

Reading Deuteronomy

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Purpose

This study leads the reader through a reading of the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy. This is the second telling of the Law as the children of Israel are about to enter the Promised Land.

Some Study Aids

The main body of this study reads through Deuteronomy. After that is an index of some key terms and gives the chapters and verses in which they are found. The study concludes with the places in the Gospels where Jesus quotes Deuteronomy. Jesus quotes the book of Isaiah more than any other Old Testament scripture. After Isaiah, Jesus quotes Deuteronomy the most. Jesus uses the text of Deuteronomy to remind the Jewish crowds of their heritage and how they already know how to live.

Translations

Various English translation use various words. This study will quote from:

CSB: The Christian Standard Bible, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers.

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Reading Deuteronomy

The Beginning

Chapter 1

A Long Walk

The people are in the wilderness across the Jordan River from the Promised Land. They have walked and camped for forty years. The distance they covered in forty years can normally be walked in eleven days.

God Speaks to All Israel Through Moses

This begins a long speech from Moses to the people.

Thirty-nine years and eleven months have passed. It is time to enter the land promised by God.

Moses provides something to remember—a history lesson of sorts. First, Moses recalls when he realized that there were too many people for him to lead alone. Moses delegated authority and took wise and respected men from the tribes and made them

commanders for thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens, and officers for your tribes. 16 I commanded your judges at that time: Hear the cases between your brothers, and judge rightly between a man and his brother or his resident alien. 17 Do not show partiality when deciding a case; listen to small and great alike. Do not be intimidated by anyone, for judgment belongs to God. Bring me any case too difficult for you, and I will hear it. 18 At that time I commanded you about all the things you were to do. — CSB

The Great Disobedience

Next, Moses told the tragic story of how those chosen to explore the Promised Land forgot that God was with them. These explorers were afraid and told the people that they could not enter the land. The inhabitants of the land would smash them.

Moses told the people, “Don’t be terrified or afraid of them! 30 The Lord your God who goes before you will fight for you, just as you saw him do for you in Egypt. (CSB)

It was in vain. The people rebelled.

God’s response was,

“None of these men in this evil generation will see the good land I swore to give your ancestors, 36 except Caleb the son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give him and his descendants the land on which he has set foot, because he remained loyal to the Lord.” — CSB

Having lost heart and been judged by God, the people rebelled again. They were “chased like a swarm of bees.”

Seir

Chapter 2

The wanderings began. Moses summarized thirty-eight years in a couple of sentences. After walking around the hill country of Seir for many days, the people turned north. They walked through the country occupied by their relatives who had descended from Esau. The people purchased what they needed from the distant relatives and continued their journey. The Horites had previously lived in Seir.

Moab

The people, “traveled along the road to the Wilderness of Moab.” (CSB) They obeyed God’s instruction to behave peacefully among the people of Moab as the Moabites had descended from Lot.

Moses further identifies the area as it was previously occupied by the Emim, “a great and numerous people as tall as the Anakim.” (CSB)

Concluding the description of Moab, Moses reminded the people that it had taken thirty-eight years travelling to cross the Zared Valley. All those in the generation who had refused to follow God into the promised land had died.

Bypassing Ammon

After the generation had died, the people came close to Ammon. God’s instruction was,
 “19 When you get close to the Ammonites, don’t show any hostility to them or provoke them, for I will not give you any of the Ammonites’ land as a possession; I have given it as a possession to the descendants of Lot.” — CSB

Reminder: God Displaces One People for Another

Moses reminds the people how God displaced peoples with other peoples of God’s choosing.

In Ammon, the Rephaim had lived there. The Rephaim were, “a great and numerous people, tall as the Anakim.” (CSB) God, however pushed these giants aside and gave the territory to the Ammonites.

Back to Seir, the Horites were in that land. God pushed aside the Horites so that the descendants of Esau could have that land.

Then there were the villages of Gaza. They were once occupied by the Avvites. God pushed out the Avvites so that the Caphtorim could move in.

Given this history, it should be clear to the people with Moses that God could do the same for them. God would displace the people in the Promised Land.

Defeating King Sihon the Amorite

In the land of Heshbon lived King Sihon the Amorite. King Sihon was chosen for an ignoble purpose for God said, “Today I will begin to put the fear and dread of you on the peoples everywhere under heaven. They will hear the report about you, tremble, and be in anguish because of you.” (CSB)

First, the people offered peace. If allowed to pass through, they would stay on the road and not touch anything. This was refused.

A battle ensued at Jahaz. The army of King Sihon was destroyed. The people of God walked into the undefended cities and killed all the women and children. *There were no survivors*. God’s people took all the livestock and valuables that were left. They became rich.

Defeating King Og of Bashon

Chapter 3

The people of God travelled up the road to Bashon where King Og and his army met them. God told the people to repeat what happened just before. God’s people defeated King Og and his army and captured sixty cities in the region. They killed every man, woman, and child and took all the livestock and goods as plunder. The wealth continues to build.

