

Episode 2: Goodbye to Moses: An Overview of Deuteronomy

1. **ISRAEL GETS A “DO-OVER.”**
2. **OVERVIEW: THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY**
3. **REBOOTING THE COVENANT**
   1. Read 1:1-6. The bulk of Deuteronomy is the speech of Moses to Israel in the plains of Moab at the end of the 40-year wilderness period and immediately preceding the conquest under Joshua.
   2. ***Kadesh-Barnea*** (Numbers 13-14) The people “chickened-out.”
      1. Even after God had shown him the terror of his wrath and the might of his hand in Egypt—crushing Pharaoh with plague and death, parting the Red Sea and then leading them in a pillar of fire and smoke to victory after victory, they lost their nerve.
      2. God declared that, for their lack of faith, they would wander in the wilderness until that entire generation had died.
   3. ***The Wilderness:*** Four decades of war… four decades of temptation… four decades without a place to call their own…four decades of grumbling and complaining.
   4. At the beginning of Deuteronomy, 40 years later, Israel was standing on the threshold of the Promised Land and Moses was addressing a New Generation of God’s people.
4. **MOSES’ FIRST SPEECH**
   1. First, he said, **God’s covenant, God’s law, and God’s promises are not just for your mothers and grandmothers, your fathers and grandfathers, your teachers and your ancestors. They are for you.**
      1. *“Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the rules that I speak in your hearing today, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them.* ***2****The Lord our God made a covenant with* ***us*** *in Horeb.* ***3****Not with our fathers did the Lord make this covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today.”*
   2. **Second, because God loves this generation, *God is still speaking to us*.** 
      1. ***4****The Lord spoke with you face to face at the mountain, out of the midst of the fire,* ***5****while I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the Lord. For you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up into the mountain.*
   3. **Third, Moses tells them that *God Does Not Abandon His People*.** 
      1. ***7****… He knows your going through this great wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you. You have lacked nothing.”(2:7)*[[1]](#footnote-1)
      2. 4:30-31 ***30****When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the Lord your God and obey his voice.* ***31****For the Lord your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.* [[2]](#footnote-2)
5. **ONE GOD**
   1. The Warning against Idolatry: 4:16-20…
   2. Complete Destruction and The Warning against Intermarriage
      1. **7:1-2, 5**
      2. “You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them. **3**You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, **4for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the Lord would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly.”**
6. **ONE LAW**
   1. **The Law Restated**
      1. **The Law:** When we consider the law in the Old Testament, we must remember that God’s law was born in the context of his relationship with the Hebrew people and as such it was part of the covenant of grace. The Law cemented the covenant relationship God made with his people.
      2. The first commandment defines this covenant relationship. “ I am the LORD ***your*** God.”
      3. We must remember that the law is given within the context of liberation from slavery. Liberation and law go hand in hand in God’s redemptive history.
   2. **The Heart of the Law**
      1. **The Shema:***4“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. [[3]](#footnote-3)* (or *the Lord Alone*)”
      2. **The Great Commandment:** ***5****You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*[[4]](#footnote-4)
         1. ***38****This is the great and first commandment* (Matthew 22:38)
7. **MOSES’ SECOND SPEECH:** The Laws of the land (12:1–26:19)  *12:1 “These are the statutes and rules that you shall be careful to do in the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth.[[5]](#footnote-5)*
8. **MOSES’ THIRD SPEECH:** 
   1. Blessings and Curses (27:1–28:68)
      1. 12 “curses,” ending in this: ***26****“ ‘Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’* [[6]](#footnote-6)
      2. **Blessing 28: 7***“The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you.* ***They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.******…******10****And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you. [[7]](#footnote-7)*
   2. Final Exhortation (29:1–30:20)
      1. Repentance and Forgiveness: ***30****“And 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 has driven you,* ***2****and return to the Lord your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul,* ***3****then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you.[[8]](#footnote-8)*
   3. The Choice:***15****“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.[[9]](#footnote-9)”*
9. **THE COMMISSIONING OF JOSHUA AND THE WRITING OF THE LAW (31:1–29)**
   1. Moses Shall not Go Over into Jordan
      1. ***2****And he said to them, “I am 120 years old today. I am no longer able to go out and come in. The Lord has said to me, ‘You shall not go over this Jordan.[[10]](#footnote-10)*
   2. God will be their King:
      1. *31: 2The Lord your God himself will go over before you. He will destroy these nations before you, so that you shall dispossess them,..*
      2. ***33:5****Thus the Lord became king in Jeshurun, when the heads of the people were gathered, all the tribes of Israel together. [[11]](#footnote-11)*
      3. “Be Strong and Courageous…”
         1. The Charge to the People (31:6); ***6Be strong and courageous.*** *Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you.* ***He will not leave you or forsake you.”***
         2. The Charge to Joshua (31:7) **“Be strong and courageous,** for you shall go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. **8**It is the Lord who goes before you. **He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”** [[12]](#footnote-12)
   3. Joshua shall be God’s commissioned Leader
      1. and Joshua will go over at your head, as the Lord has spoken. [[13]](#footnote-13)
      2. Joshua commissioned **by God** (31:14)***23****And the Lord commissioned Joshua the son of Nun and said,* ***“Be strong and courageous,*** *for you shall bring the people of Israel into the land that I swore to give them.* ***I will be with you.”*** *[[14]](#footnote-14)*
      3. Why Joshua?
10. **THE SONG OF MOSES (31:30–32:47)**
11. **THE BLESSING OF MOSES (32:48–33:29)**
12. **THE DEATH OF MOSES (34:1–12)**
    1. Moses died on Mount Nebo (In Moab) ***5****So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord,* ***6****and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day.* ***7****Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated.* ***8****And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended. [[15]](#footnote-15)*
13. **EPILOGUE: Moses Finally Enters the Promised Land (Matthew 17:1-3)**
    1. ***1****And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.* ***2****And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.* ***3****And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.*

1. *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (Dt 2:7). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (Dt 4:30–31). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (Dt 6:4). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (Dt 6:5). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (Dt 12:1). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (Dt 27:26). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (Dt 28:7–10). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (Dt 30:1–3). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (Dt 30:15). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (Dt 31:2). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (Dt 33:5). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (Dt 31:4–8). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (Dt 31:3). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (Dt 31:23). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. 2001 (Dt 34:5–8). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)