



MOSES ON JUSTICE

Why Read Deuteronomy?

3 SPEECHES

- 1. Speech 1—1:1-4:43
- 2. Speech 2—4:44-28:68
- 3. Speech 3—29:1-34:12

REFRAINS

Sermon before it was scripture, encouragement, core issues, focus on work of God

- 1. Obedience (@130)
- 2. Gift of land (@100)
- 3. Out of Egypt (@50)
- 4. Fathers (@50)
- 5. Blessing (@40)
- 6. Good life (@20)

2-SIDED COIN



Rooted in uniqueness of God & appropriate human response

- 1. 5:7—You shall have no other gods before me
- 2. 6:5—you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and might

WAGON WHEEL



Hub (Love), Spokes (Ten Commandments), Rim (Case law)

HAPPY FACE



Deut. 6 Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the ordinances which the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it; 2 that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life; and that your days may be prolonged. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them; that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

- a. Blessing—46 times
- b. Go well with you—10 times
- c. God loves you—8 times
- d. Do this and live—7 times
- e. Milk and honey—6 times
- f. Live longer—2 times

FLOW OF DEUT

1. 1-4—historical review
2. 5—Ten Commandments
3. 6-11—explain TC#1-4
4. 12-26—explain TC#4-10
5. 27-28—motivation
6. 29-30—covenant making
7. 31-34—succession plan

MAKING THE BEST OF A MESS—DEUT. 21-25

1. Frequent change in topics
2. 5-21 are in-depth; 22-25 are brief
3. Redeem extreme human situations
4. Mostly case studies
5. Compared to NCAA or City Electric code, this material is simple & selective
6. Community over individual; when whole community is healthy, the individual is healthy.

NOTEWORTHY THEMES

1. One of the first times that love is ever discussed in human history is Deut. 7
2. Nature of God—Deut. 6, 7, 10
3. Violence of God—Deut. 25
4. Remaining Faithful in Hostile Culture—Deut. 7, 8
5. Passing on the Faith to the Next Generation—Deut. 6
6. Concern for the Vulnerable—Deut. 10, 15, 16, 24, 25
7. Godly leadership—Deut. 16-18
8. Power of Teaching—Deut. 4, 5, 31

Deut 9 Hear, O Israel; you are to pass over the Jordan this day, to go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourselves, cities great and fortified up to heaven, ² a people great and tall, the sons of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you have heard it said, 'Who can stand before the sons of Anak?' ³ Know therefore this day that he who goes over before you as a devouring fire is the LORD your God; he will destroy them and subdue them before you; so you shall drive them out, and make them perish quickly, as the LORD has promised you. ⁴ "Do not say in your heart, after the LORD your God has thrust them out before you, 'It is because of my righteousness that the LORD has brought me in to possess this land'; whereas it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is driving them out before you. ⁵ Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land; but because of the wickedness of these nations the LORD your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may confirm the word which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. ⁶ "Know therefore, that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness; for you are a stubborn people.

Deut 10 ¹² And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I command you this day for your good? ¹⁴ Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it; ¹⁵ yet the LORD set his heart in love upon your fathers and chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as at this day. ¹⁶ Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. ¹⁷ For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. ¹⁸ He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹ Love the sojourner therefore; for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

2 CRITICAL BIBLICAL THEMES

vertical/horizontal relationships

1. You can't love the God you can't see if you don't love the people you do see
2. Community relationships are only as good as the way the community treats its weakest members

CORE CONCERNS IN DEUTERONOMY

1. The people cannot claim to love and worship God while intentionally rejecting His commandments.
2. The concerns of Israel must reflect the concerns of the LORD.
3. The concern for the weakest members of the community is grounded theologically not economically
4. The concern with the poor comes in a context of blessing

Deut. 14-15 ²⁸ At the end of every third year you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in that year, and shall deposit *it* in your town. ²⁹ The Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance among you, and the alien, the orphan and the widow who are in your town, shall come and eat and be satisfied, in order that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do. ^{15:1} At the end of every seven years you shall grant a remission of *debts*. ² This is the manner of remission: every creditor shall release what he has loaned to his neighbor; he shall not exact it of his neighbor and his brother, because the LORD'S remission has been proclaimed. ³ From a foreigner you may exact *it*, but your hand shall release whatever of yours is with your brother. ⁴ However, there will be no poor among you, since the LORD will

surely bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, ⁵ if only you listen obediently to the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all this commandment which I am commanding you today. ⁶ For the LORD your God will bless you as He has promised you, and you will lend to many nations, but you will not borrow; and you will rule over many nations, but they will not rule over you. ⁷ If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, in any of your towns in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother; ⁸ but you shall freely open your hand to him, and shall generously lend him sufficient for his need *in* whatever he lacks. ⁹ Beware that there is no base thought in your heart, saying, ‘The seventh year, the year of remission, is near,’ and your eye is hostile toward your poor brother, and you give him nothing; then he may cry to the LORD against you, and it will be a sin in you. ¹⁰ You shall generously give to him, and your heart shall not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all your undertakings. ¹¹For the poor will never cease *to be* in the land; therefore I command you, saying, ‘You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.’

1. 14:28-29 –focus on vulnerable in community & time table
2. 15:1-6—focus on vulnerable in community & time table
 - a. v1 policy
 - b. vv 2-4 explain the policy
 - c. vv 5-6 motivation
 - d. Body parts (Deut. 15:7-11)
 - i. “hearts” (3xs)
 - ii. “eyes” (v. 9)
 - iii. “hands” (3xs).
 - e. Moses points to three problems:
 - i. **“base thought.”**
 - ii. **cold financial calculations.**
 - iii. **“hostile eye.”**
 - f. hand
 - i. “every creditor who loans with his hand” (literal translation of 15:2);
 - ii. “your hand shall release” (15:3);
 - iii. “nor close your hand” (15:7);
 - iv. “open your hand” (15:8);
 - v. “in all the undertakings of your hand” (literal translation of 15:10);
 - vi. “open your hand” (15:11).
 - vii. The “open hand” becomes a metaphor for the creditor’s generosity and future success.
 - g. “Tightfisted, openhanded, panhandler, shorthanded, handbag, and handout” reflect similar metaphorical uses of the word “hand” in English.
3. Verse 11
 - a. The three-fold social description of Israel
 - b. ideal of “no poor among you” (15:4)
 - c. the possibility of “if there is a poor man” (15:7)
 - d. constant reality of “the poor will never cease” (15:11).

Deut 16 ¹⁸ "You shall appoint for yourself judges and officers in all your towns which the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. ¹⁹ "You shall not distort justice; you shall not be partial, and you shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous. ²⁰ "Justice, *and only* justice, you shall pursue, that you may live and possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you..