 where we have teachings concerning domestic practices and relationships. If you think there is a lot of this in Deuteronomy, you are right! Family issues are basic to society and family values set the standard for values in almost every other area. I hate to say it again, but you must remember that this is a different age and a different governmental arrangement. The principles are of great use to us while the individualized practices must be viewed in the historical contexts of where they are given and applied. It's not always easy to make these distinctions but if we fail it would make it appear that the Bible opposed technological development which, of course, it does not. But as things change with progression or regression, the basic ideas in principle will be valuable and directive. Those things we must seek and treasure. So in these 12 verses we find the following life matters discussed.

22:1-4.....outlook for a brother's possessions
5-12...witnessing statutes

II. Discussion

- 22:1.....you will ~~not~~ overlook the loss of a brother's livestock.
You will not hide yourself from it. But why would anyone
do this sort of thing anyway?
- 22:2.....you will care for what he has lost and note the meaning of
the term "brother"...
- 22:3.....and this applies to all his stuff, not just animals
- 22:4.....and you will be ready to give of your strength to help
your brother in a difficult time.
- 22:5.....the garment matter..avoiding gender confusion
- 22:6.....humanitarian regard for the creature~~s~~ given for our use....
an ecological suggestion
- 22:7.....note how our own prosperity depends on this sort of thing
- 22:8.....have care in protecting others in a property setting
- 22:9.....and in purity in the fields
- 22:10....don't confuse the creatures of creation (ox and ass)
- 22:11....and likewise with a garment
- 22:12....but be sure to be identified as one of the Lord's people
i.e. the fringes on the garment...(Cf. Numbers 15:38 and
Matthew 23:5)

III. Conclusion

These may seem like strange things to us today--our culture is different. But the idea of being God's people and having our respect for God and others is still the same and we do well to observe it. Much of the confusion and disorder in our society stems from the simple reality of not observing the ideal in the law of God. We could correct problems in the church or religious community as well as in the society at large if we simply took and applied the Word as intended. And once again, thanks for listening and may God bless you daily as you give your attention and heart to His Word.

TRUTH AND PURITY IN SEXUAL ORDERI. Introduction

Hello. Here we are again with our continuing study in Deuteronomy. This is Israel's foundational law book and it treats almost every area of life to some degree. I believe that is because God is interested in every area and wants a testimony to His Name in all of the life practices. This part of Deuteronomy 22, namely verses 13-30 takes up the subject of sexual relationships in the home and it does it in broad detail. The national economy of Israel depended on a solid domestic structure and every effort is made to preserve that in God's law. Many of the particulars will seem foreign to us but behind them we will see the desire of God and that is timeless. Our passage divides itself like this:

22:13-21....suspicion of impurity in marriage
22-30....questions of sexual abuse

Please note there are many other passages that touch on these things and I am merely commenting on the text of this passage rather than attempting to treat the subject as a whole.

II. Discussion

22:13.....if a man takes a wife, has relationships with her, and "hates" her....

22:14.....and denounces her as being sexually impure when he married her....

22:15.....then the parents may produce tokens of virginity...

22:16.....and announce that the man now hates her...

22:17.....even though the proof of virginity is there....

22:18.....the elders will chastise that man

22:19.....and fine him an appropriate amount with the fine going to the parents and the man must keep her as his wife and not put her away all his days.

Note: it is apparent that he merely wanted another woman and tried to get her on an unproved grounds...his case is lost.

22:20.....But if the charge is true.....

22:21.....the woman will be treated as an adultress

- 22:22.....A couple involved in adultery will both die for the sin
- 22:23-24..and a betrothed virgin becomes sexually involved with a man in a city..they shall be stoned. It is presumed she was cooperative in the sin rather than being victimized...
- 22:25-27..but if the sin occurred in a field, only the man will die, for it is assumed the woman cried for help and there was simply no one to hear her! She is the victim of rape and not culpable in this case.
- 22:28.....Now if a man takes advantage of an unbetrothed virgin....
- 22:29.....He will be fined appropriately (the fine going to the family) and he will be required to take her as his wife and he may not put her away.."all his days".
- 22:30.....A man will not take his father's wife nor in any sense disrupt the purity of the paternal home. (discover his father's skirt)

III. Conclusion

This legislation does not cover everything in this category but it does show God's concern and interest in the morality of domestic relationships. Many of our difficulties today would be resolved if the truth of the Word was honored in these familiar situations. And remember that the more you read these things the more familiar you are with what God wants us to do. So, stay in the Word and allow it to be a daily encouragement to your heart and soul.

