

“Final Preparation”

Deuteronomy 2-34

***** VIDEO: “The Thread” *****

FOUR PAIRS... New Testament thoughts to contemplate as we enter into Deuteronomy:

Two Promises: John 3:16 & John 14:2 (I go to prepare a place for you...)

Two Commands: Matthew 22:37 (Deut. 6:5) & 2 Corinthians 5:6-9

2 Corinthians 5:6-9

***“...being always of good courage...we walk by faith, not by sight— we are of good courage...
Therefore we also have as our ambition... to be pleasing to Him.***

Two Conditions: Gather/Scatter (Matt. 12:30) & Pick up your cross/follow (Luke 9:23)

Two Parables: 10 Bridesmaids & The Banquet

Moses’ Message: REMEMBER, OBEY, TRUST, LOVE, LIVE, Or DIE!

Ask yourself upfront... would I rather be a “desert king” or a “discipled slave.”

*“One of the penalties of sin is that you gradually get used to it...
until you don’t even realize it is sin anymore.” - Oswald Chambers*

“REMEMBER”

4:3 = “your eyes have seen what I can do... you should know better!”

4:20 = the Lord took you out of the “**iron furnace**” where He was refining you...

4:29 = God promises that we will find him if we search for Him with all of our heart.

“command/listen/obey/pay attention”	=	115X
“learn/teach/taught”	=	21X
“do / don’t”	=	111X
“blessings/curse(s)”	=	63X
“beware/remember/don’t forget/watch”	=	33X
“so that”	=	94X
“will be”	=	74X
“therefore/thus/so”	=	60X

Total: = 571X (60%)

4:14 = God commanded Moses (and me) to teach His laws and standards.

Chapter 5

HAND SIGNALS for 10 COMMANDMENTS!

“LOVE”

God commands & demands TOTAL EXCLUSIVITY!

(Jesus quoted the Shema in Matthew 22 verses 37-40)

6:4-16 = *Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently... 12 then watch yourself, that you **do not forget the LORD who brought you from** the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 13 You shall fear only the LORD your God; (audience of ONE) and you shall worship Him... 14 You shall not follow other gods... 15 for the LORD your God in the midst of you is a jealous God; otherwise the anger of the LORD your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth. 16 “You shall not put the LORD your God to the test...*

7:2 = God will not tolerate any compromise with idols in our lives.

7:6 = “Love in ELECTION” in Deuteronomy!

For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Covenant	RELATIONSHIP	(love)
Covenant	RELIABILITY	(lasting)
Covenant	RESPONSIBILITY	(life)

*** VIDEO: “Tough Questions” Eric Ludy ***

7:9-10 = LOVE & WRATH Together.

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands. 10 But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him.

OBEY

Chapter 17 purge the evil from among you because those who advocate wrongful worship are hurting the people around them.

10:12-21 *“Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the LORD’S commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?. 16 So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer. .. 20 You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him and cling to Him... 21 He is your praise and He is your God, who has done these great and awesome things for you which your eyes have seen.*

TRUST

26:16-19 *“This day the LORD your God commands you to do these statutes and ordinances. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul. 17 You have today declared the LORD to be your God, and that you would walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments and His ordinances, and listen to His voice. 18 The LORD has today declared you to be His people, a treasured possession, as He promised you, and that you should keep all His commandments; 19 and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, for praise, fame, and honor; and that you shall be a consecrated people to the LORD your God, as He has spoken.”*

Chapter 27... wrongful behavior of the Israelites will be cursed!

27:26 = “...cursed is he who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them... And all the people said, Amen!”

Chapter 28:1 IF you diligently obey you will be blessed by God.

Chapter 29:4 = *“ Yet to this day, the Lord has not given you a heart to know, nor eyes to see, nor hears to hear.”* ---- = 1 Corinthians 2:14

***** VIDEO: “No Excuses” Poem *****

Chapter 30:11 = We have NO EXCUSE!

11 “For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach.

LIVE

30:15-20 *"See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity; 16 in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it. 17 But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. You will not prolong your days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, 20 by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."*

31:6 *"Be (LIVE) strong and courageous, do not be afraid..."*

***** VIDEO: "War Cry" Eric Ludy *****

Or DIE... 32:47 *"For it is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life..."*

"Christ Is Risen"

by Matt Maher

Let no one caught in sin remain
Inside the lie of inward shame
We fix our eyes upon the cross
And run to Him who showed great love

And bled for us
Freely You've bled for us

Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

Beneath the weight of all our sin
You bowed to none but heaven's will
No scheme of hell, no scoffer's crown
No burden great can hold You down

In strength You reign...
Forever let Your church proclaim:

Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

O death where is your sting?
O hell where is your victory?
O Church come stand in the light,
The glory of God has defeated the night!

