

Bible Study notes and Questions on Deuteronomy

This book is mainly a repetition of the history and laws contained in the three previous books Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers. There is no further history added except to record the death of Moses in the last chapter. However, it should be said that Deuteronomy was a re-statement of the law and not merely a repetition. The new generation needed to know the law and to obey it. The meaning of Deuteronomy from the Greek is “Second Law” or a “second edition of the law.” Moses is about to depart from this life at 120 years old. Before doing so, he has given his final messages regarding the law to the children of Israel along with preparing Joshua son of Nun of the tribe of Ephraim to succeed him as leader.

God has stressed to his people the importance of obedience to him and their love to him with all their heart. A number of key words have been shown repeatedly in this book such as possess, hear, keep, land, love and covenant. In-depth study will reveal more words that contribute to helping to understand what God required of his people. There are many spiritual lessons for us to help us mature spiritually and take seriously what God wants us to learn from this book.

The children of Israel were promised many blessings if they were obedient to God’s word (**Deuteronomy 28:1-14**). They were also given many warnings if they were disobedient to God’s word especially in practising idolatry that would lead God’s people being removed from the land (**Deuteronomy 28:15-68**). However, God had made a covenant that he would have a chosen people in Israel. There will be a believing remnant that will remain faithful.

The conclusion of Moses’ life and ministry has contained instructions to Joshua, his great song to the Lord, his blessings given to the tribes of Israel and the information showing his opportunity to see the land from Mount Nebo followed by his death and burial.

Questions

Section 1: The first discourse of Moses, **Chapters 1:1 – 4:43.**

Chapter 1:1-49: Sinai to Kadesh approaching the promised land. **Chapter 2:** Journey in the wilderness and victory over Sihon king of Hesbon. **Chapter 3:** Victory over Og king of Bashan, land division and Moses forbidden to go into the promised land. **Chapter 4:1-43:** Israel exhorted to keep God’s commandments.

Q.1) Where and when did Moses begin to speak his final message to Israel? See **1:1-5**.

Q.2) Review **1:6-46** giving a summary of events. What has been revealed here that had not been mentioned in the book of Numbers? Describe the sin of the children of Israel and why God had to severely punish them. See **1:26-46** and compare with **Numbers 14:1-45**.

Q.3) Read **Chapter 2**. A) Which nations had God not allowed his people to disturb. See **2:1-23**. B) What can we learn from Israel’s victory over Sihon, king of Hesbon? See **2:24-37**.

Q.4) Read carefully **3:1-29**. A) Show the greatness of this victory over Og king of Bashan. Consider the power Og had and also his character. See **3:1-11**. B) What land was given to the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh? See **3:12-22**. C) What were the fighting men told to do in **3:18-20**? D) What can we learn from Moses’ prayer in **3:23-26**? Why did God reject his request to go into the promised land? See also **Numbers 20:12 & Psalm 106:32, 33**. E) How did Moses encourage Joshua in view of what is said in **3:21-22, 28-29**?

Q.5) Read carefully **4:1-43**. A) Show how the children of Israel were to keep the commandments. See **4:1-14, 23-24, 40**. B) What are the warnings given to the children of Israel if they reject God’s commandments? See **4:15-19, 25-28**. C) Show how God will reveal himself when his people truly seek him in **4:29-39**. D) What was known of these three cities severed by Moses? See **4:41-43 & Numbers 35:9-34**.

Section 2: The Second Discourse of Moses, **Chapter 4:44 – 11:32.**

Chapter 4:43 – 4:49: The place where Moses gave the law. **Chapter 5:1-22:** Review of the ten commandments. **Chapter 5:23-33:** Moses to be a mediator. **Chapter 6:** Keeping carefully God's commandments. **Chapter 7 & 8:** Blessing of obedience will be known in the promised land. **Chapter 9 & 10:** God's mercy to Israel. **Chapter 11:** Blessings for Israel if they are obedient to the word of God.

Q.1) Where was Moses given the law to the children of Israel in **4:43 – 4:49.**

Q.2) Comment on the ten commandments. How far do they go in showing us how to live right? See **5:1-22** and compare with **Exodus 20:1-17.**

Q.3) Read **5:23-33.** A) Why were the children of Israel so afraid of seeing the presence of God? See **5:23-30.** B) Show how Moses was to continue to approach God. See **5:23, 25, 31.** C) How would Israel know the blessing of obedience in **5:32-33.**

Q.4) Read carefully **Chapter 6.** A) Show what Israel must do to keep God's commandments. See **6:1-9, 13, 17-25.** B) What were the warnings given for disobedience in **6:12, 14-16.** C) Consider the blessings of obedience to God's commandments. See **6:10-11, 18-19, 23-24.** D) What should happen in a family home where God is truly worshipped? See **6:4-9, 20-25.**

