

Making Promises

Part 3: The Wilderness

Review

- The book of Genesis details the promise of the seed that will soon come forth to crush the serpent's head. The "Snake Crusher" will come through a family that we watch God protect and preserve throughout the book.
- The book of Exodus shows this family under the yoke of slavery to the Egyptians as they cry out to God for deliverance. God raises up a deliverer in Moses, and through him, establishes His law and a portable dwelling amongst His people.
- The book of Leviticus is written to help the children of Israel understand the importance of God's holiness. The people are taught through the law, how they are to live and interact with God and with each other. The book reveals a law governing all aspects of Hebrew life: Civil life, Ceremonial life, and the moral underpinnings of life.
- The book of Numbers details the disobedience of the Hebrew people that led to their wandering in the desert for 40 years. It will serve as a severe warning for how God will ultimately discipline his children and purge the evil doer from among the Israelites.

Deuteronomy

- The book's title comes from two Greek words: deutero, meaning **second**, and nomos, meaning **law**.
- In it we find, particularly in chapters 12-26, a **recapitulation** of the law that God has given to the people through Moses.
- The Hebrews have been in the desert for 40(+) years, and an entire generation has been killed. In Deuteronomy, Moses is essentially warning a new generation of Israelites before they enter into the land that they must maintain **covenant faithfulness** to the Lord if they want to stay.
- The book of Deuteronomy reflects the same pattern as an Ancient Near Eastern **Suzerain-Vassal treaty**.
 - ◉ In these treaties, a great power (**the suzerain king**) imposed certain conditions of vassal-dom on a smaller state (**the vassal**), which would normally have been conquered by the more powerful state in battle.

- The revelation of this structure actually makes a very important point about the difference between the suzerains of the ancient near east and the **God of the Bible**.

Part 1: Preamble, Prologue, and General Stipulations (1-11)

- The preamble of the treaty (*Deut. 1:1-5*), differs slightly from typical suzerain-vassal treaties in that it doesn't speak of God, the **true King of Israel**, but it establishes Moses as the **spokesman** or **prophet** of God.
 - The reason for this is because the Israelites had heard God's voice, but were **afraid that they would die** if they had to continue to listen to the voice of the Lord. Therefore, they appointed Moses to listen to God and tell them what He has said (*Deut. 5:22-31*).
- Moses then reminds the new generation that is about to enter the Promised Land of the past sins that led to the death of their parents (*Deut. 1:6-4:49*). The **past** reminds the people of the unfaithfulness of their predecessors, and it impresses communicates the need for **present** commitment in order that the **future** of the relationship might be secured.
- The General stipulations in chapters 5-11 underline the foundation for the relationship between God and man, and that foundation is **love**. First, God initiated his covenant with man because of **his love for them** (*Deut. 1:31; 5:6; 7:8; 8:5; 10:15*). Second, **man must love God** with the totality of his being (*Deut. 6:5; 7:9; 11:1, 13, 22*).

Part 2: Specific Stipulations (12-26)

- The specific stipulations of the covenant between God and man is expounding on the **10 commandments**.
- The broad scope of the specific stipulations is significant; the stipulations do not cover every possible contingency that could arise in human living, but they indicate by their breadth and diversity that no area of life is **unimportant** to the member of the covenant community.

Part 3: Blessings and Curses and Provisions (27-34)

- The final section contains a warning about the **curse**s that will follow if the covenant is not adhered to strictly (*Deut. 27:26*). Moses encourages them to choose life instead of death (*Deut. 30:15-20*).
- Moses however, knows that the people of Israel are going to **rebel** and not follow the law after he dies (*Deut. 31:25-29*).
- The hope for creation is found in **the suzerain** becoming **the vassal** and fulfilling the obligations of the covenant (*Deut. 21:23; Gal. 3:13*).

Part 3: The Wilderness

<p>Deuteronomy 1:1–5</p>	<p>1 These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel beyond the Jordan in the wilderness, in the Arabah opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab. 2 It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea. 3 In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses spoke to the people of Israel according to all that the Lord had given him in commandment to them, 4 after he had defeated Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth and in Edrei. 5 Beyond the Jordan, in the land of Moab, Moses undertook to explain this law, saying,</p>
<p>Deuteronomy 5:22–31</p>	<p>22 “These words the Lord spoke to all your assembly at the mountain out of the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and he added no more. And he wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me. 23 And as soon as you heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes, and your elders. 24 And you said, ‘Behold, the Lord our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we have seen God speak with man, and man still live. 25 Now therefore why should we die? For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the Lord our God any more, we shall die. 26 For who is there of all flesh, that has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of fire as we have, and has still lived? 27 Go near and hear all that the Lord our God will say, and speak to us all that the Lord our God will speak to you, and we will hear and do it.’ 28 “And the Lord heard your words, when you spoke to me. And the Lord said to me, ‘I have heard the words of this people, which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken. 29 Oh that they had such a heart as this always, to fear me and to keep all my commandments, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever! 30 Go and say to them, “Return to your tents.” 31 But you, stand here by me, and I will tell you the whole commandment and the statutes and the rules that you shall teach them, that they may do them in the land that I am giving them to possess.’</p>
<p>Deuteronomy 1:31</p>	<p>and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the Lord your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way that you went until you came to this place.’</p>
<p>Deuteronomy 5:6</p>	<p>“ ‘I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.</p>
<p>Deuteronomy 7:8</p>	<p>but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.</p>
<p>Deuteronomy 8:5</p>	<p>Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the Lord your God disciplines you.</p>
<p>Deuteronomy 10:15</p>	<p>Yet the Lord set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day.</p>
<p>Deuteronomy 6:5</p>	<p>You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.</p>
<p>Deuteronomy 7:9</p>	<p>Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,</p>

Deuteronomy 11:1	“You shall therefore love the Lord your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always.
Deuteronomy 11:13	“And if you will indeed obey my commandments that I command you today, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,
Deuteronomy 11:22	For if you will be careful to do all this commandment that I command you to do, loving the Lord your God, walking in all his ways, and holding fast to him,
Deuteronomy 27:26	“ ‘Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.’ And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’
Deuteronomy 30:15–20	15 “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. 16 If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. 17 But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, 20 loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”
Deuteronomy 31:25–29	25 Moses commanded the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, 26 “Take this Book of the Law and put it by the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against you. 27 For I know how rebellious and stubborn you are. Behold, even today while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against the Lord. How much more after my death! 28 Assemble to me all the elders of your tribes and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears and call heaven and earth to witness against them. 29 For I know that after my death you will surely act corruptly and turn aside from the way that I have commanded you. And in the days to come evil will befall you, because you will do what is evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger through the work of your hands.”
Deuteronomy 21:23	his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance.
Galatians 3:13	Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us —for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—