**The Book of Deuteronomy—Study Guide (Chapters 31-34)**

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 31: Joshua inaugurated.**

1-3: Moses was 120 years old when Joshua was proclaimed to lead Israel into the Promised Land. It wasn’t that Moses was feeble (Deuteronomy 34:7), but that he would no longer go out to lead Israel. Moses reminded Israel that it would be God who would cross over before them and destroy the nations.

4-6: God promised to destroy the nations as He did with Sihon and Og. Moses told them to be strong and of good courage because God would not leave them or forsake them. They were to follow through with the commands they were given—one of which was to destroy the idols of the land (Deuteronomy 7:1-6).

7-8: Then Moses personally told Joshua to be strong and of good courage. The Lord is the One who would go before them. God would not leave Joshua or Israel, and so they weren’t to fear or be dismayed.

9-11: Moses wrote this law, and it was kept by the priests. It was to be read every seven years during the Feast of Tabernacles when all Israel would come and appear before the Lord. (It occurred in Nehemiah 8:18).

12-13: All the people including women and children and the strangers were to hear and fear, and to carefully observe all the words of this law, especially that their children, who had not known it, would fear and obey (See also Deuteronomy 14:23).

14-15: God appeared at the door of the tabernacle in a cloud (Numbers 7:89 tells us the details of how God normally spoke with Moses). God was the One who inaugurated Joshua, and later it was God who also told Joshua to be strong and of good courage (Joshua 1:6-7, 9).

16-18: God predicted that after the death of Moses, Israel would commit idolatry and forsake His laws. God’s anger would come against them, and many evils and troubles would befall them. They would then understand that God was no longer among them, and had hidden His face from them because of their disobedience.

19-20: God taught them a song to sing. It was to be a witness between God and Israel. After Israel entered the Promised Land, they would turn to other gods and serve them, and they would break the covenant with God.

21: This song from God (which is in the next chapter), would be a witness against Israel. It was not be forgotten in the mouths of their children. God knew the inclination of their behavior even before they entered the land.

God had sworn to them that they would disobey Him.

22-23: This prophetic song that Moses wrote down from God was taught to Israel that same day. Joshua was then inaugurated, and he was told again to be strong and of good courage. Moses knew Joshua would have to deal with a rebellious and stiff-necked people.

24-27: Once the words of the Law were written down, the Levites place it beside the ark of the covenant. It was to be a witness against Israel. Moses knew that Israel was rebellious against God even while he lived, and that Israel wouldn’t change but would rebel even after his death.

28-30: Moses knew that Israel would act corruptly, and that even in the latter days, evil would befall them, because of the evil they would do in the sight of God.

**Chapter 32: The Song of God, written down by Moses.**

1-2: This song was a call for the heavens and the earth to hear the following words. The teachings were likened to the dew and the rain, and the showers that would come upon the grass to make it grow.

3-4: Moses proclaimed the name of God, and ascribed His greatness. God is the Rock, and is the God of truth, without injustice. He is righteous and upright. God proclaimed Himself to Moses earlier in Exodus 33:19. (The Rock that followed them was Jesus Christ—1 Corinthians 10:4).

5-6: Israel became corrupted because of their blemishes and perversion. And because of their disobedience, they would not be God’s children. They were unwise and foolish (“nabal” meaning: they repaid evil for God’s goodness). They rejected God as their Father--the One who bought and established them.

7-9: Israel was to recall the days of old when God divided the inheritance of the nations (Genesis 10:5; Acts 17:26). God also set the boundaries for His people Israel—which would later be the land of Canaan (Genesis 10:19). Jacob was and has always been the place of God’s inheritance—it wasn’t in Ishmael or in Esau.

10-12: When wandering in the wilderness, in a desert land, God encircled them and kept Israel as the apple of His eye. An eagle gently enters her nest, and so too did God gently take care of Israel. He carried them on eagles’ wings and led them alone (Exodus 19:4). There was no foreign god with Israel.

13-15: Israel was blessed in the heights of the earth. They would be given an abundance of produce and natural resources in a rich Promised Land. Jeshurun means “upright,” which was another name for Israel. They grew fat and obese and forsook God and scorned the Rock of his [Israel’s] salvation.

16-18: They provoked God with idols and they sacrificed to demons. They sacrificed to new gods that their fathers didn’t even fear. They were unmindful of the Rock who begot them and forgot God who fathered them.

19-20: When Israel would forsake God in the future, He would spurn and hide His face from them. They would be a perverse generation in whom there would be no faith. Both men and women perverted God’s ways.

21: God foresees that Israel would provoke Him with gods that were not gods, so God would then provoke Israel with those who weren’t a nation. Israel would be moved to anger by a foolish nation.

22-24: At that time, God is going to kindle a fire that will burn to the lowest of the pit. Disasters and wars would come. Hunger and pestilence would devour them. Beasts and serpents would attack them.

25-27: Wars would destroy from the outside, and terror would come from within. Israel would have been totally destroyed except the enemy would misunderstand thinking they had gained the upper hand on their own, and not acknowledging that God was the One who had allowed it.

28-29: They have been and will be a nation void of understanding. Oh that they would be wise and understood their latter end. If Israel would just realize that their sins will bring upon them their destruction.

30-33: How could one enemy chase a thousand unless God, the Rock, had sold them out? The enemies’ rock is not like the Rock of Israel. The enemies are as Sodom and Gomorrah. Their produce, referring to their ideas, are bitter and poisonous.

34-35: God’s vengeance is laid up in store and is among His treasures. “Vengeance is Mine” (Notice Romans 12:19; Hebrews 10:30). Their calamity will hasten to come upon them.

