

## DEUTERONOMY

### CHAPTERS 1 – 17

#### Introduction

“Deuteronomy is one of the greatest books of the Old Testament. Its influence on the domestic and personal religion of all ages has not been surpassed by any other book in the Bible. It is quoted over eighty times in the New Testament and thus it belongs to a small group of four Old Testament books [the others being Genesis, Psalms, and Isaiah] to which the early Christians made frequent reference” (D. A. Thompson).

The name *Deuteronomy* means “second law.” It was the second giving of the Mosaic Law, the first being at Mount Sinai. Moses felt *compelled* to bring this *reminder* of the Law to Israel, because those ready to enter the Promised Land were only children – if born at all – when the Law was originally given at Mount Sinai. (David Guzik, *enduringword.com*)

#### Moses Remembers and Reminds

##### Chapter 1 1*“These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel...”*

1.) It was a \_\_\_\_\_ point in Israel’s history – they were on the threshold of the Promised Land, and ready to adopt a true national identity. Also, the Book of Deuteronomy was essentially a sermon – or a series of sermons, preached by Moses to Israel, and preached with a heavy and passionate heart.

2.) Moses’ heart \_\_\_\_\_ because he knew that he would not enter the Promised Land of Canaan with Israel. His disobedience to God at Meribah (Numbers 20:1-13) meant that he would not see Israel’s exodus from Egypt through to completion.

3.) Moses’ heart \_\_\_\_\_ because he knew that if this new generation – a generation of faith, unlike the generation which perished in the wilderness – if this new generation did not obey the Law of God, then God’s covenant would work against them and curse them. So, the LORD passionately pled through a passionate Moses in Deuteronomy, pleading for Israel to *choose life!* (Deuteronomy 30:19).

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<sup>4</sup> *And command the people, saying, “You are about to pass through the territory of your brethren, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir; and they will be afraid of you. Therefore watch yourselves carefully* <sup>5</sup> **Do not meddle with them**, for I will not give you any of their land, no, not so much as one footstep, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession. <sup>6</sup> *You shall buy food from them with money, that you may eat; and you shall also buy water from*

*them with money, that you may drink. <sup>7</sup> “For the Lord your God has blessed you in all the work of your hand. He knows your trudging through this great wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you; you have lacked nothing.”*

4.) God commanded Israel to treat the Edomites \_\_\_\_\_ even though they could have dominated them as a stronger nation.

How we treat those weaker than ourselves is always a good measure of character. When we

5.) have the capability to dominate or abuse others and do not, it shows that we have \_\_\_\_\_. For some of these reasons, God commanded Israel to treat the weaker nation of Edom well.

<sup>8</sup> *“And when we passed beyond our brethren, the descendants of Esau who dwell in Seir, away from the road of the plain, away from Elath and Ezion Geber, we turned and passed by way of the Wilderness of Moab. <sup>9</sup> Then the Lord said to me, ‘**Do not harass Moab, nor contend with them in battle**, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession.’”*

6.) The Moabites were also distant relatives to Israel; they descended from \_\_\_\_\_, who was the nephew of Abraham. And as with Edom, God did not want Israel to harass Moab, nor contend with them in battle – their land was not the land God intended to give Israel.

7.) One of the more famous Moabites in the Bible was Ruth. She was a Moabite woman who married an Israelite man named Boaz and became grandmother to King David and one of the ancestors of \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>16</sup> *“So it was, when all the men of war had finally perished from among the people, <sup>17</sup> that the Lord spoke to me, saying: <sup>18</sup> ‘This day you are to cross over at Ar, the boundary of Moab. <sup>19</sup> And when you come near the people of Ammon, **do not harass them or meddle with them**, for I will not give you any of the land of the people of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the descendants of Lot as a possession.’”*

8.) As with the Edomites and the Moabites, the land of the \_\_\_\_\_ was also not for the people of Israel.

### Ch. 3

<sup>1</sup> *“Then we turned and went up the road to Bashan; and Og king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei. <sup>2</sup> And the Lord said to me, ‘Do not fear him, for I have delivered him and all his people and his land into your hand; you shall do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt at Heshbon.’*

9.) This victory brought Israel even more territory to occupy on the east side of the Jordan River, and it showed them that they could, through the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, overcome the mighty enemies they would confront on the west side of the Jordan River.

Some scholars believe that Og was the last of the *rephaim* (the giants) in his area.

