

DEUTERONOMY 29-31

April 22, 2012

Today we will study **chapters 29 through 31** of the book of **Deuteronomy**.

Introduction:

The children of Israel (the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) ended up in Egypt as a result of a famine in Palestine. They apparently remained in Egypt after Joseph's death and eventually became slaves. God saw their plight and sent Moses to deliver them from slavery in Egypt. God led them to the Promised Land but not straight to it. God miraculously provided for Israel in the wilderness. They failed to trust God to give them the victory in the Promised Land, so God led them through the wilderness for **40 years** until all of the males over **20 years** of age and older (**Numbers 14:29**). He then took His people into the Promised Land (which is the story of Joshua).

Reread this paragraph and see how many Biblical principles you can identify that applies to our lives today. Jot down your answers and bring them to class.

1. If God's provision for us in one place "dries up", then we may need to relocate (Israel went down to Egypt). See 1 Kings 17:1-9. [1 Hoshea son of Elah began to rule over Israel in the twelfth year of King Ahaz's reign in Judah. He reigned in Samaria nine years. 2 He did what was evil in the Lord's sight, but not to the same extent as the kings of Israel who ruled before him. 3 King Shalmaneser of Assyria attacked King Hoshea, so Hoshea was forced to pay heavy tribute to Assyria. 4 But Hoshea stopped paying the annual tribute and conspired against the king of Assyria by asking King So of Egypt to help him shake free of Assyria's power. When the king of Assyria discovered this treachery, he seized Hoshea and put him in prison. 5 Then the king of Assyria invaded the entire land, and for three years he besieged the city of Samaria. 6 Finally, in the ninth year of King Hoshea's reign, Samaria fell, and the people of Israel were exiled to Assyria. They were settled in colonies in Halah, along the banks of the Habor River in Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. 7 This disaster came upon the people of Israel because they worshiped other gods. They sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them safely out of Egypt and had rescued them from the power of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. 8 They had followed the practices of the pagan nations the Lord had driven from the land ahead of them, as well as the practices the kings of Israel had introduced. 9 The people of Israel had also secretly done many things that were not pleasing to the Lord their God. They built pagan shrines for themselves in all their towns, from the smallest outpost to the largest walled city. **NLT**
2. We must be where God wants us to be if we want to experience His blessing. Israel probably should have returned to Palestine once Joseph died. They did not and eventually became slaves. If you are where you ought to be, then you won't be where you shouldn't be.
3. God's will for you today (Egypt) may not be God's will for you tomorrow. There was a time to return to Palestine.
4. God sees our problems and cares about us. **See Exodus 3:7**. [7 Then the Lord told him, "I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. **NLT**
5. God is more than able to do something about our problems. **See Exodus 3:8**. [8 So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.

6. God uses the bad things that we go through (things got worse in Egypt when Moses showed up) to teach us, grow us, and bring glory to Himself. See **Romans 8:28-29** [28 And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. 29 For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. and **Deuteronomy 23:5**. [5 But the Lord your God refused to listen to Balaam. He turned the intended curse into a blessing because the Lord your God loves you. NLT
7. God may take us on a journey of growth (the wilderness) before we arrive at His ultimate will for us (the Promised Land). God did not take them straight to the Promised Land.
8. God is our “source” and He can provide for us through the natural (see **Deuteronomy 8:17-18**) [17 He did all this so you would never say to yourself, ‘I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.’ 18 Remember the Lord your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath. Or through the supernatural (the Egyptians gave them their gold; the manna, the quail; water from the rocks). See **Deuteronomy 29:5**. [5 For forty years I led you through the wilderness, yet your clothes and sandals did not wear out. NLT
9. When we fail to trust and obey God, His plan for us can change. Those who died in the wilderness could and *should* have entered the Promised Land. Our disobedience can cost us God’s best for our lives. He will have another “good” plan, but we can forfeit His best plan for us.
10. Through our disobedience, it is possible to miss what God wanted to give to us (the Promised Land). What we get *from* God is somewhat determined by how much of ourselves we give *to* God.
11. God can set us aside and use someone else to accomplish His purpose if we don’t want to follow Him. The next generation entered the land.
12. Our children can be blessed or suffer for our choices (40 years of wandering). See **Numbers 14:27-33**. [27 “How long must I put up with this wicked community and its complaints about me? Yes, I have heard the complaints the Israelites are making against me. 28 Now tell them this: ‘as surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very things I heard you say. 29 You will all drop dead in this wilderness! Because you complained against me, every one of you who is twenty years old or older and was included in the registration will die. 30 You will not enter and occupy the land I swore to give you. The only exceptions will be Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. 31 “‘you said your children would be carried off as plunder. Well, I will bring them safely into the land, and they will enjoy what you have despised. 32 But as for you, you will drop dead in this wilderness. 33 And your children will be like shepherds, wandering in the wilderness for forty years. In this way, they will pay for your faithlessness, until the last of you lies dead in the wilderness. NLT
13. God will accomplish His purposes. Israel did enter into and inhabit the Promised Land under Joshua.

