

## Dueteronomy Ch 1-

We come tonight to the final book of the Pentateuch, otherwise known as the 5 books of Moses, which are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Dueteronomy. The word Dueteronomy actually means, “the 2<sup>nd</sup> law” and it would seem as though this account took place over about the last month and ½ or so of the life of Moses. So Moses is at this point 120yrs old, but it would be wrong to perceive Moses as this little old frail man who is blind in one eye and can’t see out of the other. Who could at any moment fall and break a hip and you have to speak very loudly to talk with him because he’s hard of hearing. The bible tells us that when Moses died, “*His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.*” So Moses was still very much in good health at this point but he knew that the Lord was getting ready to take the children of Israel into the Promised Land and that he wasn’t going to get to enter into it and so that only left one option for Him. So he is addressing this new generation, reminding them of their history before they enter into the land. Because many of these people were born in the wilderness, probably 10’s of thousands of people that are getting ready to enter into the land, had no personal memory of what it meant to be in the atrocious bondage of Egypt. They didn’t personally see the Red Sea part and walk through on dry ground. And being kids they weren’t near as aware of the hazards and dangers of the wilderness that God spared them from and provided for them through. And so Moses takes this time just prior to their entering into the land to reiterate and recount for them the 40 yrs in the wilderness from the time they left Egypt up until the present.

But as I said there isn’t a lot of time that was allotted here because we’re told that Moses began to speak these things to the children of Israel on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in the 40<sup>th</sup> year. And it was on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month of the 41<sup>st</sup> yr that they crossed over the Jordan into the Promised Land after mourning the death of Moses for 30 days. Which means that Moses would’ve died right around the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 12<sup>th</sup> month of the 40<sup>th</sup> yr just a little over a month from when this book begins. So all these things in this book basically occurred in the last 40 or so days of the life of Moses, this is basically his final exhortations to the children of Israel prior to their crossing over and entering into the land. And so they are words of encouragement (really) to them, he is seeking to build up their faith and their trust in God as he recounts to them all that God has done and how they lacked nothing and how God fought their battles for them. And he’s wanting them to know that God will continue to give them victory and fight their battles for them as long as they trust Him and are obedient to Him. He points out that the times that God didn’t fight their battles for them is during the times that they were rebellious and weren’t obedient to God. And the same is true for you and me today, if we love God and yield to Him, if we trust Him and are obedient to His word, then you can know that He will go before you and fight your battles for you in this life. Those things that seem so impossible for you to over come and we’ll talk more about that in just a minute. But if you’re not obedient and don’t place your faith and trust in God, then how do you expect that God will respond to that and give you victory. The book of Hebrews tells us that with out faith it’s impossible to please God.

And James tells us that “he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

And so Moses is encouraging them to trust in the Lord, and to go into the land that God had promised to them believing that God would deliver it to them even as He said because as sure as God has said it we can know that He will make it good. So do what He says and out of your love for God, be obedient to God, that’s basically the theme of this book, Love God and be obedient to Him. Jesus wasn’t trying to give the disciples some brand new revelation when He said, “*if you love Me, keep My commandments.*” That concept was given clear back in the book of Dueteronomy; obedience is mans response to God’s love and God’s blessing follows obedience, so.

Vs 1-2

Now, this is an interesting little commentary here regarding the journey from Horeb to Kadesh Barnea which was the border to the Promised Land, and yet they have been journeying on that 11 day journey for the last 40yrs and 11 months. So when we think of typology and all of the OT types and spiritual analogies we realize Egypt stands to illustrate to us or is a type of the flesh, living in the world in bondage to sin, and Satan and the flesh. Slowly being destroyed as we’re forced to serve with rigor. So Egypt is typical of our old life, the Promised Land, the life that God wanted to give them and was leading them into is typical of the life led in the Spirit walking in victory, the Lord fighting our battles for us. Now there are those who want to make the Promised Land out to be heaven, but I have to disagree with that because there were giants in the land who stood to oppose them and they still had battles to fight and areas to overcome. When we get to heaven there isn’t going to be any battles to fight or giants to overcome. So the Promised Land stands then to illustrate for us a life of overcoming, a life of victory, a life led by the Spirit. So we see that there is the coming out of the old life, being delivered by God from the chains of sin and death, being set free from the slavery to the flesh. The passing through the Red Sea, a type of baptism, and this new relationship with God by which we learn to walk by faith, and are setting aside the things of the flesh.

