

DEUTERONOMY OVERVIEW – REVELATION DEMANDS A RESPONSE – CHOOSE LIFE

Finishing up the fifth book of the Pentateuch – The 5 books of the law – part of the 17 **historical** books of the OT

What is your view of History?

History is not just some objective review of past events. Everybody views history through some type of **interpretative grid** that tries to make sense out of the facts. I will just give you a sampling of some of the secular approaches to history before defining a biblical worldview:

- Liberal View – History = **a story documenting Human Progress** – Evolutionary approach -- Gen. 3 with the Fall quickly shoots down this approach; then you have Noah's Flood; then you have God's gracious dealings with Israel and their repeated failures – you have to suspend your critical faculties to embrace this view
- Postmodern View – **History is Meaningless** -- Since everyone's perspective is different to everyone else's, we have no vantage point from which to assess history and apply an interpretation that applies to everyone. Furthermore, since all perspectives and theories are **self-serving**, so will be our view of history. So there is no point in studying history. (Leave now!)
- Cyclical View – **History just keeps Repeating Itself** -- Everything is born, raises to maturity followed by a decline and then ends in death and then reborn again, a circular form. This circular theory is seen in: seasons, life, civilizations and in culture. You can learn some lessons, but you can't escape the next phase of the cycle.
- History is Irrelevant – **Henry Ford**: "*History is just one damn thing after another*"

Other quotes:

- **Michael Crichton**: "If you don't know history, then you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree."
- **Confucius**: "Study the past if you would define the future."
- **Dan Brown**: "History is always written by the **winners**. When two cultures clash, the loser is obliterated, and the winner writes the history books-books which glorify their own cause and disparage the conquered foe. As **Napoleon** once said, 'What is history, but a fable agreed upon?'"
- **Aldous Huxley**: "That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons that history has to teach."

Biblical Worldview:

- History is Linear – moving from Creation to End Times according to God's sovereign plan. It has a Purpose. God has an agenda. He will eventually subdue all His enemies and reign supreme.
- History has a Centre, a pivotal point in human history. That event is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the final analysis, Christ is the Lord of history. It is "His story." Unfolding the story of God's Plan of Redemption.
- History is a Revelation – of God's character and purposes – that is why the Pentateuch reflects a selective account of past events – we do well to study history from God's perspective. All designed to bring glory to God.

- We learn lessons from the mistakes and triumphs of the past
- We develop discernment as we recognize patterns and trends
- History equips us to better face our future

Housekeeping Note: Giving credit to 3 main sources I use every week in preparing these overview messages:

- Mark Dever – Capital Baptist Church in DC
- Ken Boa – degree from Dallas Theological Seminary
- Bill McRae – Background from D.T.S. and Preached at Believer’s Chapel in Dallas for a number of years before heading up a seminary in Toronto, Canada

Navigation at BibleOutlines.com – cf. Numbers Summary Page

Dive into the opening verses of Deuteronomy

Deut. 1:1-8 Preamble to the Book

These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel across the Jordan in the wilderness, in the Arabah opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel and Laban and Hazeroth and Dizahab.

Authorship: Moses -- – Pentateuch is a literary unit – same arguments apply as we mentioned earlier –

Mosaic authorship attacked by modern critics – They claim it was anonymously written not long before 621 BC (King Josiah’s reform – 2 Kings 22-23); But that date does not work due to:

- **external evidence** – look at the NT quotes (including by Jesus); look at Jewish and Samaritan acceptance of Mosaic authorship
- **internal claims** – What does Deuteronomy say about itself?

Plus the work would then be a fraud as it clearly claims to be the last sermons of Moses.

Setting and Background – no historical movement in the book – revealed in the plains of Moab just across the Jordan River from the Promised Land; covers about 1 month; at the end of the 40 year period of wandering and death in the wilderness; last year of Moses’ life [One funeral service and burial in the desert after another]

It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea.

About 150 miles to this city on the southern border of the Promised Land. Shameful that an 11 day journey should have required almost 40 years because of unbelief and disobedience.

