

DEUTERONOMY 29v10-15, 30v11-20

Hymns 59/1/198/434

Reading Deut 10v12-22 186/59/239/434

The Book of Deuteronomy was written as Moses was about to die

The last words of God's faithful servants are always meaningful and powerful.

Israel was just one month away from entering Canaan .

A new generation was preparing to inherit Abraham's land .A new leader had already been appointed .=this was Moses' last opportunity to pass on his wisdom to the new generation.

THE WRITER –Moses – come to DEUT 18

- And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream.
- Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house.
- With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"
(Num 12:6-8 ESV)

Moses had 120 years of experience to pass on (including 40 years of direct contact with God,

- Moses had a very personal relationship the Yahweh angel,(he spoke to God’s personal representative face to face-knowing him as a friend Exodus 33v11) And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle. (Exod 33:11)
- When Moses died he was in no way showing signs of dementia-he was still sharp of mind and healthy in body.(Deut 34v7,10)
- Moses’ place in the divine estimation is unprecedented ..because
- Jesus is called the prophet LIKE unto Moses (Deut 18v18-19) His words are quoted in by Peter (Acts 3v20-23)- “for Moses truly said..a prophet like **unto me..**”
- Jesus was not just the seed of Abraham, nor just the son of David , but would also be God’s supreme prophet .and .like unto Moses .No higher commendation for Moses is possible.than to be made the measuring stick for the greatness of Jesus Christ
- No other person has such an amazing honor- **like unto me That the calibre of God’s only beloved Son should be measured by Moses is a great testimony to Moses ..Both Moses and Jesus become the ultimate voice of authority on the will of God. ? “I say unto you “..have ye not read...It is written..**

THIS BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY IS THE PERSONAL LEGACY OF MOSES-the man of God-

PP THE NAME OF THE BOOK

- HEBREW NAME of book is EL –Li-DEBAR.. “These be the words” SEE 1v1.
- **The words** of Moses were clearly inspired- .(30v8 and v10) tells us they were GOD’S words- God’s mind spoken through Moses
- Deuteronomy is Moses inspired Commentary on the Books of Exodus part of Numbers and Leviticus – a commentary written especially for the new generation.
- It is also the mind of God revealed for all **future generations** to follow – both of Israel the nation and the Israel of God- the saints
- Deuteronomy is sometimes called “ the second law”..COME TO DEUT 17
- The Greek Name given to this book is ..”Deuteronomy” – and this Greek word means the SECOND LAW
- This title is picked up from LXX (Septuagint) Deut . 17v18. The Greek Septuagint says each king shall “write him this Deuteronomy“, meaning a personal copy of this Law.
- HEB..words here in Deut 17v18 is *Hattorah Huzzoth*...you will recognise the word TORAH there (TORAH is what Jews call their scrolls containing the 5 books of Moses) Lit.it means ..”A duplicate of this Law”
- NOTE..**It was not a new Law** ,but Deuteronomy was quite a different way of appreciating, understanding and applying God’s Law- it gave explanatory clauses and brought in levels of emotion that were largely absent in the other books

- Deuteronomy was Not a revision or an amendment , **but an enhancement**, and an elevated interpretation and expansion. Now we have keys to see beyond the ritual and the necessary legislation .
- In Exodus/Lev – we have laws and rules ..with consequences –now we have the positive reasons given..for our good always(consider the feelings of others-appreciate God’s righteousness
- The focus of Deuteronomy is the essential spirit of the law...A better and more insightful way to approach the Law..**to act by positive motivation**, rather than rigid obedience to legislation. **Inspiration** rather than keeping rules . by human effort, under threat of consequences
- Deuteronomy was written 40 years after the Law was delivered at Sinai..and was designed to educate and inspire the new generation..it is not just the Law repeated but now we are given the emotional and rational reasons to keep the law well.
- So that is why much of our study will be focussed in Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy’s importance illustrated.....by the following

- Had to be read and personally written by any new king. (17v18) “with him” – a word used of marriage elsewhere” ..a very personal thing ..v20 tells us it was also a humbling exercise ..to prevent power going to his head
- COME TO chap 31
- The book was to be read publicly to Israel every 7 years (31v10-11) ,Note v9 Gk – LXX “this Deuteronomy “ or

this version of the Law. So what Moses wrote here had to contain the essential message, something that would be easily remembered . .

