

DEUTERONOMY 3-4

January 22, 2012

Introduction:

Today we will study **chapters three and four** of the book of Deuteronomy. In the first two chapters Moses reminded the people of what had transpired since Israel was delivered from Egypt. Chapter three continues this review of what God has done for the people of Israel.

3:1-17 What do we learn about Israel's conquests in **chapter 3 verses 1 to 17**?

- God gave them victory over every foe they faced. As directed by God, they left no survivors of the people they defeated (3:3,6). Israel was permitted, however, to keep the spoils of victory (animals and material goods – 3:7).

These kings and kingdoms conquered were East of the Sea of Galilee (also called Chinnereth {*CHIN-eh-reth*}, the Dead of "Salt" Sea, and the Jordan River that ran from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea.

3:11 What do we know about King Og from **verse 11**?

- Like Goliath, Og was a giant. His iron bed was 13 ½ feet long and six feet wide.

3:2-3 I want us to string together three statements from verses **2 and 3**. *The Lord said...the Lord our God delivered...we smote*. What do you think that we learn from these phrases?

- Christians can't do anything they might wish to do, but they *can* do anything that God wants them to do. See the following passages: **Philippians 4:11-13**; [11 Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. 12 I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. 13 For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.] **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**; [7 even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. 8 Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. 9 Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. 10 That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.] **Leviticus 26:7-8**; [7 In fact, you will chase down your enemies and slaughter them with your swords. 8 Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand! All your enemies will fall beneath your sword.] **Jeremiah 32:17,27**; [17 "O Sovereign Lord! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you! 27 "I am the Lord, the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me?"] **Mark 10:27**. [27 Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God."] **NLT**
- God makes promises (*Lord said*) and enables (*God delivered*), but we must act (*we smote*) for those promises to become our reality. Nearly all-Biblical promises are "*if...then*", conditional promises. God will do something for us *if* we do what He asks us to do.
- Even though we act (*we smote*), God gets the glory (*God delivered*).

3:22 What do we learn from **verse 22**?

- *If* we are obedient to God, *then* He fights our battles for us. The reason that we have fear is that we do not actually believe that God will fight for us. See **Joshua 1:1-9**. See **Romans 12:19**. Why do we (more often than not) seek our own revenge? Because we don't think God will fight for us. Our lack of faith results in our disobedience.

3:23-28 What principles do we learn in verses 23 to 28?

- There are blessings and opportunities that God has planned for us. We will enjoy those blessings and opportunities *if* we are obedient to His will. We will miss out on those blessings and opportunities *if* we disobey His will. We can break things with our disobedience that cannot be fixed. Moses has lost the privilege of leading Israel into the Promised Land, and he cannot recover that opportunity.

What do we learn from Proverbs 29:1?

- Sometimes, even “all the kings horses and all the kings men” can’t put Humpty Dumpty back together again. It is like God intends for us to be a 3-karat diamond. God is using His Word and life to create the “facets” in our lives. These facets make the diamond beautiful. If we continue to disobey Him, though, parts of the stone can be chipped off. Our lives can still be beautiful 2 or 1-karat diamonds, but they’ll never be the 3-karat diamond that God wanted us to be.

4:1-40 In chapter 4 verses 1 to 40 Moses reminds the people that they are to obey the Lord.

4:1 What all do we learn from verse 1?

- God is giving them the land. They will only go into the land and remain in the land *if* they obey the Lord’s commandments. *If* they do as they are told, they will possess the land.

4:2 What does verse 2 tell us about God’s Word and commandments?

- We are not to add to God’s Word and commandments. This is legalism; it is what the Pharisees did. Nor are we to take away from God’s Word and commandments. This is liberalism; it is what the Sadducees did. See Deuteronomy 12:32; [32 “So be careful to obey all the commands I give you. You must not add anything to them or subtract anything from them.] Proverbs 30:5-6; 5 Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to all who come to him for protection. 6 Do not add to his words, or he may rebuke you and expose you as a liar.& Revelation 22:18-19. [18 And I solemnly declare to everyone who hears the words of prophecy written in this book: If anyone adds anything to what is written here, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book. 19 And if anyone removes any of the words from this book of prophecy, God will remove that person’s share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are described in this book.] NLT

4:9 What are we told to do in verse 9 and how do we go about doing it?

- We are to live deliberate, not accidental, lives (*give heed to yourself*).
- We are to work *diligently* at keeping ourselves close to God (*keep your soul*). See Jude 1:21.
- We are not to forget all that God has done for us (*the things which your eyes have seen*). The people will be told over and over to remember what God has done for them in these next five chapters.
- We are to teach our children and grandchildren what God has done for us. This keeps us remembering and keeps it in our hearts. One of the best ways to do this is to journal God’s blessings and what He teaches you in your life. This can be read to or read by your sons in the future. It will also encourage you to be reminded of God’s goodness and faithfulness because we tend to forget as soon as our lives face difficulty.

4:11-19 In verses 11 to 19, how did God reveal Himself to the people and why in this manner?

- They saw (4:11) fire, darkness, and clouds and they heard His voice (4:12) but they saw no *form*. God revealed Himself in this way so they would know that He was real and so that they would never try to create any type of image of Him. Any image or likeness of God is far less than who He really is and so it is sin to make any image. The infinite God cannot be depicted as a finite object or being. Omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence cannot be represented by any form or image.

4:20 What all might we learn from verse 20?

- Israel was delivered from an *iron furnace*. We are delivered from an eternal furnace (hell). We are a *people for His own possession*. What this means is that God “wanted” us. The self-existent and self-sufficient God (“I AM”) has need of nothing and no one. **See Isaiah 40:17.** All of the people of all times together are as nothing to the self-existent and self-sufficient I AM. Yet that God wants you and me. The One who does not need us at all wants us more than anyone else ever has, will, or can.

4:24 A lot of people in our day speak of God as if He is loving but totally harmless. What does verse 24 say to this?

- God is a *jealous God* and a *consuming fire*. He is a God of love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness. **Verse 31** tells us that He is a *compassionate* God. But God is also a God of righteousness, holiness, justice, and wrath. Many people today think that the Old Testament’s moral laws are irrelevant to Christian’s lives today. Many think that grace and forgiveness means that we can live any way we chose because all that we might do is covered by the death of Christ. Turn to **Hebrews 10:26-31**. Before we read it, understand that this was written after Jesus had lived on earth, died on the cross, and returned to heaven. (Now read the passage.)
- **26** Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins. **27** There is only the terrible expectation of God’s judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies. **28** For anyone who refused to obey the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **29** Just think how much worse the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God, and have treated the blood of the covenant, which made us holy, as if it were common and unholy, and have insulted and disdained the Holy Spirit who brings God’s mercy to us. **30** For we know the one who said, “I will take revenge. I will pay them back.” He also said, “The Lord will judge his own people.” **31** It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God. **NLT**

4:29-30 What do we learn about seeking and finding God in verses 29 and 30?

- If we seek God with all our heart, we will find Him. There is no promise for the person who half-heartedly seeks the Lord. Verse 30 tells us that we are more likely to seek the Lord when our lives are difficult than when everything is going our way. **See Deuteronomy 8:6-14.** When our lives get difficult we move further from God *or* we move toward Him (return to Him) and listen to His voice (God’s Word...the Bible).

4:35,39 Notice in verses 35 and 39 that the Lord God is the only God. All other “gods” are simply created by created people who refuse to acknowledge the one, true God.

4:40 What are we told again in verse 40?

- *If* we keep God’s commands *then* it will “go well” with us and with our children.