And it came about in the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, that Moses spoke to the children of Israel, according to all that the LORD had commanded him to give to them, ⁴ after he had defeated Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth and Edrei.

Important military events to prepare Israel for entering and conquering the Promised Land. God had demonstrated his faithfulness in giving Israel victory over these 2 powerful Amorite kings east of the Jordan River. As long as Israel stepped out in faith and obedience, they had the assurance that their Covenant God would go before them and give them victory.

Across the Jordan in the land of Moab, Moses undertook to expound this law, saying,

Title – **Deuteronomy** = Compound word = **Second Law** – not a different law but a second giving of the law – a review and **exposition** of the law to the new generation that is now being prepared to enter the Promised Land; Remember: the original generation had died off in the wilderness after their unbelief and failure to obey

Deuteronomy: Book of Exposition of the Law

Featuring the Faithfulness and Uniqueness of God

1:5 – look at just one verb used here – *to declare this law* = **expound the law** – Heb. Word = *to make distinct or plain* – Consistent with our love for expository preaching -- Explaining the Scripture in the light of the context; faithful to the historical setting and grammatical flowchart of the passage

2 Key aspects of Expository Preaching – shows how to evaluate the preacher:

- 1) **Make the law clear and plain** so the people can understand --

Ask: Does the preacher explain what the passage is teaching?

- 2) **Apply the text to the present situation** in which you find yourself now --

Ask: Does the preacher show me how that applies to my situation living today?

"The LORD our God spoke to us at Horeb, saying, 'You have stayed long enough at this mountain. ⁷ Turn and set your journey, and go to the hill country of the Amorites, and to all their neighbors in the Arabah, in the hill country and in the lowland and in the Negev and by the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates. ⁸ 'See, I have placed the land before you; go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to them and their descendants after them.'

Time to Move Out / Get it in Gear – God's Promises still valid

Thematic Structure of the Book:

Many scholars see the pattern of an ancient covenant treaty structure – debate over whether it is patterned after Hittite or Assyrian treaty – that will have bearing on how you date the book and what you say about authorship.

Simple structure: Reviewing the law / Explaining the law / Exhorting Obedience to the law

BASIC OUTLINE:

**(1:1–8) INTRODUCTION AND INITIAL CHARGE: POSSESS THE LAND
AN UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S COVENANT REQUIREMENTS PREPARES
ISRAEL TO CROSS THE JORDAN AND TAKE POSSESSION OF THE
PROMISED LAND**

These are the 8 opening verses we just looked at.

Introducing a series of 3 farewell messages by the 120 year-old leader to the conquest generation – these are the important **last words** of Moses – Interesting that for as long as he lived, we only have significant incidents from a few years of his life – God’s account of history is very **selective**

- I. (1:9 – 4:43) **MOSES’ FIRST SPEECH: HISTORICAL PROLOGUE – LOOKING BACKWARDS -- PREPARATION TO CROSS THE JORDAN AND TAKE POSSESSION OF THE PROMISED LAND**
- II. (4:44 – 26) **MOSES’ SECOND SPEECH – COVENANT STIPULATIONS LOOKING AT PRESENT OBEDIENCE**

Vast amount of **legal detail**; but emphasis is on the general population rather than on the responsibility of the priests (as seen in Leviticus)

3 categories of the law

- A. 5-11 – **The Testimonies** – Starts with a fuller treatment of the foundational Ten Commandments; then additional Moral duties; don’t forget God’s gracious dealings
- B. 12-16 **The Statutes** – ceremonial duties – sacrifices, tithes, feasts
- C. **Civil Laws (17-20) and Social Laws (21-26)** – Israel’s system of justice, criminal law.; laws of warfare, property, social justice – sophisticated code of laws – details, wisdom on every aspect of life; quarantines; sickness, etc. – all sorts of detail we will not have time to cover today

