

Exodus Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Eleven: Review of Israel's History and Laws – Deuteronomy 1-26

From Deuteronomy 1-4:

- 1) According to Deuteronomy 1:1-5, in what time and place in the history of Israel does the book of Deuteronomy fit? **Following Israel's military defeats of the Amorite kings Sihon and Og, Deuteronomy opens with Israel perched just east of the Jordan River, ready to conquer Canaan (implied), on the first day of the eleventh month of the fortieth year after she had left Egypt.**
- 2) Moses' first "sermon" in Deuteronomy (1:6-4:40) makes a point from Israel's recent history. In light of your answer to question 1, to which generation of Israelites was Moses delivering this speech? **Moses was speaking to the (now grown) children of the Israelites who had come out of Egypt as slaves 40 years earlier. The older generation had witnessed all that had happened, but the younger had not.**
- 3) Read Moses' reminder of why Israel had not entered the Promised Land 38 years earlier (1:26-36).
 - a) What word did the Lord use to describe those who had repeatedly experienced His faithfulness yet still refused to trust him (verse 35)? **Evil (1:35)**
 - b) From Hebrews 3:7-19, which one word summarizes the reason why the generation of Israelites that were adults at the time of the Exodus did not enter the Promised Land? **Unbelief (Hebrews 3:12, 19)**
 - c) Can you tell of a time when the Lord "carried you as a father carries his son" (Deuteronomy 1:31)? How will this recollection help you trust God more fully in some present circumstance? **Personal sharing**

Skim Deuteronomy 1-4.

- 4) What do you think was Moses' purpose in reviewing Israel's past 40 years of history for this younger generation? If possible, cite references to support your answer. **In his first Deuteronomical sermon, Moses reviewed Israel's failure (wanderings) and successes (in conquering Sihon and Og), showing that rebellion led to wandering, but obedience led to victory. Deuteronomy 4:9 says, "Be careful...so you do not forget the things your eyes have seen." He hoped to encourage them to continue trusting and obeying the Lord.**
- 5) After more than 400 years of patiently giving the Amorites (Canaanites) opportunity to turn from gross immorality, as an act of grace, what final opportunity to repent did God give them (Deuteronomy 2:25)? **The Amorites and other people groups (i.e. Moabites, Midianites) heard about all God had done to bring the Israelites out of Egypt and how He handed over Sihon and Og. They knew of God's power. God put terror and fear of Israel in their hearts. This, in itself, should have caused them to turn from their ways and follow the God of Israel.**
- 6) From Deuteronomy 4, list words or phrases synonymous with or related to the term "obey." **Follow (4:1, 13, 14), keep (4:2, 40), observe (4:6), be careful (4:9), watch yourselves closely (4:9, 15), do not forget (4:9, 23), do not let them slip (4:9), teach them (4:9), remember (4:10), learn (4:10), revere (4:10), acknowledge and take to heart (4:39).**
- 7) Read Moses' words to Joshua in Deuteronomy 3:21-22. Who are you responsible to strengthen, encourage, and remind of God's faithfulness? **Personal sharing**

From Deuteronomy 5-11:

- 8) Deuteronomy 5-26, Moses' second Deuteronomical sermon, revolves around the keeping of the law.
 - a) What foundational laws from Exodus 20 does Moses restate in Deuteronomy 5? **The Ten Commandments. They summarize the entire law. The remainder of the laws in Exodus and Deuteronomy are a "teasing out" of the Ten Commandments.**
 - b) According to Deuteronomy 6:4-6, what is the basis for keeping the law? **Love of God**

- 9) List all the reasons given for obedience to God in chapter 6 (“so that...”). “So that you may enjoy long life” (6:2), “so that it may go well with you” and “you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey” (6:3), “so that we might always prosper and be kept alive” (6:24), and that we might be righteous (6:25 [implied]).
- 10) Whether or not you have children, how could you practice fuller obedience to the commands given in Deuteronomy 4:9-10, 6:4-9, and 11:18-21 (be specific)? **Personal sharing**

From Deuteronomy 12-26:

- 11) a) What new stipulation does Deuteronomy 12:1-11 add to the system of sacrifices the Israelites were previously given? **The Israelites were not to offer sacrifices in any location they chose or they would risk becoming like the pagan nations around them, “doing as they saw fit” (12:8). Rather, they were only to sacrifice at one location, the place the Lord would choose for His dwelling (12:11).**
- b) According to 1 Samuel 7:5-12, 11:14, 1 Kings 3:4, and 8:1, 15-21, which cities later became Israel’s worship centers and which city did the Lord ultimately designate as the permanent center of worship? **Mizpah, Gilgal and Gibeon served as Israel’s central worship locations in their years of settlement. When the Lord named Jerusalem as the permanent center of worship, David brought the Ark of the Covenant into the city and his son Solomon built the Temple there. The actual location of Israel’s worship was not as significant as the *centralization* of worship, for it protected each individual, family, and tribe from worshipping however they “saw fit.”**
- 12) Skim Deuteronomy 13.
- a) Put into three categories the people or things that could potentially usurp the authority of God’s word in the lives of God’s people. **Signs and wonders (verses 1-5), suggestions of loved ones (verses 6-11), and the influence of “troublemakers” (verses 12-17). Israel was warned against giving any of these things precedent over God’s own word.**
- b) Do any of these influences attempt to challenge the supreme authority of God’s word today? Explain. **Various movements encourage individuals to emphasize what they *see* over and above the knowledge of God’s word (encouraging sensationalism over truth). Many people also follow the religion of their relatives, with no thought to whether it is true. In western countries, many twist God’s word, or deny it altogether, in order to promote their own self-serving agenda.**
- 13) According to Deuteronomy 17:14-20:
- a) Who was to appoint a king over Israel (include verse number)? **The Lord Himself would choose the king (17:15).**
- b) What three practices was an Israelite king to avoid (include verse numbers)? Why should the king have avoided these things? **These were forbidden to an Israelite King: accumulation of horses (weapons [verse 16]) many wives (verse 17), and wealth (verse 17). The wives could lead a king to follow foreign gods. Stockpiling weapons and wealth could cause him to rely on those, rather than on the Lord.**
- c) Can you think of anything that represents a similar threat in your life? **Every believer must guard against putting his or her ultimate confidence and security in anything other than the Lord. Such an item is an idol. Personal sharing**
- d) What practice was the king to maintain? **The king was to write out the entire law and read it all the days of his life (verses 18-19).**

From Deuteronomy 12-26:

- 14) Choose to read one chapter (or more) between Deuteronomy 15 and 26. Briefly summarize the gist of each command given in that chapter, noting whether it promotes *holy* living or a life of *love*. **(Answers will vary, depending on the chapter chosen.) All the law served to the ends of making people holy and loving.**
- 15) Specifically, how could you apply the principles from these laws to your life today, in order that your life might better reflect God’s love and holiness? **Personal sharing**