#### Ch. 4 Moses' Reminder to be Obedient

*1 "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you. 2 You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you. 3 Your eyes have seen what the Lord did at Baal Peor; for the Lord your God has destroyed from among you all the men who followed Baal of Peor. 4 But you who held fast to the Lord your God are alive today, every one of you."*

10.) Moses had reminded Israel of their many rebellions against God in the wilderness. Now, as they were ready to enter into the Promised Land, he wanted them to think about their need for present \_\_\_\_\_ in light of their past \_\_\_\_\_.

One of Satan's great strategies is to make us remember what we should forget and forget what we should remember. If we don't remember our past sins and rebellions against God, we can easily repeat them, falling into the same sinful patterns and traps: *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.* (1 Corinthians 10:12)

#### Ch. 5 Moses Reminds Israel of their Covenant with God at Sinai

*1 "And Moses called all Israel, and said to them: "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them. 2 The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. 3 The Lord did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive."*

Israel was bound to the covenant they agreed to in Exodus 24:1-8, yet the covenant was made with the previous generation which perished in the wilderness. The present generation had to understand and embrace the covenant if they were to enjoy the blessings of the covenant.

11.) In fact, the covenant was originally made with the previous generation, and Moses did not deny this. But he drove the point home: This was *their* covenant; it is a covenant of the \_\_\_\_\_, not of the \_\_\_\_\_.

*32 "Therefore you shall be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. 33 You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your*

*God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.”*

This means God demands to be more than “added” to our lives. We don’t just add Jesus to the life we already have. We must give Him all our lives. Also, knowing the glory of God (as revealed at Mount Sinai) and the love of God (as revealed by His longing that it might be well with them), gave them all the more reason to obey God.

**12.)** When we have trouble obeying God, we are clearly lacking in one or both of these areas. Either we forget His \_\_\_\_\_, or we forget His \_\_\_\_\_ for us, or we forget \_\_\_\_\_ of them.

### Ch. 6 The Great Commandment

<sup>4</sup> *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! <sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”* (Mark 12:30)

**13)** God wants a \_\_\_\_\_ love from us. This love is appropriate because He loved us completely: *We love Him because He first loved us.* (\_\_\_\_\_)

“We often think God demands a hundred other things from us – our money, our time, our effort, our will, our submission, and so forth – but what God really wants is our love. When we really love the LORD with all of our heart, soul, and mind, then everything else is freely given to the LORD. If we give the LORD all the rest – money, time, effort, will, and so forth – without giving Him our love, it is all wasted – and perhaps, all is lost” (David Gurik, *enduringword.com*).

**14.)** Jesus called this *the great commandment* (Matthew 22:37-38); and He said the second commandment, *you shall love your neighbor as yourself*, was like this first, great commandment. When we love the LORD our God with all our heart, soul, and mind, we will find it easy to \_\_\_\_\_ as ourselves.

### Ch. 7

<sup>1</sup> *“When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you,”*

**15.)** The Canaanite nations are greater and mightier than the Israelites. But they are not greater and mightier than God. God \_\_\_\_\_ Israel to face a challenge that was impossible in their \_\_\_\_\_ – but entirely possible in Him.

<sup>2</sup> *“and when the Lord your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them.”* Not “if,” but when. God could be counted on.

Ch. 8God humbles those He Loves

1“Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers. 2 And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. 4 Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. 5 You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you.” (Matthew 4:4) (Proverbs 3:12) (Hebrews 12:6)

16.) God *humbled* Israel. He brought them to a place where all they could do was \_\_\_\_\_. They had nothing else, and no one else to count on.

17.) All of God’s education begins here. Some never even make it past this first essential step. If we are not \_\_\_\_\_ and not \_\_\_\_\_, there is then no point to the rest of any of God’s education.

“Some don’t **live** by God’s word because they *fight* with God’s word: “The worst implement with which you can knock a man down, is the Bible; it is intended for us to live upon, – not to be the weapon of our controversies, but our daily food, upon which we rejoice to live” (Charles Spurgeon).

Ch. 9Future Battles and Past Falls

1“Hear, O Israel: You are to cross over the Jordan today, and go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and fortified up to heaven, 2 a people great and tall, the descendants of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you heard it said, ‘Who can stand before the descendants of Anak?’

18.) God was leading Israel into something too big for them. It was a challenge they could only meet if they \_\_\_\_\_ in God.

19.) In the same way, Jesus never calls us with hype or false promises that would lead to false confidence. He plainly says, *If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.* (Matthew 16:24) Jesus let us know right \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ that following Him would require giving God \_\_\_\_\_.

