

THIS EVIL GENERATION >>>

DEUTERONOMY 1:1 – 35

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God comes down from the lofty mountain peaks of the government of God in the Gospel of John with a resounding thud, and right back into the cold wilderness of the reality of life in this fifth book of the Pentateuch. Some of us may need oxygen to endure such a rapid descent. I pray the Spirit of God will provide fresh perspectives of the Lord Jesus Christ that will deeply compel you to actually read, study and comprehend the truth of the Word of God. The Bible we are holding out doesn't do us any good unless we actually open it up and receive grace and knowledge of our Savior and Lord from it by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We're beginning a consideration of the Scriptures from which the Lord Jesus quoted exclusively when defeating Satan in the wilderness; and friends, the devil HATES this book, and he HATES this study you are about to undertake. The worst satanic attacks you have ever experienced will come to you as you read through these studies in Deuteronomy, I promise you that. I consider every single word in the Bible important and useful – so, we're looking at them all. Paul said all Scripture is good for doctrine, direction, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness. If you know anything at all about Deuteronomy, you'll know this little book contains ALL of that.

This is the final book of the Pentateuch - which refers to the first five books of the Bible. They were written by Moses; and Deuteronomy means "the second law." That does not, however, infer that this is some sort of amendment of the law previously given to Moses by God on Mount Sinai. This is a whole lot more than an alteration, although it could be defined as another illustration of the law of recurrence - although I digress. We have already seen how God will outline a subject and then come back later to address it with particular portions being emphasized. Deuteronomy is a re-visitation of the law by Moses after thirty-eight years' experience with it in the wilderness.

Isaiah 28:10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little ~

If that's the way God gave His Word to Isaiah then I feel more than confident that's how God will give it to you. That's certainly how God gave it to me. Most people think I took a little six week course on the Bible and then hurriedly read through it in a year, because most people think I am just plain ignorant; well, the ignorant part is probably true – but – I can assure you that ignorance is the result of MANY – MANY – SO – SO – MANY years and hours and days upon days of Bible study that, if you REALLY knew the amount of time I have spent studying my Bible, you would stagger, fall down and simply give up – so, I won't bore you with the details. There are some things that God wants to have us pay particular attention to in Holy Writ and in this life and, friends, here we are with both – and I am glad you are still reading.

This is the book of experience and obedience realized and practiced in tandem. The result is an alignment of our minds with the direct will of God. We are going to discover that something entirely new has been added. This is the interpretation of the law after wandering around in the desert for thirty-eight years implementing it as the testament of the True and Living God of the nation Israel. Moses was given the law at Mount Sinai; and the question here is: how did Israel handle that law? Well, many new problems have arisen within the camp that the original giving of the law didn't address specifically. A new generation has come up that is totally unfamiliar with the experiences Moses and their parents had at Mount Sinai. The children of Israel needed to have this all brought back to their attention and thinking. God told His people they were to teach the law to their children. You see, I haven't even typed out four full paragraphs and we have stumbled on the greatest neglect in the home in this world right now.

We like to talk about the failure of education and the failure of the church; and they have certainly both failed miserably in teaching young men and women anything helpful; however, changing the methods and adding gimmicks doesn't do anything to remedy the dire condition of church and society as a whole today. The society of the world has now slipped beneath the waves of common decency and respect and is drowning in hate,

turmoil, chaos, protest and strife tonight; if you don't think that's true then you are just not living in the real world. We have literally tried everything now and NOTHING works.

Well, the problem is rooted in the home life of young people. What I am teaching should have been learned so long ago that I shouldn't even need to type out two words – but – obviously, that's not the case. Somehow, even I seem to have failed my own biological children in teaching them a very critical aspect of life. I sometimes wonder if I actually caused them to be blinded to the problems of their generation by not bearing down a little harder on Bible study. The answer is a complete and total failure on my part to teach them what they should really know and will never learn elsewhere. Let's all spend some time in confession before we travel on in Deuteronomy. It will certainly do us good. A-men.