How many times does God tell Israel in these three chapters that His blessing is determined by their obedience?

- See 29:9; 30:6,8-10,15-20; 31:16-21.

29:13 What do we learn from chapter 29 verse 13?

God’s wants a people for Himself. He wants to be *our* God. See **Deuteronomy 14:2**; [2 You have been set apart as holy to the Lord your God, and he has chosen you from all the nations of the earth to be his own special treasure.] **Titus 2:14**; [14 He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.] And **Revelation 21:3**. [3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. NLT

29:18 In past chapters we have learned about God telling His people to purge the evil from their midst (13:5; 17:7,12; 19:19; 22:21,22,24; and 24:7), how is this stated in 29:18?

- Disobedience is contagious. See **1 Corinthians 15:33** [33 Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for "bad company corrupts good character."] And **Ecclesiastes 9:18**. [18 Better to have wisdom than weapons of war, but one sinner can destroy much that is good.]

29:29 What does **29:29** mean?

- God has not chosen to reveal everything to us. There are *secret things* (for example – the details of creation {**Ecclesiastes 3:11 & 8:17**}). He has though, revealed to us everything we need to know to know Him and to follow Him. See **2 Peter 1:3**. [3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.] The Bible is not a question and answer book for the curious; it's a book on how to have a relationship with the God we were made for.

30:1-10 In **29:22-28** Moses foretells that the people will disobey the Lord and will go into captivity. The Assyrians took the Northern Kingdom (Israel) into captivity in **722 B.C.** The Babylonians took the Southern Kingdom (Judah) into captivity in **586 B.C.** The Jews did not possess the Promised Land again until **1948 (over 2,500 years later)**. Do you think that the promises in **30:1-10** apply to the Jews today or to a future time?

- The promise partially applies to the Jews today: they *are* back in control of the land and have been shown favor by God. They do not love and obey the Lord (**30:6,8,10**), though, and they are not prospering above the nations (**30:5,9**). During the **1,000-year reign** of Christ on earth these and other promises to Israel will be fulfilled. Once the church has been raptured, then Israel will begin to return to the Lord during the Tribulation. Jesus will rule in Jerusalem (*sit upon the throne of David*) during the **1,000-year reign (called The Millennium)**.

30:14 What do we learn from **30:14**?

- We are to obey the Lord. In order to do so, we must put God's Word in our hearts. See **Psalm 119:9-11** [9 How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. 10 I have tried hard to find you—don't let me wander from your commands. 11 I have hidden your word in my heart, which I might not sin against you.] And **Joshua 1:8**. His Word should also be on our lips. See **Ephesians 5:19**. [19 singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts.] **NLT**

30:20 What do we learn about walking with the Lord in **30:20**?

- When we love, obey, and stay close to Him our lives get blessed (*this is your life*). **Disobedience** can result in premature death (*length of days*).

31:3,6,8 As we face our futures, what do we learn about God in **verses 3, 6, and 8 of chapter 31**?

- God goes ahead of us (**3,8**); being eternal, He is already present in our future. God will be with us when we get there (**6**) and He will not fail or forsake us (**8**). When can face uncertain futures because the God who loves us is already there waiting for us.

31:12 What four things are we to learn to do in **verse 12**?

- We are to hear what the Lord is saying to us. We are to learn His ways. We are to fear Him. To fear Him is to "reverence" Him and to be afraid of displeasing Him. And we are to obey Him.

31:18 What do we learn in **verse 18**?

- God will hide His face from us if we do evil. We cannot live as we please and expect God to bless us anyway.