

DEUTERONOMY

INTRODUCTION

1. AUTHOR – Moses – It is the fifth book of the Pentateuch, sometimes called the “five books of Moses.”
2. DATE WRITTEN – Approximately 1400 B.C.
3. DATE COVERED – The last few months of Moses' life as Israel stood east of Jordan River.
4. NAME - Deutero = Second, Nomos = Law – The laws of God are renewed for the new generation about to enter the Promised Land.
5. KEY PHRASES – "Be sure to keep the commandment of the Lord", "Do not be afraid", Blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience

OUTLINE

The Book of Deuteronomy is formed around a series of sermons Moses preached to the new generation about to enter the Promised Land.

A LOOK BACK – CHAPTERS 1-11 A LOOK AHEAD – CHAPTERS 12-34

1. SERMON 1 – A REMINDER OF GOD IN ISRAEL'S HISTORY – CH 1:1-4:43
 - A. The generation that rebelled (Ch 1) and wandered (Ch 2)
 - B. The assurance of God's continued presence demonstrated in battle (Ch 3).
 - C. The call for obedience (Ch 4), because of who God is.
2. SERMON 2 – A REMINDER OF THE LAW IN ISRAEL'S HISTORY – CH 4:44-26:19
 - A. The introduction of the Law (Ch 4:44-49)
 - B. The basic commandments are stated and explained. (Ch 5-11)
 - C. Special Laws are given and explained (Ch 12:1 - 26:15)
Laws on Worship (Ch 12-16), Regulations for leaders (Ch 16-18),
Curses (Ch 19), War (Ch 20), and Miscellaneous (Ch 21-26)
3. SERMON 3 – THE BLESSINGS AND CURSINGS – CH 27-28
 - A. The ceremony on Mount Ebal and curses (Ch27)
 - B. The blessings of obedience (Ch 28:1-14)
 - C. The curses of disobedience (Ch 28:15-68)
4. SERMON 4 – THE CONCLUDING CALL TO BE FAITHFUL TO THE COVENANT – CH 29-30
 - A. The covenant is renewed by the new generation (Ch 29)
 - B. The decision is one of life or death (Ch 30)
5. SERMON 5 – THE LEADERSHIP PASSES TO JOSHUA - CH 31-34
 - A. Joshua is chosen as Moses' successor (Ch 31)
 - B. The Song of Moses (Ch 32) and his blessings (Ch 33)
 - C. The death of Moses (Ch 34)

THE IMPORTANCE OF DEUTERONOMY

1. In Deuteronomy, the laws are given in the context of a sermon not only stating the laws, but with a strong appeal to obey them and not disobey.
2. The entire appeal to obedience is rooted in the acts of God for Israel in deliverance and provision. "I am the God who brought you out...therefore..."
3. Deuteronomy introduces love as the basis of the law. God loved Israel (4:37) and Israel must love God (6:5).
4. God kept His promise of descendants as stars in the sky. Compare Genesis 15:5 and Deuteronomy 1:10.
5. The Word of God and the Laws of God do not change. (5:3 See Matt. 5:17-20)
6. Israel is instructed to make no treaty in the Promised Land. See 7:1-6. The entire book of Judges shows the consequences of their disobedience.
7. Deuteronomy is like a treaty between God and Israel. God is faithful.
8. Deuteronomy is a book of "Remember!" God never changes.

Notes by Pastor John Westerholm – 2003

DEUTERONOMY

1 – The name of the book means, “The Second Law.” The book retells the words, promises and commands to the new generation that was about to enter the Promised Land. It has been the command of the Lord that led them all the way along. The Lord was the one who had given them the land they were about to inherit. He did it because of the promise He had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The people have multiplied to a great extent, as the Lord promised in Genesis 12. V21 “See the Lord your God has set the land before you. Go up, take possession, as the Lord the God of your fathers has told you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” Moses reminded the people of their rebellion that had happened over and over again. It was due to their unwillingness to obey what God commanded. V32-33 “Yet in spite of this word, you did not believe the Lord your God, who went before you in the way to seek you out a place to pitch your tents, in fire by night and in the cloud by day, to show you by what way you should go.” It was in spite of all God had done to demonstrate His presence with them. It was done with the example of obedience of Caleb before them. There appears to be an inconsistency in V22 that says it was the peoples’ idea to send spies and Moses acquiesced. In Numbers 13 it was the Lord who commanded spies to be sent. How wonderful it is for us that Jesus is real and new to each new generation. This chapter is filled with opposite pictures of Jesus. The people should have believed God and entered the new land but they did not. As Christians, we need to understand and believe that Jesus has accomplished our victory by his death on the cross and live in the truth of that.