Lesson # 39

Deuteronomy 23

LIFE AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GOD

I. Introduction

The book of Deuteronomy covers many fields of instruction and we welcome you today to the continuing studies in this the 5th book of the Bible. We have seen that the covenanted basis for faith was belief in God and His law and we are now involved in expressions of that law for the lives of God's people. We are especially interested in the principles that underlie the particular statements and I have been trying to state these as we go. Chapter 23 covers a wide area of material related to life in the camp. Basically the camp of God is to be a well ordered and maintained facility demonstrated in and by the behaviour of God's people. We see the concern of holiness in all issues of life. I hope you can watch your Bible and see the ideas of the text as I try to discuss them and we outline the chapter like this:

- 23:1-8....those entering the congregation
- 9-14...the cleanliness of the camp
- 15-25...miscellaneous matters of camp life

II. Discussion

- 23:1.....a mutilated male is not to enter the congregation..he is non-productive and may represent religious mal-practice.
- 23:2.....an illegitimate person cannot enter unto the tenth generation...see how this is worked out in David's genealogy, ~~Is~~ by tenth a literal term is understood.
- 23:3.....Moabites and Ammonites are not admitted to the tenth generation because:
 - v. 4...they did not help Israel on the journey and
 - v. 5...they sought to impede the camp with the help of Balaam..from whom God gave deliverance
 - v. 6...and you will not seek their peace.
- 23:7-8....Relationships with Edom and Egypt. their descendents cannot enter the camp until the fourth generation!
- 23:9.....holiness, practical, is needed for warfare
- 23:10-11..ceremonial defilement of men needs cleansing
- 23:12-14..removal of bodily waste in the camp and the need for personal cleanliness
- 23:15-16..care for the slaves who have fled a master and come to Israel for refuge.
- 23:17-18..sanctity of sexual relationships and God's desire for holiness
- 23:19-20..lending to a brother (no usury) and to a stranger (usury)
- 23:21-22..the importance and obligation of vows
- 23:24-25..privileges with brethren for sustaining of life with no personal gain.

III. Conclusion

All of these have in common the desire of God for holiness and sanctity in all of Life. We miss that at times when we try to put our relationship to God in a corner of our lives without allowing Him a place of honor in all parts of life. There is no aspect in which He is not interested and no part in which we should not think of Him. The camp of Israel in the Old Testament and the church of God in the New

Testament are instructed to let God be supreme in all things and His leadership will then be plain and their lives blessed. Thanks for being with us today and may God's word be a rich blessing as well as an encouragement to you in every day of your walk in this world.

Lesson # 40

Deuteronomy 24:1-5

PRIMARY DOMESTIC RELATIONSHIPI. Introduction

Greetings to you in the Lord's name and thanks for being with us again in our continuing Deuteronomy lessons. We come today to one of the most debated sections of the book and I am devoting this study to just Deuteronomy 24:1-5, the basic section treating matters of divorce in the law and the passage used by Jesus as the basis for His teaching in Matthew 19:1-9. Because this aspect of life is so often a great cause of disagreement in Christian circles, I want to mention a few things about our treatment while we proceed.

First: The passage limits itself sharply to very well defined issues. It is not a commentary on the total subject or an answer to every situation. The complexity of divorce, remarriage, etc., is beyond this passage but in what it does touch and stress it is blunt and clear.

Second: We are not going to use the passage to try and correct or contradict any church constitution or doctrinal posture. The church as a body politic must determine those things and it does not need destructive criticism from random Bible teachers.

Third: The great principle of God's desire for a blessed union is clear in the passage and we would do well to lay more stress on that.

Fourth: The meanings assigned by the Lord Jesus must be received as the Word of God. They are clear in statement but the wider applications perplex us in some ways.

Fifth: There needs to be a charity and discernment factor in looking at the spirit of the law as well as at the letter.

So I suppose I have given enough qualifications now and need to get to the text. But remember these things in order to better consider what is there. And, without doubt, study the matters yourself in a prayerful, gracious, and reflective manner. We are, in these programs, trying to study the Scripture and attempt not to dogmatize when we do not need to...or are not required to....while being emphatic about what is taught and how it should be used.

II. Discussion

24:1... "when"... it will happen "married her" "no favor" "some uncleanness." "write" "give to her" send her from the house." The key term is uncleanness... suggesting some moral defilement or indecent behavior... the root is in the word "naked"

24:2.... she may go and be another man's wife

24:3.... if the latter husband has a similar problem and sends her away or if he dies....

21:4.... her former husband may not take her again.. it would be an abomination and cause defilement in the land.

21:5.... And when one has taken a new wife he has a year given him to "cheer" her before military duties, etc., may claim his service.

III. Conclusion

And that is as far as it goes in this passage. A fuller study will require all the OT passages and those in the New Testament as well. You will need to make a distinction between the design of God and the allowance of God.. a distinction seen also in monogamy and polygamy. Suffice it to say that our culture and age seeks ways to avoid the will of God. Those who know Him should be active in establishing ways that honor His Word. Nothing is above that and thank you once again for being with us in our time today.