And what we see here is that there is a legitimate time in our Christian experience of growth and development, there was no getting to the Promised Land with out 1<sup>st</sup> passing through the wilderness. But it’s not God’s desire that we spend our whole lives wandering around frustrated, murmuring, whining and griping and complaining in the wilderness, it was an 11-day journey, but it took them 40 yrs. God’s desire is that the time spent in the “wilderness” in your life be relatively short, He wants to bring you on in to a life that’s led by and dominated by the Spirit. Paul said, “*Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition.*” In other words all of these failures of theirs weren’t recorded for us so that we can look back in hindsight and say boy you should’ve trusted God.

They were recorded so that we might learn from their mistakes and not repeat them ourselves; we can look at this and chastise them for their lack of trust and faith in God, but what about you? Where are you at tonight, do trust God, are you placing your faith in God, are leading a life of victory, led by and dominated by the Spirit, or are you plagued with the same stumbling block of unbelief that they were. And so though you've been a Christian for years you're still in bondage to areas of the flesh that God would have you be set free from but instead we point the finger at them and scold them for unbelief, all the while we're in the same predicament ourselves.

You see the life of the Spirit begins with the death of the old man, the old flesh nature which is a position that we must "*enter into and take*" by faith even as they were to take the Promised Land by faith. Turn with me to the book of Romans ch 6:3-14 Vs 11 is key, you must accomplish these things through the reckoning or considering, or even deeming or judging the old body of sin to be dead, how do you do that? By faith, the same way you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, there's no difference; both are an exercise of faith.

Now, no doubt there is a warfare that goes on in our lives, the war between the flesh and the spirit and the 2 are contrary to one another, but they are both seeking that dominate position in our lives and we live in the tension between the 2. We'd all like to think that we're the captain of our own ship but the reality is that we're either going to serve the flesh, or be subservient to the Spirit, the only role we're given is the choice, but either way we're servants. And it's God's desire for us to be governed by the Spirit and so the flesh doesn't like that, and it wants to rear it's ugly head and so we're in the midst of this warfare. And it's a spiritual warfare, that's why the bible over and over again tells us not to make provision for the flesh, to fulfill it's desires. But rather to walk after the Spirit and to do that I must by faith recognize that this body of flesh is crucified with Christ along with it's passions and desires.

And Paul talks about this struggle of his in the 7<sup>th</sup> ch of Romans, by which he acknowledged the law was good and it was his desire to fulfill it but the power to do so he found lacking. And so the good that he wanted to do, that he didn't do; and the good that he wanted to do, that he didn't do. And he found himself in a state of misery, consenting that he wanted to keep the law, it was good, it was right, he could see the divine ideal and desired to be living his life accordingly. But yet there was the inability to bring the flesh into conformity to the desire of the Spirit, it was his own wilderness experience and as you read that text you can just sense the frustration in his heart. Until finally he cries out, "*O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*" And when you get to that point you're getting close and Paul discovers the answer to his cry as he looked outside of himself. You see he couldn't bring himself into subjection to the divine ideal, he lacked the power to do that, he acknowledged that he need help outside of himself, "*Who will deliver me?*"

It wasn't how can I free myself, it was who can do this work for me and in me. You see that's the difference between the wilderness experience and the life in the flesh. The wilderness experience is when I'm trying to conform myself to the will of God through the efforts of my own self-will. I try to cut this out of my life, I promise that I'll never do that again, and I'm doing my best to bring myself into subjection to God's will. And find myself in Romans chapter 7, the good that I will to do that I don't do, the wickedness that I will not to do, that I do. And I can't conform myself and so I have to come to this point that I reckon by faith that my old nature was crucified with Christ and I realize that I can't be released from the grips of my flesh through my own self efforts and so I cry out for help outside of myself. And it's at that point when I turn to Jesus and say Lord I can't do this on my own, I can't do this at all, I need you to do it in me and the Spirit does for me what I could never do for myself. Acts 1:8

*"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,"* and we have to come to the end of ourselves and be emptied of ourselves in order to be filled with the Spirit. So there is that period in our Christian experience by which God is taking us to that point by where He has saved us. And now He's seeking to lead us to that place where we come to the end of ourselves and relying on our own strength and abandon ourselves completely and totally in absolute surrender to God and allowing Him to govern our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit. It wasn't God's perfect will for them to perish in the wilderness; He wanted them to inherit the Land, that was a failure on their part due to what? Unbelief, failing to trust in the strong-arm of the Lord to fight their battles for them and guide them safely into the Land. They got their eyes on the obstacles, rather than on the power of God to remove those obstacles from them, and that's the same mistake that we so often make. We spy out the land and we see the obstacles that need to be overcome in our lives in order to take that land and we get overwhelmed, and we say I'm just too weak, or that's easier said than done, you don't know how long I've been struggling with this vice. And we're stumbled by those obstacles rather than trusting in the power of God to deliver us from that obstacle, and in doing so we make what was intended to be an 11 day journey, a lifetime of failure and misery and we fall into the same trap that they did rather than learning the lessons from their mistakes.

