

## PREACHING THROUGH DEUTERONOMY

This book, with the Psalms, was quoted by Christ more often than any other. It is made up principally of three addresses delivered by Moses to the Children of Israel as they encamped in the plains east of the Jordan River, just before he died and shortly before they went into the promised land. Its name is taken from a Greek word meaning "second law," since it repeats and enforces many of the laws found in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers.

### ANALYSIS OF THE BOOK

#### First Discourse — 1:1—4:43

A review of the liberation and wanderings of the Children of Israel.

#### Second Discourse — 4:44—28:68

The commandments repeated . . . . . 5

Provisions for godly teaching in the home . . . . . 6, 7

Reminders of God's goodness, and command to put  
down all idols . . . . . 8-13

Repetition of certain ritual laws . . . . . 14-19

Miscellaneous moral laws . . . . . 20-26

Prediction of things to come to the Jewish nation . . . . . 27, 28

#### Third Discourse — 29, 30

Renewal of the Covenant, with promises and warnings.

#### Concluding portions — 31-34

Moses delivers the book of the Law to the Levites . . . . . 31

Song of Moses . . . . . 32

Moses' blessing on the Children of Israel . . . . . 33

Death of Moses . . . . . 34

### GREAT PASSAGES

For pure eloquence these addresses of Moses have never been surpassed.

Deuteronomy 6:3-9 is used to the present time as the creed of the Jews, recited daily in the homes of the pious.

Chapters 8 and 9 tell how and why God dealt with the nation of Israel as His chosen people.

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Chapter 18 (15-19) gives one of the clearest predictions of Christ to be found in the Old Testament.

Chapter 28 predicts with amazing accuracy and in amazing detail the fate of the rebellious Jews even to the present time.

Sermon Outlines Provided:

“Ask of the Days That Are Past” (Deut. 4:32-40)

“Taking God Home” (Deut. 6:1-9)

“Put Away the Evil” (Deut. 13:1-5; 21:18-21)

“The Law for the Family” (Deut. 22:13-21)

Other Suggested Sermon Topics:

“Lest We Forget” (Deut. 8:11-20)

“The Later Prophet” (Deut. 18:15-19)

“Amen” (Deut. 27:15-26)

“The Word Is Nigh Thee” (Deut. 30:11-14)

## QUESTIONS OVER DEUTERONOMY

1. The book of Deuteronomy consists mainly of speeches of what man to the Israelites before they entered the promised land? (1:1)
2. Who was to lead the Israelites after Moses' death? (3:28)
3. What reason is given in Deuteronomy 5:15 for obeying the Sabbath commandment?
4. Why were the Israelites forbidden to intermarry with the tribes in Canaan? (7:4)
5. What did Moses do with the golden calf? (9:21)
6. Why does God say to show love to strangers? (10:19)
7. Clean animals that could be eaten must meet what two requirements? (14:6)
8. What kind of bread is not to be eaten during the Passover feast? (16:3)
9. What command is given about men wearing women's clothing and vice versa? (22:5)
10. Where did Moses die? (34:1, 5)
11. At what age did Moses die? (34:7)

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ASK OF THE DAYS THAT ARE PAST

(Deuteronomy 4:32-40)

INTRODUCTION —

Moses an historian

Here is an interesting comment on his place as the recorder of history "since God created."

He would not speak slightly of the "dead past."

"The past alone is complete and universal, and only through it can the fulness and richness of life be savored; the grains must be well ground before we can eat the wheat bread."

— *Aubrey F. G. Bell*

Moses knew a greater truth; the history he recalled was written by the finger of God.

I. HE CALLS ATTENTION TO THE FACTS (IN ALL TIME AND IN ALL PLACES).

A. There may have been those who would call his method cold, irreligious, unfeeling.

B. They are God's facts.

C. The New Testament church appeals to facts.

1. The apostles preached facts . . . Pentecost . . . Antioch . . . Mars Hill.

2. They recorded basic facts in their writings. See contrast of modern preaching with this.

"I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. . . ." (I Thess. 4:13; cf. I Cor. 15).

3. Personal salvation is established in the facts of Christ.

4. Pattern for the church is laid down in facts.

"added about 3000 souls" (Acts 2:41).

"The number came to be about five thousand men" (Acts 4:4).

"Then had the churches rest . . . and . . . were multiplied" (Acts 9:31).

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II. HE SETS FORTH THE PURPOSE OF HISTORY.