(27-28) **CENTRAL CHARGE: BLESSINGS AND CURSES**

- II. (29-30) **MOSES’ THIRD SPEECH: **FINAL CHARGE** – LOOKING FORWARD**

(31-34) **EPILOGUE: SUCCESSION OF LEADERSHIP**

- First Speech: What God has done in the past – historical facts
- Second Speech: What God expects of Israel in the present – legal requirements
- Third Speech: What God will do in the future – prophetic words

Big Idea:

BASED ON GOD’S DEMONSTRATED FAITHFULNESS,
TAKE POSSESSION OF GOD’S PROMISES AND THEIR ASSOCIATED BLESSINGS
BY CHOOSING LIFE IN LOVING THE LORD AND OBEYING HIS COMMANDS

Key Verse:

Deut. 30:19-20 *“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So CHOOSE LIFE in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”*

Expanded Summary:

Deuteronomy is a book of transition as the nation of Israel is prepared to launch its military invasion to take possession of the Promised Land. The three messages delivered by Moses as his last words to God’s covenant people recount God’s past faithfulness (despite Israel’s pattern of disobedience and idolatry) and point to obedience to the revealed law of God as the key to future blessing, security and prosperity. Both general and specific stipulations of the law are reviewed as Moses exhorts the people to embrace the new leadership of Joshua and move forward in the path of covenant loyalty. His final exhortation lays out the blessings and cursings as he urges the people to **CHOOSE LIFE**.

Simplified Big Idea:

REVELATION FROM GOD DEMANDS A RESPONSE OF LOVE AND OBEDIENCE FROM HIS PEOPLE

We are going to dissect this Big Idea statement this morning as we track through the 3 major sections:

- I. What Type of Revelation**
- II. What Type of God**
- III. What Type of Response**

So we will be jumping around in the book – not covering it sequentially as in the outline I showed above about the 3 Speeches Moses gave and his various charges ...

Most of the Bible quotations you will be able to follow on the screen – I am trying to use a few larger representative passages rather than a mass of isolated quotes

I. What Type of Revelation

Deut. 29 -- THE PERSPECTIVE OF HISTORY SHOULD MOTIVATE COVENANT LOYALTY

29:29 *The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.*

How can we know the mind of God apart from His revelation to us? There are many details of God’s plan for history that have not been revealed to us. But our responsibility is to understand and obey what He has chosen to reveal.

(:1) TRANSITION – COVENANT RENEWAL

“These are the words of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the sons of Israel in the land of Moab,

besides the covenant which He had made with them at Horeb.”

2 generations addressed by Moses – first at Mt. Horeb (Mt. Sinai) – led to failure; second now in the plains of Moab by the Jordan River – the second giving of the law = **Deuteronomy**

A. Revelation in Powerful Deeds of Providence and Protection – Lessons of History – Ch. 29

**UNDERSTANDING THE PROVISION OF GOD’S FAITHFULNESS
IN THE PAST SHOULD MOTIVATE COVENANT LOYALTY**

(:2-9) Review of God’s Faithfulness in the Past

1. (:2-3) Acknowledgement of God’s Mighty Works of Deliverance

“And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, ‘You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh and all his servants and all his land; 3 the great trials which your eyes have seen, those great signs and wonders.’”

2. (:4) Absence of Spiritual Perception

“Yet to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to know, nor eyes to see, nor ears to hear.”

Cf. generation that witnessed Christ’s miracles and did not believe.

John MacArthur: In spite of all they had experienced (vv. 2, 3), Israel was spiritually blind to the significance of what the Lord had done for them, lacking spiritual understanding, even as Moses was speaking. This spiritual blindness of Israel continues to the present day (**Ro 11:8**), and it will not be reversed until Israel’s future day of salvation (see **Ro 11:25-27**).

3. (:5-6) Apologetic Value of God’s Gracious Provision in the Wilderness

*“And I have led you forty years in the wilderness;
your clothes have not worn out on you,
and your sandal has not worn out on your foot.
You have not eaten bread, nor have you drunk wine or strong drink, in
order that you might know that I am the LORD your God.”*

4. (:7-8) Appropriation of the Land of Sihon and Og

“When you reached this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon and Og the king of Bashan came out to meet us for battle, but we defeated them; 8 and we took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of the Manassites.”

