

18-19 Bible Study #31

5/7/19

Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy (Last week)

- **Deuteronomy** (meaning second Law)
 - The fifth book of the *Torah (Pentateuch)*
 - Differently constructed than **Genesis** and **Numbers** which were primarily narratives
 - Deuteronomy is a single, long, sermon by Moses to the people encamped on the *Plain of Moab* just before entering into the Promised Land
 - It contains many similar stories to the earlier Books of the Pentateuch and must be seen as a “catechetical instruction” to the descendants of those who left Egypt 40 years earlier and died in the desert

Deuteronomy (Cont)

- **Deuteronomy 1:1**

- The Hebrew title for this book was “*These are the words*”
- It was produced in the wilderness beyond the *Jordan* River
- *Mt. Nebo* was a peak in the mountains of *Moab* which traverse from *the Dead Sea* to the Sea of Galilee and faces the mountains of *Judea*
- The *Plain of Moab* is located opposite the city of *Jericho*
- *Jerusalem* is just over the horizon in the mountains of *Judea* *

Deuteronomy

- **Deuteronomy 1:2-11**

- *Mt. Horeb is Mt. Sinai*
- The author was providing factual information contrasting the normal journey on foot from Mt. Sinai to *Kadesh* via *Mt. Seir* as 11 days, yet it took Israel 40 years to make that journey
- At that point, they had reached the 1st day of the 11th month of the 40th year since their departure from Egypt

Deuteronomy (Cont)

- God told *Moses* that they had stayed long enough on this mountain (*Mt. Hor*), and it was time to go into and take the land of the *Amorites* and the *Canaanites* (The Promised Land)
- **Deuteronomy** was Moses' explanation to the surviving Israelites as to what had transpired in the lives of their parents *

Deuteronomy (Cont)

- **Deuteronomy 1:12-18**

- Provides the story of God suggesting to Moses that he divide his workload among subordinate judges in groups of 10s, 100s, and 1000s

- **Deuteronomy 1:19-46**

- Retold the events of Israel's reconnoitering the Promised Land after leaving Mt. Sinai, refusal to enter, punishment, and finally their failed attempt to enter

Deuteronomy (Cont)

- Most of the stories in this section were presented in the Book of **Numbers**
- They were repeated in **Deuteronomy** because the people to whom Moses was speaking had not lived through or heard about them
- Remember, all the those who were 20 years old or older at the time of the spying on the Promised Land were dead (except for Moses, Caleb, and Joshua)
- This was why the entire Book of Deuteronomy consists of one long adult catechetical instruction
- For this reason we will skip over much of this book *

Deuteronomy (Cont)

- **Deuteronomy 2- 4:14**

- Moses provided a review of their movement from *Kadesh* to the Plain of *Moab*
- He reminded them of the requirement to keep God's statutes and ordinances, to teach them to their children, and to practice them in the Promised Land
- Also, Moses warned them to avoid the sins of the people at the *Baal of Peor* *

Deuteronomy (Cont)

- **Deuteronomy 4:15-19**

- We must remember that the Israelites were not forbidden to make “graven images,” (two golden seraphim over the Ark of the Covenant) or sacred artwork
- One of the prohibitions was against making “idols” or images of idols
- Here, Moses restated the other prohibition of making an image of Yahweh (the invisible God)
- His concern was that since God was invisible, they might be tempted to make Him in the image of man, an animal, or what ever else they wanted
- We will see this reflected in **Colossians 1:15**

Deuteronomy (Cont)

- Only Jesus was created in the image and likeness of God
- Since He was fully divine and fully human, there is no prohibition on making an images of Him
- The prohibition was against making an image of the invisible God who had not revealed His image to man *
- **Deuteronomy 4:28**
 - Here, Moses also reminded the people not to make graven images of the pagan gods