*7“Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the Lord.”*

**20.)** God’s purpose in reminding Israel of their rebellions against Him was not to \_\_\_\_\_ them or to make them feel \_\_\_\_\_. The purpose was so that they would recognize \_\_\_\_\_ weakness and trust in Him.

### Ch. 10

### Getting up again

*1“At that time the Lord said to me, ‘Hew for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and come up to Me on the mountain and make yourself an ark of wood. <sup>2</sup>And I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke; and you shall put them in the ark.’ <sup>3</sup>“So I made an ark of acacia wood, hewed two tablets of stone like the first, and went up the mountain, having the two tablets in my hand. <sup>4</sup>And He wrote on the tablets according to the first writing, the Ten Commandments, which the Lord had spoken to you in the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly; and the Lord gave them to me. <sup>5</sup>Then I turned and came down from the mountain, and put the tablets in the ark which I had made; and there they are, just as the Lord commanded me.”*

**21.)** Moses broke the tablets of the law, not only out of anger, but also as a powerful visual representation of Israel’s \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Now God commanded that they restore the law by bringing forth two new tablets of the law.

God wanted His written word to be the starting point for Israel’s right walk with Him. Therefore, He restored the tablets, even writing on the second tablets with His own hand.

**22.)** This is a powerful picture of the inspiration of God’s word; though God did not \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures with His own hand, He did perfectly guide the minds and hands of the writers, so that the Scriptures are “God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16), that is, given by the inspiration (Spirit) of God.

### Ch. 11

### God’s Love

*1“Therefore you shall love the Lord your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always. <sup>2</sup>Know today that I do not speak with your children, who have not known and who have not seen the chastening of the Lord your God, His greatness and His mighty hand and His outstretched arm— <sup>3</sup>His signs and His acts which He did in the midst of Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to all his land; <sup>4</sup> what He did to the army of Egypt, to their horses and their chariots: how He made the waters of the Red Sea overflow them as they pursued you, and how the Lord has destroyed them to this day; <sup>5</sup> what He did for you in the wilderness until you came to this place; <sup>6</sup> and what He did to Dathan and Abiram the sons of*

*Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, their households, their tents, and all the substance that was in their possession, in the midst of all Israel— <sup>7</sup> but your eyes have seen every great act of the Lord which He did.”*

**23.)** This reminds us of what the LORD really wants from us – \_\_\_\_\_. We could give Him a hundred other things, but none of it really matters unless we give Him our love. As Jesus said to the Ephesian church in Revelation 2:4: *“Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”* If we lose love, we \_\_\_\_\_.

**24.)** As Jesus said in John 14:15: *“If you love Me, keep My commandments”*. Real love for Jesus always translates into \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Ch. 12                      Godly Worship Requires Separation from What is Ungodly

*<sup>1</sup>“These are the statutes and judgments which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth. <sup>2</sup>You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. <sup>3</sup>And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place. <sup>4</sup>You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things. <sup>5</sup>But you shall seek the place where the Lord your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go.”*

**25.)** The practice in the ancient world, which was always short on buildings, was to take a nice building such as a temple previously used to worship a prior god, and simply make it a place to worship one’s own god. The LORD God wanted none of that in His own worship. He commanded that the places of pagan worship be \_\_\_\_\_ and that they **shall not worship the LORD your God with such things.**

**26.)** Worship was not left to the opinion or whim of the individual Israelite. They had to worship God at His \_\_\_\_\_ place, and among other worshippers of God. Worship is not a “do as you please” or a “Lone Ranger” activity.

*<sup>6</sup>“There you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks.”*

**27.)** The place of worship was to be a place of \_\_\_\_\_. Of course, there were other places where an Israelite could give and be generous but giving had to begin at the place of worship God has appointed.

<sup>12</sup> *“And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God,”*

Worship at God’s appointed place must be marked with joy. It is a good thing to come and honor our God and should be done with pleasure and joy.

**28.)** The emphasis on **shall** shows that rejoicing is \_\_\_\_\_. It is also commanded in the New Testament; *“Rejoice always (1 Thessalonians 5:16); Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! (Philippians 4:4).* If you can’t rejoice out of feeling like it, then rejoice out of being commanded.

“No one duty is more pressed in both the Testaments, than this of rejoicing in the Lord always, but specially in his immediate services” (John Trapp).

### Ch. 13

### More Separation: To Whom Shall They/We Listen?

<sup>1</sup> *“If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, <sup>2</sup> and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’—which you have not known—‘and let us serve them,’”*

Dreams can be from God (as in Numbers 12:6, or in Genesis 37:5-11), or they can be false prophecies (as in Jeremiah 23:25-26). We must be careful to not put too much stock in dreams, and instead allow God to bring *confirmation* to any dream we believe brings a message from Him.