5. (:9) Appeal for Covenant Loyalty – God’s design = His people prosper

*“So keep the words of this covenant to do them,
that you may prosper in all that you do.”*

B. Revelation in Proclamation of Words of Covenant Promise – Chap. 28

We tend to think of God’s promises as always being positive and reassuring – but there are

promises designed to instill the fear of God as well – we call these Warnings.

Both Promises of Blessing for Obedience and Cursing for Disobedience

(:1-14) Promises of Blessing for Obedience

(:1-2) CONDITION FOR BLESSING = OBEDIENCE [Follow in your bible]

A. (:1a) Condition Introduced – Requires Diligence / Spiritual Disciplines

*“Now it shall be, if you will diligently obey the LORD your God,
being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today,”*

B. (:1b-2a) Promise

1. (:1b) Elevation above the Nations

*“the LORD your God will set you high
above all the nations of the earth.”*

2. (:2a) Enjoyment of Blessings

“And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you,”

C. (:2b) Condition Repeated

“if you will obey the LORD your God.”

(:3-6) COMPREHENSIVE SPHERES OF BLESSINGS

A. (:3) Where You Live

*“Blessed shall you be in the city,
and blessed shall you be in the country.”*

B. (:4) What You Produce

1. Children

“Blessed shall be the offspring of your body”

2. Crops

“and the produce of your ground”

3. Livestock

*“and the offspring of your beasts,
the increase of your herd
and the young of your flock.”*

C. (:5) What You Eat

“Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.”

D. (:6) Where You Go – Daily Activities

*“Blessed shall you be when you come in,
and blessed shall you be when you go out.”*

(:7-13a) CHARACTERIZATION AND EXPOSITION OF BLESSINGS

A. (:7) Victory over Enemies

*“The LORD will cause your enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you;
they shall come out against you one way and shall flee before you seven ways.”*

B. (:8) Prosperity in the Land

*“The LORD will command the blessing upon you in your barns
and in all that you put your hand to,
and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God gives you.”*

C. (:9-10) Holiness as the People of God

*“The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, as He swore to you,
if you will keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and walk in His
ways. 10 So all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name
of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of you.”*

D. (:11) Productivity in Every Arena

*“And the LORD will make you abound in prosperity,
in the offspring of your body
and in the offspring of your beast
and in the produce of your ground,
in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.”*

E. (:12) Abundance of Provision by Virtue of God’s Providential Blessing

*“The LORD will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens,
to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand;
and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.”*

F. (:13a) Dominance on the World Scene

*“And the LORD shall make you the head and not the tail,
and you only shall be above, and you shall not be underneath,”*

(:15-68) Promises of Cursing for Disobedience [the opposite of the above blessings]

- Pestilence
- Overwhelming Difficulties – all types of diseases
- Cosmic Opposition – heavens will be against you
- Crop Failure
- Military Defeat
- Psychological Attacks
- Relentless Opposition

(:45-46) Summary Conclusion Relating to Cursings

1. (:45) Inescapable Destruction Due to Disobedience

*“So all these curses shall come on you and pursue you and overtake you
until you are destroyed, because you would not obey the LORD your
God by keeping His commandments and His statutes which He
commanded you.”*

2. (:46) Shocking and Shameful Legacy

*“And they shall become a sign and a wonder on you
and your descendants forever.”*

So we have seen **what type of Revelation** God has provided – a Revelation that will demand our response – [Importance / Abundance / Privilege of such great Revelation]

II. What Type of God

A. Unique / Exclusive – the One True God ... there is no other

3:24 *“O Lord God, Thou hast begun to show Thy servant Thy greatness and Thy strong hand; for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as Thine?”*

