

Study Series: Deuteronomy

Questions about Deuteronomy 1.1—4.43

1. At the beginning of Deuteronomy, where are the Israelite people, and what are they preparing to do? (1.1-8)
What is so important about the land of the Canaanites?
2. Why did God cause the Israelites to wander in the desert for forty years? (1.26—2.7)
3. What events does Moses recall to prove to the people that the LORD is the only true God? (4.1-8,29-40)
4. What must the people of Israel do in order to take the land God promised to give them? (4.1,2)
5. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: “Those who don’t study the past are doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past.” Explain your opinion. How would such a statement apply to the beginning chapters of Deuteronomy?

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Questions about Deuteronomy 4.44—29.1

1. Moses' "Second Speech" (4.44—29.1) is long, but it repeats several key themes. What are this speech's key themes?
2. Name three laws from 4.44—29.1 that no longer seem to be in effect today. Why do you think this is so?
3. What, if anything, surprises you about the laws or the culture reflected in this section of Deuteronomy?
4. What does the LORD God want from his people? (6.4-9; 10.12,13) 5. Why was it important in chapter 12 to claim that there was only one place (Jerusalem) to worship the LORD? Why do you think this has changed?
5. Chapter 20 describes warfare that is often called "holy war." Have you heard this term used today? If so, what did it refer to? How does the "holy war" idea in Deuteronomy fit with your idea of war today?
6. One message of Deuteronomy is that God blesses the faithful and curses the unfaithful. What reaction do you have to this message?

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Questions about 29.2—34.12

1. Idol worship is described as being like a poison in the community (29.18). Explain what this means.
What “idols” are worshiped in modern culture? How does worship of idols “poison” our communities?
2. Compare Deuteronomy 30.11-14 and Romans 10.1-13. According to Paul (the writer of Romans), what has become even more important than obeying the Law?
3. What was the historical situation that Israel understood to be its punishment for disobedience?
What is the reward for changing? (30.1-10)
4. The challenge to choose life or disaster is described clearly in the words of Moses.
Why did the Israelites have difficulty choosing life? How can you “choose life?” (30.15-20)
5. The Israelites celebrated God's place in their history and in their lives several times a year (16.1-17; 31.10-13).
How do you celebrate your relationship with God?
6. Why did God not allow Moses to enter Canaan, the promised land? (3.23-28; 32.49-52; Numbers 20.1-13)
What does this say about God? About Moses?