Sing it o death where is your sting?
O hell where is your victory?
O Church come stand in the light,
Our God is not dead! He's alive!! He's alive!!!!

Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave
...Rise up from the grave

Ask yourself upfront... would I rather be a “desert king” or a “disciplined slave.”
(Believers are encouraged to read 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 12:2; & 1 Corinthians 9:27)
Let us learn the lesson of the 10 bridesmaids...

Key application: **Deuteronomy is directed to the people vs. the priests!**

Preview: Like Leviticus, Deuteronomy contains a lot of “details” from the Divine, but the key difference is:
Leviticus focuses on a message to the “Priests” whereas...
Deuteronomy focuses on a message to the “People”

Moses reminds the “new” generation of the importance of obedience if they are to learn from the sad example of their predecessors.

Deuteronomy is a series of 3 MOTIVATIONAL SERMONS preached by Moses...

Deuteronomy’s motivational message = **Trust, Obey, & Love God!**

Deuteronomy’s means of motivation = **Stressing God’s:**

**Power
Faithfulness
Grace
Mercy
Holiness
Judgment
Wrath**

Deuteronomy’s memory markers tie the Pentateuch together...

Moses also stresses the faithfulness of Israel’s God, who “brought us out... to give us the land” (6:23).

Note: Deuteronomy does not advance chronologically... the total time span covered is approximately 1 month.

Moses is speaking/preaching to people who have spent the last 40 years in the desert/wilderness... due to disobedience and unbelief!

Deuteronomy has been called the “Book of Remembrance.”

Moses wrote to encourage the people to believe and obey God in order to receive God’s blessing.

Deuteronomy is made up of 3 sermons Moses preaches to the people of God:

1. Ch. 1 - 4:43 - What God has done...

A. Retrospective

- Remember: the moral judgment of God upon Israel's unbelief
- Remember: the deliverance & provision of God during times of obedience... The principle is simple: "Obedience brings joy & disobedience brings pain."

2. Ch. 4:44 - 26:19 - What God expects from Israel/us...

B. Intro-spective

- This is the "mora/legal" section of Deuteronomy
- Israel's future depends on its "right" relationship...
 - Chapters 5-11 = "The Testimonies"
 - Moral duties / 10 Commandments
 - Remember divine deliverance!
 - Chapter 2-16:17 = "The Statutes"
 - Ceremonial duties...
 - Ceremonial Sacrifices
 - Ceremonial Tithes
 - Ceremonial Feasts
 - Chapter 16:18-26 = "The Ordinances"
 - Civil Ordinances = 16:18 – 20:20
 - Social Ordinances = chapter 21 – 26
 - They make up the duties/systems of:
 - *** Justice
 - *** Criminal Laws
 - *** Laws for Warfare
 - *** Rules of Property
 - *** Rules of Personal Morality
 - *** Rules of Family Morality
 - *** Rules on Social Justice

3. Ch. 27 - 34:12 - What God will do.

Prospective – Moses is writing history in advance...

- Moses predicts what will befall Israel in the near future:
 - Blessings
 - Cursings
- Moses predicts what will befall Israel in the distant future:
 - Dispersion among the nations
 - Eventual "return" from dispersion...
- Moses lists the terms of the covenant soon to be ratified by the people...
- Moses appoints Joshua as his successor
- Moses delivers his "farewell address"

God Himself buries Moses in an unknown place in the wilderness/desert.

Moses epitaph could be the last three verses of Deuteronomy/Pentateuch:

Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, 11 for all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, all his servants, and all his land, 12 and for all the mighty power and for all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel. – Deuteronomy 34:10-12

Theme & Purpose:

“Beware lest you forget” is a key theme in Deuteronomy

“One of the penalties of sin is that you gradually get used to it... until you don't even realize it is sin anymore.” - Oswald Chambers

Moses emphasizes the danger of forgetfulness because it leads to arrogance and disobedience.

God wants them/us to remember two things:

1. When prosperity comes, it is God who causes it.
2. When we disobey God, He will discipline us (see Israel @ Kadesh)

Deuteronomy is a call to obedience as a condition of blessing!

There is an emphasis on choice, and the people are urged to choose life rather than death (30:19-20). They are told to “hear” (50 times) and “do/keep/observe” (177 times) God’s commands out of a heart of “love” (21 times).

- Uniqueness of God
- Unity of the Elect
- Unwavering faithfulness (God to His people)
- Uncompromised command (6:4-5)
- Undefeated Deity
- Unacceptable behavior...

