



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

Old Testament Survey
Lesson 13 – The Last Words of Moses to His People
(Deuteronomy, some Psalms)

DEUTERONOMY

Deuteronomy means “second law” or “law repeated”. Almost the entire book consists of Moses’ last words to the children of Israel. He reminds them of their amazing history: **“Ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether any great thing like this has happened, or anything like it has been heard”** (Deuteronomy 4:32). Moses reminds them of God’s promise to their fathers, God’s deliverance of them from Egypt, God’s care for them in the wilderness, God’s giving of the Law and their worship, and God’s victory over Sihon and Og. Moses emphasizes repeatedly Israel’s utter unworthiness and their continued rebellion against God. He admonishes them to cling to the LORD in faith and obedience, lest God’s blessing be changed into a terrible curse. The book closes with Moses’ song, Moses’ blessing, and the account of Moses’ death.

Jesus knew Deuteronomy well. When the devil tempted Him in the wilderness, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy three times and thus prevailed over the devil.

The Israelite church year had 12 months. The first was Abib/Nisan, which ran from part of March through part of April. This was the month of Passover. Then followed Iyyar/Siv, Sivan (month of Pentecost), Tammuz, Ab, Elul, Tishri/Ethanim (Yom Kippur and Feast of Tabernacles), Marchesva/Bul, Chislev, Tebeth, Shebat, and Adar. The Feast of Purim, which originated later, was celebrated in Adar. Hanukkah is the Feast of Lights or Feast of Dedication. It is celebrated on the 25th day of Chislev. It commemorates a Jewish victory in 165 BC.

Read as many chapters of Deuteronomy as you can, especially chapters 5-9 and chapter 18, along with the notes below. Read Psalm 90 and at least one other of the psalms listed below. If you have any questions, ask them.

Deuteronomy 1 – Moses’ first speech: *Israel’s History from Mount Sinai to Kadesh-barnea*

Deuteronomy 2 – *Israel’s History from Kadesh-barnea to the Banks of the Jordan*

Deuteronomy 3 – *Victory over Og and the Inheritance of the 2½ Tribes*

Moses asks God to let him go over the Jordan also, but God says no. (vv. 23-27).

God: **“Behold it with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan”** (v. ____)

Deuteronomy 4 – *Moses Warns Israel to Remember Their History and Obey God’s Commands*

“Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God” (v. ____)

“He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers” (v. ____)

Deuteronomy 5 – Moses’ second speech: *A Repetition of the Ten Commandments*

“The LORD talked with you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire” (v. ____)

Deuteronomy 6 – *God Demands Fear and Love of Him*

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength... You shall fear the LORD your God, and

serve Him... You shall not tempt the LORD your God.” (vv. _____)

Deuteronomy 7 – Moses Warns against Mixing with Canaanites and Their Idolatry

“You shall conquer them and utterly destroy them... you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself” (vv. _____)

Deuteronomy 8 – Moses Warns against the Pride of Self-sufficiency

“Man shall not live by bread alone; but...by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD” (v. _____)

“Beware...lest...you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’ And you shall remember the LORD your God” (vv. _____)

Deuteronomy 9 – Moses Warns against the Pride of Self-righteousness

“It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations...and that He may fulfill the word which the LORD swore to your fathers... For you are a stiff-necked people” (v. _____)

Moses recounts all the various rebellions against the LORD (vv. 7-24).

Deuteronomy 10-11 – Moses Admonishes His People to Obey the LORD and Receive His Blessing

Deuteronomy 12 – The Place of God’s Worship (“the place where the LORD your God chooses” v. _____)

Deuteronomy 13 – Beware of False Prophets (“you shall surely kill him” v. _____)

Deuteronomy 14 – Clean and Unclean Foods and the Tithe

Deuteronomy 15 – The Law of Slavery (“In the seventh year you shall let him go free” v. _____)

Deuteronomy 16 – The Holy Festivals (see also Leviticus 23 and Numbers 28)

Deuteronomy 17 – The Duties of Judges and Future Kings

Deuteronomy 18 – Laws of the Levites and Priests

The great prophecy of **CHRIST**: **“The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear”** (v. _____)

Deuteronomy 19-26 – Various Other Laws (chiefly civil laws)

Deuteronomy 27-28 – Moses’ Third Speech: The Wonderful Blessings and the Terrible Curses

These blessings and curses were to be spoken on Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim after the people had entered the promised land.

Deuteronomy 29-30 – Moses Admonishes Israel to Choose the Blessing Rather Than the Curse

Deuteronomy 31 – Joshua Is Appointed to be Moses’ Successor

“You must go with this people to the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers” (v. _____)

“The LORD...will not leave you, for forsake you; do not fear or be dismayed” (v. _____)

“This people...will forsake Me and break My covenant... Then...I will forsake them” (vv. _____)

Deuteronomy 32 – The Song of Moses

“Jeshurun grew fat and kicked... he forsook God who made him, and scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation” (v. _____ This is a summary of future Jewish history.

Deuteronomy 33 – The Blessing of Moses

“The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms” (v. ____)

“Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD?” (v. ____)

Deuteronomy 34 – The Death of Moses (at 120 years of age) and His Burial by God (in 1407 BC)

“Since then there has not risen a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face” (v. ____)

Psalms 90 – The Psalm of Moses

This psalm is often read on New Year’s Day and at funeral services. Moses knew how to speak of time and death, for he saw all his people die in the forty years of wilderness wandering.

“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (v. ____)

Psalms of Israel’s History – There are many lessons to be learned from Israel’s early history. Some of the later psalmists put these lessons into poetic form in psalms such as the following:

Psalms 78 – The Lessons of History That Faithful Parents Should Teach Their Children

“They refused to walk in His law, and forgot His works and wonders” (vv. ____)

Psalms 105 – The Lord’s Wonderful Works in Israel’s Early History

“He remembered His holy promise, and Abraham His servant” (v. ____)

Psalms 106 – A National Confession of Sins

“They forgot God their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt” (v. ____)

Psalms 136 – His Kindness Endures Forever

Psalms 44, 66, 95, 114, 135

“Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts” (Psalm 95:____, see Hebrews 3:7-11, 15; 4:7)

Questions

1. What was unique about the experiences of the nation of Israel?
2. Why does Deuteronomy repeat much of the same history and laws as in the previous three books?
3. Why was Moses not permitted to cross the Jordan River with the people?
4. List some of the sins Moses warned his people about in his address to them.
5. What was the punishment commanded by God for false teachers?
6. How did Moses foretell the Christ in chapter 18?
7. What was unusual about the death and burial of Moses?
8. What future did God promise to His people through Moses?
9. Identify the Law and the Gospel in Psalm 90, the psalm of Moses.
10. What can we today learn from the history of Israel from Psalms 105-106?