4:32-40

“Indeed, ask now concerning the former days which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, [importance of biblical creationism] and inquire from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything been done like this great thing, or has anything been heard like it? ³³ Has any people heard the voice of God speaking from the midst of the fire, as you have heard it, and survived? ³⁴ Or has a god tried to go to take for himself a nation from within another nation by trials, by signs and wonders and by war and by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm and by great terrors, as the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? ³⁵ To you it was shown that you might know that the LORD, He is God; there is no other besides Him. ³⁶ Out of the heavens He let you hear His voice to discipline you; and on earth He let you see His great fire, and you heard His words from the midst of the fire. ³⁷ Because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them. And He personally brought you from Egypt by His great power, ³⁸ driving out from before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in and to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is today. ³⁹ Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other. ⁴⁰ So you shall keep His statutes and His commandments which I am giving you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may live long on the land which the LORD your God is giving you for all time.”

32:39 *“See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me; It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded, and it is I who heal; And there is no one who can deliver from My hand.”*

This is why God is a jealous God.

This is why idolatry is such a big deal and a grievous sin.

B. Faithful

7:9 *“Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;”*

God does not change / that is why it is so important we learn the lessons of history –

32:3-4 *“For I proclaim the name of the LORD; Ascribe greatness to our God! ⁴ The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.”*

C. Sovereign and All Powerful

- Sovereign in the Election of Israel (4:37) – chose to set His love on them

7:6-8 *“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ “The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”*

- Sovereign over the Nations and the affairs of men

7:22-24 *“And the LORD your God will clear away these nations before you little by little; you will not be able to put an end to them quickly, lest the wild beasts grow too numerous for you. ²³ But the LORD your God shall deliver them before you, and will throw them into great confusion until they are destroyed. ²⁴ And He will deliver their kings into your hand so that you shall make their name perish from under heaven; no man will be able to stand before you until you have destroyed them.”*

- We have seen what type of Revelation God has provided
- We have seen what type of God has provided that Revelation
- Now we will see what type of Response that Revelation demands

III. What Type of Response: Importance of Response of Love and Obedience

A. Response of Love

SHEMA – **Deut. 6:4-5** Jewish word for “Hear” – Jewish confession of faith recited twice each day

“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! ⁵ “And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

You might have assumed that the emphasis on God’s law in Deuteronomy would preclude an emphasis on love. But the opposite is the case. The basic idea of a covenant speaks of a loving marriage commitment between God and His people.

The emphasis in the Shema = **love the Lord**

Chap. 11:1 – *“You shall therefore love the LORD your God, and always keep His charge, His statutes, His ordinances, and His commandments.”* Also **vs. 13, 22**

Chap. 13:1-5 – One type of Test God uses to determine whether you love the Lord:

“If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, ² and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,’ ³ you shall not listen to the words

of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴ "You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. ⁵ "But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against the LORD your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to seduce you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you."

What voice are you listening to?

Such a response of love requires the initiating gracious work of God within our hearts – this will follow sovereign restoration and is fundamental to the New Covenant

30:6 *"Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, in order that you may live."*

We are unable to circumcise our own hearts; dependent on God's sovereign grace.
Yet we are charged with the Moral Responsibility of choosing to love God.

Pray that God would give you a heart to love Him more.

Pray that the Lord will circumcise your heart so that you love Him.

This heart of love was to be demonstrated in obedience to God's revealed law

B. Response of Obedience

10:12-13 *"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ and to keep the LORD's commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?"*

30:19-20 *"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So CHOOSE LIFE in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."*

No substitute for obedience – good intentions, sincerity not enough -- must be doers of the Word and not hearers only

External conformity to the rules and regulations not enough – Obedience is first of all a matter of the heart – you know that from disciplining your children – "I'm sitting down on the outside but standing up against you in my heart"

You might expect a happy ending for Israel here as they choose life and go on to live a blessed existence – but sadly that was not the case

(Chaps. 31-34) EPILOGUE: SUCCESSION OF LEADERSHIP

Chap. 31 -- CONTINUITY OF LEADERSHIP IN THE TRANSITION FROM MOSES TO JOSHUA

Michael Grisanti: In preparation for Israel's entrance into the Promised Land subsequent to his death, Moses appoints Joshua (before all Israel) as the next national leader. He arranges for the reading of his addresses, given on the plains of Moab, every seven years and for the deposition of the law. The Lord commissions him to write a final poem that will serve as a witness against Israel when they forsake him.