- **Deuteronomy is one of the most frequently quoted book** from the OT Bible ,into the New Testament . (44 times -3rd after Psalms and Isaiah)

PP KEY WORDS USED IN DEUTERONOMY .clearly .indicate its intention- and its clear **difference** to the Books of Exodus and Leviticus and Numbers

Deuteronomy introduces both emotion and reasons to obey ..and thereby adds positive motivations to Gods Commandments

- **Only in Deut** do you get **LOVE God** with you heart soul and mind
- The Theme of **GIVE and GIVING**..Found far more times in Deut..than all the other 4 books of Moses combined.
- **Heart** (t 48 times in deut) cp to only 16 in Exod/Lev/Numbers combined
- **Teach your Children** – a theme constantly found here in Deuteronomy something notably lacking in other books of law -passing on the Truth vital for this new generation – Moses calls them ..your little ones 29v11 **Covenant-27** Times in Deuteronomy, as God frequently reminded them that He had sworn to Abraham that they would inherit this land. ...and as a new generation they now made a covenant of their own with God.(ch29)
- Other key words like hearken and consider do

- **Remember** – 15 times (topic of our last exhort)
- **This day** ..will end our exhortation with this one
- OTHER FACTORS
- Deuteronomy was most likely the book of the Law which King Josiah found and read (2Chron 34v14-18) The reading moved him to undertake great and dramatic actions against idolatry and immorality .
- And perhaps most powerfully of all..The Lord Jesus used 3 scriptures from Deuteronomy exclusively- in responding to his temptation in the wilderness. Obviously Jesus had **meditated on Deuteronomy** (see 6v16, 8v2-6) .and used it for spiritual strength under trial .
- There could be no greater recommendation than that
- So we should give heed to this book-for by every word of God does man live

Because Deuteronomy operates on **different** plane to the LAW of Commandments ..there are many unique elements about it.

FOR EXAMPLE – Carefully selected **History** is frequently used By Moses to inspire THE NEW GENERATION-born in the wilderness

They knew almost nothing about the world around them, and most of whom had been too young to remember the dramatic events that accompanied the leaving of Egypt/and at Mt Sinai

A VERY UNUSUAL FEATURE OF DEUTERONOMY IS A FOCUS ON THE GIANTS JUST ONE EXAMPLE of HISTORY ..being used to INSPIRE .. - in Chap 2 & 3

Moses knew how easily hearts can melt when faced with huge framed enemies. He had seen this disaster 38 years before -with the 10 spies and the people going to water

NOTE- 2V10, v11 v20 v21 3v11 3v13 (color in key words)

History of the nations in whose lands they had trodden.

Note ..again and again God delivered them to destruction
..2v12 others succeeded them 2v21 Yahweh destroyed them..they succeeded them. Same in v23 and 3v3
...because it was Gods will to oust the giants

God can remove any giant of the flesh and give their land to others if He chooses to do so

Caleb certainly believed this was possible ..if Yahweh be with us ..we be well able to overcome them “ -Later demanded Hebron -drove giants out

NOTE also- Deut 9v1-2 Why so much on giants ? ...Well- Giants become a metaphor of the great stumbling block between us the taking of our promised inheritance .

King sin is a ruthless giant we will never defeat in our own strength..but with God going before us we can overcome .

Common phrase in 9v4/5/6 ..not for thy righteousness ...Esp v6 Our sins will only be overcome by **this declaration of God's righteousness**...by our faith in His power.

LETS LOOK at just a sample of so many inspirational contexts we could take

- We must appreciate how different these provisions were to Leviticus and Numbers.... LETS GO FIRST TO DEUT 10 again

LOOK AT HOW GOD ENCOURAGED ISRAEL TO SEE BEYOND THE RITUAL in Deut 10...

- **Love God** with all your heart 10v12 ---in Leviticus we have love your neighbour..**but never do we have LOVE God**..Deut repeats the message to LOVE GOD over and over as the correct motivation to obey
- **v12 LOVE IMITATES GOD- love Him and walk in his ways**
- **So different to the way the Law is delivered.in Exodus and Leviticus..(offenders surely be put to death/ cut off)**
- **There** fear of retribution was the main motivator
- Noted the **REMARKABLE STATEMENT** that is found in 10v16
- **Circumcision** is primarily of the heart (not cutting marks in actual flesh
- **HEART is one of great themes of Deuteronomy .. 48 times**
- **A great example here of how God teaches to emulate himself**
- **HUGELY ODD THINGS HERE -v17** contains the most expansive list of Divine name and titles.. **GREAT, ALL POWERFUL, THE HIGH AND LOFTY ONE THAT INHABITS ETERNITY** of time and space ...God is vastly beyond our finite comprehension
- Our mighty God is vitally concerned with the poor, fatherless and widows..so for us true religion is to care for the needy too
- **Following God V17- means executing justice without favour**
- **Following God means thinking of others** less fortunate (Widows are mentioned 8 times in the Law (7 of the 8 in Deut..)
- This includes both material and **SOCIAL** needs

Same with the STRANGERS..who join to God's covenant people

SEE 10v 21-22 Remember what God has done for you..only then do you understand the feelings of the stranger

BASIS of our actions is not rigid rules of Law but appreciation and gratitude to God..and a large sense of humility.

