

## IMMERSE: BEGINNINGS

Week 10 – DEUTERONOMY – To Be Loved By God and To Love God  
August 15, 2021

Some have said that *Deuteronomy* means, “second law.” The Greek from the Hebrew Scriptures conveys that the word Deuteronomy means “copy,” or a “repetition,” of the law rather than “second law.” The Hebrew word for Deuteronomy is *devarim* which means “words.” The Hebrew title of this book is translated “These are the words.” Deuteronomy opens with “These are the words”... The Hebrew title is a better description of the book. The book does NOT contain a “second law.” This book is a record of Moses’ words of EXPLANATION concerning the law.

The children of Israel remained in and around Kadesh Barnea, “the holy place in the desert of wandering,” for many years after rebelling against God which resulted in an extra 38 years in the wilderness. We find the children of Israel, after wandering in the wilderness, on the east side of the Jordan River across from Jericho (Num. 22).

When we open to Deuteronomy we find the Israelites on the east side of the Jordan in the land of Moab (Dt. 1:1,5)... Moses began to EXPLAIN the law given to them by God at Mt. Sinai (Dt. 1:5). For the entire book of “These are the words,” the people remain in ONE location for, it is estimated, two months.

*Deut. 1:1 - These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel on this side of the Jordan (the east side of the river) in the wilderness* The locations that are written in Deut. 1:2 provide the geographical setting – giving us evidence of historical locations. This is a TRUE account.

*Dt. 1:3 - ...Now it came to pass in the fortieth year in the eleventh month on the first day of the month that Moses spoke to the children of Israel... After Moses died (at 120 years – his eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished) ...the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days (Dt. 34:8).* It appears that this timeframe of thirty days equates to the second month across from Jericho.

Moses spoke to ALL Israel on the plains of Moab on the east side of the Jordan River... all who remained – the second generation. In the book of Deuteronomy we hear a heavy-hearted Moses speaking to the children of Israel.

Moses’ heart was passionate – these were his final words to the 12 tribes as he wasn’t going to lead them into the land of promise. God didn’t allow Moses to enter the land because of Moses’ disobedience...

Does that mean that Moses won’t be in heaven?

In Heb. 3:2, 5 - Moses also was faithful in all His house... <sup>5</sup> And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward.

In Deut. 34:4-6 – we read of God’s gentle and loving words to Moses as He brought Moses to Mount Nebo to view the land ‘*This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants. ’I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.*’

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*Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants. ’I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.’*

<sup>5</sup> So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day. Read Jude v. 9 as a follow-up of this passage.

Matt. 17:1-3 - we see Moses and Elijah, in their bodies fit for heaven, speaking with Jesus during His ministry on earth at the Mount of Transfiguration.

Back to the Jordan River – on the east side – across from Jericho – on the plains of Moab. Moses was passionate because here was a new generation to whom Moses passed on words regarding how to walk with God in the land of promise.

Deut. 4:4 - *But you who held fast to the LORD your God are alive today, every one of you.*

Deut. 1:5-6 – *On this side of the Jordan in the land of Moab, Moses began to explain (began to expound) this law.* The Hebrew for “explain” means to say very clearly. Moses intent was to make God’s words clear to the Israelites – addressing how to live faithfully for God! Moses focused on *The LORD our God... YHWH/Jehovah and the people’s love for Him.* But – what did that love look like at this time?

How many of you have wondered to the point of being a bit confused re: the blessings and curses that we find in the OT?

The Law of Moses was not given to save men. The law could NEVER save!!

Rom. 3:19-20 - *Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty (accountable) before God.* <sup>20</sup> *Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified (declared righteous) in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

As believers in Jesus we rejoice in the truth that our sins have been judged at the cross of Jesus, and there is now NO CONDEMNATION for those in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:1).

The law was given to restrain (keep under control) the sins of man by revealing God’s holy standard – perfection! ...*the law was our tutor (schoolmaster) to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith....* (Gal. 3:21-24). The problem with the law is our flesh. The law cannot give life because man can’t keep the law. The law of Moses

prepared the children of Israel for their Messiah Jesus showing man His NEED of the Messiah.