Lesson # 41

Deuteronomy 24:5--25:4

MORE SOCIETAL LAWS

I. Introduction

Welcome again to our continuing study in Deuteronomy. Our focus today is on another section of the legal code that prescribes for order and purity in society. God's great desire for His people was, and is, holiness and that is often spelled out as purity... life that is lived for God and is set apart for God. Some of the statements in the code of Deuteronomy may seem almost childish but if we remember how even very simple things may lead to sin and defilement, then we will know that nothing can be overlooked in the law of God. Not every item can be mentioned individually but seeing the items that are mentioned and knowing they are all understood, we should be able to derive principles that will guide us in areas not specifically mentioned. The portion in today's study has wide coverage so please be patient as we work through the items quickly and, I fear, superficially. We divide the chapter like this:

- 24:6.....pledges
- 24:7.....abuse of fellow Israelites
 - 8-9..note on leprosy
 - 10-13.pledges to a brother
 - 14-15.treatment of a servant
 - 16-18.nature of guilt and punishment
 - 19....charity in harvest
- 25:1-3...settling controversies
 - 4 the principle of provision

II. Discussion

- 24:6.....nether¹ or up²per millstone..one who takes that sort of pledges jeopardizing the life of the owner (land, etc,)
- 24:7.....kidnapping and slavery...punishable by death
- 24:8-9....watch carefully for leprosy and remember that even Miriam was shut out of the camp when afflicted.
- 24:10-13..lending and p¹leging with a brother
 - v. 10....no aggression with a brother
 - v. 11....give the borrower opportunity to repay or satisfy
 - v. 12....don't impoverish the borrower
 - v. 13....be merciful and just in receiving the pledge
- 24:14-15..No advantage is to be taken of a hired servant..one is to be paid p¹romptly..
- 24:16-18...integrity is the rule in judgement and you will remember how the Lord delivered you
- 24:19-22..be charitable in harvest (Observe how verses 18 and 22 take the worshipper back to God's deliverance
- 25:1.....a controversy and the role of the judges
- 25:2.....the penalty and means of action
- 25:3.....the number of allowed stripes..this is just and the imposition is to curb hatred and revenge.
- 25"4.....and don't muzzle¹ the ox..he deserves the right "pay" and the Apostle uses this to indicate the care the church should have for its workers.

III. Conclusion

These societal regulations will continue into the rest of the chapter as well and we will look at more of them in our next lesson

Remember: God is working for purity in all aspects of life and it ought to be our goal to see that accomplished in God's way. It is too easy to be neglectful of important matters to the harm of the whole. Diligence in life to live by the Word of God is always a good effort and this is Tom Taylor, thanking you again for being with us today.

Lesson # 42

Deuteronomy 25:5-19

CONTINUED SOCIETAL LAWSI. Introduction

Thank you for joining us today in our Deuteronomy study. It is a great delight to study the Scripture and I am enjoying the work in the Old Testament book very much. We are still working with societal laws given by God through Moses...laws given for ordering the camp of the people of God. Some of these laws would have no immediate application when Israel became a settled nation but the principles that produced them would be instructive and applicable in the whole of society for all ages. So I guess I need to ask your patience as we continue to think of these things and to see the wisdom and exceptional care of God in blessing His people. Our chapter outlines like this:

25:5-10....family arrangements
11-16....particulars in conduct
17-19....remembering Amalek

II. Discussion

25:5.....the Levirate marriage...keeping the family names alive
25:6.....the succession of the first born
25:7.....what to do if a man refuses His duty
25:8.....the elders affirm the situation
25:9.....the judgment: public reproach
25:10....the ongoing stigma
25:11-12.propriety in case of conflict
25:13....honesty in dealing
25:14....honesty in measure
25:15....the purpose: that your days may be long
25:16....and you will be delivered from unrighteousness

25:17....reviewing the past: Amalek...Exodus 17:8 ff

25:18-19. Amalek to be completely destroyed..and it takes a lot longer to get accomplished than you might believe!

III. Conclusion

These might seem trifling but they are just the sort of things that cause strife and misunderstanding among people at large...things the people of God cannot afford. If we ran a measuring rod on these things for our day some of us would come up short. It is a good thing we are saved and kept by grace. But the application of God and His just work in every age and all areas of life is a goal for which we may well contend. And we hope to have you listening tomorrow but we are very glad for your attention today.

Lesson # 43

Deuteronomy 26:1-19

THE OFFERING OF THE FIRSTFRUITS

I. Introduction

Greetings in the Lord's Name as we welcome you to another in our studies in Deuteronomy. Today, as the Lord wills, we will complete the second part of the book. Chapters 1-4 were a historical review while chapters 5-26 constituted the restatement of the covenantal law giving first, in chapters 5-11, the basis for Israel's faith and then in chapters 12-26 the expression of that faith as Israel lived out the commission of God to be a holy people. Chapter 26 returns to the ceremonial law to remind the nation of its worship accountability and the importance of living grateful lives. The feast of the firstfruits is under consideration and we outline the chapter like this:

26:1-11.....the first fruits...cause for thanksgiving
12-15.....thanksgiving accountability
16-19.....reminder and challenge concerning material status.

II. Discussion

26:1.....when you are in the land, possess and dwell there

26:2.....you will bring the first fruit (the best) in a basket
to the designated place

26:3.....a confession to the priest of God's goodness

26:4.....the priest will take the offering

26:5.....while the worshipper completes his confession

26:6.....he remembers the Egyptian experience

26:7.....and the cry for help

26:8.....with the subsequent deliverance of the Lord

26:9.....and the gift of the land of Canaan

26:10.....here is the basket proving my thankfulness, Lord.

26:11.....rejoicing is prescribed. This passage is a beautiful picture of thanksgiving and is exemplary of every thank service we may have.