So listen, it's important that we not fail where they failed, but rather that we take this position of victory and power being strengthened by the Spirit and walking in the Spirit, reckoning the old man to be crucified with Christ by faith.

It was an 11-day journey, a relatively insignificant amount of time in the big picture and wound up costing many of them a lifetime and for everybody else 40yrs to enter into the Land that God had promised.

Vs3-8

Notice vs 6 God says you've been at this place in your journey with Me long enough, you've walked around in circles at the foot of this Mt long enough, it's time to move on. And maybe God is dealing with you tonight and speaking the same thing to your own heart. You've been at this place in your walk with Him long enough, it's time to move on. You've been walking around in circles and getting nowhere in your relationship with Him and God is speaking to you saying hey lets pick up camp and move forward and He's challenging you to raise your standards in godliness, He wants you to begin to possess all that He has promised to you. The life of victory, the life led in the Spirit and He's challenging you to allow Him to bring you up to that next level, but it's going to cost you. You're going to have to abandon yourself to Him, you're going to have to quit relying on yourself and start relying on Him, you but Jeff that's kind of scary. You're telling me to completely release all right and all control of my life over to God and give Him total control of the reigns of my life and my heart, that's like a step of faith or something. You got it, because why, remember what the bible says, with out faith its impossible to please Him and so I'm encouraging you to give God the reigns of your heart and the right to your life and watch Him begin to work victory in your life. And you'll begin to move forward in your spiritual growth and development, God says you've been at this point long enough, it's time to get moving.

#### Vs9-18

Take note of that in your own life, you and I aren't to show partiality in judgment, the bible says that we're not to show partiality to the rich just because they're rich and neither are we to show partiality to the poor just because they're poor. And notice we're not to let people intimidate us in our judgment. It doesn't matter who they are, or how they threaten you, the bible says here you shall not be afraid in any mans presence. Ps 27:1 says *"The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?"* Ps 118:6 *"The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"* Ps 56:11 *"In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"* And of course Isa 54:17 *"No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me,"* Says the LORD. You shall not be afraid in any mans presence, now in contrast the bible says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge 1 Peter 2:17 says, *"Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king."* Rev 14:7 says, *"Fear God and give glory to Him"* speaking of that reverential fear and respect that is due the Lord, knowing that He holds the very breath of life in His hands and that each breath we take is a gift from Him.

#### Vs19-27

Now in the book of Num we're not told this, but in Dueteronomy we see a little more detail and we see that the request for the spies actually came from the people. Now if you ask me that was a mistake, they wanted to go in and see what they were up against, see if they thought that they could indeed take the land. What were they doing? They were again trusting in their own self-efforts; they didn't take God at His word and simply trust Him to deliver it into their hands. And I'm not going to revert back to our previous topic of unbelief but we so often fall into this same trap, instead of just doing what God tells us to and believing Him to equip us and see us through and stand up to His word, (which He honors even above His name.) We do what these people did; we take a look at the circumstances at hand, and evaluate whether or not we think we can do it and if we think it's too much for us, we back out. Not trusting in God, when in reality God likes it to be more than us, because if it's not more than us we don't need God. But we don't see it that way we get out there and get overwhelmed and we say, God, what have you gotten me into here, what have I done to deserve this and we rebel against the command, or the word of God. And whine and gripe and complain, and the whole time God is wanting to work an awesome radical work in our lives because of His love for us and all we can see is God you must hate me. What a horrible thing to say about God, that borders on blasphemy, God did not allow His only Son to suffer and die for you out of His hatred for you, He loves you and wants to bring you into a good land that He's promised for you, but you've got to trust Him for it.

You remember all that transpired in the life of Job and yet we read concerning him, "*In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.*" Here they are charging God wrongly and they said,

Vs28-31

And God carries us in the same way, I love these vs' the Lord our God fights for us, carries us as a man carries his son.

Vs32-33

God goes before us to show us where to pitch our tents and show us where we should go, and yet how often God is wrongly accused, when the whole time He's watching out over us, leading us and going before and preparing our way.

Vs34-39

And these are the ones that Moses is speaking to now, and so again he's encouraging their hearts and exhorting them to trust God where their parents failed, learn from their mistakes.

Vs40-46

There is a big difference between acting in faith and acting presumptuously, if you just presume something of God with out hearing from Him on it 1<sup>st</sup> it's not an act of faith. Faith steps out and trusts God for His word even though you might not be able to figure it out. Presumption just assumes that God is going to go before you in your battle when in reality if God has sent you to battle and you just take off on your own, you've done just that, you've taken off on your own. That's why it's important that we be seeking God's heart and seeking to hear His voice when we make decisions. Prov 3:5-6 "*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*"