**The Book of Deuteronomy—Study Guide (Chapters 05-09)**

The Bible always takes precedence in our study of God’s Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21). This guide is just a “help” and is compiled from Ambassador College class notes, commentaries and personal study.

“Also it shall be, when he [the king] sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes” (Deuteronomy 17:18-19).

**Chapter 05: Reiteration of the Ten Commandments and God’s desire that Israel would obey Him.**

1-3: Moses called Israel together to hear the words of God so that they would learn them and be careful to observe them. God made a covenant with them at Horeb—not with their fathers, but with those who were about to enter the Promised Land.

4-7: God talked with Israel from the mountain, and then Moses proclaimed the other words of God (Exodus 20:22). God was the One who brought them out of bondage, and we must believe there is no other god but Him.

8-11: We should not make or bow down to any image. God will bring about punishment to the 4th generation of those who hate Him. But He will have mercy to thousands who love Him and keep His words. Neither should we take God’s name in vain—God will not hold him guiltless who does this.

12-15: Observe the Sabbath to keep it holy. Six days we do our work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of our God in which we are not to work. This includes all within our homes and any business we own. We are to remember that God brought Israel out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and commanded us to keep His Sabbath.

16-21: The remainder of the commandments are listed: Honor our father and mother that our days may be long; do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not covet, or desire anything that is your neighbor’s.

22: God spoke these words directly to Israel. He added no more vocal words to Israel after giving the Ten Commandments. God wrote them on two tables of stone and gave them to Moses (Exodus 24:12).

23-27: The Israelites acknowledged God’s power and greatness, and yet they were afraid of being consumed by the fire (even though they were still alive after God had spoken). So they asked Moses to relay the rest of the words of God, and they promised to hear and obey.

28-30: God heard Israel, and He told Moses they were right in what they had asked. God, though, desired that they would have had a heart to obey. This shows that God gives man free choice—He doesn’t force humans to obey Him. Israel didn’t realize that by fearing God and keeping His laws, it would go well with them forever.

31-33: God then told Moses to teach Israel all the commandments, statutes and judgments. Israel was to be careful to obey what God had commanded, and they were not to turn to the right or left (enter the narrow gate as Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14). We are to walk in all the ways of God, so that it would go well for us.

**Chapter 06: A command to Israel not to forget the words of God and to teach them to their children.**

1-3: These are the statutes and judgments that Israel was to observe. They and their children and grandchildren were to obey and “fear the Lord Your God,” that it would go well for them, and that their lives would be prolonged, and that they would multiply greatly in the land flowing with milk and honey.

4-6: One of the most important statements found in the Bible: “The Lord our God, the Lord is one!” He is to be to be loved with all our heart, soul (our life, our living being) and strength. God’s laws shall be in our heart.

7-9: They should be taught diligently to (impress sharply upon) our children. They shall be bound as a sign on our hands—refers to action; and between our eyes—refers to what should be in our hearts (Proverbs 7:1-3). They are to be written on our doorposts (at home), and on our gates (including courts, provinces and cities).

10-12: Israel was to never forget God. He brought them into the land because of the promises He made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They were brought into already stocked homes, already dug wells, and vineyards and olive trees that they did not plant.

13-15: God alone was to be feared and served. His name only was to be used in an oath (we are not to swear at all now—Matthew 5:33-34). We should appeal to God alone, and then trust Him to the full. Israel was not to go after the other gods in the lands as God is a jealous God. He wanted all Israel to serve Him and Him alone.

16-19: Israel was not to tempt God by saying He wasn’t with them. This event is described in Exodus 17:1-7. This was even before Israel reached Sinai. Israel was again admonished to diligently keep all the statues and to do what was right. The blessing that was promised was that good would come upon them. Notice 1 John 3:22.

20-22: When, not if, our sons ask us about the commands of God, we are to teach them that Israel was in Egypt and that God brought them out by a mighty hand with signs and wonders and miracles. God wants the parents to remind the children of the miracles God performed in rescuing Israel.

23-24: The children are to be taught that God brought Israel into the Promised Land which had been promised to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God commanded Israel to keep His laws so that it would be for their good, and that they would be preserved

25: It would be righteousness for them if they were careful to obey all of God’s laws (God’s commands are righteousness—Psalm 119:172; Romans 10:5). We too are to live by the law (Romans 3:31). And for us, the righteousness of God comes through faith in Christ (Romans 3:21-22).

**Chapter 07: The blessings that would come upon Israel in the Promised Land.**

1-4: The seven nations are listed which God would cast out of the land. Israel was not to enter into any covenant with them and especially avoid any marriage arrangements due to their idolatry, which would turn their children away from God. The principle of not marrying unbelievers is also found in 2 Corinthians 6:14-16.

5: They were to break down their altars (often made of stone) and cut down their wooden images (Asherim—which were pagan Canaanite deities). They were also to burn their carved images.

6: Israel was a holy people to God and He chose them for Himself. They were a special treasure to Him. Notice the same type of expression is used in regards to the Church--1 Peter 2:9-10.

