

The Book of Deuteronomy

Lessons from the First Address of Moses

Text: Deuteronomy 1:1 – 4:43

I. An Outline

- A. 1:1-46 - Leaving Mount Horeb
 - 1. 1:1-18 - Moses' organization of judges
 - 2. 1:19-46 - The sojourn at Kadesh
- B. 2:1-14 - The years of wandering
- C. 2:15-23 - Passage through Moab
- D. 2:24-37 - Defeat of Heshbon
- E. 3:1-20 - Defeat of Og, King of Bashan
 - 1. 3:1-11 - Giant of a king
 - 2. 3:12-20 - Land given to Reuben, Gad, and ½ of Manasseh
- F. 3:21-29 - Moses forbidden to enter Canaan
- G. 4:1-40 - Remembering the love, grace, and power of God
- H. 4:41-43 - Cities of refuge (on east side of Jordan River)

II. 1:27 – The Love of God

- A. This verse gets to the heart of the problem with Israel – the reason the first generation failed.
- B. They came to believe that the Lord hated them and sought their destruction.
 - 1. From this misunderstand of the character and nature of God...
 - 2. Fear (vs. 28)
 - 3. Discouragement (vs. 28)
 - 4. Doubt (vs. 32)
 - 5. False accusation (vs. 27)
 - 6. Complaining (vs. 27)
 - 7. Rebellion (vs. 26)
 - 8. Hatred (7:9-10)
 - 9. Idolatry and sin
- C. Sometimes the Bible uses the word “hate” to mean “love less.”
 - 1. We may not think that God hates us.
 - 2. But, how often do we think that He loves us less than...
 - a. Others
 - b. Our expectations
 - c. His promise
- D. Instead of hating them, God had love and cared for them (1:30-33).
 - 1. Went before them (cf. Heb. 6:17-20)
 - 2. Fought for them (cf. Rom. 8:31, 37)
 - 3. Carried them (cf. Exo. 19:4; Isa. 40:11; Acts 13:18)
 - 4. As a Father (cf. Psa. 103:13; Matt. 6:9-34)
 - 5. Without fail

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III. 1:39 – “Your Children”

- A. The previous generation of Israelites had used the safety of their children as an excuse not to go into the land of Canaan.
- B. Now, those same children would be the ones to inherit the land after the death of the previous generation.
- C. Note that the children were not held accountable for the sins of their parents.
 - 1. God declared that the children “had no knowledge between good and evil.”
 - 2. This means that they did not understand the difference between right and wrong.
 - 3. Thus, they were innocent of sin.
 - 4. The Bible does not teach that all are born as sinners, inheriting sin from Adam.
 - 5. The Bible teaches that children are innocent until they reach the state of maturity to understand good and evil (cf. Isa. 7:16; Jonah 4:11; Rom. 7:9; 9:11).

IV. 4:1-2 – The Authority of the Word of God

- A. The Word of God is to be heard and heeded.
- B. The Word of God includes statutes and judgments – instructions and rules.
- C. The Word of God is to be taught.
- D. The Word of God is to be obeyed.
- E. The Word of God is a source of life and promises.
- F. The Word of God is not to be altered (cf. 12:32; Josh. 1:7; Prov. 30:6; Matt. 5:18; Gal. 3:15; Rev. 22:18-19).

V. 4:5-8 – Israel: A Light to the Nations

- A. Obedience of God’s Word elevates men (and nations) in the sight of the world (cf. Psa. 19:7; 119:98-100; 1 Kin. 4:34; 10:6-9; Dan. 1:20).
- B. The law of God supersedes the laws of men – in wisdom and in fact.
- C. The world should be able to see one’s fellowship with God by his obedient life.