

Life's RESET

The Book of Deuteronomy



*“Be careful to **obey** all the commands I am giving you today. Then you will live and multiply, and you will enter and occupy the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors.*

***2 Remember** how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for these forty year humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands.” Deuteronomy 8:1-2 NLT*

We all need a “reset” at times in our lives. Israel, as a nation, needed a reset. The book of **Deuteronomy** continues where **Numbers** leaves off.

- **Deuteronomy** was written to the *second* generation of Israelites who had come out of Egypt. It was written at the end of the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness and covers about one month of time.
- **Numbers** was written about the *first* generation of Israelites. The *first* generation refused to trust God and take possession of the Promised Land. God let them go in circles in the wilderness for 40 years until the first generation all died. They missed God’s best for their life.

Key Scripture: Deuteronomy **8:1-6**.

Title: The name Deuteronomy means “**SECOND** law” because it is a record of Moses repeating God’s laws to the new generation preparing to enter God’s Promised Land. The name Deuteronomy comes from the Greek *deutros* meaning “second” and *nomos* meaning “law.”

Author: **MOSES**. The Old Testament repeatedly attributes the book of Deuteronomy to Moses. It is one of the five books called “the law.” (Josh. 1:7; Judges 3:4; 1 Kings 2:3; 2 Kings 14:6; Ezra 3:2; Neh. 1:7; Ps. 103:7; Dan. 9:11; Mal. 4:4). Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy and attributes it to Moses (Matt. 19:7-9; Mark 7:10; Luke 20:28; John 5:45-47). Deuteronomy itself contains about forty statements claiming Moses as the author (Deut. 31:24-26; 1:1-5; 4:44-46; 29:1; 31:9).

Who wrote Chapter 34? Chapter 34 records Moses’ death so it is logical that Moses did not write it. Most Bible teachers believe that Joshua added the last chapter. Joshua was appointed to succeed Moses as Israel’s leader (Num. 27:18-23) and he was the author of the next book titled “Joshua.”

Central Lesson
God offers a reset in life.
Remember His past goodness and obey Him in the future.

Key Words: Remember & Obey.

1. **REMEMBER**...

- The works of God and the giving of the law (4:9-10)
- The covenant of the Lord (4:23)
- The bondage in Egypt (5:15; 15:15)

The purpose for remembering the past was that Israel would be motivated to obey God in the present. The Apostle Peter spoke of the importance of being reminded of God’s ways so that we are motivated to live right in 2 Peter 1:12-15; 3:1-2.

2. **OBEY** or some similar expression (8:1, 6; 10:12; 27:10; 28:1, 2, 15, 45, 62; 30:2, 8, 10, 18).

Bible teacher Henrietta C. Mears outlines Deuteronomy in three parts:

- I. **Moses’ First Address**—“Looking Back” (Chapters 1-4)
- II. **Moses’ Second Address**—“Looking Up” (Chapter 5-26)
- III. **Moses’ Third Address**—“Looking Out” (Chapter 27-33)

Theme: The key theme of Deuteronomy is **remember, obey, and be blessed**. Deuteronomy is written for the next generation of Israelites who are ready to take possession of the country that God promised to Israel. They now have the opportunity to experience God’s best.

Likewise, God wants to bless us with His best. But we need reminders of God’s faithfulness and laws. We need a challenge to re-commit our lives to God, to His Word and to His ways of living.

Deuteronomy is a book of remembrance. It reminded the new generation of God’s past faithfulness, Israel’s rebellion & faithlessness. It reminded the new generation of the opportunity to re-dedicate their lives to God and to begin experiencing God’s best.

Do you need to re-dedicate your life to God? Do you need to remember the faithfulness & goodness of God?

One Bible teacher states that Deuteronomy was the favorite book of Jesus. He quoted more from it than any other book. Henrietta C. Mears, *What the Bible Is All About*, pp. 66-67.

Major Events in Deuteronomy:

1. **The Chronology**—retelling of Israel’s refusal to occupy the Promised Land which resulted in 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. (Chapters 1-4).
2. **The COMMANDMENTS**—reviewing the 10 Commandments and the other laws that Israel were to follow (Chapters 4-26).
3. **The Covenant**—the conditions for God’s blessing and the terms of God’s covenant—called the Palestinian Covenant (Chapters 27-30).
4. **The CHOICE of a Blessing or a Curse**—the quality of life in Israel’s future rested in their choices. If they obeyed God, He would bless them. If they turned from God, they would suffer his discipline (Chapter 28).
5. **The Conclusion of Moses’ Ministry**—Moses’ last words to Israel and the record of his death (Chapters 31-34).

Central Lesson:

God offers a reset in life. Remember His past goodness and obey Him in the future.

► Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday’s study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.