- A. "That thou mightest know that the Lord, He is God; there is none else beside him" (Deut. 4:39; cf. Luke 1:1-4; John 20:31).
- B. "Be ready always to give an answer to every one that asketh thee a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" (I Pet. 3:15).

III. THE PURPOSE OF KNOWING IS *DOING*.

*Ask of yesterday that you may know today how you should order your life tomorrow.*

- A. Paul uses history in the same way . . . I Cor. 10:6.  
"I would not that you should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud. . . . Now these things were our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. . . ." (I Cor. 10:6).
- B. The conclusion of the whole matter is found in doing . . .  
"Behold I set before you this day a blessing and a curse, a blessing if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day; and a curse if you will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known" (Deut. 11:26-28).

CONCLUSION —

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel [tell the facts of the good news] to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be condemned" (Mark 16:15, 16).

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TAKING GOD HOME (A Family Week Sermon)

(Deuteronomy 6:1-9)

INTRODUCTION —

This passage the creed of the Jews, recited by the orthodox. Used, with Exod. 13:9, 16 and Deut. 11:18, in phylacteries (“preservation”) and mezuzah.

These uses came into being with the Talmud of the Pharisees, but the truth which is as old as time is the foundation stone of the Jewish home.

I. THE ON-GOING OF THE FAITH BECOMES THE ON-GOING OF THE NATION.

A. “Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4; cp. II Tim. 1:5).

B. Says Geo. A. Buttrick:

“The New Testament church was in a house before it was in a church. It must, perchance, be revitalized in houses, before it can be revitalized in churches— or rather, home and church must revitalize each other.”

C. It is hard to say which is more necessary to the other— faith, or the home. They lean heavily on each other.

D. To have a faith which will mean much in the home, it must be learned at home.

But religion cannot be inherited; it must be taught to each individual.

II. “TEACH THEM . . . TO THY CHILDREN.”

a. One must first learn before he can teach.

b. Much is caught by example in the home, but not all.

c. Family worship—

Possibilities— a few verses read and explained.

Prayer— get off crutches of rote prayer.

Songs and discussion of them.

Talk about Christian leaders.

d. Reading— Bible, story book, *Christian Standard*.

e. Talk of them— If family eats without discussion of the Law, it is as a heathen feast.

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- f. Bind them for a sign. Mottoes of the mind.  
Guide the hand, the eye, the life.

III. "WHEN THY SON ASKETH THEE . . ." (6:20-25).

A. Here is a lad who has been into religion over his depth; modern educator shudders: "Primary children cannot understand the adult ministry of Jesus."

B. Expose to the things that will bring up questions about Christianity.

The Bible—preaching—the ordinances.

Then be sure you know the answers.

IV. BRING NO ABOMINATION INTO THY HOUSE.

A. Heathen image, perhaps of precious metal.

B. Now—Drink, indecent pictures, decorations, literature. Shall it be, "Mother taught me to dance" or "Mother taught me to pray"?

C. What shall we bring into the house?

Christian friends—Christian workers.

See Acts and Epistles for hospitality.

V. GIVE NOT YOUR DAUGHTER TO THEIR SON IN MARRIAGE.

The tragedies of those "married out of the church" . . .

A. Marriage is acquaintance and friendship come to fruition. —Where are friends made?

B. God made marriage, and protected the home by law, that children might have a chance.

C. Home is for the children—your home is for your children—their home for theirs.

"Will he make a good father for my children?"

CONCLUSION — God our Father invites us home.

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PUT AWAY THE EVIL

(Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 21:18-21)

INTRODUCTION —

Military authorities during World War II said that France was defeated early in that war because she saved too much of her equipment from World War I. Germany, having suffered destruction of all arms in the First World War, started fresh with modern implements, and conquered.

Many a Christian, holding to the traits and habits of the "old man," is spiritually defeated, whereas ruthless destruction of the old in making the fresh start would bring victory.

I. PUT AWAY THE EVIL.

A. The command is repeated nine times in Deuteronomy.

1. Eight times it refers to the stoning of the lawbreaker: false prophet (13:5); idolater (17:7); rebellious son (21:21); harlot, adulterer, attacker of woman (22:21, 22, 24); kidnapper (24:7).

2. The false witness to be requited in kind (19:19).

B. The judgment of God is equally severe against the same things, with the difference that in Christ there is a way of repentance.

