



One

LESSONS FROM THE PAGES OF DEUTERONOMY

“And He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in and give us the land that He swore to give to our fathers.”

- Deuteronomy 6:23 (ESV)

INTRODUCTION:

Rather than take a true journey through the Book of Deuteronomy (the ideal!), we’re going to embark together on more of a scenic bus tour. Ironically, our very first stop will not be Deuteronomy 1:1. Join me in 2 Kings 22.

1. Our hope is to _____ discover _____ the _____ Book of Deuteronomy in a way that is _____ dramatically _____ consequential.

Read Deuteronomy 1:1-8.

Write these words in your Bible margin near the beginning of Deuteronomy:

_____ Horeb _____ = _____ Sinai _____

2. The name “Deuteronomy” developed for the book when the Old Testament was translated into Greek. The Greek word means “ The Second Law .”
(Title probably originated from Deuteronomy 17:18-19.) Center on Deuteronomy 1:5 as it conveys more of the book’s relationship to the original giving of the Law.

3. The Hebrew name for the 5th Book of the Pentateuch is much more indicative of its contents: (See V.1) The Hebrew “ Devarim ” translates “ words .”
(Eleh ha-devarim)

4. Glance ahead long enough to establish a theme: He brought us out that He might bring us in .

5. Lock in on Deuteronomy 1:8. A key word in Deuteronomy is “ see .” One of our major goals in this series will be to regain our vision .

6. Glance ahead to Deuteronomy 31:9-13. This book was to be read to all the people – “men, women and little ones, and the sojourner” – “at the set time in the year of release , at the Feast of Booths .”

CONCLUSION AND CHALLENGE...

Two

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PART ONE: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Known to Jewish tradition as the Shema. (Named after the first word of v. 4, the imperative of the verb šama', “ to hear ”)

The Jewish Study Bible translation of Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.” (p.379)

- The order of the segment is critically important: the loving drives the living.
- Both the loving and the living are meant to be theocentrically invasive.

PART TWO: Deuteronomy 7:7-9

⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his (A) love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the LORD (B) loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast (C) love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations. (ESV)

(A) **V.7 “the LORD set his love”** – Hebrew “hasaq” - “love, desire, bind, bound” (Holladay, W. L., Köhler, L., & Baumgartner, W. 1971.

A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament, p.120); “has the sense of joining together, adhering to, cleaving.” (Key Word Study Bible OT-Lexical Aids, #3137) Sometimes referred to as “a tethered love.” (Max Lucado, 3:16 *The Numbers of Hope*)

Dr. Walter Brueggemann – “The verb (hasaq) bespeaks a strong emotional attachment that runs beyond any reasonable, explicable act. YHWH made a leap of love in committing to Israel.” p.96

Used in Isaiah 38:17 – Literally “thou hast loved my soul out of the pit” (*Enhanced Brown Driver Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*, pgs.365-366)

Three

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PART ONE: How to Sing a “ Song of the Good Land .”
(Deuteronomy 8:7-10)

⁷ For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land , a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, ⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹ a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. ¹⁰ And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. (ESV)

Consider 1 Corinthians 1:4-7 out of *The NET Bible*.

Perhaps we could call this the “ Sign of a Good Land.”

“I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God that was given to you in Christ Jesus. For you were made rich in every way in Him, in all your speech and in every kind of knowledge – just as the testimony about Christ has been confirmed among you – so that you do not lack any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Contrast the phrase “fed you with manna” in V.3 with “a land of wheat” in V.8.

Excerpt from the *JPS Torah Commentary* concerning V.3: “According to Exodus, the term means essentially ‘ whatch’macallit .’ The Israelites called it this because when they first saw it they asked ‘what is it?’ (see Exod. 16:15, 31).

The very name thus expresses its unprecedented character.” (The JPS Torah Commentary, *Deuteronomy*, J.H. Tigay, p.93; Jewish Publication Society, 1996)

Also contrast Deuteronomy 8:9b and Exodus 3:20-22.

PART TWO: How to Have a Bad Time in a Good Land

V.2 “And you shall remember ...”

V.11 “Take care lest you forget ...”

V.14 “then your heart be lifted up, and you forget ...”

V.18 “You shall remember ...”

V.19 “And if you forget ...”

Four

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INTRODUCTION:

Deuteronomy 12:1 introduces a portion of the book that marches across every page until it comes to its powerful closure in 26:15: “These are the _____ statutes _____ and _____ rules _____...” We will sample the first course and the last course of the segment as a way of tasting the contents in between.

PART ONE: Deuteronomy 12

Read Deuteronomy 12:4-18. Note the connection with Deuteronomy 8:8-10 in our previous lesson.