<sup>3</sup> *you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams,*

**29.)** Godly discernment will always carefully examine the \_\_\_\_\_ of a spiritual leader, instead of the spiritual experiences which may surround him or her.

<sup>4</sup> *“You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.”*

**30.)** Israel was first instructed to not let a deceiver succeed in leading them astray. No matter how attractive the deception, they were to keep \_\_\_\_\_ on a \_\_\_\_\_ walk with God according to \_\_\_ truth.

**31.)** As it applies today, the church as a community and Christians as individuals should reject and refuse to support such heretics among them. They should use discernment to set aside those who promote themselves as miracle working men and women of anointing and faith, yet who \_\_\_\_\_ in essential \_\_\_\_\_.

Ch. 14                                      Separation from Pagan Mourning Practices

*1 “You are the children of the LORD your God; you shall not cut yourselves nor shave the front of your head for the dead. <sup>2</sup> For you are a holy people to the Lord your God, and the Lord has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”*

**32.)** “The cutting of the body and the shaving of the head were common \_\_\_\_\_ in the ancient Near East and are referred to in many places in the Old Testament (Isaiah 3:24; 15:2; 22:12; Jeremiah 16:6; 41:5; Ezekiel 7:18; Amos 8:10; Micah 1:16)” (D.A. Thompson).

**33.)** The Israelites were also commanded to avoid these mourning rites in Leviticus 21:5 as these were pagan rites and intended to honour the \_\_\_\_\_.

Ch. 15                                      Laws Regarding the Poor

*1 “At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release of debts. <sup>2</sup> And this is the form of the release: Every creditor who has lent anything to his neighbor shall release it; he shall not require it of his neighbor or his brother, because it is called the LORD’s release.”*

Verses 1, 2: According to L. Thomas Holdcroft, in his book, *The Pentateuch*, “scholars are uncertain whether the language intends a total cancellation, or simply a postponement of payment. Current translations tend to see it as a total cancellation, but no evidence proves that debt cancellation was ever the policy. Notably, however, Moses depicted loans to a fellow Israelite more as an act of charity than a business transaction. Thus, the cancelling of such a loan in the seventh year might not have been a serious economic issue. However, Moses also explained that, ideally, if all Israelites lived by God’s laws, there should be no poverty (15:4-6); in practice, there would always be the poor (15:11). Jesus quoted this latter verse to Judas in order to justify Mary’s extravagance in anointing Him with perfume. (John 12:8)

Ch. 16                                      The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)

*<sup>9</sup> “You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain. <sup>10</sup> Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the Lord your God blesses you.”*

**34.)** The Feast of Weeks (or Pentecost) was a feast associated with the \_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, during which Israelites brought a freewill offering unto the LORD, as a demonstration of the \_\_\_\_\_ in their heart. Leviticus 23:15-21 describes how, at the feast of Pentecost, Israel was to celebrate by bringing a **new grain offering to the LORD** and by waving two loaves

of *leavened* bread unto the LORD. Prophetically, this is a powerful picture of the work of God in the New Covenant, fulfilled at the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2.

**35.)** i. No atoning sacrifice was necessary because the price had already been \_\_\_\_\_.

ii. There was a great harvest unto God, and great thanksgiving for that harvest.

**36.)** iii. The response to God on the day of Pentecost was not done out of \_\_\_\_\_ to a particular law. It was the joyful heart-response of \_\_\_\_\_ unto Him.

iv. The church, founded on the day of Pentecost, would include the “leavened bread” of the Gentiles, waved as holy before God – made holy by the work of Jesus the Messiah.

#### Ch. 17

#### Sacrifice and Justice

*1“You shall not sacrifice to the Lord your God a bull or sheep which has any blemish or defect, for that is an abomination to the LORD your God.”*

**37.)** God did not recognize the giving of cast-off, worthless items, as a \_\_\_\_\_ unto Him.

**38.)** David powerfully illustrated the idea behind this commandment when he refused to accept the threshing floor of Araunah as a gift, which David was going to give to the LORD as the place to build the temple. David said, *nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing* (2 Samuel 24:24). David understood that if it didn’t \_\_\_\_\_ something, it wasn’t a *sacrifice*.

