**The Book of Deuteronomy—Study Guide (Chapters 28-30)**

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 28: The blessings for obedience and the curses for disobedience (also in Leviticus 26).**

1-2: If Israel would obey the commands of God, then they would be set above all the nations of the earth and the following blessings would overtake them. This is to happen in the Millennium as well (Isaiah 19:24-25).

3-6: Israel would be blessed in the country and in the city. Their offspring would be blessed and there would be abundant produce—both liquid and dry—and they’d have abundant flocks. They would be blessed in all their transactions and in their travels.

7-8: The enemies of Israel would be defeated and they would flee in seven different directions. Israel would be also blessed in its storage of food. The land would be blessed with great abundance.

9-10: God would establish Israel as a holy people. All the nations would see that Israel was called by the name of God and they would fear Israel (Joshua 5:1). This blessing was in the covenant at Sinai (Exodus 19:5-6).

11-12: Israel would be blessed with plenty and with the good treasures from heaven such as rain that would come in its proper season. Israel would lend money to many nations and not borrow from them.

13-14: God would make Israel to be the head and to be above the other nations, if only Israel would heed the commandments and not turn aside from them either to the right or left. They were not to serve other gods.

15-16: But, if Israel disobeyed and didn’t carefully observe all of God’s commandments, then the curses would come upon them. They would be cursed in the city, field, and land.

17: The curse on their basket and store refers to lack of food. One reason is that they didn’t let the land rest (Leviticus 25:2-7; 26:34-35). In the future, after the captivity, the land will produce (Amos 9:13-15).

18-20: God would send cursing, scarcity, and confusion. Israel would be rebuked in everything it did or tried to do. This would happen until Israel would be destroyed because of forsaking God.

21-22: God would cause the plague to cling to Israel. He would strike Israel with wasting degenerative diseases, fever, inflammation, sword, scorching and mildew until Israel would be destroyed.

23-24: The rains would cease. The ground would become hard and dust would come down from heaven. A further description of this curse is in Leviticus 26:19 which includes the pride of Israel’s power being broken.

25-26: God would cause Israel to be defeated by their enemies and to become troublesome to all the nations. Israel’s dead would be food for the birds of the air.

27-29: The boils of Egypt, and tumors and scabs that can’t be healed, would come upon Israel. God would bring madness—mental confusion—and blindness on Israel. Israel wouldn’t be able to prosper.

30-31: Others would come and take away a man’s wife, house and vineyard. Also, one’s oxen and donkeys and sheep would either be killed or taken away by the enemy.

32-33: Israel’s children will be taken captive. A nation that Israel has not known shall eat of the produce of the land and Israel will be severely oppressed.

34-35: People will become mad at what they see and what has happened. Severe boils will break out on one’s knees and legs from the sole of the foot to the top of the head, and they won’t be healed.

36-37: God will bring Israel and their king into a land neither they nor their fathers had known. There Israel will serve other gods carved from wood and stone, and they will become a byword among the nations. It will be an astonishment that this captivity happened to the mighty Israelites.

38-42: Israel will sow much seed, but little produce will result due to locust plagues. Vineyards will be planted, but neither grapes nor wine will come because of the worms that will eat the plants. Olives will drop off trees and hence no oil will be produced. Israel will beget children, but they will be taken away into captivity.

43-44: The stranger will rise higher and higher in the land and the Israelites will become lower and lower. The stranger will lend to Israel and they will become the head. Israel will become the tail.

45-46: These curses will pursue and overtake Israel. They will be a sign and wonder upon Israel’s descendants forever (a realization that Israel did not obey the voice of God to keep His commandments, and the descendants will experience the effects of that decision).

47-48: Because Israel did not serve God with joy and gladness, Israel will serve their enemies and will be in need of everything. God will put a yoke of iron on their necks (coming under harsh servitude).

49-50: The Lord will bring a nation from afar—from the end of the earth—against Israel. They will be fierce and have a language that can’t be understood, and they won’t have compassion on the elderly or the young.

Notice this prophecy in Jeremiah 5:14-17.

51-52: The invading armies will eat the increase of the fields, and will not leave untouched the grain or the offspring of the flocks. They will besiege the cities until the walls fall down.

53-55: People, especially the refined and the noble, who would never have eaten the flesh of their children (cannibalism), will keep for themselves that “food” because there will be nothing to eat in the days of the siege.

56-57: The delicate woman, who never would have thought to do so, will keep the placenta and her babies to eat without sharing them with her husband or other children. The lack of food will be very severe.