26:12.....The Levitical tithe of the third year (tithing)

26:13-14..The pledge of integrity

26:15.....the prayer

26:16-19..Summary of the legislation:

- v. 16...the charge of God to keep the commandments
- v. 17...the exchange of vows: God and the People
- v. 19...God's plan for the nation

III. Conclusion

Well, there will be more laws and more legislation and you will remember, as Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 1, that the law is made for the wicked, not the righteous. It does not provide righteousness but it does provide standards and guidelines. It informs, in all ages, the expectations and aims of the Lord and in that sense is enormously valuable to us today. Please remember that salvation is ours through the Lord Jesus Christ and the guidance for life in Him flows from the Word of God. Thanks for listening today and may you profit by God's Word every day on the pathway.

Lesson # 44

Deuteronomy 27:1-10

THE COVENANT DEMONSTRATED

I. Introduction

Thank you for joining us today in our continuing studies in Deuteronomy. We move today to the third major section of the book in chapters 27-28 where God speaks of the blessings and cursings that accompany the covenant. I mentioned earlier the similarity of Deuteronomy and the Hittite covenants of antiquity. In this arrangement the section of blessing and cursing is added to give force to the covenant and display the seriousness of it to the nation. There is a

lot to be gained by obedience and a lot to be lost by disobedience. Both options are fully developed in this part of the book and will have later references in other parts of Scripture. Reading them is not the most inviting procedure but we will stick it out and are hopeful you can follow with us. Dt. 27:1-10 introduces the covenant and to that portion we give ourselves today. We need no separate outline for it and may proceed directly to the text.

II. Discussion

27:1.....Moses with the elders commanded...Keep

27:2.....A plan for teaching in Canaan...a great public display

27:3....."write on them the words of this law" (note many synagogues)...a guide and an encouragement for conquest

27:4.....a memorial in Mt. Ebal

27:5.....an altar of natural stones (no iron upon them)

27:6....."white stones" "offer burnt offering"

27:7....."peace offerings" and rejoice

27:8.....the words of the law written very plainly

27:9.....Moses, the priests and the Levites...they all witness to Israel that today the wanderers had become the nation of God.

27:10.....obey!

III. Conclusion

The law is Israel's advantage as Paul reminds us in Romans 2 and was in many ways her glory. The sacred nature of the law challenged the land in holiness and the content was protection and practice. But Israel had a responsibility to obey or face the consequences for not obeying. We know the outcome today and in the next few days, as the Lord allows, will see what the blessings and the curses were.

Lesson # 45

Deuteronomy 27:11-26

PARTICULAR CURSES OF THE LAW

I. Introduction

Welcome to another study in Deuteronomy. I appreciate your listening and trust the Lord will daily bless you by His Word. Nothing

is more important to our lives than the Word of God and practically nothing is more available if we will give ourselves to it. But, in the press of life, we often overlook the Word in the light of other pressures and we are the poorer for it. Our Deuteronomy studies are long and some will wonder at the time spent. We are not returning to the law as a means of having life but we are discussing principles that are used in the scope of our living with God. In that regard we now come to the blessings and cursings that come with the covenant God made with His people. We will not seek to apply them in our age or culture but note God's attitude towards His people and the justice with which He addressed them. In our portion today we need no further outlining of the material of Deuteronomy 27:11-26.

II. Discussion

27:11.....Moses continues a charge to the people and...

27:12.....has one group of witnesses on Mt. Gerizim to represent the blessings and...

27:13.....another group on Mt. Ebal to note the cursings. Note the make-up of these groups. (Moses)

27:14.....the Levites serve as announcers...

27:15.....and they roll out the nature of the curses..in particular curses are pronounced for...

-vs. 15--idolatry
- vs. 16--dishonoring father and mother
- vs. 17--in²vasion on family inheritance
- vs. 18--abuse of the blind
- vs. 19--those who pervert judgment
- vs. 20--those guilty of immorality
- vs. 24--those ²taking advantage of a neighbor
- vs. 25--a hired murderer
- vs. 26--those who deny the words of this law.

III. Conclusion

It is interesting to see how these provisions occurred with the giving of the law...how they reflect the tone of the total law. The Lord is reviewing the penalty for disobedience--a matter we can all recognize, but often do not take with sufficient interest. We fight the penalty phase and live at our own pace. Passages such as this call us to the reality factor of God's will and we should always realize that such a factor exists and compliance with the will of God is the only safe approach in living. Thanks for being with us today and may the Lord bless 'you richly by His Word.

Lesson # 46Deuteronomy 28:1-14THE NATURE OF BLESSINGI. Introduction

Thank you for joining us today in our continuing study in Deuteronomy. This is our 46th lesson and we are in Deuteronomy 28:1-14 where we discover aspects of blessing. Blessing is the term that describes the conferring of a gracious act by one party on another. Generally the greater is the one blessing but this is not always the case as when we bless God and there are some technicalities in that. Some scholars try to limit blessing to just physical things, others to just spiritual things, but in my mind both are included. The particular blessings of the chapter we are now studying are largely physical with a spiritual foundation. In other words, your spiritual conformity has brought you to a place of physical blessing. These acts of God's grace are more readily seen and so are more quickly understood. But blessing is not limited to those areas and we must use it in a wider scope. Remember that we are seeing the stipulations given for the covenant of God and the challenge to Israel was to see, to hear, and to react to what God would do. In verses 1-14 we need no further outline and may proceed directly to the text.

