

Deuteronomy

Breakdown

- The name Deuteronomy means “second law” or “repeated law”. Moses was reminding the Israelites of what God had done for them and what God expects of them.
- The book of Deuteronomy was written by Moses around 1406 B.C. and covers the 40-day period prior to the Israelites entering the promised land.
- In Deuteronomy, Moses reviewed the Israelites’ journey from Egypt and reminded them of the most essential parts of God’s commands with an emphasis on the reasons behind the laws and how they should apply them to their new life in the promised land.

Main Points

- A new generation of Israelites was about to enter the promised land, but they had not experienced the miracles in Egypt and at the Red Sea or heard the law given at Mt. Sinai. In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses reminded them of God’s law and power and explained that their success in the promised land depended entirely on their commitment to God.
- Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy more than any other book in the Old Testament. Jesus also used the book of Deuteronomy in His own life, like when He answered all three of the temptations in the wilderness by quoting from Deuteronomy. Jesus knew that God’s commands were not meant to be oppressive but were given out of God’s love for us, and because we couldn’t, Jesus fulfilled the law for us so we could be reconnected with God.

Did you know?

- It should have taken the Israelites 11 days to travel from Mt Sinai to the promised land, but it took them 40 years. Why did the journey take so long?
- God was very serious about the Israelites not worshipping the gods of the other nations in the promised land. What did God say should be done to anyone who tried to lead someone away from Him?
- God gave the Israelites specific commands about how to treat people who were vulnerable, like the poor, fatherless, widows, etc. What did God instruct them to do?
- God gave instructions for how much land each tribe would receive, but one tribe didn’t receive any land. Why did that tribe not receive any land? What did they receive instead?
- For the Israelites, there were no police officers to enforce the law or courts to rule on punishment for lawbreakers. Who did God appoint to settle disputes and assaults?
- If an Israelite’s child rebelled and would not obey his parents, he was to be brought to the elders of the city for punishment. What was the punishment?

Further Thought

- God gave detailed instructions for how to treat other people, especially the vulnerable. Aside from His love for all people, why did God care how the vulnerable were treated?
- At the end of the book, Moses tells the people that even though they will leave God, God will bring them back. How is Jesus the fulfillment of that promise?
- Moses told the people that after their exile from the promised land, God would circumcise their hearts so they could love Him and live. What does that mean for us?