36-38: God will first judge His people and then will have compassion on His servants when He sees their power is gone. God will taunt Israel asking if their false gods, after whom they had sought, will now come to their aid.

39-42: Israel was to recognize that there was no other god beside the one true God. He heals. He kills and makes alive. (A proof Jewish teachers have used to show that there is life after death—in a resurrection). Once God takes vengeance on the enemies of Israel, there is no turning back. His sword will devour His enemies.

43: God will avenge the blood of His servants. He will provide atonement for His land and peoples. Shed blood defiles the land (Numbers 35:33-34). An end-time fulfillment of this atonement is seen in Revelation 19:2.

44-47: Moses finished the song and commanded that Israel teach their children these words. Observing all the words of this law (found in the whole book of Deuteronomy) would be their life—it would not be a futile thing.

48-52: Moses was told by God to ascend Mount Nebo, and view the Promised Land. Moses was not allowed to enter the Land because he didn’t hallow God at the waters of Meribah (Numbers 20:10-13.)

**Chapter 33: Blessings upon the tribes of Israel (Genesis 49—Jacob’s prophetic blessings on Israel).**

1-2: Moses blessed Israel prior to his death. God was with Israel (the tens of thousands of saints) who were at Mt. Sinai. He was also with them in the wilderness of Paran (Numbers 10:12). And God was now with them on border of Mt. Seir.

3-5: God loves His people. His saints are in His hands and they receive His words. The law is the heritage of Jacob. It was to be accepted by each generation. (Psalm 78:5-8). God was king in Jeshurun (Israel) when these blessings were given. Israel later rejected God (1 Samuel 8:6-8), but the Lord will be their king in the future.

6: Reuben, the firstborn, was prophesied to live and not die. His males would be maintained (according to the Hebrew). The descendants would not be few in number, even though Reuben had once committed sin (Genesis 35:22; 49:3-4).

7: God would cause Judah to lead Israel in conquering the rest of the Promised Land. Notice Judges 1:1-4. God would be a help against Israel’s enemies by being with Judah’s hands.

8: Levi was entrusted with the Urim and Thummin, which was part of Aaron’s breastplate (Exodus 28:30). God was the One whom Israel had tested at Massah (Exodus 17:7) and at Meribah (Numbers 20:13).

9: The Levites had not gone with the rest of Israel in the worship of the Golden Calf. They killed those who had gotten involved. Notice Exodus 32:26-29.

10: The Levites were to teach Israel the law, and they were to put incense before God on the altar and were to take care of the burnt offerings. This is also prophetic of their duties in the Millennium (Ezekiel 44:14-16, 23).

11: God was to bless their substance (the tithes and offerings were given to them–Numbers 18:21-24). God would accept the work they did. A curse would come on those who would rise against Levi (Numbers 16:39-40). God will purify the Levites in the future so they could do His work again. Notice Malachi 3:3-4.

12: Benjamin was the beloved of the Lord who would dwell in safety. Prophetically, God would shelter (cover) him. This also could refer to Jerusalem as the place where God’s presence would be. Benjamin and Judah (and Levi) allied themselves together and later became known as the southern Kingdom of Judah (1 Kings 12:21-24).

13-17: The blessings of God to come upon Joseph included crops, lands, and precious things from mountains (such as copper, coal, oil). He would push peoples to the ends of the earth. The ten thousands of Ephraim and the thousands of Manasseh would be like the horns of a wild ox, and like a firstborn bull.

18-19: Zebulun and Issachar will both call peoples to the mountains. They will partake of the abundance of the seas and the treasures in the sand. They will offer sacrifices of righteousness.

20-21: Gad will be enlarged. He will dwell as a lion and tear the arm and the crown of his head. They were excellent fighters (1 Chronicles 12:8). A lawgiver’s portion was to be reserved in his lands. He comes with heads of his people to administer justice of the Lord. Gad’s possession included the territories of Og and Sihon.

22: Dan is a lion’s whelp and will leap from Bashan. The area of Bashan included the Golan Heights in the north of Israel. Dan would leave that area and seek land elsewhere as well.

23-25: Naphtali would possess the south and west (including the area around the Sea of Galilee), which contained fertile soil. They would be filled with the blessings of God. Asher would be blessed by the other sons as he would provide all with oil. His strength would be strong, as well as their longevity.

26-27: There is no God like the God of Jeshurun (Israel) who is our refuge. He will destroy Israel’s enemies. Notice Psalm 68:33-35.

28-29: Israel will dwell safely, once they are saved by God. Any remaining enemies will submit to them. The fullness of these prophecies will all come to pass once Jesus Christ returns and the Millennium begins.

**Chapter 34: The death of Moses.**

1-3: God showed Moses all the Promised Land from the north to the south and to the Mediterranean Sea. This must have been a miracle since Moses was on the east side of Jordan in the land of Moab, which was over 50-70 miles away from the Sea.

4: This was the land that God promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and to their descendants. God caused him to see it with his eyes, but Moses could not cross over into it.

5-6: The following section may have been added by either Joshua or Ezra. God buried Moses in the land of Moab. No one knows his grave. Satan had wanted the body, but was unable to acquire it (Jude 1: 9).

7-9: The natural vigor of Moses did not dissipate. He died being 120 years old and the mourning lasted 30 days. Joshua was full of the Spirit of God as he had been ordained by Moses with the laying on of hands.

10-12: There has not been a prophet in Israel who was like Moses, with whom God spoke face to face. God had sent Moses to do His signs in Egypt and in the sight of all Israel.

Moses will be in the Kingdom! The evidence: Matthew 17:1-3: Moses was seen in the vision with Jesus, who was transfigured with Him. That was a vision of Christ’s coming (2 Peter 1:16-18). Also see Hebrews 11:23-26.