

## Deuteronomy 1:1-5 Deuteronomy

Introduction: I have done a verse by verse study of Genesis through Numbers. Tonight we begin a study of the book of Deuteronomy. I am not sure that I will do verse by verse because much of it would be repetitive. Not that I oppose repetition. Repetition is the mother of knowledge. But I will probably do some skipping about and avoid much of the repetition in order to cover more territory.

### I. The heading and title

A. The heading and title were given by man, but never the less is helpful to us.

B. It is said to be “The 5th Book of Moses”.

1. Genesis is an introduction to the Pentateuch (the 5 books). The main body of the 5 books is in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers.

2. Exodus and Leviticus tell of the deliverance of Israel from Egypt and the giving of the Law and regulations pertaining to worship under the law system. They also given regulations for daily conduct in dealing with other people.

3. Numbers tells of the rebellion of the Israelites which caused them to be sent back into the wilderness until the older generation would die. It concludes with wars and conquests on the eastern side of Jordan and of preparations made for entering Canaan.

4. Deuteronomy is the 5th and concluding book which Moses wrote. In this book God gave instructions to Israel through Moses. These instructions were vital in preparing people spiritually for entering Canaan and would be important for study down through the years to come.

C. The word “Deuteronomy” literally means “second law”.

1. Technically, it was the second giving of the same law.

2. There would, however, be new additions, new expansions, and new explanations.

### II. The need for these instructions and this book

A. The older generation, who were familiar with the laws of God, would all soon be gone except Joshua and Caleb among the men and a few women, and these speeches were designed as a crash course for the younger generation teaching them the will of God for their lives.

B. They would soon be without the leadership of Moses and these were last instructions from him.

C. Once they cross the River Jordan there would be new opportunities and new dangers. These instructions would help them to meet the new challenges.

D. New expansions and new updates to the old law would be made which would shed new light on the way the laws of God apply to their lives.

### III. An exposition of the text

A. “These words” of Moses refer to the whole series of speeches which Moses made to the Israelites before they crossed Jordan and entered Canaan. V.1

1. Moses wrote down the content of each speech into a book and they make up the book of Deuteronomy.

2. This is probably the largest congregation of people to which any man ever spoke prior to radio and television.

3. He must have stood on a high spot with the people below and spoke very loud like John the Baptist.

4. The place where Moses delivered the speeches was:

a. On the east side of the Jordan River.

b. In the wilderness prior to entering Canaan.

- c. In the plain southward all the way to the Red Sea.
  - d. The Wilderness of Paran was located between Kadesh-barnea and Mt. Sinai (Horeb).
  - e. Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth and Dizahab were stopping places between Mt. Sinai and Kadesh-barnea.
- B. (V.2) The journey from Horeb (Mt. Sinai) to Kadesh-barnea took only 11 days.
- C. (V.3) Moses began this series of speeches in the 40th year after leaving Egypt on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 11th month (Feb.)
- 1. 38 years after leaving Kadesh-barnea and going back into the wilderness - 1st time at Kadesh-barnea.
  - 2. His 1st speech was followed by a series of speeches that took almost 2 months to deliver. (Probably 1 daily except on the Sabbath days.)
  - 3. Each day after delivering his speech he would write it down and the completed book was the book of Deuteronomy.
  - 4. After his speeches were completed Moses would go up into Mt. Nebo and die. (This was about 2 months after he started the speeches. He would die at the age of 120 yrs.)
  - 5. It is worthy of note that each speech was given under the direction of God Himself and contained the message of God.
- D. (V.4) The speeches were given after all of the fighting on the eastern side of the Jordan River was done.
- 1. Apparently most of the other preparations for entering Canaan were also already done.
  - 2. A new leader had been appointed and the land east of the Jordan River had been divided among 2 ½ tribes. Men had been appointed to assist Joshua in dividing the land of Canaan among the other tribes. Plans for cities for the Levites to live in were made and cities of refuge had also been planned.
- E. (V5) Prior to entering Canaan, Moses “began” to “declare” the law of God.
- 1. The 1st speech was made with other speeches to follow.
  - 2. He repeated the 10 Commandments which were the basis for the covenant between God and Israel.
  - 3. He repeated all the other laws which had been given in the Book of Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers which dealt with tithes, sacrificial offerings, feast days, Sabbath days, ceremonial cleanliness and uncleanness, duties of priests, Levites, etc..
  - 4. He gave new laws which would apply to their lives now that they were leaving the wilderness to dwell in Canaan.
  - 5. Moses wrote a summary of the contents of each speech until the book of Deuteronomy was completed.

#### Conclusion:

- 1. Moses speeches consisted of telling the people what God had said, explaining the meaning of what God had said and then showing how the word of God applied to their lives.
- 2. Today we still have the word of God which was written by Moses in 5 books including the book of Deuteronomy.
- 3. We have much more of the word of God than Israel did in that day. We have 66 books which make up the Bible.
- 4. There is a lot that we yet have to learn and it will take a lot of study.
- 5. But in addition to learning God’s word it is equally important that we learn to apply what we learn to our lives.