Keys to Deuteronomy:

Key Word = **“Covenant” = 10:12-13... & 30:19-20**

Key Chapter = 27... The formal ratification of the covenant occurs...

27:9 = “Take heed & listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the Lord your God.”

Christ in Deuteronomy: see 18:15-19 and cf. Acts 7:37 (Moses is a “type” of Christ who directly foretells of Christ’s coming.)

Genesis-Numbers portray God’s ways, Deuteronomy reveals God’s love.

Note the emphasis on God’s love: (Israel/we need this foundation)
4:37... 7:7-8... 10:15... 23:5

Outline of Deuteronomy

- 1:1 *“...in the wilderness”* (the “venue” speaks volumes!)
- 1:2-3 *“It is eleven days journey... in the fortieth year Moses spoke to the children of Israel...**ALL that the Lord had commanded him to give to them...**”*
- Note and contrast the difference between the 11 vs. 40
- Note that Moses “spoke ALL that the Lord COMMANDED him...”
- 1:5 **Desert discipleship...** *“in the land of Moab, Moses undertook to expound this law”*
- 1:6 *“The Lord our God spoke to us...”*
- Note “our God” – He is personal and He is ours... Amen!
- Note “God spoke to us” – He is relational & He communicates with His children!
- 1:8 *“See, I have placed the land before you, **go in and possess** the land which the Lord swore to give your father...”*
- Note the meaning and implications for the following words:
 - “Placed”
 - “Swore”
 - “Give”
- 1:10 *“The Lord your God has multiplied you... like the stars of heaven...”*
- 1:11 *“May the Lord increase you a thousand-fold more... and bless you... as He has promised...”*
- 1:16-17 *“I charged your judges...You shall not show partiality in judgment... **You shall not fear man, for the judgment is God’s...**”*
- 1:18 *“I commanded you at that time **ALL the things that YOU should DO.**”*
- 1:19-22 *“Then we set out from Horeb...”* (note the sequence) *and we came to Kadesh-barnea. I said to you... go up, take possession, as the Lord... has spoken to you. Do not fear or be dismayed... **Then all of you approached me and said, ‘Let us send men before us, that they may search out the land for us...**”*
- Note how **REASON often RUINS OBEDIENCE...**
- Note therefore the sin of “reason”
- **Martin Luther:** “Reason is the Devil’s whore!”

- 1:24-27 *"They...spied it out... and brought us back a report... 'It is a good land which the Lord is about to give us.' Yet, you were not willing to go up, BUT, rebelled against the command of the Lord your God; and you grumbled..."*
- The A,B,C's of "Desert Sin" = A). **Acknowledge**; B). **...But...** C). **Cower**.
- 1:28 *"Where can we go up? Our brothers have **made our hearts melt...**"*
- Remember Jesus' words: "You are either for Me or against Me. Either you are helping Me to GATHER, or you are SCATTERING."
 - Notice that one of the best ways to "scatter" is to cause doubt in others
 - **"Scatterers" come in many shapes and sizes... Beware!**
- 1:29-31 *"Then I said... do not be shocked or fear them. The Lord your God who goes before you will Himself fight on your behalf, just as He did... in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness where you saw how the Lord your God carried you, just as a man carries his son... all the way... until you came to this place..."*
- 1:32-33 ***"But for all this, you did not trust the Lord your God, who goes before you... in fire by night and cloud by day, to show you the way... you should go."***
- 1:34-36 *"Then the Lord heard the sound of your words, and He was angry and took an oath, saying, 'Not one of these men, this evil generation, shall see the good land which I swore to give your fathers, except Caleb... to him I will give the land on which he has set foot, **BECAUSE HE HAS FOLLOWED THE LORD FULLY.**"*
- 1:37 *"The Lord was angry with me also on your account..."*
- 1:38 *"Joshua... shall enter there; ENCOURAGE him for he will cause Israel to inherit it."*
- 1:40 *"But as for you, turn around and set out for the wilderness...by way of the Red Sea"*
- DISOBEDIENCE is DESTINE for the DESERT!
 - Don't take God's conditional promises for granted...
 -
- 1:41 *"Then you said to me, 'We have sinned against the Lord; we will go up and fight, just as the Lord our God commanded us..."*
- **Too little, too late!**
 - Obedience is a rigid reality... and **timing is just as critical as temperament**
- 1:42 *"And the Lord said to me, 'Say to them, Do not go up nor fight, for I am not among you; otherwise you will be defeated..."*
- 1:43 *"...**but you would not listen. Instead, you rebelled... and acted presumptuously..."***
- Note the arrogance of "religious familiarity"
 - Notice how "proximity" to God births casual over-confidence & SIN!
- 1:44 **CONSEQUENCE:** *"The Amorites... CRUSHED YOU... Then you wept before the Lord; but the Lord did not listen to your voice nor give ear to you."*
- RELIGIOUS DISOBEDIENCE WILL GET CRUSHED!
 - **God did, does, and will ignore the cries & prayers of obstinate sinners.**
- 1:46 *So (therefore), you remained in Kadesh many days...*