Loving strangers..is about accepting fully those who came into Israel.v19 Even those like Ruth /Rahab/Ittai/Ebed- Melech..Cornelius..Gentiles

LETS LOOK AT MORE UNIQUE INTERPRATATIONS OF GOD LIKENESS THAT MOSES GIVES = COME TO DEUT 23

GOD gave so many laws that go contrary to our selfish human nature

- NOTE 23v24-25 **Generosity was encouraged** (people can wander in and eat your crops at will –imagine the scene - no complaint by you allowed ..)
- They had to respect your crop(couldn't steal it- but could sample it)
- The only way you could not be upset is by really believing God had given it and everything- bountifully to you
- Jesus taught the law of the heart like this ..Give ...lend. not seeking to receive again ...this attitude is totally foreign to our natural concept of rights and ownership
- Attitude to those in need/less fortunate 24v19-21
- Could not retrieve forgotten sheaves nor reap the corners , nor glean grapes ..all these left for poor and widows ..
- A legalist would make sure none was accidently left... A godly man like Boaz would leave very wide corners and make sure that extra handfuls were left.
- We must always - put ourselves in the others shoes
- Had to think what it was like to be a poor widow....The principle of do unto others as you would like to be treated - prevails here in The law as much as it does under the law of Christ.

- This response is always based on consciousness of our salvation by God's grace v22

God was especially concerned with us thinking of how others are faring and feeling

Deut. chap 24..v10-11 Even when man had to put up security for a loan – you must not go into his home and see how poor he is ...God ensures his remaining dignity and privacy is preserved

- If he pledges his raiment v13 ..you had to deliver it back each night..it is all he has on those cold nights
- Would you bother to bring this back each day..?..surely you would realise how poor he was and give him what he needs...forgive his debt
- As he put his robe back on..He would bless thee ..for remembering he needed that garment...
- One of the few occasions that something was attributed as righteousness....It meant you understood another's need.

ABOVE ALL THIS SECOND LAW TAUGHT THE PERCEPTIVE JEW ABOUT PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS – COME TO AN EXAMPLE CONTEXT ..CHAP 22

Going to take just one example from many ..see how we must learn from it

- Remember- God was interested in developing the qualities that come from understanding and knowing His virtues...
- Deut 22v1 – Someones' cattle or sheep have strayed
- Take Great care how you handle the misfortunes of others
- (v2 even if you don't know him) must look after and eventually restore lost animals
- **3 times God says THOU SHALT NOT HIDE THYSELF v1,3, 4 -color in God's emphasis**

- This ignoring would be is the natural lazy reaction ..I don't want to get involved, its not my problem..he should have kept his fences better like me .., this nuisance is always happening.. or maybe I don't like him anyway- Do I care -serves him right ?
- Most times only God would know that you chose to ignore the problem and let the straying animals wander away into danger .
- Sheep are used frequently of God's people going astray – we are all sheep , and we all wander at times
- *I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments. (Psa 119:176)*
- *My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their restingplace. (Jer 50:6)*
- *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isa 53:6)*
- *For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls. (1Pet 2:25)*
- It is the Father's will that not one of his sheep be lost- if they wander away The scriptures abound with the corporate responsibility for lost
- -They have to be restored to the flock(Gal 6v1)

- Come to Proverbs 24.
- Most ecclesias have a number of members , and young people –wandering aimlessly and in danger of leaving the Truth and neglecting the hope of salvation
- We cant say ..its not our problem ..or well- what do you expect from that family ?..or worse say ..it doesn't matter.
- GOD's EXHORTATION ..**Prov 24v11-12** –The lesson is further simplified for us
- *If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain;*
- *If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?*
- God was teaching us about more than a few straying animals here . I wonder if the time has come for us to go into the highways and byways and seek the lost sheep before its all too late.

THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY BECAME TO BASIS OF THE NEW COVENANT MADE WITH THE NEW GENERATION.

The same - COVENANT GOD..as their fathers had promised to obey..the same promises , same hopes

BUT LIKE US -THEY STOOD ON THE EDGE OF THE PROMISED LAND..they could see Abrahams land just over the River Jordan.
Almost all the older generation had perished though lack of faith.
They had to make a choice ...

