
Deuteronomy

Second-Giving of the Law

Deuteronomy literally means “second [giving of the] law.” The book records how Moses gave the Law to Israel a second time, for a new generation preparing to enter the Promised Land.

Key Thought

Prepare to claim the inheritance.

Key Words

- Land [190]
- Possess [57]
- Hear [54]
- Heart [53]

Key Verses

Deu 6:1-3 “Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the Lord your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess, that you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you— ‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’

The Shema

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 is one of the most well-known and beloved Scriptures for the Jews. It is called the “Shema” (Hebrew for “Hear”). It contains perhaps the greatest affirmation of monotheism in all of Scripture (“The LORD is one”). Jesus quoted it as the greatest commandment (**Mark 12:29-30**).

High-Level Outline

1-5	Remember God’s Blessings
6-11	Respond to God’s Goodness
12-26	Review God’s Word
27-30	Renew God’s Covenant
31-34	Replace God’s Servant

Deuteronomy records the last month of Israel’s 40 years of wandering. It begins with Israel encamped east of Jericho across the Jordan River. Moses recounts what God did for them, presents the Law, and challenges Israel to show their love for God through their obedience to Him.

Blessings and Curses of the Law

In **Deuteronomy 11**, God commanded Israel to read the blessings and the curses of the Law upon two northern mountains after they entered the Promised Land. Mount Gerizim represented the blessings of the Law and Mount Ebal represented its curses.

When Israel fulfilled this command in **Joshua 8**, the Law was written on Mount Ebal alone, not Mount Gerizim. This taught Israel that the Law would be a curse for them, instead

of a blessing. Jesus' death freed people from the curse of the Law ([Gal 3:10-14](#)).

The transition between the books of Deuteronomy and Joshua foreshadows the transition between Old and New Testaments.

- Moses represented the Old Testament Law which was unable to lead people to the Promised Land ([John 1:17](#), [Rom 8:3](#)).
- Joshua represented the New Testament grace found in Jesus which did what the Law could not ([Gal 3:21](#), [Acts 13:39](#)).

Personal Reflection and Application

If you acknowledge that something as marvelous as the universe demands a designer, there must be a God. The question then becomes, "What does God require of me?"

Meditate on [Deuteronomy 10:12](#).

- List what God requires of you.
- What will it take for you to do what He requires of you?

Small Group Conversation Guide

We all need reminders that any good thing we have comes from God. He commands us to remember His blessings in both bad times ([Deu 8:1-10](#)) and good times ([Deu 8:11-20](#)). Discuss whether it is easier to remember God's blessings in bad times or good times.

- What about bad times makes it difficult to remember His blessings?
- What about good times makes it difficult to remember His blessings?

Leadership Principles from Deuteronomy

Placing Blame

As a leader, it is easy to get preoccupied with day-to-day responsibilities. One day, you wake up and wonder who you are and how you got where you are now. In **2Corinthians 13:5**, Paul advises us to examine ourselves. How often do you have a frank talk with yourself? Can you clearly see your part in any problems you have or do you place the blame elsewhere as Moses did when he struck the rock against God's orders (**Deu 1:34-38**)?

Transferring Truth

As a believer, your existence revolves around loving God (**Deu 6:4-6**). As a spiritual leader, your key responsibility is to transfer that truth to your spiritual children (**Deu 6:7-9**). Remember:

- ▶ Relationships come **before** rules (**Deu 6:5**).
- ▶ Truth must be in **you** before you can transfer it to others (**Deu 6:6**).
- ▶ There are natural teaching moments throughout the day (**Deu 6:7**). **Watch** for them.
- ▶ **Reinforce** teaching with repetition and reminders (**Deu 6:8-9**).

All the Days of Your Life

Moses instructed that as a king came to the throne, he was to write a copy of God's Law in a book. The king was to read from this book all the days of his life (**Deu 17:18-20**). Notice what benefits the king would have received from reading God's Word.

As a leader, what do you do to be sure you are getting daily guidance from God's Word? If you are not getting daily guidance from God's Word, what changes will you make to your daily routine?

Stir Up Your Nest

Have there been times when you've become complacent as a leader? You may not realize it at first. You establish a routine. Things seem fine until an unexpected trial comes your way.

When that happens, consider the eagle (**Deu 32:11**). The eagle stirs up her nest. God uses disturbance to keep us from becoming complacent. During a disturbance, look for God. Seek Him and be alert to where He is leading you.

Something to Find in Each Chapter

As you read through the book, it may help to have something to find in each chapter.
Try these:

01. Why Moses said Israel should not fear the inhabitants	02. What Moses said Israel lacked during their 40 years
03. What Reuben and Gad agreed to for their inheritance	04. How Israel was to honor and use the Word of God
05. How a new generation heard the 10 Commandments	06. When parents were to teach their children the Bible
07. Why God chose Israel to be a special people	08. What Israel's 40-year journey revealed about them
09. How Israel could misunderstand why they succeeded	10. What God required of Israel's attitudes and actions
11. How Israel was to remember God's Word	12. Why Israel was to purge the land of false gods
13. Who was capable of drawing Israel to other gods	14. Why Israel was told to tithe (give 10%) of all their income
15. How important it was that Israel support the poor	16. How often Israel celebrated being freed from Egypt
17. What helped kings avoid the three sins of leadership	18. How Israel discerned who was a false prophet
19. How many witnesses had to agree to establish the truth	20. What cities left in the Promised Land would cause
21. What being hung on a tree (like Jesus) symbolized	22. How important purity was (2Cor 11:1-4)
23. Why Ammonites/Moabites were excluded for a time	24. Why Israel left a portion of their harvest in the field
25. How a man could help his deceased male relative (kinsman redeemer)	26. How giving first to God recognized God owned all
27. What was the final curse to which all people agreed	28. How Israel was fully dependent on God to bless them
29. How God provided by preserving Israel's clothing	30. What God promised Israel if they returned to Him
31. Why Joshua did not have to fear leading Israel	32. What Moses concluded after giving Israel his song
33. How Moses blessed Israel with eventual victory	34. Who buried Moses