2:1 *Then* (the next meaningful event) ***we turned and set out for the wilderness...***

**Ask yourself: “Why would Moses preach this way?
ANSWER: Because death looms in the desert!**

Chapter 1 Do not ever forget that God carries you even through the deserts.

Verses 34 – 36: Note that God was very angry & that Caleb/Joshua were the only exceptions.

Chapter 2 verse 1 = ***“Then we turned and headed out to the wilderness.”***

Verse 7 - notice that God said ***“you have not lacked a thing even in the desert.”***

Verses 14... through 38 years in the desert, **the people perished as promised.**

Verses 16-25 the people are told not to touch the land or the people in these areas because they are their relatives and God gave them the land in times gone by. God even fought for them in the past.

Verses 32-37 God gave the Israelites some land along the way.

Chapter 3 summary: Moses is distributing some of the land in the pre-promised land but he **tells the men that they must be willing to come over and fight with their countrymen** in the promised land.

Verses 21-22 = **Joshua is promised by God that the Lord will go with him and do the same thing.**

Verse 26... the Lord tells Moses “No!” The Lord tells Moses we will not talk about this anymore!

Chapter 4 verse 1 = **“so that”** (get the purpose understood through this verse...)

Verse 2... and God said that **you shall add no more nor subtract anything from what I tell you!** (see also **Revelation chapter 22** where God says the very same thing.)

Verse 3: God reminds the people... **“your eyes have seen what I can do... you should know better!”**

Verse 5: I have taught you to know better.

Verse 9 give heed and keep your soul diligently teach your sons to never forget!

Verse 10 Remember! (Notice the quantity & quality of “direction” given in Deuteronomy!)

“command/listen/obey/pay attention”	=	115X
“learn/teach/taught”	=	21X
“do / don’t”	=	111X
“blessings/curse(s)”	=	63X

“beware/remember/don’t forget/watch”	=	33X
“so that”	=	94X
“will be”	=	74X
“therefore/thus/so”	=	60X

Total: = 571X (60% of all verses)

*** Total verses in Deuteronomy = 959**

Verse 13 God commanded you, in part, through the 10 Commandments.

Verse 14 God commanded Moses (and me) to teach you His laws and standards.

Verse 20 the Lord took you out of the “iron furnace” which was Egypt where he was refining you to be.

Verse 23 God continues to tell the Israelites to watch out!

Verses 25-31 is a prophetic passage in which God is telling the people through Moses: “You will be destroyed and scattered... only to return after that.”

Deuteronomy chapter 4 verses 25-31 are prophetic verses in which God says to the Israelites you will be destroyed at one point and scattered amongst the nations but you will also return all under my power.

Verse 29 = God promises the Israelites (and you and me) that we will find him if we search for him with all of our heart.

Verses 32-34 reminds us that God has proven himself over and over again.

Verse 35 Moses tells the people and God tells us that you have been shown so that you will know the powerful truth.

Verse 39 God tells the Israelites as he tells us we must know that there is no other God.

Chapter 5 is where we have the 10 Commandments are restated... Verse 1 tells us to **learn and observe, obey the 10 Commandments.**

Verses 8-10 expand on and further explain the implications of the 1st Commandment.

Verse 24 is a key truth which basically says that we have no excuse.

Verse 29 is another key verse that tells us the importance of having a healthy fear of God along side a genuine faith in God.

Verse 31 tells us again that we must teach and obey God's way.

Verse 33 again reminds us that obedience typically brings blessing.

Chapter 6 verses 1 and 2 again remind us that obedience brings blessing and that we are to teach God's way to our sons and grandsons and throughout all the generations.

Verse 3 tells us to be careful! Again, obedience brings blessing which will be produced through the multiplication of God's children. God tells the Israelites that it will go well with them when they listen and obey in the midst of love.

Verses 4 and 5 are perhaps the most important in all of Deuteronomy. Verses 4 and 5 are known as the Shema.

Notice God's "uniqueness & unity" as God and within His Church!