- In God’s Deuteronomy-economy, a _____ meal _____ is more than _____ eating _____.
- In God’s Deuteronomy-economy, to be _____ mindful _____ and _____ thankful _____ is to be _____ joyful _____.

Seven times within the “statutes and rules” we find the words “_you_ _shall_
rejoice.” (Deuteronomy 12:7, Deuteronomy 12:12, Deuteronomy 12:18,
Deuteronomy 14:26, Deuteronomy 16:11, Deuteronomy 16:14, and Deuteronomy 26:11)

- Glance down verses 20-27. In God’s Deuteronomy-economy, the most prominent
prohibition at the table was _the_ _blood_.

PART TWO: Deuteronomy 26

- The _basket_: Vv.1-4
- The _response_: Vv.5-11 Excerpt by Dr. Walter Brueggemann: “The rhetoric works so that the speaker who is a belated rememberer of an old event becomes a
present-tense _participate_ in that old event. In ‘_liturgical_
time,’ the _gap_ between past time and present time is overcome, and present-tense characters _become_ _involved_ in remembered events.”
(*Deuteronomy*, p.247) The segment in verses 5-10 “lines out Israel’s most treasured
memory that decisively defines Israel’s _present-tense_ _life_.” (p.246)
- The _poor-tithe_: Vv.12-15 (Also called the 3rd Year Tithe)

As we start wrapping up our lesson, take a careful look at the cohesion of these 15 chapters by comparing Deuteronomy 26:16 back to Deuteronomy 12:1. In conclusion, reflect on the exchange of words in Deuteronomy 26:17-19.

Live

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PART ONE: An Overview of Deuteronomy 27:11-28:14

Ceremony on the mountainsides: Blessings from Mount Gerizim
and curses from Mount Ebal (Fulfillment: Joshua 8:30-35)

Consider Deuteronomy 27:15-26. The 12 tribes were divided in half and there were to be 12 curses recited and 12 “Amens” in response.

Focus on Deuteronomy 27:26 and compare Galatians 3:10-14.

“Redeem” - Greek “exagorazo” - “to buy out of slavery”
(The Expositor’s Bible Commentary, Volume 10, p.460)

Read the blessings for obedience in Deuteronomy 28:1-14.

Consider several New Testament parallels...

An important unraveling of the parallel: See V.13.

Scan your eyes over Deuteronomy 28:15-68. We can taste the bitter consequences of their disobedience in three primary descriptions:

- Deuteronomy 28:23 – Drastically decreased fruitfulness.
- Deuteronomy 28:25 – Defeat
(compare V.36-37) – “And you shall become...a proverb”
- Deuteronomy 28:66-67 – (Spiritually induced) depression

The removal of the “curse of the law” does not equal the removal of divine discipline.

“I’ve been told that when the pain of holding on becomes greater than the fear of letting go, THAT is when we become willing to give up the (...whatever mine is).” (Gay Tuttle)



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IX

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PART ONE: The Concluding Words of Moses

Read Deuteronomy 33:26-29.

V.26 Jeshurun is a term of affection or “pet name for Israel.” (Brueggemann, *Deuteronomy*, p.285) It is derived from the Hebrew verb “yashar,” meaning “be upright.” (The NET Bible First Edition Notes, 33:26) (“Righteous Israel”)

V.26 “who rides through the heavens to your help” Consider some of the ramifications of this specific word...

V.27 – “dwelling” – Hebrew “me’onah” – Compare Psalm 90:1-2.

Vv.26,29 Because there is no other god like our God,
there is no other people like His people.

PART TWO: The Concluding Words About Moses

Read Deuteronomy 34:1-4 then 5-12.

V.5a “So Moses the servant of the LORD...” According to Dr. J.H. Tigay,

“As a title, ‘eved YHVH means ‘the LORD’S minister’”

(*The JPS Torah Commentary*, p.337)

The Jewish Study Bible translation of Deuteronomy 34:5 “So Moses the servant of the LORD died there, in the land of Moab, at the command of the LORD.” (p.449)

Dr. J.H. Tigay writes, “‘He died at God’s command, not from old age or illness’ (see v. 7)...Since it means literally ‘He died at God’s mouth,’ it was interpreted midrashically to mean that Moses died at a kiss from God. Hence the Hebrew idiom *mitat neshikah*, ‘death by a kiss,’ meaning sudden, painless death in old age.”

(*The JPS Torah Commentary* p.338)

V.6 “but he buried him in the valley...but no one knows the place” Compare Jude 9.

Compare Verses 9 and 11. Successive leaders are often purposed by God to be very different people with very different strengths.

