

The Bible Jesus Read

Lesson 2

Deuteronomy – The Four Sermons of Moses

After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, the first generation of Israelites who had left Egypt died out. Now Moses brought the second generation around to the east side of the Promised Land, and they were camped near the Jordan River preparing to cross over and enter “the land”. Moses had endured four decades of unfaithfulness by an entire nation, but now he had one last shot to prepare their children. Deuteronomy is the record of Moses’ final words to Israel. Moses spoke to the children of Israel through four sermons in which he would remind them of all that had occurred, renew the covenant they made with God, prophesy about their future, and give them arrangements for continuation of the covenant.

First Sermon – Read Deuteronomy 1-11

1. What were they preparing to do according to Deut 1:8? What is the theme of this section (4:10, 5:15, 6:12, 8:1-3)?

2. What is the bad news and good news of the recap of the last 40 years that Moses gave them (Bad news: 1:26, 32; 4:23-24; 6:15; 8:19) (Good news: 2:7, 4:20, 7:1, 8:7-10; 10:12-22)?

3. What did God command the children of Israel to do concerning dispossessing the Canaanites that were in “the land” (7:1-3)? Why is this fair and righteous in the eyes of God (7:4-10, 24-26; 9:4-6; Leviticus 18:24-27; Deut 12:29-31; 18:9-14)?

Second Sermon – Read Deuteronomy 12-26, “These are the statutes”

1. Where were the people to bring their offerings, sacrifices, and tithes (Deut 12:5,11)? What were they to do with all the cultic pagan temples, altars, and high places (Deut 12:2-3, 13-14)?

2. Were there restrictions about what they could eat (Deut 14:3-21)? What was the “sabbatical year” in Deut 15?

3. What were the three annual festivals that all Jewish men were to celebrate every year (Deut 16:1-8, 9-12, 13-15)? Where were they supposed to come to do this (Deut 16:16, Ex 23:17, Lev 23:16, 34, 42)?

4. What was the “holiest day” for Israel (Lev 16; 23:26-32)?

Third Sermon – Read Deut 27-28 “Blessings and Curses”

1. What were the conditions to enjoying peace and prosperity in the land (Deut 28:1-14)?

2. Break down the history of Israel into three phases or cycles of discipline for breaking the covenant (28:15-35; 36-63; and verses 64-66).

Fourth Sermon – Read Deut 29-30 “The Challenge”

1. What was Moses’ great challenge to the people in Deut 30:15-20?