*2 “If there is found among you, within any of your gates which the Lord your God gives you, a man or a woman who has been wicked in the sight of the Lord your God, in transgressing His covenant, 3 who has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, either the sun or moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded, 4 and it is told you, and you hear of it, then you shall inquire diligently. And if it is indeed true and certain that such an abomination has been committed in Israel, 5 then you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has committed that wicked thing, and shall stone to death that man or woman with stones.”*

**39.) Who has gone and served other gods and worshiped them:** Judges are also commanded to make sure that any who have gone after \_\_\_\_\_ are to be \_\_\_\_\_ and if found to be guilty, are to be executed.

#### Works Sourced

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#### Introduction

“Deuteronomy is one of the greatest books of the Old Testament. Its influence on the domestic and personal religion of all ages has not been surpassed by any other book in the Bible. It is quoted over eighty times in the New Testament and thus it belongs to a small group of four Old Testament books [the others being Genesis, Psalms, and Isaiah] to which the early Christians made frequent reference” (D. A. Thompson).

The name *Deuteronomy* means “second law.” It was the second giving of the Mosaic Law, the first being at Mount Sinai. Moses felt *compelled* to bring this *reminder* of the Law to Israel, because those ready to enter the Promised Land were only children – if born at all – when the Law was originally given at Mount Sinai.

#### Moses Remembers and Reminds

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- 2.) Moses’ heart was heavy because he knew that he would not enter the Promised Land of Canaan with Israel. His disobedience to God at Meribah (Numbers 20:1-13) meant that he would not see Israel’s exodus from Egypt through to completion.
- 3.) Moses’ heart was passionate because he knew that if this new generation – a generation of faith, unlike the generation which perished in the wilderness – if this new generation did not obey the Law of God, then God’s covenant would work against them and curse them. So, the LORD passionately pled through a passionate Moses in Deuteronomy, pleading for Israel to *choose life!* (Deuteronomy 30:19).

#### Ch. 2

<sup>4</sup> *And command the people, saying, “You are about to pass through the territory of your brethren, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir; and they will be afraid of you. Therefore watch yourselves carefully* <sup>5</sup> **Do not meddle with them**, *for I will not give you any of their land, no, not so much as one footstep, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession.* <sup>6</sup> *You shall buy food from them with money, that you may eat; and you shall also buy water from*

*them with money, that you may drink. <sup>7</sup> “For the Lord your God has blessed you in all the work of your hand. He knows your trudging through this great wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you; you have lacked nothing.”*

4.) God commanded Israel to treat the Edomites with respect, even though they could have dominated them as a stronger nation.

5.) How we treat those weaker than ourselves is always a good measure of character. When we have the capability to dominate or abuse others and do not, it shows that we have good character. For some of these reasons, God commanded Israel to treat the weaker nation of Edom well.

<sup>8</sup> *“And when we passed beyond our brethren, the descendants of Esau who dwell in Seir, away from the road of the plain, away from Elath and Ezion Geber, we turned and passed by way of the Wilderness of Moab. <sup>9</sup> Then the Lord said to me, ‘**Do not harass Moab, nor contend with them in battle**, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession.’”*

6.) The Moabites were also distant relatives to Israel; they descended from Lot, who was the nephew of Abraham. And as with Edom, God did not want Israel to harass Moab, nor contend with them in battle – their land was not the land God intended to give Israel.

7.) One of the more famous Moabites in the Bible was Ruth. She was a Moabite woman who married an Israelite man named Boaz and became grandmother to King David and one of the ancestors of the Messiah.

<sup>16</sup> *“So it was, when all the men of war had finally perished from among the people, <sup>17</sup> that the Lord spoke to me, saying: <sup>18</sup> ‘This day you are to cross over at Ar, the boundary of Moab. <sup>19</sup> And when you come near the people of Ammon, **do not harass them or meddle with them**, for I will not give you any of the land of the people of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the descendants of Lot as a possession.’”*

8.) As with the Edomites and the Moabites, the land of the Ammonites was also not for the people of Israel.

### Ch. 3

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**9.)** This victory brought Israel even more territory to occupy on the east side of the Jordan River, and it showed them that they could, through the power of God, overcome the mighty enemies they would confront on the west side of the Jordan River.

Some scholars believe that Og was the last of the *rephaim* (the giants) in his area.

#### Ch. 4

#### Moses' Reminder to be Obedient

*1 "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you. 2 You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you. 3 Your eyes have seen what the Lord did at Baal Peor; for the Lord your God has destroyed from among you all the men who followed Baal of Peor. 4 But you who held fast to the Lord your God are alive today, every one of you."*)

**10.)** Moses had reminded Israel of their many rebellions against God in the wilderness. Now, as they were ready to enter into the Promised Land, he wanted them to think about their need for present obedience in light of their past rebellions.