Alright, Moses is going to try to teach this new generation the law after these thirty-eight years of neglecting it. What we witness is not just a tiresome repetition of the law at all; however, even with that said, we will move through this section of Scripture much faster than we have moved through any other part of our study's thus far. I urge you to keep in mind that our speed of travel in no way negates the criticality of this book we have moved into; it is very important, indeed. It's just that we have covered most of it before - and I believe we need to move along. I hope you recognize that, and I hope you will read every single word of the Scriptural text in your own Bible before reading this report and after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment.

There are four Hebrew titles for Deuteronomy. For instance, it is called the "Debarim" – meaning, "these be the words." It is also called the "Kith" – which is Scotch - meaning, the fifth of the law. The other two mean the "book of reproof" and "the iteration of the law." Our safari does not outline the books of the Bible like a normal Bible study would because we are just not after doctrine or theology. We are after the spirituality of the Word of God – that is, the Lord Jesus Christ – and Moses will review the history of the last generation for this new generation and believe me, Christ is going to come into view. By looking into the past, Moses will take us into the future - and we are going to come across one of the greatest prophetic

sections in the entire Bible. That's going to happen in chapters twenty-seven through thirty, which deal with the future of the nation Israel in the Promised Land; and when I say future, I mean future-tense from where we are as I type this report and as you read it.

The great theme of Deuteronomy is: LOVE and OBEDIENCE – and that may sound startlingly surprising to some of you. Some are simply not going to be able to find love this far back in the Old Testament – but it sure IS there. This book is going to teach us how to love and obey God. “Love” occurs twenty-two times in Deuteronomy. “Obey” occurs ten times; see, the motive for obedience is love. Jesus was not commanding anything new in His ministry. Jesus said, “if you love Me keep My commandments.” It's all done in love. So, the true motive for obedience is found right here in the book entitled Deuteronomy. We're going to develop that picture fully as we travel along. We're going to also discover that God's love of man is His motive for establishing His government and giving of the law. These are going to be some very difficult pills to swallow, my beloved - I promise you that.

What we will examine in Deuteronomy is NOT the Gospel, although the lofty principles implicated by the Gospel are found in this section of Scripture. As astute Bible students, we will gain a proper perspective of the law as we consider this book. The law is good, friends, we must understand that. I know I emphasize, and over-emphasize, that we are saved by grace and that we cannot be saved by the law; see, the trouble is not with the law – the trouble is with YOU – and with ME. Let's put it like this: a democracy is a good form of government; a monarchy is a good form of government, and a dictatorship is perfectly acceptable and is a good form of government IF – IF – IF the hearts of the man or men that run that government is correct. That's why our country, the United States of America – is in so much trouble. The trouble is ALWAYS in the human heart. We don't need more legislation we need more legislators who actually believe God. God gave us the law because He loved mankind. Laws are not made by man – they happen to be eternal, and they happen to come from God Himself. The only blessings we have are in keeping those laws; and that's where we break down entirely. This is a remarkable study we have begun – I hope YOU will see it through.

Okay, a new generation has now arrived on the east bank of the Jordan River about one month before they will enter the Promised Land. Every single man and woman who came out of Egypt is dead in the wilderness now, and their bones are bleaching under the desert sun because of unbelief and disobedience - all except for Moses, Joshua and Caleb. The children of Israel had broken God's laws and refused to recognize, acknowledge and observe the precepts of God Almighty; and those are called sins of commission. The fact that they failed to BELIEVE God were their sins of omission. All the way around – SIN. Unbelief, in and of itself, is sin, my friends. Naturally, the law was weak through the flesh. The flesh is always wrong; and that's the reason WE are always wrong, and God is ALWAYS right.