SENSE OF GREAT URGENCY HERE ..another key word here..THIS DAY

(A phrase Moses uses 12 TIMES as he winds up his exhortation)

...29v4/10/12/15/28 Chap 30v2/8/11/15/v16/v18/v19

- COME TO CHAP 29 v10- 13
- We cannot delay facing up to the responsibilities of our covenant with God ..We must do it while it is called TODAY
- Procrastination is fatal. Read 30v15-15-16
- MAKE THAT CHOICE.....v19-20... Choose life
- NOTE though.30v15...God foresaw more generations of Abrahams seed -yet unborn yet uncalled to the Hope of Israel..

This morning we also stand on the edge of the promised land. We come to the feet of the greater than Moses...We come to remember and renew our covenant that we have made with the same unchanging God of Israel .

We come to remember the Son of God who shared his transfiguration with Moses...

I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee Moses , - and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. CHRIST has spoken clearly to us...

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him .

Let us behold wondrous things in God's Law...let us remember how much God has done for us in Christ...and imitate the great and holy God we serve .

WANT TO DWELL ON THE CARE OF THE STRANGER . 10 v19

What motivates us ...to appreciate the “soul of the stranger “ Ex 23v9

Think how hard it is even today...for people to be fully integrated into our community ..to feel accepted..to feel loved and wanted...

They come with :-

- No knowledge of ecclesial history or the ecclesial world
- Have not read Bible all their lives...history, chronology ,geography and the characters are all new. No Sunday School background
- **Know so few people ,...many of us a have long established and valued friendships...(great that we do)..but remember what it must be like knowing only a few well- so we must reach out and include them (not just added on to our family gatherings – where they may still feel left out)**
- They are unfamiliar with ecclesial traditions and customs..(some of which. are sometimes very hard to fully justify scripturally)
- No family..often no family support(sometimes they have been cut off by family)-whereas most of us have too many relatives ..perhaps some we could do happily without.
- Often they come in to the faith without their partner for support/prayer/ readings, discussions at home..
- Compromises with non believing partners are often necessary..
- Cant always attend ecclesial functions as they might like to.
- Their children have not been taught Bible ideals from the cradle.
- Some bring the scars of past worldly lives(habits, prejudices, fears and lifestyles with them)
- IN OUR DEALINGS -DO WE REMEMBER HOW WELL GOD HAS INCLUDED US IN HIS FAMILY – with all our faults ?.
- How quick we are sometimes to feel uncomfortable with converts (they don't quite fit)
- In USA ..Some of the Unamended –admiited they almost stopped preaching as they found that new converts diluted their desired atmosphere
- Easy for us to be inclined to judge and condemn those new in the faith..or even worse ,avoid their company.
- Let us remember what God did for us –while we were yet sinners
- Lord said...as ye did to the least of these my brethren.ye did to me.

Things to watch

- Dont talk ecclesial or old family history around them-it only emphasises their newness.

- Watch Christadelphianisms –we do have unique vocabulary (Eureka, Youth Aliyah, Cooper Carter addendum, Uncle Perce, exceptive clauses, metonymy, God manifestation) – be sure to explain these in simple terms
- Never treat them with a sense of superiority or condescension
- Remember the soul of the stranger...

Deu 18:18)

LOOK AT PAUL’S INSPIRED COMMENTARY on Deuteronomy ROM 10

- ROMANS 10v5-8 ..is quoting from Moses words in Duet 30 v11-14 To contrast the difference between WORKS of Law/compared to RIGHTEOUSNESS OF FAITH (note-heart is here- 4 times in v6-9)
- Rom 10v6-7 Going up / digging down is about human effort and works ...No- we just have to believe What God has done and can do.. and respond to that with diligent obedience .
- We believe in Jesus being God’s son =he came from above- Something no human could be/ or could do.....and that he was raised up from the dead -
- SEE THE WAY FAITH IS CONTRASTED here to the Law of Commandments (Lev 19.”the man that doeth these things” (Jews became mired in dogged obedience, kept lists of things I must do. -salvation by doing) Remember the rich young ruler-**Good master what good thing must I DO...to inherit eternal life /Like Saul of Tarsus – who had kept the righteousness which was of the law - blameless**
- Whereas Deuteronomy..explains the Path of Faith (a pathway motivated by inspiration, not will power- rather faith working by love – not of works,..not trying to put God in debt.) seev11 .. “whoso believeth”

- This interpretation of God's Law by Moses as expressed in Deuteronomy is one that is seen to be impacting on our hearts to inspire us , rather than drive us by fear. .
- But note carefully – Deuteronomy **was not a new Law** (it did not contradict- but rather expanded THE LAW already given)
- It brought a different way of reading God's Law...(Much like John's thematic Gospel compared to the other 3 synoptic gospels)
- The focus of Deuteronomy is the essential spirit of the law...A better and more insightful way to approach the Law..to see it as motivation to do right rather than legislation.(a list of commands to keep)