Formal Commissioning of Joshua

31:1-6 *So Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel. ² And he said to them, "I am a hundred and twenty years old today; I am no longer able to come and go, and the LORD has said to me, 'You shall not cross this Jordan.' ³ "It is the LORD your God who will cross ahead of you; He will destroy these nations before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua is the one who will cross ahead of you, just as the LORD has spoken. ⁴ "And the LORD will do to them just as He did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when He destroyed them. ⁵ "And the LORD will deliver them up before you, and you shall do to them according to all the commandments which I have commanded you. ⁶ "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."*

That's the same charge we need to heed today.

Moses certainly experienced some **tough times** as the leader of God's people –

- Pastor Harmon preached on Wed night about Finishing Strong from **Ps. 119**
- Moses saw his entire flock disobey God to such an extent that they were condemned to die in the wilderness without ever entering the Promised Land
- Moses disobeyed the Lord Himself and struck the Rock twice out of frustration so that he was prohibited from entering the Land

But He understood the importance of **obedience to God's Law**

- Wrote down the law for them
- Made sure they stored it in the ark of the covenant
- Commanded them to read the law at the Feast of Booths (**31:10**)
- Understood that the nation would continue their pattern of disobedience

31:27 *"For I know your rebellion and your stubbornness; behold, while I am still alive with you today, you have been rebellious against the LORD; how much more, then, after my death?"*

- Warned them of the dangers of disobedience in his closing Song (**chap. 32**)
- Charged them with obedience – **32:46-47**

*"He said to them, 'Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, which you shall command your sons to observe carefully, even all the words of this law. ⁴⁷ For it is not an idle word for you; indeed it is **your life**. And by this word you shall prolong your days in the*

land, which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.’”

34:5 “*So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.*”

Close with some Messianic Implications from Deuteronomy:

Unique portrait of Christ – Chap. 18:15-18

Understand that Moses is a type of Christ – not of the pastor of a local church

- Christ is the head of the church – not any pastor
- Pastors serve in the church with delegated authority as undershepherds
- You gain significant leadership principles from studying the great OT figures like Moses, Joshua and David – but don’t confuse the typology

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him. ¹⁶ This is according to all that you asked of the LORD your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, let me not see this great fire anymore, lest I die.' ¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, 'They have spoken well. ¹⁸ I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.'”

John the Baptist asked: *Are you the prophet who is to come?*

Moses as a Type of Christ:

- Only biblical figure other than Jesus to fill 3 offices – prophet, priest and ruler
- Both in danger of death at birth and providentially spared and protected
- Both rejected by their brethren
- Both were saviors and deliverers of their people
- Both exhibited compassion and interceded for their people
- Both were mediators of a covenant
- Both spoke to God face to face
- Both performed great signs and wonders

Review: Simplified Big Idea Outline

APPLICATION:

WHY STUDY THIS BOOK? 6 Key Reasons:

1. To understand the covenant relationship that God established with His people as He graciously liberated them from the bondage of sin and provided the power for them to respond in love and obedience to their King.

2. To encourage confident hope in God's promises for the future as we see His sovereignty over the nations and over Israel on display.
3. To help us take sin and its dangerous consequences seriously and understand how far short we fall of God's righteous standards. (We are prone to forget and to grow comfortable and complacent. We face the same type of temptations the Israelites faced. We need constant reminders.)
4. To motivate the proper response of fear of God and love for Him based on His display of mercy, undeserved grace and unrivaled love in our lives as He continually manifests His goodness and power.
5. To guard against idolatry by remembering the deliverance which the true God has already provided for us.
6. To lay the foundation for the required heart of obedience (which Christ unfolds in His Sermon on the Mount) – that God is never satisfied with outward performance but rather with the condition of our heart towards Him.