



## Mercy Delayed Deuteronomy 1

Mike Halpin January 10, 2021

**Intro:** Our failures are the back drops by which we see God's mercy in not giving us what we deserve, and his grace in his giving us in Christ riches we don't deserve and couldn't earn.

Mercy = *compassion or forgiveness toward someone when it's in one's power to punish or harm.*

Deuteronomy is a book that is filled w/ God's mercy: it looks back at Israel's past failures and forward, anticipating their future faithlessness and its consequences. And in all the past failures and their predictable future failures, God's mercy is always present and always waiting to bring about His good plan for his covenant people.

- Deuteronomy 13:17
- Deuteronomy 30:1–3
- Lamentations 3:22–23

The stories in Deuteronomy are a lot like the experiences in our lives and Churches today; we see much in the way of our failures, and much in the way of God's mercy and grace.

**Book Intro:** Deuteronomy is the fifth and last book in the Torah/Law/Pentateuch:

- Genesis— 50 chapters. Creation, Fall, flood, Abraham & Patriarchs, Jacob's descendants in Egypt, to around 1,800 BC.
- Exodus— 40 Chapters. God delivers Jacob's descendants from slavery in Egypt through Moses at Passover, covenant at Mt. Sinai, Jacob's descendants are now a nation, to about one year after the Exodus, around 1445 BC.
- Leviticus— 27 chapters. Directions for Jewish priests, offerings, holidays, holiness instructions, to about two years after the Exodus, w/ Israel still at Sinai. (Numbers 1:1; 9:1-2)
- Numbers— 36 chapters. Follows Israel through 40-years in the wilderness to the east side of River Jordan having defeated two prominent kings and their people on the East side of the Jordan River: Sihon, king of the Amorites and Og, King of Bashan, to around 1406 BC.
- Deuteronomy— 34 chapters
  - ◇ Follows Numbers. Primarily Moses' speeches re telling the story of the past forty-years.
  - ◇ A reiteration of God's Covenant and plans to the second generation of Jews after the Exodus, those who will go into the land, versus the original generation that died in the wilderness.
  - ◇ Deuteronomy literally means second law because of the reiteration of the Covenant it gives.
  - ◇ Deuteronomy appears to be the "book of the Law" found when Josiah was King in the 600s BC (2 Kings 22:8ff), which helped initiate Israel's last revival before their captivity.
  - ◇ Jesus quoted Deuteronomy each time tempted by Satan in wilderness for 40 days.
  - ◇ Quoted more often by Jesus than any other OT book.

**Text:** Deuteronomy 1:1–8, 19–40 ESV (*Numbers 13–14 a parallel account*)

**I. Unbelief—**

Vs. 1-2, 11 days versus 40 years. Why forty-years in the wilderness? Because of unbelief which led to disobedience.

- Deuteronomy 1:32–33
- Hebrews 3:16–19

Based on what I do, what do I really believe? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**II. Blessing Delayed—**

Deuteronomy 1:45–2:1 God's promises were delayed, they weren't cancelled. God's mercy was still waiting.

Delays and impact on others, Numbers 14:33

**III. God's Promises and Mercy Remain—**

- Deuteronomy 1:39
- 2nd Corinthians 1:19–20

God's mercy remains, guaranteed in Christ, in whom God ultimately fulfills all his promises.

Did Israel's rejection of Jesus in the Incarnation mean they've lost the promises of God regarding their Messiah & his kingdom? Not at all. Like the Exodus generation, the promises are only delayed.

- Luke 13:34–35; Romans 11:25–27

Israel will yet be blessed in the Land of Promise, under their Savior King, the Lord Jesus. God's mercy remains.

Are there promises or commands God has made that we've refused to believe and obey, like the Exodus generation?

- Am I believing God to save me from temptation to sin? 1 Corinthians 10:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- Am I embracing peace and restoration by confessing my sin? 1 John 1:9. \_\_\_\_\_
- Am I forgiving others as I've been forgiven? Mark 11:25. \_\_\_\_\_
- Have I received the blessing better than the Land of Promise, eternal life in Jesus Christ and all the blessings of heaven with it? John 11:25–26 \_\_\_\_\_

*As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. <sup>29</sup> For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup> so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup> For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all. Romans 11:28–32 ESV*