Q.5) Read **Chapter 7.** A) What has God commanded his people to do when they have been brought into the land. See **7:1-5, 16, 25-26.** B) What has God done to make Israel his special people in **7:6-10?** C) Show the blessings God's people will receive when they continue to keep God's commandments? See **7:11-24.** D) What does this chapter teach of spiritual separation? How are we to practise spiritual separation? See also **Romans 6:1-23; 2Corinthians 6:14-18; 7:1; 10:1-6; Galatians 16-26; Ephesians 6:10-20; Hebrews 12:5-11; 1John 2:15-17.**

Q.6) Read **Chapter 8.** A) What has God stressed to his people to always remember when they enter the land? See **8:1-6, 14-16, 18.** B) Show the evidence that God will bring Israel into a good land. See **8:7:7-10, 12-13.** C) Consider the warnings God has given his people if they forget him. See **8:11, 14, 17, 19-20.**

Q.7) Look carefully through **Chapter 9.** A) What was the real reason for the Lord bringing Israel into the land? See **9:1-6.** B) Show the evidence of Israel being a rebellious and stiff-necked people. See **9:6-17.** C) Consider carefully how Moses prayerfully interceded for his people to know God's mercy. See **9:18-29.** What should we understand by intercessory prayer?

Q.8) Read through **Chapters 10 & 11.** A) How did God show mercy to his people in **10:1-11.** Where does God really want to put his word? See also **Hebrews 8:10; 10:16.** B) In what ways has Moses pleaded with Israel to be obedient to the Lord? See **10:12-22.** C) What had the Lord done for his people that gave them every good reason to keep his commandments? See **11:1-8, 31-32.** D) Show the evidence of this land being a good land provided the children of Israel obeyed God's commandments. Read **11:9-15, 18-25.** E) What were the warnings given to the children of Israel? See **11:16-17, 26-30.**

Section 3: Second Discourse continued **Chapters 12 – 26.** Observance of detailed commandments for the religious, civil, social and domestic life in the promised land with encouragements and warnings.

Q.1) Read **Chapter 12.** A) What has God emphatically told his people in **12:1-5, 28-32** to do urgently in the promised land. B) What has God instructed his people to do with their offerings and sacrifices especially with the blood. See **12:6-27.**

Q.2) How was Israel to deal with the false prophets? Consider why God has allowed false prophets to be active even today. Read **13:1-5** and see also **Matthew 24:4-5, 11, 24-26; Mark 13:5-6, 21-23; Luke 21:8; 1John 4:1-6.**

Q.3) Show how God wanted his people to deal with idolatry. Read **13:6-18.**

Section 3 continued.

Q.4) Read carefully **Chapter 14**. A) Show specifically the beasts that God has given to eat. What was required for a beast to be clean? See **14:1-6, 9-11, 20**. B) Which beasts were unclean and cannot be eaten. Consider why they were unclean. See **14:7-8, 12-19, 21**. C) Show the importance of the tithes in **14:22-29**. What should be our attitude as Christians towards money and possessions? It is helpful to consider **Matthew 5:42; 6:1-4; 10:8; Luke 6:38; 12:33; 1Corinthians 16:2; 2Corinthians 9:6-7**.

Q.5) What has God required for his people to do in the year of release? Read **15:1-18**. Consider the cancelling of debts, how the poor should be treated and also the release of Hebrew servants.

Q.6) What had to be done for the firstling males of herds and sheep in **15:19-23**? See also **Leviticus 27:26**.

Q.7) Consider carefully the instructions God has given regarding the following feasts in **16:1-15**. A) Passover (**16:1-8**). B) The feast of weeks (**16:9-12**). C) Tabernacles (**16:13-15**). See also **Leviticus 23:1-44**.

Q.8) Read **16:16 – 17:13**. What instructions has God given specifically in these verses. You may find it helpful to make a list. Can you see any spiritual principles we can learn from this biblical text?

Q.9) If a king is appointed, show how he can prove faithful in serving the Lord God in **17:14-20**.

Q.10) Read **Chapter 18**. What has God clearly said in A) How the Levites should be provided for? (**18:1-8**) B) Dealing with occult practices? (**18:9-14**) C) Who is being referred to as the Prophet? (**18:15-19**) D) Discerning the false prophets? (**18:20-22 & 13:1-5**). It is helpful in C) to look up **Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35; John 6:14; Acts 3:22-23; 7:37**.

Q.11) What was the purpose of the cities of refuge? Read **19:1-13**.

Q.12) What is taught about A) The neighbour's landmark (**19:14**)? B) The number of witnesses (**19:15**)? C) The false witness (**19:16-21**)?