One of Satan's great strategies is to make us remember what we should forget and forget what we should remember. If we don't remember our past sins and rebellions against God, we can easily repeat them, falling into the same sinful patterns and traps: *Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.* (1 Corinthians 10:12)

#### Ch. 5

#### Moses Reminds Israel of their Covenant with God at Sinai

*1 "And Moses called all Israel, and said to them: "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them. 2 The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. 3 The Lord did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive."*

Israel was bound to the covenant they agreed to in Exodus 24:1-8, yet the covenant was made with the previous generation which perished in the wilderness. The present generation had to understand and embrace the covenant if they were to enjoy the blessings of the covenant.

**11.)** In fact, the covenant was originally made with the previous generation, and Moses did not deny this. But he drove the point home: This was *their* covenant; it is a covenant of the living, not of the dead.

<sup>32</sup> “Therefore you shall be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. <sup>33</sup> You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.”

This means God demands to be more than “added” to our lives. We don’t just add Jesus to the life we already have. We must give Him all our lives.

Knowing the glory of God (as revealed at Mount Sinai) and the love of God (as revealed by His longing that it might be well with them), gave them all the more reason to obey God.

**12.)** When we have trouble obeying God, we are clearly lacking in one or both of these areas. Either we forget His glory, or we forget His love for us, or we forget both of them.

#### Ch. 6 The Great Commandment

<sup>4</sup> “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! <sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” (Mark 12:30)

**13.)** God wants a complete love from us. This love is appropriate because He loved us completely: *We love Him because He first loved us.* (1 John 4:19)

“We often think God demands a hundred other things from us – our money, our time, our effort, our will, our submission, and so forth – but what God really wants is our love. When we really love the LORD with all of our heart, soul, and mind, then everything else is freely given to the LORD. If we give the LORD all the rest – money, time, effort, will, and so forth – without giving Him our love, it is all wasted – and perhaps, all is lost” (David Gurik, *enduringword.com*).

**14.)** Jesus called this *the great commandment* (Matthew 22:37-38); and He said the second commandment, *you shall love your neighbor as yourself*, was like this first, great commandment. When we love the LORD our God with all our heart, soul, and mind, we will find it easy to love our neighbor as ourselves.

#### Ch. 7

<sup>1</sup> “When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you,”

**15.)** The Canaanite nations are greater and mightier than the Israelites. But they are not greater and mightier than God. God brought Israel to face a challenge that was impossible in their own strength – but entirely possible in Him.

<sup>2</sup>“and **when** the Lord your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them.”

Not “if,” but when. God could be counted on.

## Ch. 8

### God Humbles those He Loves

<sup>1</sup>“Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers. <sup>2</sup>And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. <sup>3</sup>So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. <sup>4</sup>Your garments did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. <sup>5</sup>You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the Lord your God chastens you.” (Matthew 4:4) (Proverbs 3:12) (Hebrews 12:6)

**16.)** God *humbled* Israel. He brought them to a place where all they could do was depend on him. They had nothing else, and no one else to count on.

**17.)** All of God’s education begins here. Some never even make it past this first essential step. If we are not humble and not teachable, there is then no point to the rest of any of God’s education.

“Some don’t **live** by God’s word because they *fight* with God’s word: “The worst implement with which you can knock a man down, is the Bible; it is intended for us to live upon, – not to be the weapon of our controversies, but our daily food, upon which we rejoice to live” (Charles Spurgeon).

## Ch. 9

### Future Battles and Past Falls

<sup>1</sup>“Hear, O Israel: You are to cross over the Jordan today, and go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and fortified up to heaven, <sup>2</sup>a people great and tall, the descendants of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you heard it said, ‘Who can stand before the descendants of Anak?’

**18.)** God was leading Israel into something too big for them. It was a challenge they could only meet if they trusted in God.

**19.)** In the same way, Jesus never calls us with hype or false promises that would lead to false confidence. He plainly says, *If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take*

*up his cross, and follow Me. (Matthew 16:24) Jesus let us know right from the beginning that following Him would require giving God everything.*

*7“Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the Lord.”*

**20.)** God’s purpose in reminding Israel of their rebellions against Him was not to discourage them or to make them feel defeated. The purpose was so that they would recognize their own weakness and trust in Him.

