

DEUTERONOMY

Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might. 6:4,5

See, I have set before you today, life and prosperity, death and adversity. 30:15

It's time. God's chosen people are camping near the Jordan River. Will they finally cross into the Promised Land? How will they do? Moses – who lifted his staff and parted the Red Sea while Pharaoh's armies threatened the people, who pleaded with God for their survival, who put up with their complaining and idolatry, who has led them for 40 years – must now say good-bye. How can he prepare them?

In Deuteronomy, Moses assembles everyone several times for parting instructions like a coach before the big game. This is what God has done: escape from Egypt, manna and water, the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai, and laws for a holy and prosperous people. This is what God has promised: ***I will be your God and you will be my people.*** There will be great blessings if you trust and obey. Horrendous curses and homeless exile will be your punishment if you do not. This is the danger: you did not trust God before, you are stubborn and you may grow complacent. So Remember What I Taught You!!!

The book ends with Moses' death on Mount Nebo. His successor Joshua will lead them across the Jordan River and into their new home. How will they do?

HELPFUL READING PLANS

Overview: These few chapters give you the story and the main message. This is a great way to get into the story without bogging down in the laws.

4:1-40 Remembering God's deliverance and covenant

6:1-8 The Great Commandment

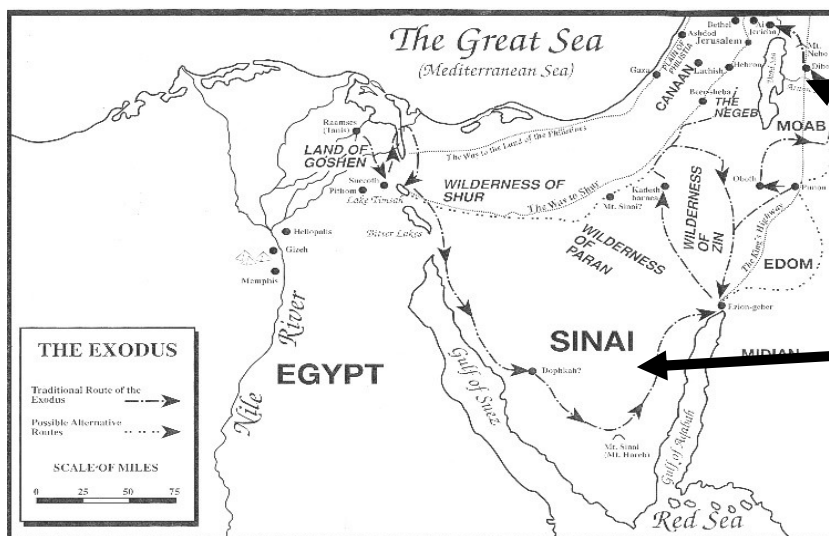
30:11-20 Choose life or death

34: Moses' death and burial

All of Deuteronomy in 24 days: One chapter a day will get you through Deuteronomy easily.

WHY DEUTERONOMY IS IMPORTANT

- Shema: creedal statement of Judaism: ***Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.*** (6:4-8)
- Sets forth basis of God's judgment during the era of Kings and the Exile.
- Old Testament book quoted most often by Jesus.
- Sets forth the foundation of the law: loving God above all else. Jesus emphasized this. The apostles taught that Christians are required to love God and respect all life, but not follow all the laws. (Acts 15)



Mt. Nebo

Mt. Sinai