**God commands & demands TOTAL EXCLUSIVITY
as the top love & priority in His children's lives – bar none!**

Verse 6 teaches us how to live the Shema. Jesus quoted the Shema in Matthew 22 verses 37-40.

4 Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

10 "Then it shall come about when the LORD your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, 11 and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied, 12 then watch yourself, that you do not forget the LORD who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 13 You shall fear only the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name. 14 You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, 15 for the LORD your God in the midst of you is a jealous God; otherwise the anger of the LORD your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth.

16 "You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested Him at Massah. 17 You should diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and His testimonies and His statutes which He has commanded you. 18 You shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you

Verse 13 explains why we are all to serve an **audience of One.**

Verse 14 makes it clear that we are to have no other gods or idols in our lives.

Verse 15 warns us that God will wipe some people off the face of the earth.

Verse 16 it is clear, do not put God to the test!

Verse 24 God commands that his people listen and obey all that God commands. We are also to fear him for our own good and survival!

Ch. 7 v.2 God will not tolerate any compromise when it comes to idols in our lives.

Verse 4 answers the question of “Why?”

Verses 5 and 6-8 instructed us and the Israelites to tear down any and all idols.

The doctrine of ELECTION is pervasive throughout Deuteronomy!

For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7 “The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8 but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Cross reference: John 1:10-13; 8:23; 15:18ff
1 John 2:15
Genesis 12:3
Acts 1:8

Pay attention to the **Covenant Relationship (love)** per Deut. 7:8

Pay attention to the **Covenant Reliability (lasting)** per Deut. 4:31 (even if we fail)

Pay attention to the **Covenant Responsibility (life)** shared throughout Deuteronomy

Verses 7-11 are all about grace! God reminds the people that He did not choose them because of their goodness but instead, because of his grace.

Verses 9 and 10 show us love and wrath together.

Verses 12 -16 restate that God's blessing is on his people but he also warns that mingling with the things of this world will serve as snares in one's life!

Verse 21 reminds the Israelites that God was in their midst.

Verse 23 encourages God's children to take the slow and steady path.

Verses 25 and 26 command that we ban all abominations... and any form of abomination out of our house and lives. Now contrast this part of the Bible with what many who claim to be Christian are doing as they advocate same-sex marriages and homosexual leadership within the church. It is not what you say with your lips, it is how you live your life that counts.

Chapter 8 God is quite clear in telling his people that we are to obey all of his commands. He says frankly, be careful to do all that I have commanded. Notice how Jesus says the exact same thing when giving us the great commission in Matthew chapter 28 verses 18 through 20.

Verses 2 and 5 remind us that the years in the wilderness served as a testing and disciplining experience for the people, all while God was continuing to lead them. Cross reference Chapter 4 verse 20 here.

Verse 11: the concept of warning, through the consistent use of words like “Beware!” and “Remember!” are prominent throughout this chapter, the book of Deuteronomy, and the entire Bible! Note the number of times such reflections are shared in their various forms...

Verse 14 God again shares sad prophetic foresight when he tells the people that they will in fact forget about him again in the future.

Versus 17 - 20 remind the people that it is God who makes wealth and that they are not to ever forget where all of their blessings come from. God goes so far as to say that if you forget that I am the One who prospers you, you will instead perish.

Verse 20 underscores the sad historic and repeating pattern of the stubborn people, they, like us, did not listen.

Chapter 9 verse 3: God goes before you and does the work, what a wonderful and powerful truth.

Verse 5 God reminds the Israelites that it is not their righteousness that caused God to give them this particular land but rather His choice reflects the other people's wickedness. Ultimately this is **yet another demonstration of God's grace to an undeserving people.**

Verse 7 God goes so far as to say to the Israelites, “Don't you ever forget that you were rebels who were rebellious over and over and over again!”

Verse 16 God tells the people directly, you turned away from the Lord. This fact is pointed out so that the Israelites, and those of us who have come after them, will realize that **God keeps His promises even when we don't!**

Chapter 10 verse 22 God repeats, “**You rebelled again and again and again and again.**” Moses reminds the people that **God answered his prayers and did not destroy them, only out of God's mercy and grace.**

Versus 12 - 22 would create a great summary for the book of Deuteronomy because it encapsulates four essential aspects of the book. **A quick study of this passage will expose the key Question, Answer, Promise, and Vision.**

12 “Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the LORD'S commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good? 14 Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it. 15 Yet on your fathers did the LORD set His affection to love them, and He chose their descendants after them, even you above all peoples, as it is this day. 16 So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer. 17 For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe. 18 He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing. 19 So show your love for the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. 20 You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve Him and cling to Him, and you shall swear by His name. 21 He is your praise and He is your God, who has done these great and awesome things for you which your eyes have seen. 22 Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons in all, and now the LORD your

God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

Chapter 11 verses 1 - 8 continue the thought process and should be linked to chapter 10 versus 12 through 22.