1. The sinner can let Christ destroy the sin before it destroys him.

2. Read I Cor. 6:9-11 for same condemnation of—  
Moral impurity in all its forms  
Idolatry, or false worship  
Covetousness and stealing  
Intemperance  
False witness or reviling.

II. STERN MEASURES ARE IN ORDER FOR THE SAVING OF THE NATION.

A. Israel was in a life-and-death struggle between truth and heathenism.

—A tender plant, it had to have the ground cleared relentlessly.

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- B. Ours also is a personal life-and-death struggle. The idea of coasting into heaven is not in God's book. "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" (Matt. 16:26).  
"If thy right hand offend thee, cut it off" (Matt. 5:30).  
"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy" (Matt. 10:37).  
". . . the loss of all things, that I may know Him . . ." (Phil. 3:7-11).
- C. Stern measures are in order as a community.  
(Farmer unhesitatingly shoots and kills prize bull when it attacks his daughter.)  
The liquor traffic claims more lives than war.  
A nation gives to the limit and seeks to destroy cancer because it kills many, but liquor destroys ten times as many, soul and body.  
Shall we continue to feed and pet this monster?

### III. THERE IS DEATH IN REFUSAL TO PUT AWAY THE EVIL.

- A. Achan kept a wedge of gold, 200 shekels of silver, and a garment, thus bringing defeat to Israel at Ai, and death to his own household.
- B. One man refuses to leave his beer, another his gambling, to accept Christ.
- C. A whole nation becomes complacent and tolerant of sin — "If no one ever did any worse than I do . . ." But sin is sin. "Every one else does it . . ." But everyone else won't stand with you when you are judged.

### CONCLUSION —

The blessings of Christ are worth any sacrifice. (John Chase says Korean Christians make no sacrifices — all they give up is their material possessions, family, and friends — and look at what they gain!)



PREACHING THROUGH DEUTERONOMY  
THE LAW FOR THE FAMILY  
(Deuteronomy 22:13-21)

INTRODUCTION —

There are a multitude of funny stories about marriage and in-laws — tell none.

Laughter and jesting are a double-edged sword without handle; can cut wielder.

The text is about marriage — and it is no laughing matter. Neither is the creation, the Law, the Gospel, the Church. Jesus covered the whole matter admirably in Matthew 19:3-6.

I. GOD MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE — THIS MAY BE SAID OF THE WHOLE CREATION.

A. Purpose is, in most cases the continuance of the species.  
“Be ye fruitful, and multiply . . . and replenish the earth” (Gen. 1:28).

B. “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife.”

1. A home is for the sake of the children, and because children need protection, guidance, spiritual training. The home is permanent.

2. A “help meet” — spiritual union.

Two personalities merge into one, which is greater and finer, richer than either or both together — each bringing out the best in the other — neither complete without the other — “so then, neither is the wife without the husband, nor the husband without the wife.”

C. That which is given for a blessing is often used for a curse — the best things, misused, become the worst.

“For this cause shall a man leave — and cleave unto his wife” becomes:

1. Men make merchandise of this God-given passion — make slaves and playthings of women, and make beasts of themselves.

2. Young people make a toy of the love of man for maid, and so exercise it that both real love and self-respect become impossible.

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3. The entertainment world makes merchandise of this sacred gift.
4. Men, inflamed by enticements of entertainment and social world, leave wife and family to keep company with another.

### II. GOD HAS HIS NAMES FOR THESE THINGS—NOT BEAUTIFUL, BUT NOT SO UGLY AS THE SIN.

- A. Lasciviousness—lewd and lustful, immoral thought and action in general.

Fornication—the unlawful union of man and woman.

Adultery—such unlawful union, violating a marriage already established.

- B. They are all in the catalog of sinners that “shall not inherit the kingdom” (I Cor. 6:9) and “shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone” (Rev. 21:8).

### III. GOD HAS HIS LAW CONCERNING THESE THINGS:

- A. Old Testament.

1. The harlot was to be stoned.
2. Adulterers to be stoned, both man and woman.  
Betrothal binding as marriage.
3. The man who forces a woman against her consent shall die—if she consents, both.
4. Those who come together before marriage are required to marry.

- B. Present relation to Old Testament law.

1. Many think that a thing is right if society does not condemn it. *Society* is condemned.
2. The control of sex is an emotional matter, to be accomplished by a greater emotion—Christian love.
3. Real answer is in I Thessalonians 4:1-8 “It is of God.”

**CONCLUSION** — There is only one who can say, “Go thy way, and sin no more” (John 8:11).