#### Ch. 10

#### Getting up again

*1“**At that time the Lord said to me, ‘Hew for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and come up to Me on the mountain and make yourself an ark of wood. <sup>2</sup>And I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke; and you shall put them in the ark.’ <sup>3</sup>“So I made an ark of acacia wood, hewed two tablets of stone like the first, and went up the mountain, having the two tablets in my hand. <sup>4</sup>And He wrote on the tablets according to the first writing, the Ten Commandments, which the Lord had spoken to you in the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly; and the Lord gave them to me. <sup>5</sup>Then I turned and came down from the mountain, and put the tablets in the ark which I had made; and there they are, just as the Lord commanded me.”***

**21.)** Moses broke the tablets of the law, not only out of anger, but also as a powerful visual representation of Israel’s breaking of the law of God. Now God commanded that they restore the law by bringing forth two new tablets of the law.

God wanted His written word to be the starting point for Israel’s right walk with Him. Therefore, He restored the tablets, even writing on the second tablets with His own hand.

**22.)** This is a powerful picture of the inspiration of God’s word; though God did not literally write the Scriptures with His own hand, He did perfectly guide the minds and hands of the writers, so that the Scriptures are “God-breathed” (2 Timothy 3:16), that is, given by the inspiration (Spirit) of God.

#### Ch. 11

#### God’s Love

*1“**Therefore you shall love the Lord your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always. <sup>2</sup>Know today that I do not speak with your children, who have not known and who have not seen the chastening of the Lord your God, His greatness and His mighty hand and His outstretched arm— <sup>3</sup>His signs and His acts which He did in the midst of Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to all his land; <sup>4</sup>what He did to the army of Egypt, to their***

*horses and their chariots: how He made the waters of the Red Sea overflow them as they pursued you, and how the Lord has destroyed them to this day; <sup>5</sup> what He did for you in the wilderness until you came to this place; <sup>6</sup> and what He did to Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, their households, their tents, and all the substance that was in their possession, in the midst of all Israel— <sup>7</sup> but your eyes have seen every great act of the Lord which He did.”*

**23.)** This reminds us of what the LORD really wants from us – our love. We could give Him a hundred other things, but none of it really matters unless we give Him our love. As Jesus said to the Ephesian church in Revelation 2:4: *“Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”* If we lose love, we lose all.

**24.)** As Jesus said in John 14:15: *“If you love Me, keep My commandments”*. Real love for Jesus always translates into obedience.

#### Ch. 12                      Godly Worship Requires Separation from What is Ungodly

*1“These are the statutes and judgments which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth. <sup>2</sup> You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. <sup>3</sup> And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place. <sup>4</sup> You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things.<sup>5</sup> But you shall seek the place where the Lord your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go.”*

**25.)** The practice in the ancient world, which was always short on buildings, was to take a nice building such as a temple previously used to worship a prior god, and simply make it a place to worship one’s own god. The LORD God wanted none of that in His own worship. He commanded that the places of pagan worship be completely destroyed, and that they **shall not worship the LORD your God with such things**.

**26.)** Worship was not left to the opinion or whim of the individual Israelite. They had to worship God at His prescribed place, and among other worshippers of God. Worship is not a “do as you please” or a “Lone Ranger” activity.

*<sup>6</sup>“There you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks.”*

**27.)** The place of worship was to be a place of giving. Of course, there were other places where an Israelite could give and be generous but giving had to begin at the place of worship God has appointed.

<sup>12</sup> *“And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God,”*

Worship at God’s appointed place must be marked with joy. It is a good thing to come and honor our God and should be done with pleasure and joy.

**28.)** The emphasis on **shall** shows that rejoicing is commanded. It is also commanded in the New Testament; *Rejoice always* (1 Thessalonians 5:16); *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!* (Philippians 4:4). If you can’t rejoice out of feeling like it, then rejoice out of being commanded.

“No one duty is more pressed in both the Testaments, than this of rejoicing in the Lord always, but specially in his immediate services” (John Trapp).

### Ch. 13                      More Separation: To Whom Shall They/We Listen?

<sup>1</sup> *“If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, <sup>2</sup> and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’—which you have not known—‘and let us serve them,’”*

Dreams can be from God (as in Numbers 12:6, or in Genesis 37:5-11), or they can be false prophecies (as in Jeremiah 23:25-26). We must be careful to not put too much stock in dreams, and instead allow God to bring *confirmation* to any dream we believe brings a message from Him.

<sup>3</sup> *you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams,*

**29.)** Godly discernment will always carefully examine the message of a spiritual leader, instead of the spiritual experiences which may surround him or her.