Versus 13 - 15 once again stress that obedience to God (in principle) brings blessing (noting of course that even an experience like slavery and/or desert wandering can be a blessing for obstinate sinners – if God is using the experience to change one's heart).

Verse 16 says bluntly, “Beware! And do not turn away.”

Verse 17 continues the thought by saying that **if one turns away from God they will lose his blessing.**

Verses 18 – 21: we are told that learning and teaching should be a 24 hour a day, 7 days a week commitment. Notice how this passage **repeats** the message of **chapter 6.**

Verses 26 - 28 represent one of the most studied texts in all of Deuteronomy because of the included “blessings and curses.”

Verse 32, notice **again the warning to be careful and to obey all that God commands** and standards.

Chapter 12 verse 1, here come **God's rules and particulars** again. Notice that God **begins by elevating and offending his glory by telling the people that they must destroy all false gods, and eliminate any forms of false worship.**

Verse 8 basically says that **there is not to be any unauthorized forms of worship.**

Verse 30 is very clear in saying that **it is not okay to investigate false gods or religions.** Notice how God's way does not fit into our culture's pattern of relativism, tolerance, and political correctness.

Verse 32 once again brings a familiar theme back to the surface, God says again, be careful to do what ever I command you to do and don't you dare add to my words or take away from my commands.

Chapter 13 is all about God's command that we shun any and all forms of idolatry! Versus 1, 2 and 3 speak directly to the practice of listening to fortune tellers. God says that doing so is equal to testing God!

Verse 4 says that you are not to even listen to, let alone follow or obey with your heart or soul, the instructions of a fortune-teller. **By contrast you are to listen, serve, and cling to Christ!**

Deuteronomy chapter 13 verse 5: the fortuneteller is put to death because they were used by the enemy and **“counseled rebellion” amongst God's people.** (i.e. cf. Balaam)

Verse 10: God's people were told to kill those who seduce others away from the Lord.

Notice: God doesn't mess around when it comes to his Holiness and the protection of his people. This is why we deal with wolves in the church. And for those who know their Bibles, you'll recognize that this is not only an Old Testament procedure. One need only to listen to the words of Christ and the apostle Paul to know that this is also a New Testament principle.

Verse 18: the word "IF" is a conditional promise making pivot-point... We are told IF we listen and obey then the Lord will turn away his anger and show mercy. This is not only a promise of "condition" for the Israelites, but for you and me.

Chapter 14 basically summarizes the "do's and don'ts," or at least a good portion of them in regards to what could or should be eaten and what could or should not be eaten. Tithing is also addressed in Chapter 14.

Chapter 15 speaks to the year of forgiveness or what is called the Sabbatic year.

Verses 7 -11 commands God's people to be generous to all poor and struggling brothers. God makes it clear that a good heart must be in the DNA of his people. He also tells us that He is watching at all times.

Chapter 16 goes into great depth regarding the practice of the feasts and it reminds us that we are not to distort justice, just as God instructed the judges of Israel not to distort justice.

Chapter 17 continued the discussion on justice and right worship. God told them to stone all wrongful worshipers! God said that they were to **purge the evil from among them** **because those who advocate wrongful worship are hurting the people around them.**

Verses 9 - 13 instructs the people to trust and obey God's leaders... for those who don't, the instructions are to **put the rebellious to death!** (i.e. remember the consequence of people listening to and following Korah & the 10 "dead" spies!)

Verses 18 - 20 God's spiritual leaders are to study and to lead per God's Word - daily. Spiritual leaders, per God's Word, are to teach the people God's commands and statutes, no more, no less.

Chapter 18 overviews significant sections pertaining to the Levites. Verses 9 -14 focus on "spiritism" as a **forbidden practice** and is **not accepted in any form or fashion.**

Verse 15 shows us Jesus specifically and without any ambiguity!

15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.

Verse 20 = **all false prophets are to be put to death! You will know a false prophet in part, because what they say is either untrue or is left on fulfilled.**

Chapter 19 explains the existence and purpose for refuge cities. For those who have taken another's life unintentionally, the cities offer protection within a life of exile. Notice, however, that the "cities of refuge" are not intended for murderers to hide in, evidenced by the directions in verses 11 through 13.