This debacle is why God has an altogether different basis on which He saves us. Laws are good, and to think we should get rid of them is absurd liberal thinking. Moses gives to this new generation the final set of instructions from the Lord God before relinquishing leadership of the nation Israel in death. We'll have a review of those desert experiences. Moses will emphasize and explain dramatically certain features within the law. Those are the topics our safari will bear down on. Moses also reveals the future of this nation in the Palestinian Covenant. God makes that covenant relative to the land - over there - in Israel. The Mosaic Law and Levitical system is given not only to the people, but to the land that those people lived in. They are inextricably intertwined. We will also see Moses teach them a new song for their hearts, bless the twelve tribes of Israel, and then prepare to die. A requiem to Moses concludes Deuteronomy.

This is the primary book in Scripture that has maintained center attention of attack for any credible critic. I say credible – although they are NOT credible – but if an attack on the Bible is to be made – this is really the only book to make it upon. The Mosaic authorship has been challenged in so many forms I can't lay them all out here. One criticism is that Moses could not have written this book because writing was not around in Moses day. That has been soundly refuted. Others say this book was created later in history to support the priesthood in Jerusalem. Interestingly, the priesthood and Jerusalem are not mentioned anywhere in Deuteronomy.

The Graf-Belhausen documentary hypothesis is as outdated as the Model T Ford, but it is still peddled – and bought – as modern atheistic evolutionary teaching. I'm not sure why people buy it – I only know they DO.

The most probable reason for the purely satanic attack that has been leveled against this section of Scripture is, as we have said, that the Lord Jesus quoted exclusively from this book while beating back the temptations of Satan out there in the wilderness according to the Gospel records. It shouldn't come as any surprise that the devil hates this book and all who read it. As we get to those passages we'll call attention to them – and we have one for each of the three temptations. Deuteronomy highly exalts the overall Word of God. All of this preliminary information is critical to understand. If you don't open the Bible and study it and read it, then the Bible is just not important to you. All of the Old Testament prophets quoted frequently from Deuteronomy. We have eighty references from this book in the New Testament. I think all of that tells us this is a very, very important book to learn and understand....

1 These be the words which Moses spake unto all Israel on this side Jordan in the wilderness, in the plain over against the Red sea, between Paran, and Tophel, and Laban, and Hazeroth, and Dizahab.

~ All of these places are on the east side Jordan where Moses previously "looked over the land." If you stand on the mountain in this location, you can see the city of Jerusalem from there. If you look out beyond, you'll see a total wasteland – not readily revealing what has happened down through the centuries. I am confident that when Moses looked out over the land, he saw something entirely different; like a green, lush and good land. Today, it's as much of a desert as certain parts of California or Arizona....

2 (There are eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadesh-barnea.)

~ Please read very carefully and note that the journey the children of Israel made - the one that took thirty-eight years - should have taken less than two weeks. That's how much unbelief will slow you down, my friends. Their marching devolved into wandering, and they turned into nothing but

strangers and pilgrims out there in the dessert. These people were as slow to learn as you and I are, and the result of unbelief is an awful – and deadly – thing. The tremendously steep learning curve of man today is a characteristic we just don't seem to be able to flatten out. We – as in, all of us – have extremely low spiritual intelligence quotients. As we all know, the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. If you map out the path of the children of Israel, you'll discover they were far from going straight....

3 And it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spake unto the children of Israel, according unto all that the LORD had given him in commandment unto them;

4 After he had slain Sihon the king of the Amorites, which dwelt in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, which dwelt at Astaroth in Edrei:

5 On this side Jordan, in the land of Moab, began Moses to declare this law, saying,

6 The LORD our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount:

7 Turn you, and take your journey, and go to the mount of the Amorites, and unto all the places nigh thereunto, in the plain, in the hills, and in the vale, and in the south, and by the sea side, to the land of the Canaanites, and unto Lebanon, unto the great river, the river Euphrates.

8 Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them.