Q.13) Read **Chapter 20**. Consider the lessons that we can learn regarding military warfare in **20:1-9** and how the children of Israel were to take cities in **20:10-20**. How do these scriptures teach us regarding spiritual warfare? See also **2Chronicles 20:1-30 & Ephesians 6:10-18**.

Q.14) Show the instructions God has given in **Chapter 21**. A) The unknown murderer of a slain man (**21:1-9**). B) A soldier allowed to marry a captive woman (**21:10-14**). C) The first-born (**21:15-17**). D) The stubborn and rebellious son (**21:18-21**). E) A man having committed sin worthy of the death sentence (**22-23**). Compare with **John 19:31; Galatians 3:13; 1Peter 2:24**.

Q.15) Read through the laws in **Chapter 22**. Show how they benefit God's people Israel. Compare these laws to what we have in contemporary society. How applicable are these laws to those of us who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour?

Q.16) Read **Chapter 23**. Show the ways God has given commandments to maintain purity in the congregation. What did God want his people to do to keep them pure from moral (**23:9**), ceremonial (**23:1-3**) and natural pollution (**23:12-14**). How can you apply these commandments to the Church today and ultimately in the new heaven and the new earth? See also **1Corinthians 5:1-13; Ephesians 5:25-27; Revelation 21:27**.

Q.17) Read through **Chapter 24** and make a list of the regulations. Consider your own life to see whether you maintain these regulations being prepared to admit where you might fail.

Q.18) What does God want us to learn from the laws in **Chapter 25**: A) Punishment of the wicked (**25:1-3**). B) The working ox (**25:4**). See also **Proverbs 12:10; 1Corinthians 9:9; 1Timothy 5:17-18**. C) Raising seed (**25:10**). D) Punishment for an immodest woman (**25:11-12**). E) Honest weights (**25:13-16**). F) God's treatment of Amalek (**25:17-19**). See also **Exodus 17:8-16; 1Samuel 15:1-9; 1Chronicles 4:43**.

Section 3 continued.

Q.19) Read **Chapter 26**. What did the Lord require from his people when they entered the land regarding A) The first fruits (**26:1-11**) B) Tithing (**26:12-15**) C) The exhortations God has given to his people in **26:16-19**)

Section 4: Chapters 27-30: Moses has made a further appeal to the children of Israel to obey the commandments of God having stressed the blessings or curses that would come upon the people as a result of the way they choose to live. Moses has renewed the covenants made previously at Horeb with the children of Israel as set out in **Chapters 29 & 30**.

Q.1) Read **Chapter 27**. A) What did God require his people Israel to do on the day they pass over the Jordan? See **27:1-8**. B) What did Moses and the Levitical priests command Israel to do? See **27:9-13**. C) Show the curses that the Levites were to speak out loud to all the men of Israel in **27:14-26**. You may wish to make a list. How applicable are these curses to us today?

Q.2) Read through **Chapter 28**. A) What were the blessings Israel would receive if they were obedient to serving the Lord in **28:1-14**? You may wish to make a list. How applicable are these blessings to us today? B) Contrast **28:1-6** with **28:15-19** and continue to read **28:20-44**. What will be the curses God will bring upon Israel? It is helpful to make a list. C) Read carefully **28:45-68**. Can you see at least four things that will take place as a result of curses that come upon Israel. If possible try to discuss these scriptures in a group study.

Q.3) Look carefully at **Chapter 29**. A) Read **29:1-15**. Show how God has stressed the importance of his covenant to the children of Israel. B) What will happen to the land of Israel if the people forsake the covenant of the Lord? Show any particular evil practices revealed in these scriptures. See **29:16-28**. C) What is understood by **29:29**?

Q.4) Read **Chapter 30**. A) The writer of these questions believes **30:1-10** is prophetic showing a future ingathering of the children of Israel. Can you see what will happen to God's people Israel who have returned to the Lord God to serve him? Is it true to say that God has a purpose for Israel to be blessed to possess the land fully and to be a blessing to all nations in a millennial kingdom under the rule of Jesus Christ? B) What has God stressed about his word in **29:11-14**? Compare with **Romans 10:6-9**. Can you see ways that the Old Testament Law and the New Testament Gospel are the same? C) Show the choice God has made to his people Israel. See **29:15-20**? How applicable are these scriptures to preaching the gospel today?

Section 5: Chapters 31 – 34: Conclusion to Moses' life and ministry.

Chapter 31: Instructions to Joshua along with Israel's disobedience and rebellion against God foretold. **Chapter 32:1-47:** The great song to the Lord. **Chapter 32:48-52 & 34:1-12:** The Lord spoke to Moses to go up Mount Nebo to see the promised land just before his death and burial.

Chapter 33: The blessing that Moses gave to the tribes of Israel.

