

# Deuteronomy 1 - 3

## Moses' First Message - Remembering the Past

### Lesson 1

Deuteronomy is the fifth and final Book of Moses. God had already told Moses his time to be "gathered to his fathers" was at hand, so he takes this last opportunity to give a series of farewell addresses. He has been the shepherd and father to this nation for 40 years. Now, knowing he will not be there to lead them, he attempts to prepare them to move forward and conquer the Promised Land. In fact, he says 35 times to "go in and possess the land". He reminds them they are a special people, a Covenant people with YHWH. They are to worship and obey Him alone. If they obey, they will enjoy good health and prosperity, but, he also warns them if they disobey, God's curse will come upon them which will bring adversity, death, poverty, sickness and ultimately destruction. Through it all, he reminds them that God is a covenant-keeping God. His plan was for them to live in the land as His people, and as a testimony to His glory before all the nations.

#### Leaving Horeb (or Mt. Sinai) - Chapter 1

In the back of your Bible or on-line, find a map of the twelve tribes of Israel. Locate Mt. Sinai where Moses was at the time of this speech.

1. How long had they been traveling? (vs. 3)
2. Where were they physically located? (vs. 1-5)
3. What were God's instructions and why? (vs. 6-8)
4. Genesis 15:5 reads "God took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars--if indeed you can count them." Then He said to him, "So shall your offspring be." How does the passage in Deuteronomy (vs. 8-11) reveal that the Promised Land was the fulfillment of God's covenant established centuries before?
5. Having now set the stage for what he was about to say, Moses began to recount their history. What was Moses' first reminder? (vs. 9-18)

6. What were the requirements for choosing spiritual leaders? (vs. 13, 15)
  
7. Next Moses talked about faith versus fear. Moses recounted that when they were in the territory of the Amorites he had told them to, "*Go up and take possession of the land as the Lord, the God of your fathers, told you.*" What else did he say? (vs. 21)
  
8. What was the response of the people? (vs. 22)
  
9. Why do you think the people responded this way?
  
10. Does it express faith or fear to you? Explain
  
11. What seemed like a good idea even to Moses soon went terribly wrong. How did Moses describe the people of Israel? (vs. 26-29)
  
12. What was Moses' final assessment of the situation? (vs. 32-33)
  
13. What was God's statement regarding this generation? (vs. 34-38)
  
14. Why do you think God was so harsh on these former slaves?
  
15. Who else suffered because of rebellion? (vs. 37 & Numbers 20:1-13)
  
16. The people, having received a "death sentence," tried to make amends and decided now they would trust God and do as He asked. What was the result? (vs. 41-46)

17. The importance of this story is emphasized by the great amount of details included. What do you think Moses was emphasizing?

### **The wilderness days - Chapter 2**

18. While Israel was in the wilderness, they moved north and encountered three nations that God would not let them destroy. Who were they and why did God say not to go to war with them? (vs. 1-23)

19. Then, God began to give Israel victories. According to verse 16, what condition had finally been met?

20. In Chapter 1 we saw the people dominated by fear. How did that change? (vs. 25)

21. What was God's plan in this battle? (vs. 31)

### **More defeated enemies and division of the land - Chapter 3**

22. Israel's battles with the kings of Bashan are recorded in 3:1-11. How many fortified cities did Israel possess after these battles? (vs. 4)

23. The first to receive land were the tribes that settled the "Trans-Jordan" (meaning across the Jordan River). What tribes asked to settle there and what were the conditions for settling? (vs. 12-20)

24. Who had God appointed as Moses' successor? (Numbers 27:15-23)

25. What was Moses' occupation prior to leading Israel? (Exodus 3:1)

26. How did Moses look at Israel? (Numbers 27:17)
  
27. What was Joshua's occupation? (Exodus 17:8-10)
  
28. What was Moses' counsel to Joshua? (vs. 21-22)
  
29. Do you see God's wisdom in choosing Joshua? Explain your answer
  
30. Moses, called the "humblest man on earth", "one who spoke face to face with God" and "friend of God" was 120 years old. What was his final request of God and what was God's response? (vs. 23-29)

**Think about it!**

This final passage shows a mature Moses and the depth of love and freedom between God and himself. Moses, who we've learned was persistent, came before God in prayer not for Israel this time, but for himself. He spoke to God about the deep longing of his heart and appealed to God to "*let me go into the Promised Land.*" The mature Moses had also learned that when God speaks clearly, you do not go against Him. God's stern rebuke of Moses seems harsh, but His love was evident when we read "*Go... look at the land with your own eyes.*" Moses accepted God's word and went forward to the task God had given him, which was to prepare his successor.

Sometimes we do not like God's answers. We feel as if we pray and pray and then when the answer comes, we don't like it. We may even feel rebuked. Let us take note of God's faithful servant Moses. The deepest desire of his heart was denied him, yet God still had work for him to do. Work that was part of God's plan, even though it may not have been part of Moses' plan. Just as Moses and the children of Israel were expected to obey so too are we. I like what the apostle Peter wrote in 2 Peter 1:3, "*God's divine power has given us **everything** we need for life and godliness.*" We are not left on our own. God's power is there to enable us, but, we must go forward in faith not fear. The choice is ours!