2 – It was the disobedience of the people that caused them to have to wait for all those years to enter the land. V14 “And the time from our leaving Kadesh-barnea until we crossed the brook Zered was thirty-eight years, until the entire generation, that is, the men of war, had perished from the camp, as the Lord had sworn to them.” The people of Israel were to destroy every nation but they were not to touch their relatives, Edomites, Moabites and Ammonites. How much closer are we in Jesus in that all those who belong to him are one!

3 – Moses recounted the battle against the kings east of the Jordan and that land was given to the two and one-half tribes as their possession. The idea of these battles was to show Joshua and the people that the Lord would give them victory. V21-22 “And I commanded Joshua at that time, ‘Your eyes have seen all that the Lord your God has done to these two kings. So will the Lord do to all the kingdoms into which you are crossing. You shall not fear them, for it is the Lord your God who fights for you.’” We have that in the Bible. Jesus always won the victory. There was never a struggle. His victory for us is certain. God continued to deny Moses the opportunity to enter the Promised Land because of his disobedience in the matter of the water at Meribah. V26 “But the Lord was angry with me because of you and would not listen to me.” He did allow Moses to ascend a mountain to view the Promised Land.

4 – This is one of the great sections in the entire Bible as Moses reminded the people of Israel of all that God had done for them. The result of that should be that they obey all his commands. If they would do that, they would be blessed. One of Moses’ points is that it is such a privilege to hear God speak as they have. V7-8 “For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call upon him? And what great nation is there that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?” The result is in V9-10. “Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children’s children – how on the day that you stood before the Lord your God, at Horeb, the Lord said to me, ‘Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.’ As strongly as Moses preached his case that because of all God has done for them they should obey his commands always, they still disobeyed. How much like them we are! We get tired reading his word and praying. We need him to change our hearts and give us a passion for him and his ways. We are so blessed by his grace to even live. God emphasizes that he has no form. Therefore they are to make no form of anything created to remind them of him or to worship. See Romans 1:23 “...and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.”

5 – This is mostly a repeat of the giving of the Ten Commands that is also found in Exodus 20. V3 is very interesting as Moses says, “Not with our fathers did the Lord make the covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today.” The presence of a generation is not necessary for that generation to be in covenant relation with God. God initiated these covenants. Our job is only to respond. Moses again appealed to them in V26 “For who is there of all flesh, that has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of fire as we have and still lived?” The people responded and committed that they would keep these commands. God responded in V29, “Oh that they had such a mind as this always to fear me and to keep all my commandments that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever.” All these commands point to Jesus because even with the great promises that accompany the commands, we as people show our stubbornness and commitment to rebellion by disobeying the commands. We need Jesus to be our sacrifice.

6 – This chapter contains the great saying of the *shema* in V4-6. “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your hearts and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words

that I command you today shall be on your heart." Even with the benefits of the Promised Land before them, the people still rebelled and sinned. The Older Testament reveals that there is only one God. The Newer reveals that one God is in Three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is not a contradiction but a further revelation.

7 – The Lord reveals why it is that he chose the nation of Israel out of all the nations of the earth. The reason is found in him not in them. V6-8 "For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt." So the Lord chose us in Jesus because of *him* and *his* purposes not because of us. Because of this, the people are to totally destroy all the inhabitants of the Promised Land sparing not one of them. However, in his wisdom he will not do it all at once but gradually as the people obey his commands and carry them out. Our status would be just like those things that are "devoted" if it were not for Jesus. When people do not understand how God could destroy the peoples in the land, it is because they do not understand the seriousness of sin or the holiness of God.

8 – This chapter reminds us of the greatness of God in leading his people. There are several statements in this chapter that help us understand God's motives in doing what he does. V2 says, "...that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not." They failed that test. V3 says, "...that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of God;" V16 "...that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end." V18 "You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers as it is this day." God always has a purpose for our lives and it is always for our good to lead us toward his ways. It is easy for us to forget about God and that all good things come from him when things are going well. Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper so that we would remember him and his sacrifice on the cross for our sins.

9 – It seems valid to also do something to remind us of our sins. Moses reminded the Israelites that God did not choose them because of their righteousness but because of the sins of the other nations. V5 "Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may confirm the word that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." They were stubborn. So are we. Moses is a picture of Christ, as he lies prostrate before God forty days and forty nights to plead with God to forgive them of their great sin. That was not even for his sin but the sin of the nation. How much more does Jesus do for us!