9 And I spake unto you at that time, saying, I am not able to bear you myself alone:

~ Verse nine finds Moses admitting his first very definite mistake in the wilderness. Remember, Moses became frustrated in previous books, and

the Lord permitted him to appoint the elders. That committee will later become the Sanhedrin that will commit Christ to the cross. Big mistake. Moses didn't need these people's problems in any way, shape or form; Moses was ordained their leader directly by God. One of the worst things that can happen to a church is electing a board that works against the pastor. When it gets to that point, they will not glorify Christ, and either the board or the pastor need to get out. In most cases – if not all, it will certainly be the committee that needs to be dissolved.

When a man is standing for the Word of God, and he is preaching the Lord Jesus Christ resurrected, then the church is obligated – OBLIGATED – to support that man. If they don't like the way the theology goes from a man who actually believes God, then they should just shut up and go away. Well, it never seems to work out like that; oh, no, my friends – they either split the church or impoverish the pastor to the point where correct, proper and complete Bible teaching simply becomes impossible. I hate to tell you this, but MOST – if not all – truly Bible believing preachers end up crucified by their own congregation; all while they tell him how much they love him. Well, Moses made this very real mistake forming the committee, and it will be regrettable. At least Moses mentions his mistakes. Not everyone is willing to do that....

10 The LORD your God hath multiplied you, and, behold, ye are this day as the stars of heaven for multitude.

11 (The LORD God of your fathers make you a thousand times so many more as ye are, and bless you, as he hath promised you!)

12 How can I myself alone bear your cumbrance, and your burden, and your strife?

13 Take you wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make them rulers over you.

14 And ye answered me, and said, The thing which thou hast spoken is good for us to do.

15 So I took the chief of your tribes, wise men, and known, and made them heads over you, captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties, and captains over tens, and officers among your tribes.

16 And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him.

17 Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.

18 And I commanded you at that time all the things which ye should do.

19 And when we departed from Horeb, we went through all that great and terrible wilderness, which ye saw by the way of the mountain of the Amorites, as the LORD our God commanded us; and we came to Kadeshbarnea.

20 And I said unto you, Ye are come unto the mountain of the Amorites, which the LORD our God doth give unto us.

21 Behold, the LORD thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged.

22 And ye came near unto me every one of you, and said, We will send men before us, and they shall search us out the land, and bring us word again by what way we must go up, and into what cities we shall come.

~ The spying incident was not a mistake of Moses – that had been the mistake of the people. We looked at this previously, but here we see ANOTHER committee appointed to go search out the land. Some people might ask what the problem is; and I'll tell you: The problem is that God Himself had already searched out the land for them; and they were not

following His instructions. Yes, there were giants in the land, but God didn't tell them to worry about giants. All God ever told them to do is to go into the land and occupy it. Fortunately, there were two men who actually believed God: Caleb and Joshua....

23 And the saying pleased me well: and I took twelve men of you, one of a tribe:

24 And they turned and went up into the mountain, and came unto the valley of Eshcol, and searched it out.

25 And they took of the fruit of the land in their hands, and brought it down unto us, and brought us word again, and said, It is a good land which the LORD our God doth give us.

26 Notwithstanding ye would not go up, but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD your God:

27 And ye murmured in your tents, and said, Because the LORD hated us, he hath brought us forth out of the land of Egypt, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us.

28 Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there.

29 Then I said unto you, Dread not, neither be afraid of them.

30 The LORD your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes;

31 And in the wilderness, where thou hast seen how that the LORD thy God bare thee, as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went, until ye came into this place.

32 Yet in this thing ye did not believe the LORD your God,

33 Who went in the way before you, to search you out a place to pitch your tents in, in fire by night, to shew you by what way ye should go , and in a cloud by day.

34 And the LORD heard the voice of your words, and was wroth, and sware, saying,

35 Surely there shall not one of these men of this evil generation see that good land, which I sware to give unto your fathers ~

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