

February 15

Deuteronomy 1-4

Goal:

- I will ask you questions that I asked myself when reading first time through
- Want this time for continued personal application – not to read like a textbook assignment, but to ask how truth can be applied to your life, to my life.

Deuteronomy:

Israel is getting ready to enter into the Promised Land.

They were to enter the same land 40 years ago. They had left E. on top, God was real, they were free! However, as we know, success can lead to failure and lack of trust. Proven in what we read in Exodus the consequences of disobedience, where an 11 day journey became a 40 year wandering in the wilderness.

38 years with 'Men of fighting generation had perished (Heb 3.16-19). Israel knew that a generation would have to die off before they could enter into the Promised Land. I wonder how it felt to be one of the last ones from that generation alive, knowing that they were waiting on you 😊 Israelites had seen God work in miraculous ways – but chose not to trust God – and because of that there was a consequence of disobedience. Do you really trust God?

Deuteronomy:

Starts remembering the past with chap. 1-4 Historical (today's reading) about the past

Finishes focused on the future 31-34 Transition from Moses to Joshua

Philip Yancey wrote an intriguing book entitled "The Bible Jesus read"

He pointed out that in Deuteronomy 1; Moses was the oldest person in Israel. Everybody except Moses, Caleb and Joshua had died. Moses was challenging Israel to remember. Why? How could they forget the centuries of slavery that God had freed them from? The Ten Plagues (each plague specific to an Egyptian god. The river god turned to blood, the sacred fly became a swarming pest, the sun-god Ra disappeared behind a cloud and the great bull failed to protect livestock) p.83

What about the Red Sea, daily manna, pillar of fire and cloud day and night and miraculous victories in battle?

Can you think of times when you saw God work?

Israel needed a reminder, why? Because daily acts of reflection, concentration and worship necessary in order to not forget or repeat!

I also discovered in reading Deuteronomy what bothers God. What bothers God is the simple act of being forgotten and ignored – usually which comes from success. Moses knew it personally and knew it would be the same for Israel. Moses knew that with every downfall in his life came from when he seized power for himself.

You read that in Exodus when he killed an Egyptian who was beating up an Israelite, or when he struck the rock to get water.

Deuteronomy is:

1. About grace, undeserved. Despite failures – there is God’s pure, stubborn and everlasting love
2. About a relationship between an awesome and holy God with ordinary people prone to failure and rebellion. (93)
3. About how “God did it” how He cared for the Israelites and has guided them over the years. How he freed them from Israel during the first Passover, while the Israelites were inside, God moved Egypt to free Israel
4. How God raised a man to lead Israel. Think about Moses and how he was prepared by God over 80 years to then lead Israel. He was a Hebrew of pure pedigree expertly trained in Egyptian leadership skills, trained and fully capable of surviving in the wilderness. He became a preacher, historian, soldier, prophet, judge, politician, and priest. He knew about the power of God, but didn’t think that God could use him because he wasn’t eloquent. When Moses trusted God – he became the most powerful hero in Biblical history. Do you think God can use you? Or do you find yourself minimizing yourself, knowing that God can do anything – yet believe that He can’t do a work in AND through your life?
5. About the ‘dusty ones.’ That was the Egyptian slang for Hebrews during their time of enslavement. Guess what, we too are dusty ones, made of dust, maybe slaving away in a difficult time, enslaved to addictions or a lifestyle. Our life is of dust, possessions are just organized piles of dust, and we are temporary like dust.
6. Deuteronomy is about the temptations of life.
 - a. Jesus quoted Deuteronomy three times when tempted by Satan in the wilderness
7. Deuteronomy is about addressing fear and a desire for independence
 - a. depend solely on God knowing that fear only controls
8. Deuteronomy is about the warnings of idolatry 4.15ff
 “But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the Lord your God and obey him. For the Lord your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your forefathers, which he confirmed to them by oath.

Here are my takeaways of what Moses taught in Deuteronomy:

1. Sin is preventable
2. Obedience is vital (trusting in God that he has your best interests at heart)
3. There are consequences if you forget about God 4.25-31
4. And we have a God who
 - Forgives
 - Remembers our frailty

- Travels by our side as we saw in the tabernacle as showing that God is among us through our wilderness journey's
- With grace loves us – the dusty ones – to lead us into a life of promise, hope and rest.

Caleb in 1.34 and Josh in 1.35 saw the land of Cannan as an opportunity to see God do more miracles and demonstrate His power. What do you want to see as you learn more about God and His love for you?

Deuteronomy is a reminder of the past, a chance to reflect on that past in order to have a future centered on God.