10 – In God's grace the stones of the Law were recreated. V12-13 "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?" They still did not keep the people from sinning. Only God's Spirit is able to do that. The Lord loves us despite our sin and Jesus died for us to keep God righteous. As great as God is, he does not need to treat us well at all. Yet he does. How great is that grace! V17-18 "For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing."

11 – Moses presented another series of arguments that it will go much better for them in the new land if they choose to obey not disobey. The emphasis here is to love the Lord our God and to obey all his commandments. V8-9 "You shall therefore keep the whole commandment that I command you today, that you may be strong, and go in and take possession of the land that you are going over to possess, and that you may live long in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers to give to them and to their offspring, a land flowing with milk and honey." V26-28 "See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God but turn aside from the way that I am commanding you today, to go after other gods." The problem is that apart from his grace we do not love him nor do we want to and we do not obey his commands nor do we want to do that. The way of blessing is obedience but the way of obedience is not what we want. Lord, you must change our hearts by the grace that you have shown us in Jesus.

12 – The people were required to bring their worship and offerings to the one place, the Tabernacle. They were also to destroy any places that the pagans who lived there before them used in worship of their gods. V2 "You shall surely destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree." In so doing, they are taught about God's one way to come to him. This illustrates that it is through Jesus and the cross that is the one way we can come to God. At the same time, the

restriction that all meals of meat had to be eaten at the Tabernacle is lifted. When they entered the Promised land they were able to eat meat their meal at their house whenever they wished.

13 – In this chapter, the Word of God is honored by the instruction that even if someone comes with a dream and says that the people are to turn away from God, that person is not from God and must be destroyed. That is to be carried out even if the dream they are told comes true. God's word rules over all other forms of communication. V3b-4 "For the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him." This chapter reflects the teaching of Jesus that says when we confront a situation where we must choose between a good friend, family member or town and God and his ways, we must choose God's ways and get rid of that friend. It may not be that we are to kill them but we may be right to kill the relationship that we have even if it is a close friend.

14 – This continues Moses' review of instructions for the new generation. The reason for these instructions must never be separated from the person of God. V21 gives this reason as, "For you are a people holy to the Lord your God." Clean and unclean animals are reminders of God's grace to us in Jesus. As Gentiles we were as outside and unclean as the unclean animals. In God's grace he has brought us into his people through the death of Jesus. Bringing the tithe is supposed to be a time of celebration and joy as it is brought to the Lord; it is also to be something that is to be spent on whatever you desire, "whatever your appetite craves." Lord, may desires for you be stronger than our desires for physical pleasure."

15 – All people and all land belong to the Lord were to be as it were rented by the people. V1-2 "At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release. And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release what he has lent to his neighbor. He shall not exact it of his neighbor, his brother, because the Lord's release has been proclaimed." Verses 7-8 show a picture of Jesus. They say that if anyone becomes poor that others are not to shut their hearts of compassion to that one but lend him sufficient for his need. Jesus Christ, though he was rich, became poor for our sakes so that we through his poverty might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9).

16 – Here is a review of the festivals of Passover, Feast of Weeks and Feast of Booths. The feasts were to be celebrated every year as a reminder that they had been delivered out of Egypt by the Lord. The main command of the book of Deuteronomy is to "remember" and these feast celebrations are designed to help them remember. The feast times were to be times of celebration, rejoicing and joy. The people must bring gifts and offerings "as the Lord your God has blessed you." Each has ways to picture Christ that were covered before. The end of the chapter is a series of statements on justice. These point to Jesus because he is the one who enabled the Father to be at the same time just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

17 – The people were to get rid of any influence that would be away from God. That might mean killing someone who worshiped another god. It is interesting that God announced that they would desire a king in the future and he permitted this. V15 "You may indeed set a king over you whom the Lord your God will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother." One of the instructions for this king is that he was to V18-20 "write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life that he may learn to fear the Lord his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel." There is a picture of Jesus in V8-13 in that if there is any case that is too difficult to decide within villages, it is to be taken to the high priest and Levites in Jerusalem. So all our decisions and judgments are to be taken to Jesus for his wisdom and will.