Verse 21 explains both capital punishment, as well as the principal of appropriate punishment and retribution... a life for a life, a hand for a hand, and eye for an eye.

Chapter 20 focuses primarily on laws of warfare. One point of particular interest has to do with those who were excused from their battlefield responsibilities. Notice that God said that **they were to send the cowards home because they had a tendency to spread fear** and weakness to the point that they did more harm than good in being present. Another interesting observation, in connection to the laws and guidelines pertaining to war, had to do with newlyweds. **God so values the relationships within marriage that all newlywed husbands were cleared from their responsibilities to fight so that they could focus on their marriage and relationship to their new wives for the 1st year after being married.**

Chapter 21 repeats another important message, **God's people are to remove the guilt of innocent blood from their land.** This chapter also lays down specific guidelines for domestic relations, women captured in war, sons of different wives, rebellious sons, and even how to properly hang a man.

Chapter 22 offers insights into what some would call the rules pertaining to that which is "lost and found."

Verse 5 stands out in stark contrast to the moral relativism of our day. In short, God says directly that cross dressing is a sin. In fact, God calls it an abomination.

Verse 10 says that they were not to plow with a donkey and ox together. It also says that their clothes should not have been made of 2 fabrics sewn together.

Verses 13 - 19 go into the wrongful treatment of adultery and sexual relations.

Chapter 23 talks about the people who will be excluded from the assembly. The Israelites are also told that they are not to charge one another interest on money or goods. However, they were allowed to charge interest to farmers.

Verses 21 to 23 serve as advocates for character development by simply commanding God's people to do what they say they're going to do and maintaining their promises.

Chapter 24 once again goes into some specific guidelines pertaining to marital relationships. We see divorce addressed as well as the handling of people with leprosy. Verse 14 says bluntly, **do not oppress the needy!**

Verses 19 - 22 instruct those who own the fields that are farmed to leave some of the "edges and extras" in the field for the poor, the orphans, and the widows to gather and glean. You will notice that this practice is a prominent part of God's story, as well as a powerful instrument of in God's providence, when reading the book of Ruth.

Chapter 25 is another politically incorrect section in which judges are given the authority to hand down sentences of beatings for the guilty. Verse 4 says that you are not to muzzle the ox while it is threshing. In our context, the principal applied is simple: you do not withhold fair compensation and treatment for those who are doing appropriate work.

Verse 13 speaks to fairness in dealing with others, especially in business and economics. The specific application calls for rejecting the temptation to use unfair systems of measure and compensation.

Chapter 26: tithing and the offering of one's 1st fruits are glorifying to God, in part, by testifying to God's grace and power to provide. **Verses 16 -19 bring us back to God's covenant.**

16 "This day the LORD your God commands you to do these statutes and ordinances. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul. 17 You have today declared the LORD to be your God, and [i]that you would walk in His ways and keep His statutes, His commandments and His ordinances, and listen to His voice. 18 The LORD has today declared you to be His people, a treasured possession, as He promised you, and [j]that you should keep all His commandments; 19 and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, for praise, fame, and honor; and that you shall be a consecrated people to the LORD your God, as He has spoken."

Chapter 27 introduces us to what is known as the curses of Mount Ebal. **God declares that the wrongful behavior of the Israelites will be cursed!**

Verse 26 says it all, "...cursed is he who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them... And all the people said, Amen!"

Chapter 28 verse one, note the emphasis here, God's Word says that IF you diligently obey you will be blessed by God. Again, we are told in Scripture that **those who obey God are blessed, blessed are those who will obey.**

Verse 15 is a **sobering counterbalance in that it warns us that the consequences of disobeying God will be His curses!** This section of Deuteronomy offers a very long list of God's curses.

Verse 13 an almost humorous verse. However, we must recognize that God was not trying to be funny. The verse offers the following prayerful observation, "...may God make you the head and not the tail." Later in the chapter, there is a very powerful contrast between the effects of being "with and for" God, vs. those working on their own or directly against God.

Chapter 29 offers words of the covenant made in Moab. **Verses 2 and 3 remind the Israelites yet again that they have experienced God's power and promise personally!**

Verse 4 captures the sad reality that has been the problematic pattern of these people. Moses tells them: **"Yet to this day, the Lord has not given you a heart to know, nor eyes to see, nor hears to hear."** Notice how similar Deuteronomy 29 verse 4 is to Paul's 14th verse in chapter 2 of 1st Corinthians.

Verse 9 reiterates yet again that all **obedience brings blessing!**

Verses 20 and 21 = the other side of "truth in love" by equally expounding the warning and promise that **huge curses will come upon those sinners who remain obstinate in their rejection of God and his ways!**

Verses 22 through 28 are so clear that they should scare anyone who rejects the gospel of Jesus Christ. God says flatly, His anger will burn against those who choose to disobey!

