

February 16

Deuteronomy 4-8

Deuteronomy is about remembering. Moses wanted Israel to remember: I searched for the phrase 'do not forget' and in Deuteronomy that phrase was mentioned six times in the first eight chapters of Deuteronomy.

Remember, Israel after 3 days out of Egypt complained about no water, 30 days out complained of the food and 60 days later made a golden calf to worship!
Deuteronomy is about trusting God. In 1.30, 2.8, 3.22 we find the phrase "Lord your God who is going before you, will fight for you as He did for you in Egypt"

Chapters 5-8

Noticed that you didn't read the Ten Commandments in 5.6-21 in today's reading, it is broken out in readings later in the month into Mark with the corresponding explanations given in Deut, Lev, Num, and Exodus

There is Joy in obedience – Desiring God (John Piper) too many times I think people think that obeying will make you sad and frustrated.

Respect – Awe – reverence = Obedience. Do you respect God? Have you taken time to be in awe of God (what he has done, who he is?) Israel said they were in awe and reverence of God's holiness, but forgot about God and chose not to obey God. At one time they said "today we have seen that a man can live even if God speaks with him." 5.25 We will listen and obey" 5.27. But they didn't

Adults listen....not just about parenting, but about you in 6.4-9 lifestyle and attitude.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength (This is what is called the SHEMA – we see this quoted by Jesus as well

Obedience is for God's glory. Hearing God's word – parents, are your children hearing God's word? Hear also indicates obedience.

Diligently – means accurately, repeatedly, naturally, and personally

SHEMA – basic confession of faith. Jesus called this the greatest commandment (Mt 22)

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts....

Do not test the Lordso that it may go well with you and you may go in and take over the land.

What does testing the Lord look like? For example: rather than trusting God in the trial of no water, they tested God by complaining and quarreling. If you obey rather than test God, no matter what hardship – God will care for you.

Test indicates a contractual relationship with God – not a covenant relationship

6.25 Continuation of the focus on the home life and atmosphere

Context of a home, 'if your son asks...' Values need to be passed on to your children.

Use the history of Israel 1. once in Egypt, 2. God miraculously delivered them 3. all this in accord with the promises/covenant to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to build a nation from them 4. God gave decrees so that Israel will prosper if they obey them and fear God.

6.4-9 parents are to emphasize the need of parents to love HIM with their total being

6.20-25 parents to indicate that one aspect of loving/obeying God is to pass that same love for HIM on to their children

7.6 -11 don't forget.... it is because the Lord choose you! That he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery

7.12-16 Keep His covenant

Contract: expectations, finite, condition, penalties, default

Covenant: commitment , infinite, unconditional – love is basis and faith-based

Remember well what the Lord your God did ...he is a great and awesome God
Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these 40 years, to humble you and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna...wilderness experience was designed to produce both obedience and faith. In the wilderness – they had no choice but to trust (water, food)

Are you in a wilderness right now?

I ask myself two questions when going through difficult or confusing times:

1. God, what do you want me to learn about you through this?
2. God, what do you want me to learn about myself through this?

Project 4:4 theme verse found in Deuteronomy 8.1-5!!! We need to understand the importance of bread, especially with the Israelites having lived on manna for 40 years.

8.1-5 – theme verse for project 4:4 and that there is a promise associated with these verses. Even as dependent as you were on daily manna for the past 40 years, you need God's Word even more so. I'm praying that you experiencing God's Word in a new and fresh way like never before.

Even their food was decreed by the word of God. The manna came because of His command. Ultimately, it was not bread that kept them alive, but that the Word of God kept them alive by providing literal bread. Jesus refused Satan's temptation about turning stones into bread. Jesus knew that God had not decreed those stones for His food, and that His Father would provide food apart from Jesus working a miracle at the suggestion of Satan.

With disobedience or obedience there are indirect and direct consequences for yourself and others. Obedience: for you as much as it is for others. Choices you make affect others.

Pride beware of pride – do not forget the Lord your God 8.11. there is a danger inherent in prosperity and success. In the wilderness, they had to depend on God for everything, newfound prosperity can cause independence

Solution? Praise! 8.10-11 shows the importance of worship. You can't worship unless you remember. Moses was pointing out the necessity of worship to remember for whom He is and what He has done. No praise can lead to a proud heart that forgets about God. Can you believe that they could possibly forget about Egypt, venomous snakes, scorpions, no water, manna and water out of a rock.

All life is a gift from God and nothing is possible apart from Him.