18 – This chapter continues with various instructions. The firstfruits were given for the support of the priests. There were a number of practices that the inhabitants of the Promised Land do that the people of God were told they must never do. These included seeking information about the future from a source other than God and sacrificing children to a god. The highlight of this chapter is the announcement that one day there will be a prophet like Moses who will arise. The test of a true prophet is that any word he says must come true. V21-22 "And if you say in your heart, 'How may we know the word that the Lord has not spoken?' – when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him." The prophet prophecy is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus who is the Prophet of all prophets. He will come from among his brothers. He will speak to them all God commands and in his name. All his words will come true.

19 – Again justice is highlighted in the instructions about the Cities of Refuge and in the laws concerning witnesses. These were to protect those who were innocent of murder. All people are created in the image of God and we must answer to him for all life. V10 says, "...lest innocent blood be shed in your land that the Lord your God is giving you

for an inheritance, and so the guilt of bloodshed shall be upon you." All justice laws and reminders point to Jesus and the fulfillment of the justice of God who is always just, yet who also justifies sinners through Jesus.

20 – There are numerous instructions given here about how to conduct warfare. In the first place, the Lord fights the battles and if anyone is afraid, or newly married, or with a house not dedicated, he is exempt. They were to kill every living person in any of the cities they captured. V16-18 "But in the cities of these people that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes, but you shall devote them to complete destruction...as the Lord your God has commanded, that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices that they have done for their gods, and so you sin against the Lord your God." Jesus still fights our battles for us and the victory that he won is already ours. We are not exempt from battle but the victory is ours.

21 – This section, chapters 21-25, is filled with various laws and instructions for Israel to keep. Some of the key phrases are: "So you will purge the guilt of innocent blood from your midst..." (21:9, 21; 22:21, 22, 24). "For both of these are an abomination to the Lord your God" (See 23:18; 24:4); "that it may go well with you and that you may live long..." (See 22:7; 23:20); and "Remember..." (See 24:9, 18). Here are more scenarios to which justice must be applied. If a dead body was found, the atonement had to be made because the loss of life seems to be owed to God. V8 "Accept atonement, O Lord, for your people Israel, whom you have redeemed, and do not set the guilt of innocent blood in the midst of your people, Israel, so that their blood guilt be atoned for." Jesus is our justice. He cares for all those who have no protection except the law.

22 – More laws were given. We can speculate how these laws came into being. Did God dictate these to Moses? Were they found through a situation that arose and was decided by the Urim and Thummim as used by the High Priest? We do not know. Many of the laws have to do with loving and caring for your brother. Others are to protect those who would be helpless. If a woman was raped, she should be released if it was out in the open country and she had no chance to cry out for help. If someone takes a wife but finds her unattractive and accuses her of unfaithfulness but it is proved that she is faithful, he must marry her and remain married to her. He cannot divorce her. This puts seriousness into marriage vows and shows marriage as Jesus marries us. He will never divorce us.

23 – Here are further laws. Both nocturnal emissions and human excrement are considered unclean and must be cleansed before the Lord. V14 "Because the Lord your God walks in the midst of your camp to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you." In this sense, how did Jesus remain clean during his life? Or did this not disqualify him? This helps us understand that unclean is not the same as sinful.

24 – Further miscellaneous laws are given that reflect not only God's standard but also his compassion for the poor, widow, and "sojourner" in the land. We see it lived out in Jesus who touched the leper, healed the sick and ministered to the lonely and outcast. Note V13 that states, "And it shall be righteousness for you before the Lord your God." This was not holding onto someone's possession as a pledge for a loan. All of life is lived in plain view of God who sees all we do. We can never be holy enough for him. Yet he still cleanses us through Jesus.

25 – Further statements of righteousness and justice are given. Also again we must note that God seeks revenge for himself. It is part of his justice. We must not diminish God's justice and at the same time realize that Jesus allowed God to maintain his justice while also showing mercy.

26 – This chapter was set up to tell the testimony of what God had done to bring the nation of Israel into the Promised Land. It concludes with a prayer in V14-15. "Look down from your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless your people Israel and the ground that you have given us, as you swore to our fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey." After many instructions regarding tithes and offerings and ministering to the poor by not reaping all you could, God gives the motive for these actions in V16-19. "You have declared today that the Lord is your God, and that you will walk in his ways, and keep his statutes and his commandments and his rules, and will obey his voice. And the Lord has declared today that you are a people for his treasured possession, as he has promised, and that you are to keep his commandments, and that he will set you in praise and in fame and in honor high above all nations that he has made, and that you shall be a people holy to the Lord your God, as he has promised." The people belong to God. They are his people. So Jesus has purchased for God from every tribe and nation and language and peoples a people for his name. May we fulfill his goals for us!

