

Deuteronomy – Diligent Obedience (Chapters 1-4)

- I. Introduction
 - a. Deuteronomy is a series of speeches (sermons) given by Moses after the Israelites had been wandering for 40 years in the wilderness (last 5 weeks in the wilderness)
 - b. As he gives these speeches, Moses knows that his end is coming soon
- II. History of the people of Israel (Deuteronomy 1-3)
 - a. The people, after years of slavery, are released from Egypt by God through the plagues and other miracles (see Exodus 1-18)
 - b. Chapter 1
 - i. History of the people from Exodus 19 – Numbers 13
 - ii. Note God’s promise to the people and the repetition of it
 - 1. v.8 (“See, I have set the land before you...”) - God
 - 2. v.21 (“The Lord your God has set the land before you...”) - Moses
 - 3. v.25 (“It is a good land that the Lord our God is giving us...”) - Spies
 - iii. v. 27 – They accuse God of hating them and bringing them out to be destroyed
 - iv. God commands the people to go into the wilderness, where they will continue to wander until 40 years have passed
 - c. Chapter 2
 - i. After being in the wilderness for 40 years, God commands the people to go back toward the Promised Land
 - ii. Commands the people not to contend with certain nations
 - 1. Edomites (v.4-5)
 - 2. Moabites (v.9)
 - 3. Ammonites (v.19)
 - iii. God commands the people to attack King Sihon
 - 1. “I have given...” – v.24
 - 2. “I will begin to put the dread and fear of you on the peoples...” – v.25
 - iv. God is victorious over Sihon
 - 1. “I have begun to give Sihon and his land over to you...” – v.31
 - 2. “And the Lord our God gave him over to us...” – v.32
 - 3. “The Lord our God gave all into our hands...” – v.36
 - d. Chapter 3
 - i. God defeats King Og as well
 - 1. “Do not fear him, for I have given him...into your hand...” – v. 2
 - 2. “So the Lord our God gave into our hand Og...” – v. 3
 - ii. God promises that all the land will be given into their hands as well
 - 1. “The Lord your God has given you this land to possess...” – v.18
 - 2. “You shall not fear them, for it is the Lord your God who fights for you...” – v. 22
 - iii. Moses was not allowed to enter into the land because of his sin (Numbers 20)
 - 1. Also Psalm 106:32-33 (he spoke rashly; seems he took the credit)
 - 2. This was in the last year of the wandering
 - 3. God allows him to see the land, but not to enter it
- III. The importance of being obedient (Deuteronomy 4:1-8)
 - a. Israel’s disobedience

- i. Golden Calf (Exodus 32)
 - 1. Forced to drink the calf's gold
 - 2. 3,000 people are killed
- ii. Twelve Spies into Canaan (Numbers 13-14)
 - 1. Israel is forced to wander for 40 years in the wilderness
 - 2. All of that generation would die
 - 3. The unfaithful spies were killed
- iii. Moses' Strikes the Rock for Water (Numbers 20)
 - 1. Moses is prevented from entering Canaan
 - 2. He will be able to see it, but then will die
- iv. Israel's Fornication with the Midianites (Numbers 25)
 - 1. The people turn to idols
 - 2. 24,000 people die because of the plague after the idolatry/fornication
- b. Benefits of obedience – Reading v. 1-8
 - i. "That you may live..." – v.1
 - ii. "Go in and possess the land..." – v.1
 - iii. "But you who held fast are alive today..." – v.4
 - iv. "...for this is your wisdom and understanding in the sight of the peoples..." – v.6
 - v. "...a God so near, whenever we call on Him?" – v.7

IV. How we need to be diligent (v. 9)

- a. "Take care and keep your soul diligently..."
 - i. Vigilance
 - 1. Driving illustration
 - a. What is the most nerve-racking situation while driving?
 - b. For me, driving on a narrow road... → need to pay the most attention to the road
 - c. Deuteronomy 4:2 (not adding or subtracting)
 - d. Deuteronomy 5:32 (not turning to the left or the right)
 - 2. Why is being vigilant so important to our obedience?
 - a. Driving example again
 - i. Suppose you're on a narrow road where the slightest misstep will make you go off a cliff → hyper vigilance
 - ii. Suppose you're alone on a 6 lane highway → not as much vigilance is necessary
 - b. Which road is this life most like?
 - c. What are the dangers of not paying attention as we live life?
 - i. Most of the time, people do not take "sharp turns" off the road...they slowly drift off the road
 - ii. Small compromises lead to big consequences
 - 1. This is what the world does to us
 - 2. 1 Peter 5:8 – the devil is out for us
 - 3. Friends/Co-workers/family will push us do things that are not quite right
 - a. "That's extreme..."
 - b. "Do you think that's really what God intended for us?"
 - c. Specific compromises?

3. Consider the Israelites and idolatry with the Midianites (Numbers 25)
 - a. They did not just suddenly commit idolatry and fornication
 - b. They had a history of making errors, eventually leading to this
- ii. Not being idle (instead being diligent)
 1. When you think of a diligence, what do you think of? (Working, etc.)
 2. Paul warns the Thessalonians in 2 Thessalonians 3 against idleness
 3. What are some of the dangers associated with idleness?
 - a. Consider building a house
 - i. First dig a hole
 - ii. Then...? If it isn't filled by a house, what will happen?
 - b. Our lives are the same way → we have to be careful that we are constantly filling our lives with
 4. Consider the Israelites coming out of Egypt → formerly had to spend all their time working and slaving away
 - a. What did they spend their time doing? (Complaining)
 - b. Deuteronomy 1:26-28
 - i. What is so dangerous about complaining and gossiping?
 - ii. (Go through the process of gossiping)
 - iii. Eventually, they had all built each other up against God that they claimed that God hated them
 - c. They also had time to build idols
 - d. What could they have been doing?
 - e. We have so many conveniences and tools which make tasks faster → yet we use the time we gain for pointless, and sometimes evil things
 - f. Ephesians 5:15-16 (we were once in darkness, now we are in light → use our time for good)
- b. Do not forget what God has done for us
 - i. We need to constantly be reminded of how good our lives are when we put them in God's hands
 1. Look at all that God had done for the people (v.20)
 - a. Removed them from slavery
 - b. Destroyed the Egyptians
 - c. Given them food
 - d. Given them water
 - e. Marvelous displays of power and wonder
 2. Note how quickly they forgot about His care and blessings and complained and murmured against Him
 - a. Exodus 17:7 ("Is God with us or not?")
 - b. Deuteronomy 1 ("God hates us!")
 3. Think about times in our lives where we have been blessed by God, or our prayers have been answered
 - a. How faithful and full of conviction and zeal are we at that moment?
 - b. How quickly does that fade?
 - c. 2 Peter 1:9
 - ii. Remember that obedience is best for us (v. 40) – God loves us
 - iii. How can we be reminded?

1. "Make them known to your children"
 - a. Importance of living our belief
 - i. We cannot make God a part of our lives
 - ii. We must make our lives a part of God
 - b. Teaching others, letting them see how God lives in us
 - i. That they may fear Him (v. 10)
 - ii. That they may glorify Him (Matthew 5)
 - iii. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 – we live for God
 1. Romans 12:1
 2. Ecclesiastes 12:13
2. Meditate on our lives and where God has helped us
3. Meditate on His word
4. Meditate in prayer

V. Conclusion