7-8: God didn’t choose Israel because of their great numbers, but because of the love He had for them (which was an indissoluble bond with them), and because of the promises He had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

9-10: God is a faithful God who gives mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him. But, He will not be slack with those who hate Him. God will repay them to their face (even in their lifetimes).

11-12: Therefore, Israel was to keep the commands, and if they would listen and obey, God would keep the covenant with them. He would also extend His mercy, which He had sworn to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

13-15: Israel will be blessed. Great increase is prophesied to come upon them. The womb, and the crops and livestock will all multiply. There will no barrenness, and God will take away all sickness. Israel will not be afflicted with any diseases that were in Egypt (Exodus 15:26—“I am the Lord who heals you”).

16-19: If Israel would take pity on the inhabitants of the land, their gods would become a snare. If Israel was to doubt and fear, they needed to remember what God did for them as they came out of Egypt.

20-21: God would send the hornet after any of those inhabitants who remained alive and had hid from Israel. And Israel was to always remember that the great awesome God was going to be among them.

22-23: God would drive them out little by little, so that the beasts of the field would not become too plenteous. That would have happened if all the civilizations were destroyed at once.

24-26: Kings would be delivered into their hands. Israel was warned not to covet any of the gold or silver on the images of idols because it was an abomination to God, and it would be a snare to them. They were not to bring any of it into their homes (See Joshua 6:18; 7:20-21).

**Chapter 08: Israel was not to forget God.**

1-2: Every commandment was important, and all required careful obedience so that Israel could live. The purpose for wandering was to humble Israel, and to test them what was in their hearts whether they would keep the laws of God. We too are being judged (1 Peter 4:17).

3: God allowed Israel to hunger, and then He fed them with manna (which the fathers did not receive). Israel was to learn that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from God (Matthew 4:4).

4-6: Their clothes didn’t wear out and neither did their feet swell for 40 years. God took care of them and He wanted them to know in their hearts that He chastened them as a man does his son—for good. We need to fear God and walk in His ways as well (Hebrews 12:5-7).

7-9: The blessings of the Promised Land are listed: Bread without scarcity, fountains and springs (unlike in Egypt where the main water source for irrigation was the Nile), wheat and barley, olive oil and honey, and iron and copper. Israel would lack nothing.

10-11: When Israel had eaten and were full, they were to bless God for the land they were in, and they weren’t to forget Him by not keeping His laws and commands.

12-14: A warning that after Israel had been so blessed with food, abundance and wealth, their hearts would be lifted up and they would forget that it was God who gave them these blessings.

15-18: A reminder that it was God who led them through the wilderness, and brought water out of a rock, and fed them with manna, and tested them, and did good for them. Beware, lest we too say, “I’ve gotten this wealth by my own power.” And Israel shall remember that it was God who gave them their power to get wealth.

19-20: Another warning was that if anyone forgets God and follows other gods and serves them, then they will perish from the land, just as the nations who were displaced by Israel. Obedience to God does matter to God.

**Chapter 09: Moses reminds Israel of their rebellion with the golden calf.**

1-3: Moses instructed Israel that they were to cross over Jordan and dispossess the nations, including the giants of Anak. God would go before Israel as a consuming God, and He would cause the nations to be destroyed.

 4-5: It was not because of Israel’s righteousness that God brought Israel into the Promised Land and removed the inhabitants, but it was because of those people’s wickedness. Plus, it was because of God’s promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that their descendants would inherit this land.

6-8: Israel was a stiff-necked people—they weren’t righteous. From the day they left Egypt they had been rebellious. God was even going to kill them all because of their disobedience at Horeb (Exodus 32:9-10).

9-12: Moses then reminds Israel that he had gone into the mountain for 40 days and fasted (Exodus 24:12, 18). It was during that time God wrote upon two tablets the words He had spoken to Israel, and gave them to Moses. But, Israel had already corrupted themselves by making a golden image.

13-14: God was ready to destroy these stiff-necked people and blot out their name. And from Moses, He was ready to make a nation mightier and greater than they.

15-17: After Moses descended the mountain, which was still burning with fire, he saw the golden calf. He then threw down and broke the tablets God had given him. Israel quickly departed from God’s commands. A similar statement is found in Galatians 1:6. Beware lest we turn away quickly from God and from the true gospel.

18-19: Moses again ascended the mountain and fasted for 40 days and nights as he did before (Exodus 34:1, 28-29). Moses was really concerned that God would destroy all of them for their rebellion. But God listened to his prayers for their deliverance.

20-21: God was very angry with Aaron and would have killed him too, but Moses interceded and God relented. Moses then took the golden calf, burned it and ground it up so that nothing of it remained.

22-24: Israel provoked God a number of times by not obeying Him. Taberah’s event is in Numbers 11:1-4, Massah’s event is in Exodus 17:7, and Kibroth-hattaavah’s event is in Numbers 11:31-34. Israel also had refused to go into the Promised Land. They were rebellious to God from the day Moses had known them.

25-27: Moses kept praying for Israel, asking God to spare them—especially since God had redeemed them from Egypt by His great power. Moses also asked God to remember the promises given to Abraham and the fathers.

28-29: And, Moses didn’t want the inhabitants to accuse God of not being capable of bringing His people into the Promised Land. Israel was and is God’s people and His inheritance.