**The Book of Deuteronomy—Study Guide (Chapters 10-15)**

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 10: The great God and His desire that Israel would be loyal to Him.**

1-5: Moses had to make two tablets of stone after he broke the ones God had given. God then wrote on them the Ten Commandments and Moses put them in the ark where they still were (Exodus 40:20).

6-9: (A parenthetical addition). It includes some places where Israel had traveled (Numbers 33:31-37). Also, after Aaron died on Moserah (Mt. Hor), his son Eleazar became high priest (Numbers 20:24-28). The Levites were chosen to serve God and to bless in His name (Numbers 18:6, 20-21). God was their inheritance.

10-11: God did spare Israel, and they were told to possess the land. This second time of 40 days and nights took place when Moses went up again to God with the tablets (Exodus 34:28).

12-13: This is what God requires of us: to fear Him; to walk in all His ways; to love Him; to serve Him with all of our heart and soul; and to keep the commands and His statutes for our good (See Micah 6:8).

14: The heavens and the earth belong to God. The third heaven (highest heaven) is noted in 2 Corinthians 12:2—where God’s throne is located. The first heaven is where the birds fly and from where dew drops (Genesis 1:20; Deuteronomy 33:28). The second heaven contains the stars and planets (Genesis 1:14-15).

15-16: God delighted in the fathers of Israel. Their descendants were to circumcise their hearts and not be stiff necked (Notice Deuteronomy 30:6; Romans 2:29).

17-19: The great, mighty, and awesome God shows no partiality, doesn’t take bribes, and administers justice to the fatherless, widow and stranger. Therefore, we too are to love the stranger (Exodus 22:21-23).

20-22: We are to fear God; hold fast and serve Him (Deuteronomy 6:13 and Matthew 4:10). He is our praise and is the One who did the great things in Israel. From 70 people in Egypt, they were now innumerable.

**Chapter 11: The blessings that would take place if Israel would obey and not forget God.**

1-5: Moses reminds Israel that they were to love God and keep His laws. He wasn’t speaking to their young children then, but to those first eye-witnesses who came out of Egypt (verse 7). They had seen the wonders of God and what happened to the armies of Pharaoh at the Red Sea, and all that occurred in the wilderness.

6-7: Israel was specifically reminded about the rebellion of Dathan and Abiram of the tribe of Reuben. (Korah, the Levite, is not mentioned here). The earth swallowed up their families and their possessions (Numbers 16).

8-10: Therefore, Israel was again warned to keep every commandment of God so that they would prolong their days in the land flowing with milk and honey. It was not like arid Egypt.

11-12: The land was irrigated continually from rains coming down the mountains and into the valleys. God’s eyes were always on the land so that it produced regularly. God causes rain where He desires: Job 38:25-28.

13-15: If Israel would earnestly obey God, they would receive rainfall in season and there would be enough grass for their livestock (Leviticus 26:3-5). The former rains came in the spring to drench the soil after the sowing, and the latter rains came before the harvest which would fill out the grains on the stalks.

16-17: Israel was to take heed and not allow their hearts to be deceived to follow other gods. Otherwise, the rains would be withheld and the land would not produce its crops (Leviticus 26:19-20).

18-21: Another reminder that Israel was to keep the laws of God in their hearts and minds. They were to teach the laws to their children in their homes and when they traveled. The laws were to be written down on the doorposts. The benefit from obedience would be a long life in the land for them and for their children.

22-23: If Israel would carefully keep all these commands—to love Him and cleave to Him, then God would drive out the nations before them (See Exodus 23:27-30).

24-25: The territory of the Promised Land is defined as being from the wilderness in the South to Lebanon in the north to the Euphrates River in the east and the Mediterranean Sea to the west. No man would be able to stand against Israel, and God was going to put the dread and fear of Israel onto the nations near and far.

26-28: Moses set before them the blessing if they obeyed and the curse if they didn’t obey (Deuteronomy 30:15, 19-20). A full list of blessings and curses are found in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28.

29-32: The blessings would be pronounced from Mt. Gerizim and the curses from Mt. Ebal, both of which were located on the west side of the Jordan River (Joshua 8:30-35). They were to be careful to obey God’s laws.

**Chapter 12: Idolatry is to be eradicated. The worship toward God and tithing laws are discussed.**

1-4: One of the first commands given to Israel was that they were to utterly destroy the idolatrous places where the pagans worshipped their gods. They also were to destroy the idols, altars and images and their names. Israel was also told that they were not to incorporate any paganism into their worship of God.

5-7: Israel was to worship in the place where God would choose to set the tabernacle and later the temple. They were to bring their sacrifices and tithes to a central location. There they would rejoice and eat before the Lord.

8-9: Israel was not to worship as they were doing—every man doing whatever was right in their own eyes. Yet Israel continued to do so (Judges 17:6, 21:25). The result of living that way is death. Proverbs 14:12, 16:25.

10-14: Once Israel entered the Promised Land, God would choose a place for them to worship Him. God didn’t want Israel to worship Him in the places where the pagans worshipped their gods or in places they decided (Judges 18:30-31). Israel was to worship and rejoice with their families in the place where He chose.

15-16: They were allowed to eat meat (including deer and gazelle) within their dwelling places. Both the ceremonially clean and unclean people could eat the meat, except they were not to eat of the blood.

17-19: The first and second tithes were not to be eaten within their gates. The first tithe was to be brought to support the Levites, and the additional festival tithe was to be brought and eaten in the place where God would choose. The festival tithe also supported the needs of the Levites during the feasts.

20-25: Once Israel extended their borders, the people could eat as much meat as his or her soul desired. If the place to worship God was too far, the Israelites could eat within their gates, but they were not to eat of the blood, for the blood is the life. This law is stated in Leviticus 17:10-14. This law assured Israel’s prosperity.

