

Lesson 6 – Deuteronomy 1-4

Text: Deuteronomy 1-4

Key Passages:

- Deuteronomy 1:30-31 – God had cared for Israel as a son, even from Egypt.
- Deuteronomy 3:22 – God promised to fight for Israel as they entered Canaan.
- Deuteronomy 4:39-40 – “Follow the true God and it will go well with you in Canaan.”

Outline of Arguments:

In the first three chapters of Moses’ first speech, he did not make specific points, but rather reviewed the history of Israel since they came out of Egypt. He dealt chiefly with their rebellion at Kadesh Barnea (Numbers 13-14), the victory over Sihon, and the victory over Og. Though he did not reference these events specifically in his arguments in chapter 4, they helped to give context to the exhortations that he was about to make. As such, in going through the following arguments, one could return to the first three chapters for additional evidences/arguments for each point.

- I. Purpose: To help the Israelites take and live in the land of Canaan, specifically by exhorting them to obey the commandments of God and to recognize His power above all else
- II. It is critical to obey the commandments of God for success (4:1)
 - a. Do not add nor take away from them (4:2)
 - i. Those who disobeyed at Baal Peor were killed (4:3)
 - ii. Those who obeyed were spared (4:4)
 - b. Other nations will see that the commandments/Commander are wise (4:6-8)
- III. Remember what God has done so that neither you nor your children will fall away (4:9)
 - a. Remember the power of God at Mt. Sinai (4:10-14)
 - b. Do not worship idols
 - i. God had no form on Mt. Sinai (4:15)
 - ii. Do not be driven to worship the creation rather than the Creator (4:16-19)
 - c. Idols could not do what God did (4:20)
 - d. Remember your covenant with God (4:23)
- IV. God is all-powerful, loving, and forgiving
 - a. If provoked with disobedience, He can and will utterly punish (4:24-27)
 - b. Other gods cannot do anything at all, let alone match God (4:28)
 - c. If you turn, seek, and obey God when you are in sin and distress, He will help you
 - i. God is merciful (4:31)
 - ii. God will not forget His covenant (even if you have) (4:31)
 - d. God has done things for Israel like no one has ever seen or heard (4:32)
 - i. God spoke from the midst of the fire and the people did not die (4:33)
 - ii. God, by many demonstrations of His power, saved them from Egypt (4:34)
 - e. He is doing all of this for Israel out of love (4:37-38)
 - f. There is none other like the Lord, therefore obey Him (4:39-40)

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) It is critical to obey the commandments of God for success (see numerous examples).
- 2.) By following God’s laws, others may see Him in us and seek to know Him (Matthew 5:13-16).
- 3.) Remember what God has done and continues to do for us (Psalm 103).
- 4.) God is all-powerful, loving, and forgiving (Matthew 19:26, Ephesians 3:20-21).