II. Discussion

28:1....."if": "observe and do" "all the Lord commands"...these are the significant terms in this verse

28:2.....the blessings will overtake you

28:3.....you will experience them wherever you are

28:4.....there will be an increase (multiplication) of all that is important to you.

28:5.....your supplies for life will increase

28:6.....you will be honored in all life moves

28:7.....your foes will be overwhelmed..you will be delivered

28:8.....every aspect of life will e/enriched

28:9.....you will be His special people...if...

28:10.....you will be respected in all the earth

28:11....and the Lord will cause you to abound

28:12....the Lord will make nature smile on you

28:13....The Lord will give you prominence

28:14....The charge, however, is one of obedience

III. Conclusion

Who would not want that? And remember, as God gave the law He knew they could not or would not keep it totally so He made provision for forgiveness and health if Israel would look to Him. It was not a hopeless covenant at all but it was restrictive on man's desire to be his own God and always have his own way. The price of the covenant was yieldedness to God and while the reasonability of it is obvious, the compliance was much less certain. The terms of God were generous..but Israel, in time, would want only her own terms. So thanks for listening today and we hope to have your ear for our next lesson as well. May God bless you richly today by His Word and the presence of His Spirit.

Lesson # 47

Deuteronomy 28:15-47

ASPECTS OF CURSING

I. Introduction

Welcome to another Deuteronomy study...a study today not very pleasant in context as we look at the judgments God would use to chastise His people if they were willful and disobedient. It is pretty fierce reading and may seem overly harsh but it was God rewarding truth and punishing falsehood. God is just and his love and kindness are not subject for playing games. He is not a plaything that we can manipulate and His decrees are to be taken seriously. It is a solemn lesson and while we live in a different age, the pronouncement of the Book of Hebrews..."our God is a consuming fire" is still a point of reckoning for mankind. We are treating in general today a larger segment than usual and we divide it like this:

28:15-19....the state following disobedience

20-27....punitive acts of justice

28-37....reversals in activity

38-47....loss of respect and national status

We will treat these as blocks of data rather than on a verse by verse rendering. It is solemn stuff and just as everyone would want the blessing, no one would want the cursing...but...the condition was that of yieldedness to God and the natural man finds that objectionable.

II. Discussion

28:15.....the statement of purpose..all these curses will come on you if you do not hearken...

28:16-19.....you will be under God's wrath wherever you go and whatever you do.

28:20-27.....because of your wickedness the Lord will frustrate your world and.....

v. 21-24..you will have diseases and natural trouble

v. 25-26..military defeat

v. 27.....assorted plagues

28:28-37.....God will bring acts of wrath upon you:

v. 28....confusion

v. 30....frustration

v. 32....impotence

v. 33....disgrace

v. 36....weakness

v. 37....ridicule

28:38-47.....a demise of community and national status

v. 38....loss of respect among the nations

v. 39....economic reversals

v. 40....societal loss in many ways

28:47...and it will all be the result of your unwillingness to serve the Lord, to honor His word even though He has provided you with abundance in many ways.

III. Conclusion

No one would opt for this sort of thing but throughout history there is a long succession of people who did not believe what God had said. Israel will soon be in that category. God did not bring all of these judgments at once but through the history of Israel you will see them at times and the general character will be an important part of Solomon's dedicatory prayer for the temple in 2 Chronicles. Hebrews 10:31 sums up the heart of the lesson..."It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." So may we be obedient to the Word of God today and walk in the light and truth of redemption.

Message # 48

Deuteronomy 28:48-68

THE THREAT OF CAPTIVITY

I. Introduction

Thank you for joining us today in our trip through Deuteronomy. We are finishing a study in chapter 28 where the curses

for noncompliance with the covenant are rehearsed. It is grim reading and the capstone is the threat that Israel will be taken captive to a strange land--and be treated very harshly. The Egyptian experience was one of the most painful in the nation's history and the possibility of a similar experience was terrifying. Yet all hinged on one thing: compliance with the instruction of God. Not perfection, understand, for God had provided means for dealing with failure. But yieldedness to Him was an absolute must and a great challenge to the national pride. Our passage takes this up in some detail and we divide it like this:

28:48-52....the conquering nation
53-57....the anguish of defeat
58-68....the cost of disobedience.

II. Discussion

28:48-52...defeat before the foes

48 --they would wear a yoke of iron
--be in hunger and thirst and
--in want of all things.
49-50-the attacks would be brutal
51-52-the defeat would devastate the land

28:53-57...the pain of the siege

53 --famine
54-55-oppression
56-57-betrayal

28:58....."if" you will not

28:59....."then" the Lord will take these contrary acts against
His people

59-61-an assortment of plagues
62 --the remnant will be few
63 --a change in Divine interest
64 --a scattering of the nation will occur
65 --the people will face distress among foreign nations
66 --there will be fear for life
67 --time will be fearsome
68 --and a bondage will be resumed that will make past
trials seem, small.