58-61: Since Israel will not fear the great name of God, He will bring upon them serious and prolonged sicknesses and plagues. All the diseases of Egypt will come back and cling to them. New diseases that aren’t even written in the book of the law will come upon them until Israel is destroyed.

62-63: Israel will be left few in number. As God rejoiced to do them good, He will rejoice to bring them to nothing because they would not obey His voice.

64-67: God will scatter Israel among the nations. They will find no rest, and will have anguish of soul. They will fear night and day, having no assurance of life. In captivity, they will wish it were morning or evening because of the misery surrounding them.

68: In the future, God will take Israel back to Egypt in ships—a place where God said they’d never see again (Hosea 8:11-13). They will be offered for sale as slaves, but no one will buy them. This is all yet in the future.

**Chapter 29: An additional covenant with Israel.**

1: The following covenant which God commanded Moses to make was toward those who now were going to enter the Promised Land. This covenant was in addition to the one made earlier with their fathers at Mt. Sinai.

2-4: Israel had seen all that God did for them in Egypt, and all the great signs and wonders. Yet, Israel was not given a heart that they could really perceive or see or hear, but in the future they will (See Romans 11:25-27).

5-6: For 40 years, their clothes and sandals didn’t wear out. They neither ate bread nor drank wine (they had no fields or vineyards), yet God fed them with manna and water. Israel should have known God was with them.

7-9: God gave Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh the territory of Sihon and Og. Therefore Israel was to keep the words of the covenant and were to obey God so that they would prosper.

10-13: All of Israel, including the stranger and the slave and the children, were about to enter this covenant in which they were to be the people of God, and that God would be their God, as He swore to their fathers.

14-15: This covenant was made not only with Israel at that time, but with those who weren’t standing there, which would include future generations of Israel.

16-17: (A parenthetical addition). This is a reminder that Israel had dwelt in Egypt and had been delivered by God’s miracles. They were reminded that they had come through nations which served other gods and idols.

18: The purpose of this covenant was that no man, woman, family or tribe would turn away from serving the Lord. Additionally, the purpose of this covenant was that no one would seek after the gods of the land, or bear a root of bitterness to go after one’s way. See Hebrews 12:15-16.

19: Another purpose of the covenant was so that no one would bless himself in his heart thinking he had peace and immunity from God even though he was sinning by following his own dictates (his own stubbornness). It would be akin to a drunkard being included as being sober.

20-21: God will not spare him who seeks other gods. His anger against him will be great. All the curses will fall upon him, and his name will be blotted out from under heaven. He will be separated from Israel for the adversities that would fall upon him.

22: The coming generations of Israel and strangers will look upon the land and see the plagues and sicknesses which God had laid upon it because of their disobedience.

23-24: The land would be burnt and not sown. It would be like Sodom and Gomorrah and the two other cities which God destroyed at that time. All nations will ask why God did this, and what was meant by God’s anger.

25-26: The answer will be that Israel forgot the covenant which God made with them when He brought them out of Egypt. Israel rejected God and went after other gods which they did not know nor did God give them.

27-28: So, all the curses would come upon Israel, and God would uproot them and cast them into another land, “as it is this day”—which apparently was written at the time of Ezra (who most likely added this phrase).

29: The secret things belong to God, yet those secret things are revealed to us and to our children so that we may do all the words of this law. The spiritual things are given to us—notice: 1 Corinthians 2:9-10.

**Chapter 30: The prophecy of a second exodus. God sets before us the choice of life.**

1-3: In the future, after all the blessings and curses have come upon Israel, while in a future captivity, they will recall the Lord and will obey His voice. They and their children will obey God and He will bring them back from captivity. God will have mercy and will gather them from all nations where they had been taken captive.

4-5: God will bring Israel back into the land from the furthest parts of the earth (the second exodus—Isaiah 11:11-12). They will possess the land of their fathers and be more blessed and prosperous than before.

6-7: God will give them a circumcised heart to obey Him. They will be given a new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-33; Ezekiel 11:19-20). Later, God will place on their enemies all the curses that were on Israel.

8-10: Then, in the future, if Israel will obey all the commandments and turn to God with all their hearts, He will bless Israel abundantly in all they do.

11-14: This commandment is not too difficult or mysterious. It is not afar off in space or in the seas. The word is very near to all of us. It will be in our hearts and minds to do it. This is explained further in Romans 10:6-10.

15-18: God has set before us life and death. He commands us to obey Him in everything we do. But if our hearts turn back to the idols of this land, we will perish and not prolong our days.

19-20: Life and death are set before us. God wants us to choose life so that both we and our descendants shall live (Isaiah 1:19-20). We are to love God and cling to Him for He is our Life.