Verse 29 is another verse that could summarize the entire chapter and perhaps even a fuller content and principles of Deuteronomy.

29 "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

Chapter 30 verses 1 through 5 are prophetic in that **God is foretelling of the future dispersion and return of his people from and to the promised land.**

Verse 6 shares the promise that God's blessing will return in and with the return of his people.

Verse 10 reminds us yet again that **obedience to God brings blessing from God.**

Verse 11 is like a giant reminder that, to quote God: **we have no excuse!**

11 "For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it [q]out of reach.

Versus 15 through 20 encourage us to choose life. Here again these verses could serve to summarize the message, of Deuteronomy.

15 "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and [u]adversity; 16 in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it. 17 But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. You will not prolong your days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, 20 by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."

Chapter 31 introduces us to Moses' farewell. Not only is Moses preparing to die, he is also preparing to pass the torch of leadership to Joshua.

Verses 6 and 7 cannot be overstated in their relevance and message to the people of God today. Listen to the words of God, spoken through Moses to one who is about to take on new levels of leadership responsibility as a child of God. Please be intentional about drawing

a parallel to your personal situation. **We, like Joshua, need to remember God's encouraging command to be strong and courageous!**

Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you.” 7 Then Moses called to Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land which the LORD has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall give it to them as an inheritance. 8 The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”

Verse 12 is a reminder that **we are to remind those we lead to be strong and courageous** on an annual basis, if not more frequently.

Verses 14 through 22 include God telling Moses that he is about to die, that the people will fall away in the future, and that God's wrath will burn against these people when they fall away. **One cannot help but think of Paul's closing letter to his friends and loved ones in Ephesus, in which he warned them saying, after I leave I am absolutely positive that you will have ravenous wolves come out in and through your ranks, and they will not spare the sheep.**

Chapter 32 is widely referred to as **Moses' Song**. This song is made up of **stark warnings for the Israelites**. In **verse 5 God declares that there are some in the crowd that are not the church, they're our kids hanging round that are not God's children! Those who walk away from God are not the true children of God. For those who pull away from God, the blessings of God are withdrawn and the wrath of God is promised.**

Verse 28 declares that **those who walk away from God and his ways are a nation lacking counsel.**

Verse 36 is a wonderful promise that God will vindicate his victorious children!

36 “For the LORD will vindicate His people, And will have compassion on His servants, When He sees that their strength is gone, And there is none remaining, bond or free. 37 “And He will say, ‘Where are their gods, The rock in which they sought refuge?’

Verse 39 shares **God's declaration that He is the only true God!** Furthermore, **He lets it be known that He will distribute judgment and wrath in appropriate measure and means.**

Verse 47 should serve as a wake-up call for anyone still sitting on the fence or rejecting God out right. God could not be more sincere, loving, or serious. He wants you to know that this is not an idle word, it is your life (for all of eternity) that is at stake!

47 For it is not an idle word for you; indeed it is your life. And by this word you will prolong your days in the land, which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess."

In verse 52 God sends Moses to **die "at a distance."**

Chapter 33 has a third-party reading the blessings from Moses. One would be well served to notice the relationship in **parallel between Deuteronomy chapter 33 and Jacob's reading of the blessings bestowed upon his sons in Genesis chapter 49.**

Chapter 34 reveals **Moses overlooking the promised land from Mount Nebo.** From there we know that **God restated the covenant promise,** then Moses died. **Don't miss the powerful particulars when it comes to Moses' death and burial. Scripture says that God buried Moses. How cool is that? Versus 10 through 12, written through the inspiration of God, could also serve as the epitaph for Moses. Again, how cool is that - to have your life summarized in such a powerful way by the God of all creation.**

"Christ Is Risen"

by Matt Maher

Let no one caught in sin remain
Inside the lie of inward shame
We fix our eyes upon the cross
And run to Him who showed great love

And bled for us
Freely You've bled for us

Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

Beneath the weight of all our sin
You bowed to none but heaven's will
No scheme of hell, no scoffer's crown
No burden great can hold You down

In strength You reign...
Forever let Your church proclaim:

Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake come awake

Come and rise up from the grave

Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

O death where is your sting?
O hell where is your victory?
O Church come stand in the light,
The glory of God has defeated the night!

Sing it o death where is your sting?
O hell where is your victory?
O Church come stand in the light,
Our God is not dead! He's alive!! He's alive!!!!

Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave

Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave
...Rise up from the grave