III. Conclusion

So the covenant is given. It is based on the love and law of God. The destiny of the nation is determined by the use or abuse of the covenant. The rewards for obedience and the punishment for

disobedience are both spelled out. Critical to all else is the fear and respect of God. Responsible action will produce a favorable result - irresponsible action will be disastrous in every degree. We know the record of history and the facts of grace...and will continue our studies tomorrow in the will of the Lord and hope you will be with us again.

Lesson # 49Deuteronomy 29HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE COVENANTI. Introduction

Greetings today and welcome to another study in the book of Deuteronomy. We are coming to the last section of the book, chapters 29-34 being something of a historical review. I have noted earlier how the literary form of this book parallels the form of ancient Hittite treaties and the broad suggestion is that this is a treaty between Jehovah and His people. It constitutes an agreement prepared by the greater power and accepted by the lesser. So having defined and explained the covenant and having enumerated blessings and cursings that accompany it, Moses gives a historical sketch that brings the nation to a contemporary understanding and prepares it for the next thing God will order: the conquest of Canaan. Chapter 29 introduces this section and we outline it so:

29:1-9...the journey remembered
10-29...the present challenge

II. Discussion

29:1.....location and content.."words" and "covenant"

29:2.....remembering what they had seen...

29:3.....and the temptations they had faced

29:4-9....yet they are still short in perception and hearing...

v. 5-6...the record of God's provision
v. 7-8...God's protection and military help
v. 9.....meaning they should now honor the covenant

29:10-11..the assembled company

29:12-24..the intent of God

v 13-15..the people with whom the covenant is made
16-18...a warning against abominations

19-21...that all treacherous thinkers will be outside
the covenant
22-23...so that the following generation will know and
act properly
24-....what has caused difficulty and be advised
thereby.

29:25-28...the observations of the ungodly

29:29.....and for those who cannot understand...let them appreciate
this truth...the secret things belong to God but what He
has revealed belongs to all of us that we may do His
will.

III. Discussion

In some ways this is a hypothetical chapter warning Israel of what will come if the lessons of the past are forgotten. Our churches could use some of that lesson today but history shows Israel (and then our own people) to be slow learners. We too easily repeat the mistakes of the past without even a twinge of conscience. So we will not be gloomy today but will prayerfully desire to live in the good of God's Word and the direction of His truth. May that be your intention today as well as the mind of God for us in this radio network.

Message # 50

Deuteronomy 30

THE CHALLENGE OF CHOICE

I. Introduction

Thank you for joining us today in our continuing lessons in the book of Deuteronomy. Our chapter for today, Deuteronomy 30, is one of great interest as it portrays Israel at a moral crossroads. God has shown them His will and given them the authority and power to act on it. Moses puts before the people then, the reality of choice and the recognition of responsibility that comes with it. Moses notes the faithfulness of God in holding up His end of the covenant and urges Israel to act accordingly. Our chapter has two main divisions:

30:1-10....God's willingness to receive and heal the
penitent
11-20....the reality of responsible decision making

II. Discussion

30:1.....the verse assumes that Israel had fallen and put herself
under the judgment of the covenant...in that place of
trouble the nation recalls God's provision...

30:2.....there is a turning to God and commitment to obedience
30:3.....the Lord will have compassion and regather the people
30:4.....wherever they are the Lord will find them
30:5.....and bring them to the land..and they will benefit greatly
by His blessing.
30:6.....He will circumcise the heart
30:7.....the curses will be on the enemy
30:8.....and the people respond with obedience
30:9.....as God rejoices over His people for good
30:10.....But there is an "if" in all of this" hearken and turn!
30:11-14..the commands of God are present, known, and honored

v. 11.....it is not hidden
v. 12.....it is not remote in heaven^b
v. 13.....it is not in a distant country
v. 14.....it is your heart and in your mouth

(Note how this verse deals with common excuses for
poor performance)

30:15.....Moses (speaking for God) has set before them:

life.....and.....good
death.....and.....evil

30:16.....to live is to walk, keep, enjoy the blessing of God

30:17.....But if the choice is wrong....

30:18.....you will perish

30:19.....the witness is heaven and earth and the choice is yours

30:20.....So choose God and live.

III. Conclusion

This is still a relevant message that God places before us as His truth. To accept it and obey is to live, to refuse it and walk in our own ways is to die. It is really that simple and the responsibility for a correct answer is ours. May you make this sort of decision in accord with the Word of God. And thanks for being with us today in our study.

THE PROMISES AND THE LAWSI. Introduction

Welcome once more to another study in Deuteronomy. We are approaching the end of the book and these last few chapters take up events in the end of Moses' life. In some ways these are very touching chapters as we think of the life of this man of God but what pleases us most is the recognition of his faithfulness to God to the very last degree. Hebrews tells us he was faithful in all his house and we see that dramatized in these final chapters. We can feel his disappointment and frustration but we need to grip even more his spirit of total commitment to the call of God. Even now, with death near and a successor at hand, he is anxious for the law of God to be known and honored and his efforts to see it ingrained in the national economy. I have divided chapter 31 into two parts..the first, vss 1-13 showing Moses' unswerving attempts to see God's Word honored and the second as vss 14-30, a discussion of his preparatory discourse with the Lord.