27 – God is a God of justice. He promises blessing for obedience but also curses for disobedience. V9-10 "Keep silence and hear, O Israel: this day you have become the people of the Lord your God. You shall therefore obey the voice of the Lord your God, keeping his commandments and his statutes, which I command you today." All the curses that we deserve for our disobedience he has taken out on Jesus, who died in our place. This visual experience on the two mountains made a vivid impression on the Israelites. So the death of Jesus on the cross for our sins and the visual reminder in the Lord's Supper are to make an impression on us of the reality of Jesus' death for us.

28 – Can you imagine how anything could be any worse than what God promised for curses on those who disobey his commands or to be any better than what he promised for blessings on those who obey his commands? Yet people still chose to disobey. V2 “And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God.” V45 “All these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you till you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that he commanded you.” Note how much more extensive are the curses than the blessings in length of description. It still does not work to prevent people from disobeying. Not even hell prevents people from disobeying. How committed to rebellion and rejection of God we are! How gracious is he to rescue us nevertheless! The curses for disobedience increasingly worsen conditions in a way that is designed to turn the people back to the Lord.

29 – No matter how strong God makes the conditions of the covenant, the people will break them. This only reinforces the seriousness of the statements in the previous chapter. The point is made even stronger in that what one person does can affect the entire nation and still people rejected God’s ways. V18 “Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the Lord our God to go and serve the gods of the nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit.” We have no idea how sinful we are but God knows it. We are totally dependent on Jesus and his work for us on the cross. V29 “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of the law.” Do you notice how much time is spent studying the mysteries or “secret things” such as the Trinity, the nature of spiritual war or spiritual gifts? There is such an interest in those things and debate about their meaning. However the issue in the Bible is what we do about obeying the commands of God. There is no question about their meaning and that is what we are to concentrate on.

30 – This chapter clearly outlines the choices that the people have. Will they obey the word of God or will they disobey it? V15 “See I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.” Life and good come from obeying God’s commands. Death and evil come from disobeying them. V19-20 “I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers...to give them.” Even though the people continued to rebel and eventually lost the land as God kept his word on punishment, he was always ready for them to return in repentance. So Christ is always ready for us to return to him, and his Holy Spirit does that work in us.

31 – This chapter serves as a reminder that they are not only to hear the words of the book of the law but they are to remember them and do them. They are to be read to the entire assembly every seven years. V10-13 “At the end of every seven years, at the set time in the year of release, at the Feast of Booths, when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing... that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, and that their children who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.” They were also to write a song that would remind the people of God’s ways. God knows how sinful the tendencies of the people are. V21 “For I know what they are inclined to do even today, before I have brought them in to the land that I swore to give.” Warren Wiersbe writes that Moses had to die because he was the lawgiver and the law can never bring us into the “rest” of God. In this way, Joshua is a type of Jesus because he brought them into the rest of God. Joshua is the Hebrew name for the Greek name Jesus.

32 – This chapter is a song Moses wrote to remind the people of God’s goodness to keep them from disobeying the commandments that God gave them. There are several references in this “Song of Moses” to the Rock that traveled with the nation. V4 “The Rock, his work is perfect for all his ways are justice.” This is a reference to God while the New Testament makes it a reference to Christ who is God (1 Corinthians 10:4). It seems even from this chapter that Jesus is to be regarded as God. V15 says, “Then he forsook God who made him and scoffed at the Rock of his salvation.” V18, “You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you, and you forgot the God who gave you birth.” V31, “For their rock is not as our Rock; our enemies are by themselves.” That is still true for us today. No matter how powerful government or the media is, they stand alone and God is on our side. V46-47 “Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be careful to do all the words of this law. For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.”

33 – Moses blessed each of the tribes by name. Note the words of Levi in V9, “who said of his father and mother, ‘I regard them not’: he disowned his brothers and ignored his children.” This was during the time when he carried out God’s punishment on those who were sinning and stood for what God says is right in Exodus 32:26-29. What grace on God’s part that they are still around! What grace on Moses’ part that he still loves them and seeks to be their leader and represent them! What grace God extends to us that in all of our sin, Jesus still died for us. What a great

promise to them in V27. "The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms. And he thrust out the enemy before you and said, Destroy."

34 – Moses, the Law representative, died and did not enter the Promised Land. Joshua, the OT Jesus, led the people into the Promised Land, the place of rest. The testimony about Moses is V10-12. "And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, none like him for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, and for all the mighty power and great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel."