

# "God's Love Story Sermon Outlines"

by Doug Hamilton

## Section 8: "Reminding Ourselves of God's Love Story" (Deuteronomy)

In each of the lessons thus far in the series, we have emphasized a key theme of God's Love Story as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. This lesson is no different; The key theme for this lesson is "Reminding".

### The Author of Deuteronomy

From internal Biblical evidence it is quite clear that Moses was the author of the document (1:1, 4:44, 31:9, 31:24-26, 32:45; 1 Cor 9:9). Only the last chapter, which discusses Moses' death, was written by Joshua (Josh 8:32, 24:6).

### Location and Date of the Writing

The location of the writing was from the plains of Moab (Josh 2:1). It was written around 1407 BC (Dt. 1:1) after the forty years of wandering in the desert were complete. The account from Deuteronomy 1:1 to the crossing the Jordan and entrance into the Promised Land (Josh 4:19) took place over 70 days. The twelve tribes were finally ending forty years of transition in the desert. This is just one piece of an interesting number pattern of seventy, twelve and forty.

- When Jacob left the Promised Land and went into Egypt, it was with seventy people of twelve tribes (Genesis 46:27; Ex 1:5), including Prime Minister Joseph and offspring. *Dt. 10:22* "Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons in all, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven. **It was a reminder of God's Love Story.**
- Four centuries later, when Israel departed Egypt on the way to the Promised Land, they were millions and crossed over on dry land through the Red Sea. On the other side of the sea they came to an oasis of seventy palm trees and twelve springs (Ex 15:22; Num 33:9), reminding them that about how much God caused them to multiply and prosper in Egypt. **It was a reminder to them of God's Love Story.**
- In Numbers 11 and Exodus 24 there were seventy elders chosen from the twelve tribes to assist Moses in governing the people (Ex 24:1; Num 11:16). Moses went up on Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights to receive the Law (Ex 34:28; Dt. 9:9) while the seventy elders and twelve tribes were to wait for his return. **This was a reminder of God's Love Story for the people.**
- There were twelve pillars put at the foot of Mount Sinai (Ex 24:4), twelve loaves of bread placed in the Tent of Meeting (Lev 24:5), twelve stones in the breastplate of the High Priest (Ex 28:10) and twelve leaders chosen from the people (Num 1:44) **all as a reminder of God's love for them as a "people of His own possession"**.
- In Numbers 13 they sent the twelve spies into the Promised Land for forty days to strategically plan their entrance, but overwhelmingly doubted in God's ability to deliver it to them. The result was a punishment of forty years (Num 14:33). **This punishment was a reminder of God's Love Story, inclusive to discipline.**

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- When they crossed on dry land (Josh 3:16), one person from each of the twelve tribes were to take a stone from the Jordan and make a memorial heap as a reminder. It was to remind that God delivered them on dry land through the Jordan that day just as He did through the Red Sea forty years prior (Josh 4:23). **All this was to remind this new generation of Israelites of God's Love Story of deliverance from the world of slavery to freedom in God.**

I bring this up to discuss the name *Deuteronomy*. It means "*Second Law*" or "*The Law Repeated*". This is because *He made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until the entire generation of those who had done evil in the sight of the LORD was destroyed (Numbers 32:13)*. The new generation of young Israelites had to have "*the Law repeated*" because they were not present when the Law was passed down at Sinai. It was also important to expand the Law since the first application was for the desert whereas they were now heading into Canaan. The Law was being repeated to allow the next generation their shot at acceptance at God's Love Story.

This would be done in two sections within the writing. The first section is chapters 1-30 and the second section is chapters 31-34. The first contains three addresses by Moses to the people and the last is the closing of Moses' life. In the first section we can find the pattern to keeping God's Love Story first and foremost in our lives. The steps are as follows.

1. Remembering Their Past History: The Mount to Moab (Chapters 1-3)
  - a. Chapter 1: They passed through a desolate desert and rebelled against God's command to take the land. Moses appointed elders over them to judge their cases. They spied out the land, but doubted that God would give it to them. This resulted in the that generation not being able to enter the Promised Land.
  - b. Chapter 2: They circled the region of Mount Seir for many years, but were told break out of that pattern and head toward the lands opposite the Jordan River. They had many battles with the local natives of the land and the Lord delivered them successfully. He would do the same in the Promised Land.
  - c. Chapter 3: The powerful people and nations East of the Jordan were defeated with the help of the Lord. Some of the Transjordanian tribes were given their portions on the Eastside. Moses was banned from entering the Promised Land because of his rebellion at Meribah. The Israelites were promised that General Joshua would eventually lead them into the land.

They were to remember that God chose them to be His people. They needed to keep in mind that God would not leave them to be slaves in Egypt, but BE a free people in a Promised Land. They needed to focus their mind on the fact that God gave them a covenant, that He nurtured them in the wilderness, that He protected them from the enemy and that He corrected them like a Father.

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They entered a long-term relationship with the Creator of the universe. The title of the first address is "Remember Your Past History With God".

## Christians also must Remember Their Past if they are to continue in God's Love Story.

- We did not pass through the Red Sea, but the waters of baptism (Rom 6:3; Gal 3:27).
- We were scrubbed clean from our sins and set apart for a relationship with God. *1 Corinthians 6:11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*
- He has gotten us through the good times and the bad (Matthew 7:11).
- He has blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).
- If we are ever going to continue on with God in this life, we must Remember our Past with God. If we forget, then we will never succeed.

## 2. Remembering Their Present Obligations: Application and Exhortation (Chapters 4-26)

They had an obligation as the people of God to presently keep the word of God. Chapters 4 through 26 stresses point in many ways and personalizes it for that generation who will be residing in Canaan and not in the desert.

- a. In chapter 4 God made it clear to follow the commands "*You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you*" (2). He went on to mention the giving of the Ten Commandments.
- b. In chapter 5 God went into more detail on the Ten Commandments, saying, "*So you shall observe to do just as the LORD your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right or to the left.*" (32)
- c. Chapter 6 stressed the need to obey the commands, to teach them to their children and to put them on the forefront of their mind.
- d. Chapter 7 encouraged them further to do the same.
- e. Chapter 8 focused on the gracious ways that God had dealt with them in the past.
- f. Chapter 9 spoke of the many times Israel provoked God in the desert.
- g. Chapter 10 emphasized the rewriting of the tablets of the Ten Commandments.
- h. Chapter 11 was more encouragement to be obedient.
- i. Chapter 12 focused on the commands of the sanctuary.
- j. Chapter 13 stressed to stay away from idolatry.
- k. Chapter 14 dealt with clean and unclean animals.
- l. Chapter 15 focused on the commands of the Sabbath year.
- m. Chapter 16 discussed observance of the three great feasts.
- n. Chapter 17 encouraged them to obey the commands of justice.
- o. Chapter 18 emphasized the laws for the Levites and against occultism.

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- p. Chapter 19 reinforced the refuge cities, landmarks and testimony.
- q. Chapter 20 showed them how to behave in acts of war.
- r. Chapter 21 discussed expiation of homicide and domestic relations.
- s. Chapter 22 went into the Sundry laws and morality.
- t. Chapter 23 focused on the rules of exclusion from the assembly.
- u. Chapter 24 and 25 discussed commands for divorce and more Sundry laws.
- v. Chapter 26 emphasized the commands for the giving of the first-fruits.

All together there were 613 works of the Law the Israelites were to keep. They were encouraged to keep them all and to rectify the areas where they would fall short.

### Christians must also recognize the present obligations in their lives.

Just because someone was cleansed from their sins by Jesus does not mean they can go on doing whatever they want.

- Romans 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
- 2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
- Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.
- Ephesians 4:1 "Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called..."

The Jews under the Law were not the only ones who were expected to keep the commands of God, but also the Christians. If we are ever going to understand and experience all that God's Love Story has to offer, then we must remember the present tense application to obey the commands of God.

### 3. Remembering Their Future Outcome: Blessings and Cursings (Chapters 27-30)

- a. Chapter 27 discussed many cursings for those who would not obey the commands of the Lord. The people publically agree to take these curses on if they fail to do so.
- b. Chapter 28 discussed the many blessings if they kept the word of the Lord. He then discussed some more of the curses of disobedience.
- c. Chapter 29 mentions yet another reminder that they are the covenant people of God.

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- d. Chapter 30 closes the third and final address of Moses by focusing on restoring them to the Promised Land just as God predicted.

God was turning their focus to the availability of gain and the fear of loss, the two great motivators to make the right decision. Like a carrot dangling in front of a horse and a whip from behind, God was steering this new generation of Israelites in the proper direction.

Christians also must remember their future blessings and the avoidance of possible curses from God if we fail to do so.

- Luke 23: 43 And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”
- 1 Cor 15:51-52 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.
- Phil 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>21</sup> who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.
- 2 Thes. 1:7-9 "...when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, <sup>8</sup> dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup> These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,
- Heb 10:27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.

We as Christians will stay on track if we remember the reward and the avoidance of future great suffering that will come if we don't. It was true of the Jews and is true of the Christian.

The Book of Deuteronomy ends with the closing events of Moses' life. There were the final commands of chapter 31, the final song of chapter 32, the final blessings of chapter 33 and his final breath of chapter 34.

### Application

Make sure the word REMEMBER is applicable concerning your Past history with God, your Present obligations to God and your Future blessings of God. Meditate on them and keep it fresh in your mind at all times. If you do, then you will never let go of the God's Love Story in your lives.