We've seen from Genesis through to Numbers that God judged Israel but He also promised RESTORATION. In the Torah – we read of God's intent to RESTORE the nation of Israel to the land (Deut. 30:1-5) with FULL KINGDOM BLESSINGS because of His promise to Abraham – because of the unconditional ABRAHAMIC COVENANT!

We find ourselves reading the word, "If," many times in the OT. "If you obey... then I will bless you.... If you do not obey, you will be cursed." What's with the

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"If's"? The Mosaic Covenant is conditional. Israel's obedience of 613 commandments under the OT law was required.

In understanding God's plan of redemption, we know that it was God's desire was to reveal Himself to the world through Israel! This is a huge Biblical principle! (Gen. 18:18; I Sam. 17:45-46 - *Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know (that the world may know) that there is a God in Israel.*

How would the nations know of the One true God? God would do this either by making Israel so blessed that the world know that only God could have blessed them in this manner...or, by pouring curses upon them – judgment upon them – so that the world would know only God could've judged Israel in this way while causing them to continue to SURVIVE!!

Have you observed a most POINTED theme in Deuteronomy? How much "loving God" have we read in the Torah? The first time we read "love" in the Bible – Gen. 22:2 which speaks of Abraham's love for Isaac.

The first mention of loving God in the Bible is found in Exodus 20:4-6 – within the ten commandments text: *You shall not make for yourself a carved image... For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the*

*children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.*

The idea of loving God is NOT elaborated upon until Deuteronomy! AND, in the book of Deuteronomy there is more focus on the heart in terms of having a relationship with God.

**Deut. 4:5-10** - Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according *to them* in the land which you go to possess. <sup>6</sup> Therefore be careful to observe *them*; for this *is* your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people.’ <sup>7</sup> “For what great nation *is there* that has God *so* near to it, as the LORD our God *is* to us, for whatever *reason* we may call upon Him? <sup>8</sup> And what great nation *is there* that has *such* statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day? <sup>9</sup> Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, <sup>10</sup> especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, ‘Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and *that* they may teach their children.’

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When the people responded to God’s words, He heard the voice of their words – the sound of their voice – the lightness/frivolity – their professed willingness to obey God, “We will hear and do it.” God’s very telling response...

**Deut. 5:29** - *Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!*

The theme of the heart problem in Deuteronomy is addressed almost immediately following this passage, when Moses tells the people...

**Deut. 6:5-6** - <sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

**Deut. 7:6-8 – (READ)**

**Deut. 10:12-16** - *And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>13</sup> and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good? <sup>14</sup> Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it. <sup>15</sup> The LORD delighted only in your fathers, to love them; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day. <sup>16</sup> Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart and be stiff-necked no longer.*

Deut. 29:1-2, 4 - *These are the words of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb.* <sup>2</sup> Now Moses called all Israel and said to them: “You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land—... <sup>4</sup> Yet the LORD has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear; to this very day.

“besides” – “in addition to.” Moses spoke of another covenant distinct from the Mosaic Covenant at Mt. Sinai. Some attribute this covenant in Dt. 29 to the Land Covenant which gave Israel the title to the land. However, the emphasis of Deut. 29 and Deut. 30 is NOT the land but on the change of Israel’s heart (Deut. 30:5). It was the change of heart which the Prophets would label as the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34; Eze. 36:24-27).

In response to Israel’s failure under the Mosaic Covenant (Dt. 29:23-28 READ), Moses anticipated the NEW COVENANT under which Israel would be obedient to the Lord and finally reap His blessings!

Deut. 29:29 - *The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever; that we may do all the words of this law.*

Deut. 30:1-6 - *Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God drives you, <sup>2</sup> and you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children,*

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*with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>3</sup> that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you. <sup>4</sup> If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. <sup>5</sup> Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. <sup>6</sup> And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.*

Moses spoke of the future after the blessings and curses of the Mosaic Covenant...when Israel will return to the LORD...when Israel will be restored. The gathering of Jews out of all the countries of the earth will follow the redemption of Israel as a nation – all of the Jewish people (one-third) living at the end of the tribulation. Restoration of the land will be in fulfillment of the promise of the Abrahamic Covenant.

*The LORD...will circumcise your heart* – This work of God in the innermost being of the individual will allow the Jewish people to love the LORD wholeheartedly and is the essential feature of the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31; Eze. 36:24-27).