Q.1) Read through **Chapter 31**. A) Show clearly what God has promised to do for Israel (**31:1-6**) and for Joshua (**31:7-8**) when they enter the land. See also **Hebrews 13:5-6**. B) Why was it essential for the Levitical priests to keep the law and make it known to the people publicly? Read carefully **31:9-13, 24-27**. See also **Exodus 17:14**. C) Show how Moses instructed Joshua and what he foretold of Israel's rebellion against God. See **31:14-30**.

Q.2) Read **32:1-47**. Moses has been given a song from the Lord. A) What is known of the attributes of God in this song? See particularly **32:1-4, 8, 15, 30-31, 39-40**. B) Look carefully at **32:7-14** and consider what God has done for Israel. At least seven things are possible. C) Show the evidence of Israel being a people that had no desire to serve the Lord. See **32:5-6, 15-21, 28-33**. D) Consider carefully the judgments God will bring upon his people in **32:11-27**. E) Is there any evidence of God's mercy upon Israel to have a blessed future as God's chosen nation? See **32:36-47**.

Section 5 continued.

Q.3) Think through the following scriptures **32:48-52 & 34:1-12**. Consider A) What the Lord allowed Moses to see of the promised land. See **32:48-52; 34:1-4**. Look back at **3:23-27**. B) What is known of the death of Moses? See **34:5-6** and also **Jude 9**. C) The character of Moses as seen in **34:7-12**. D) In view of Moses' living very much in God's will and having died in God's will, consider how we should live to have a blessed life that leaves a testimony to others even when we depart to be with the Lord. A corporate discussion as a group should be helpful along with looking up the following scriptures, **Psalms 31:14-15; 90:12; 119:9-16; Matthew 6:25-34; Philippians 2:6-8; 2 Timothy 2:15**. Many more scriptures could be used.

Q.4) Read **Chapter 33**. A) See **33:1-5 & 26-29**. Show why the children of Israel are a blessed people. Look carefully at **33:26-29** and try to list just how Israel has been so blessed. Are these blessings applicable to the Church of Jesus Christ today? B) Look carefully at what God revealed of his blessings to each tribe of Israel. See **33:6-25**. Compare with **Genesis 49:1-28**. Is there any prophetic fulfilment to come?

Miscellaneous Questions on the Book of Deuteronomy

Please note that not all the scriptures have been given to help answer each question.

Q.1) Read through this book and write down what is known of God. You may find it helpful to write down a list of the attributes of God. See for example **2:30-33, 36; 3:22, 24; 4:24, 31-39; 6:4, 15, 23; 7:9; 10:13-17; 11:12; 21:9**.

Q.2) Attempt to show the prophecies in this book. Where possible show which ones have been fulfilled and those that are still to come to pass. See **3:21-22; 4:25-31; 18:15-18; 21:22-23** (See **Galatians 3:13**); **28:1-68; 30:1-10; 31:23, 29; 32:1-43; 33:1-29**. If you have time you will find it helpful to look up scriptures elsewhere that show fulfilment of these prophecies such as **Joshua 21:43-46; Jeremiah 23:5-8; 30:1-11; Ezekiel 39:23-29; Amos 9:14-15; John 1:21-45; 6:14; Acts 3:22-23; 7:37**.

Q.3) What has this book revealed about the character of Moses? See **3:21-28; 9:16-21, 25-29; 18:15-19; 31:1-8; 32:48-52; 34:1-12**. See also **Acts 7:20-44; Hebrews 3:1-6; 11:23-29**.

Q.4) Try to find the key words in this book which show lessons in growing spiritually to follow the Lord and are applicable to Israel to know God's blessings. See for example "possess", "covenant", "keep", "land", "hear". It is helpful to use an exhaustive concordance.

Q.5) Show the evidence that Israel were a chosen people to be a special people. See **4:20; 7:6-7; 9:29; 10:15; 14:2, 21; 26:18-19**.

Q.6) Does this book prove that God will always keep his covenant with his people Israel? See **4:31; 7:8-9, 12; 8:18; 9:1-3; 10:11**.

Q.7) What has been revealed in this book to prove that many of the children of Israel were a rebellious people who refused to follow the Lord. See **1:26, 27; 5:29; 8:10-14, 17, 19-20; 9:6-16, 22-24; 11:16; 12:30-31; 29:4; 32:5-6, 20**. Consider any warnings God has given if the children of Israel disobeyed God's word. See **28:15-68**.

Q.8) Can you show specifically what God wanted the children of Israel to do to be sure that they possessed the promised land? See **7:1-5, 24-26; 11:22-24, 31; 12:1-5**.

Bibliography

The list of resources available will be helpful in studying the scriptures. The author may not necessarily agree with all the views of the writers of the reading material.

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