II. Discussion

31:1.....Moses' age and the Word of the Lord

31:2-3....the promise of God's presence and Joshua's leadership

31:4.....the assurance of victory

31:5.....be strong: courageous (a jussive)

31:6.....the Lord is with you..He will not fail nor forsake

31:7.....address to Joshua: Be strong and courageous

31:8.....again, the promise of God's presence

31:9.....the law is written and given to the Levites

31:10.....instruction is given for the year of release

31:11.....the law is to be read to all the people

31:12.....gather everyone to hear, learn, fear

31:13.....and make sure that coming generations will know as well and be able to comply.

III. Conclusion

Moses knows that even the best of men come and go..and there is a great concern expressed for the generations that will come. If they

do not know the Word and way of God they will fall into the pits of difficulty that marked their forbears. Every effort is made to assure that the truth will be available and responsible persons will see to its administration. The law of God is forever and it is to these truths of eternal character that our eyes look. You must always remember that salvation is not by keeping laws..it is by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and, in some ways, that is the chief of all the decrees of God. And thanks again for joining us...may the Lord's blessing be seen in your life today as you...and all of us, in fact, yield to His Word.

Message # 52Deuteronomy 31:14-30THE COMMISSIONING OF JOSHUAI. Introduction

Once again we welcome you to a study in Deuteronomy..a series now coming to message 52 and Deuteronomy 31:14-30. The passage discusses the assignment given to Joshua and more of the Lord's talk with Moses. I have always been encouraged by those dialogues for they show us the patience and availability of God as well as His expectations. They also show our weaknesses and strengths and how God works through fallible people to achieve His infallible will. Some of us are afraid to talk frankly with God and I'm not suggesting we should be arguers or debaters. But the God who directs our path is a God whose senses are open to our needs and we should have no hesitation in presenting them to God as well as in confiding in His certain love and guidance. In our chapter we find the following divisions of material:

- 31:14-21...Moses and Joshua..instructions and guidelines when judgment comes
- 22-30...Moses delivers the law and a song

II. Discussion

- 31:14.....Moses and Joshua at the tabernacle..God will give the charge...
- 31:15.....The Lord appears..note the pillar of cloud (remember the ascension in Acts 1)
- 31:16.....The Lord predicts defection among Israelites after the death of Moses.
- 31:17.....God's judgment...the people's lack of perception
- 31:18.....the Lord will not respond to insincerity
- 31:19.....so prepare a song to teach them the ways of God and to have them in heart.

↑ 31:20.....they will forget

31:21.....the song will be a witness of the efforts of God....

31:22-23..the song is written, Joshua is instructed

31:24.....Moses' writing...until all was finished

31:25.....the law is delivered to the Levites

31:26.....and they are to put it (and maintain it, apparently) with the ark.

31:27.....as a continual witness against rebellion

31:28-29..Moses calls for a gathering of the people and predicts events following his death.

31:30.....And he gave out the song!

III. Conclusion

In some ways the message is discouraging. It is why many Bible critics think the account was written after the fact but it seems best to recognize that the predictions are made on the realities of history. Israel is not being forced to disobey but the disinclination to obedience has been visible for a long time and Moses does not think the general pattern will change. Nevertheless, he and Joshua do not quit or give up in their calling and that is a lesson for all of us. No matter how grim things may appear, God's will needs to be obeyed and God's purposes honored. Thanks again for joining us and may the grace of the Lord be with you-all today.

Message # 53

Deuteronomy 32



MOSES' SONG

I. Introduction

Welcome to another study in the Book of Deuteronomy, the fifth book in the Bible and a key book in understanding God's relationship with Israel. From this book we pick up many lessons and principles that are important for our present living and none of these is more apparent than the fact that obedience to God is the most necessary part of one's life style. Today we are considering chapter 32...it is a long chapter but it is the "song" God gave to Moses and we may consider it as a whole. Moses is remembered for three songs, this one, Psalm 90, and the victory song of Exodus 15. This song, Deuteronomy 32, is a teaching song and was to have a great place in the life of the Lord's people. We may divide the chapter on these lines:

32:1-14....praise to the Lord

15-43....the relationship of God and His people

44-52....personal affairs of Moses

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II. Discussion

32:1-3....Moses intention: to make known the name of the Lord

4-14...The God who is our Rock

- v. 4.....a God of truth^y
- v. 5-6....a father to His people..even the rebels!
- v. 7-14...a perfect provider
 - v.8.....the land
 - v.9-10..the choosing
 - v.11....His deliverance
 - v.12-13.His guidance
 - v.14....His provision

How great and good is the Lord!

32:15-43..the relationship of God and His people..

15-18...They rebelled (Jeshurun)

19-28...God reacted and judged

29-35...the expression of the Divine desire

- ...that they would be wise
- ...that they would look to Him alone
- ...but the day of judgment is near

36-43...The Lord shows His power and pleads for Israel's compliance

32:44-52....The personal affairs of Moses.