26-28: The holy things dedicated to God were to be taken to the place where He choose. The blood was to be poured out on the altar. Again, a reminder that good would result by observing and obeying God’s words.

29-32: Israel was not to be ensnared by the gods of the pagans. They were not to emulate how the nations worshiped their gods. God hated how those people worshipped--which included child sacrifice. We are to be careful to obey and not add nor detract from God’s laws. Israel didn’t heed this command: Jeremiah 2:9-13.

**Chapter 13: Israel was to punish false dreamers and false prophets.**

1-2: If a false prophet predicts a wonder (like a supernatural event) or a sign (like a natural event), and it comes to pass, and then uses it to entice you to seek after other gods, then don’t listen!

3-4: God tests in this way to see if we will obey God. By keeping this aspect of the law, it will help to prevent one from being deceived by the beast and false prophet in the future (Matthew 24:24, Revelation 13:13-14). God will destroy the astrologers, sorcerers and prognosticators (Isaiah 47:12-14).

5: Israel is to walk after God only and to hold fast to Him. The false prophet was to be put to death because he had tried to get people to reject the only true God who had redeemed them from Egypt.

6-11: Anyone, family member or friend, who tried to secretly entice Israel to serve other gods, was not to be listened to or given consent. The person was not to be concealed, but was to be brought forth and killed. All

Israel was to fear and not do such wickedness by forsaking God.

12-16: If corrupt men entice their city to forsake God and serve other gods, then the matter shall be diligently looked into, and if true, then its inhabitants are to be totally destroyed, and the city and its plunder burnt up.

17-18: None of the accursed things were to remain in their hands. God is merciful to Israel, but He will not tolerate idolatry. We need to listen to the commands and do what is right in the eyes of the Lord.

**Chapter 14: The laws about clean and unclean meats and of tithing.**

1-2: Israel, as the children of God, and His holy nation, were not to cut themselves for the dead (Leviticus 19:27-28). We too as Christians, are a holy people and have been chosen by God to be a special treasure above all on the earth (1 Peter 2:9-10).

3-6: We are not to eat any detestable thing. The animals which we may eat chew the cud and have cloven hooves like the ox, sheep, goat, antelope and deer.

7-8: Those that chew the cud, but don’t have cloven hooves should not be eaten like the rabbit or camel. Also the swine which has a cloven hoof, but it doesn’t chew the cud. They are not to be eaten nor are their dead carcasses to be touched. (Additional mammals which should not be eaten are found in Leviticus 11:27).

9-20: The fish that can be eaten should have both fins and scales. The clean birds may be eaten, but the birds which are listed (mostly scavenger-type birds), should not be eaten. The creeping insects that fly are also unclean. (However, those with jointed legs, such as the locust and cricket, may be eaten—Leviticus 11:21-22).

21: Israel was not to eat anything that died of itself. It could be given or sold to foreigners as Israel was a holy people to God. They were not to boil a young goat in its mother’s milk. Apparently this was the custom of the surrounding peoples and God didn’t want Israel to do this (Exodus 23:19).

22-23: A festival (second) tithe was to be saved and only eaten in the place where God chose. One of the main reasons to observe the feasts was to learn to fear the Lord God always--which also will be taught in the future (Jeremiah 32:39-40). The first tithe was given to the Levites--see Numbers 18:21-26, 31.

24-27: If the place was too far, the animals may be sold, and the proceeds used to attend the feasts. The festival tithe was to be used for food, shelter and even for wine. We should rejoice there with our whole household. The Levites were not to be neglected, and they were to be helped from everyone’s festival tithe.

28-29: The third tithe was to be kept in the third and sixth years of a seven year cycle (Chapter 15:1). It was to be stored up and given to the Levite, widow, fatherless and stranger so that they could eat and be satisfied. God will bless us in all the works which we do. (See also Deuteronomy 26:12-15).

**Chapter 15: The year of release.**

1-2: At the end of every seven years, a year of release is granted. Every creditor shall release the debts owed to him. It is called the Lord’s release. The land was also to rest in the seventh year (Exodus 23:10-11).

3-4: A stranger’s debt can still be claimed, but not a brother’s debt. The exception would take place when no more poor people would be in the land, for God was going to greatly bless Israel in the Promised Land.

5-6: If Israel was careful to obey the commands, then they would lend to other nations, and would not have to borrow (Deuteronomy 28:12). Israel would reign over many nations, but none would reign over Israel.

7-8: If there happened to be any poor in Israel, they were not to harden their hearts toward them, but were to open wide their hands and be willing to lend him sufficient for his needs.

9-10: God warned Israel lest they not lend to the poor because of the closeness of the coming year of release. Our hearts too should not be grieved when we give. God will bless us in the work of our hands.

11: The poor will never cease from the land. There would be widows and fatherless who would need financial assistance (Deuteronomy 10: 17-19). Open wide our hands to the poor and the needy.

12-15: If a poverty-stricken brother is sold (as an indentured servant), then in the seventh year he shall go free. He shall be given food and goods and not be sent away empty-handed. God had allowed Israel to spoil the Egyptians and they too were not sent away empty-handed out of Egypt.

16-18: If a servant wants to stay because he loves being in his master’s service and is prospering, then his ear is to be pierced. But, if the servant wants to be free, it must not seem hard for the master to let him go because the servant had been worth double to him.

19-20: The firstborn of the flock was not to be worked with or sheared. It shall be eaten in the place God chooses. This would be part of their festival tithe (Deuteronomy 14:23).

21-23: But, if there was a defect in the animal, then it may be eaten within your gates at home, except for the blood. Only unblemished firstborn animals were set aside as holy tithe.