<sup>4</sup> *“You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.”*

**30.)** Israel was first instructed to not let a deceiver succeed in leading them astray. No matter how attractive the deception, they were to keep focused on a faithful walk with God according to His truth.

**31)** As it applies today, the church as a community and Christians as individuals should reject and refuse to support such heretics among them. They should use discernment to set aside

those who promote themselves as miracle working men and women of anointing and faith, yet who teach heresy in essential doctrines.

#### Ch. 14                      Separation from Pagan Mourning Practices

*1 “You are the children of the LORD your God; you shall not cut yourselves nor shave the front of your head for the dead. <sup>2</sup>For you are a holy people to the Lord your God, and the Lord has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.”*

**32.)** “The cutting of the body and the shaving of the head were common mourning rites in the ancient Near East and are referred to in many places in the Old Testament (Isaiah 3:24; 15:2; 22:12; Jeremiah 16:6; 41:5; Ezekiel 7:18; Amos 8:10; Micah 1:16)” (D.A. Thompson).

**33.)** The Israelites were also commanded to avoid these mourning rites in Leviticus 21:5 as these were pagan rites and intended to honour the false god, Baal.

#### Ch. 15                      Laws Regarding the Poor

*1 “At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release of debts. <sup>2</sup>And this is the form of the release: Every creditor who has lent anything to his neighbor shall release it; he shall not require it of his neighbor or his brother, because it is called the LORD’s release”.*

Verses 1, 2: According to L. Thomas Holdcroft, in his book, *The Pentateuch*, “scholars are uncertain whether the language intends a total cancellation, or simply a postponement of payment. Current translations tend to see it as a total cancellation, but no evidence proves that debt cancellation was ever the policy. Notably, however, Moses depicted loans to a fellow Israelite more as an act of charity than a business transaction. Thus, the cancelling of such a loan in the seventh year might not have been a serious economic issue. However, Moses also explained that, ideally, if all Israelites lived by God’s laws, there should be no poverty (15:4-6); in practice, there would always be the poor (15:11). Jesus quoted this latter verse to Judas in order to justify Mary’s extravagance in anointing Him with perfume. (John 12:8)

Ch. 16The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost)

<sup>9</sup>“You shall count seven weeks for yourself; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the grain. <sup>10</sup> Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the Lord your God blesses you.”

**34.)** The Feast of Weeks (or Pentecost) was a feast associated with the joy of harvest, during which Israelites brought a freewill offering unto the LORD, as a demonstration of the thanks in their heart. Leviticus 23:15-21 describes how, at the feast of Pentecost, Israel was to celebrate by bringing a **new grain offering to the LORD** and by waving two loaves of *leavened* bread unto the LORD. Prophetically, this is a powerful picture of the work of God in the New Covenant, fulfilled at the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2.

**35.)** i. No atoning sacrifice was necessary because the price had already been paid by Jesus.

ii. There was a great harvest unto God, and great thanksgiving for that harvest.

**36.)** iii. The response to God on the day of Pentecost was not done out of obligation to a particular law. It was the joyful heart-response of God’s people unto Him.

iv. The church, founded on the day of Pentecost, would include the “leavened bread” of the Gentiles, waved as holy before God – made holy by the work of Jesus the Messiah.

Ch. 17Sacrifice and Justice

<sup>1</sup>“You shall not sacrifice to the Lord your God a bull or sheep which has any blemish or defect, for that is an abomination to the LORD your God.”

**37.)** God did not recognize the giving of cast-off, worthless items, as a true sacrifice unto Him.

**38.)** David powerfully illustrated the idea behind this commandment when he refused to accept the threshing floor of Araunah as a gift, which David was going to give to the LORD as the place to build the temple. David said, *nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing* (2 Samuel 24:24). David understood that if it didn’t cost something, it wasn’t a *sacrifice*.

<sup>2</sup> “If there is found among you, within any of your gates which the Lord your God gives you, a man or a woman who has been wicked in the sight of the Lord your God, in transgressing His covenant, <sup>3</sup> who has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, either the sun or moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded, <sup>4</sup> and it is told you, and you hear of it, then you shall inquire diligently. And if it is indeed true and certain that such an abomination

*has been committed in Israel, <sup>5</sup> then you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has committed that wicked thing, and shall stone to death that man or woman with stones.”*

**39.)** Who has gone and served other gods and worshiped them: Judges are also commanded to make sure that any who have gone after idolatry are to be investigated, and if found to be guilty, are to be executed.

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