- v. 44....he fulfills his assignment
- v. 45....he concludes the song
- v. 48....he receives the word of God:
 - where to go
 - what to see
 - what to expect
 - why it is happening.

III. Conclusion

It may seem trite to say it but the song is to challenge the loyalty of God's people and to show the light of His just dealings...a primary point being His taking of Moses. It is a sad but needed truth in all ages. And thanks again, for listening to us, and if you cannot sing the song of Moses you can get the force of its lyric...God is faithful and we are challenged to honor Him as a faithful God. May that song with any good tune be in your heart every day.

Message # 54Deuteronomy 33MOSES' BLESSING FOR HIS PEOPLEI. Introduction

Thank you for joining us today in our studies in Deuteronomy. This whole book is written against the background of Moses' life and the coming of Israel to Canaan. It summarizes the journey, reviews the covenantal arrangement and speaks of eventualities of the future. In chapter 33 Moses gives a blessing for the people of Israel on a tribe by tribe basis. You will recall that Jacob also did this for his sons in the closing chapters of Genesis and Moses is following that precedent. The blessings are analytical and to an extent predictive and they are fitting especially in the light of the threatened punishments in chapter 31. We see the following divisions of material in the chapter.

- 32:1-5....A testimony to God's love and Moses place
- 6-25..Particular blessings for the tribes
- 26-29..a song of praise for God and His people.

II. Discussion

33:1-5....the blessing: question of time and authorship

- v. 2...the greatness of God
- v. 3...God's love for Israel
- v. 4...Moses has passed to them the law
- v. 5...He was the leader of God, the people gathered under him.

33:6-25....the tribal blessings

- v. 6...Reuben: live, not die. His family multiplies.
- v. 7...Judah, let him lead
- v. 8-11...Levi..honored for recognizing the covenant.
his future duties are surveyed and a prayer made for his work.
- v. 12..Benjamin...the beloved of the Lord
- v. 13-17..Joseph: the precious things are his
(no special mention of Ephraim or Manasseh until v. 17)
- v. 18-19..Zebulon, Issachar: rejoice in your tribes
- v. 20-21...Gad, blessed for his face
- v. 22..Dan...a lion's whelp
- v. 23..Naphtali, a full land
- v. 24..Ashur..his foot in oil...

But Simeon is missing!

33:26-29....Praise to God

- v. 27..testimony to His care
- v. 28..to the goodness of Israel's land
- v. 29..to the happiness of the people of the Lord.

III. Conclusion

All of God's people are to be blessed en masse by the fact of the covenant and keeping power of God. Their trust and commitment to him are of prime importance and that cannot be overlooked in all of God's ways. They were God's people as a company, at their worst but the enjoyment or blessing of that relationship depended much on their honoring of Him. Thanks again for listening today and be assured that our prayer is that God will lead and guide us by His Word.

Lesson # 55

Deuteronomy 34MOSES' DEATHI. Introduction

Welcome to another Deuteronomy lesson and this is really the last one for the book although I am planning one more in which I will try to summarize our work and list some of the great lessons. It is always interesting to me to study these books with listeners to this Christian network and I am thankful for the opportunity and for the ministry of other brethren working with other books and topics. But Deuteronomy 34 poses an interesting question in the matter of authorship. It tells of Moses death, burial, and the events in the camp following his death. It also gives him a glowing tribute which was certainly deserved but one that he could hardly have written himself. Well, some scholars think he wrote it prophetically, some think Joshua wrote it and some believe it was added later by Samuel. Liberal scholars tend to think the whole book is put together six or seven hundred years after Moses time but we do not give much time to those who think the Bible did not come from God. So there are several views open to Bible believers and I will not try to settle the matter. The book has been received in entirety as coming from God and that is good enough for me. In chapter 34 we have this arrangement:

34:1-4....Moses meets God on the mountain
5-6....Moses death and burial
7-18..Moses' tribute.

II. Discussion

- 34:1.....Moses on Mt. Pisgah, God shows him the land
34:2-3....He sees the entirety in broad relief
34:4.....The Lord reminds him this is the promised land and God has caused his eyes to see it.
34:5.....Moses died (as he lived) according to the word of the Lord.

*Obedience is the factor
L. D. J. + the human will of God.*

34:6.....And God buried him...=no one knows where...avoiding an sort of idolatry.

34:7.....note on his phenomenal strength

34:8.....The mourning period

34:9.....Joshua succeeds him...Moses had laid hands on him

34:10.....No prophet like him in the history

34:11-12..in his work, display of yieldedness and his deeds.

III. Conclusion

The end of a great life, memorialized forever by God..and the conclusion of a revelatory period. Israel has been given the law and the covenant and now must live by them. No area of life is outside the interest or witness of God. He cares for all things and is to be seen in all things. I will summarize that for you in one final talk ..given, in the will of God, on the day following this. Thanks for your listening patience and the joy you have allowed me in talking with you about the Word of God. And that is just a brief note of thanks from Tom Taylor.,

The Great Person
God loves ..
Obedience is the factor — *discipline*
discipline *provides*
Yieldedness to the known will of God