We are later told that King Og was descended from giants. He was so big that his bed was “13½ feet long and 6 feet wide.” (CSB)

Eastern Lands for the Tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh

The people of God had now captured land on the eastern side of the Jordan River. Moses gave this land to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and to half of the tribe of Manasseh. Moses told these tribes:

18 I commanded you at that time: The Lord your God has given you this land to possess. All your valiant men will cross over in battle formation ahead of your brothers the Israelites. 19 But your wives, dependents, and livestock—I know that you have a lot of livestock—will remain in the cities I have given you 20 until the Lord gives rest to your brothers as he has to you, and they also take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving them across the Jordan. Then each of you may return to his possession that I have given you. — CSB

Moses Gives Command to Joshua

Moses spoke to Joshua and told him, “22 Don’t be afraid of them (the kingdoms you are about to enter), for the Lord your God fights for you.” (CSB)

Despite Moses’ request, God would not allow Moses to enter the Promised Land. Instead, God told Moses:

“That’s enough! Do not speak to me again about this matter. 27 Go to the top of Pisgah and look to the west, north, south, and east, and see it with your own eyes, for you will not cross the Jordan. 28 But commission Joshua and encourage and strengthen him, for

he will cross over ahead of the people and enable them to inherit this land that you will see.” — CSB

The History Lesson Ends, the Repeating of the Commands Begins

Chapter 4

One final time before entering the Promised Land, Moses calls the people to obey God. The laws given are complete—add nothing and take away nothing. Note how augmenting God’s law just a little now and then, here and there is prohibited.

Moses emphasizes that God’s law is unique among all the peoples of the earth. The nations will look upon God’s people and God’s law and says, “what great nation has righteous statutes and ordinances like this entire law I set before you today?” (CSB)

Warnings About Idolatry

Moses and God knew that the people would encounter other peoples who worshipped idols. Therefore, a stern and specific warning is given. The people never saw God in the form of man, beast, or plant. They should follow this example and never make a statue representing God in any of these forms. In addition, the people were not to worship the sun, moon, or stars or any sight in the heavens.

There will be harsh punishment for the people if they violate these laws regarding idolatry. They will perish and be scattered among the peoples of the earth.

God, however, is a forgiving and longsuffering God. If scattered, the people will eventually seek God, and God will be there waiting to return them to the Promised Land.

Moses reiterates the greatness of the LORD (Yahweh or Jehovah) their God. Their relationship with Jehovah is unique. Never had a nation been pulled out of slavery in another nation and brought into their own new land as a nation. The entire world of peoples will marvel at this.

Don’t blow it!

The promise is, “you and your children after you may prosper and so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you for all time.” (CSB)

Cities of Refuge

In a brief parenthesis, God has Moses set aside three cities for refuge from the avenger of blood. These three places are on the eastern side of the Jordan River where the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh have been given land.

Preamble

Moses repeats the law given to the people by God. Notice how Moses speaks in the past tense. These laws were already given about forty years earlier. This is a repeat or second statement.

The Ten Commandments

Chapter 5

We read the familiar ten laws that mankind has tried to paraphrase and augment for dozens of centuries. It is important to read the first twenty-one verses of this chapter without pause. The first six verses lead directly into the first five commands which discuss the relationship between the people and Jehovah their God.

Then we have the ten:

- (i) 7 Do not have other gods besides me.
- (ii) 8 Do not make an idol for yourself in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. 9 Do not bow in worship to them, and do not serve them, because I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, bringing the consequences of the fathers' iniquity on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me, 10 but showing faithful love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commands.
- (iii) 11 Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God, because the Lord will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses his name.
- (iv) 12 Be careful to remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy as the Lord your God has commanded you. 13 You are to labor six days and do all your work, 14 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. Do not do any work—you, your son or daughter, your male or female slave, your ox or donkey, any of your livestock, or the resident alien who lives within your city gates, so that your male and female slaves may rest as you do. 15 Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out of there with a strong hand and an outstretched arm. That is why the Lord your God has commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.
- (v) 16 Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and so that you may prosper in the land the Lord your God is giving you.
- (vi) 17 Do not murder.
- (vii) 18 Do not commit adultery.
- (viii) 19 Do not steal.
- (ix) 20 Do not give dishonest testimony against your neighbor.
- (x) 21 Do not covet your neighbor's wife or desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male or female slave, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. — CSB

The History of That Day

Moses tells the history of the day God gave them these ten commandments. If only the generation of leaders had remained faithful to their commitment.

Love Jehovah and Teach Your Descendants

Chapter 6

Moses follows the Ten Commandments with a single command:

“5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” — CSB

Moses encourages the people to keep these commands in their hearts. They are to live with them every day and teach them to their descendants. The obedience and teaching are to be so common is it would be as if they are written on their hands, foreheads, and the front door of their homes.

Moving Into Ready-Made Homes

The people are about to move into ready-made homes. Brick and mortar homes are awaiting them complete with utilities, highways, and farmlands already cleared. *All they have to do* is trust in and obey God. They are to follow God’s commands.

Years into the future, their descendants will not realize that they walked into ready-made homes. Their descendants will only see that they obey commands that are different from those followed by the nations around them.

“What are these ‘decrees, statutes, and ordinances (CSB),’” they will ask.

They are to answer,

“We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand. 22 Before our eyes the Lord inflicted great and devastating signs and wonders on Egypt, on Pharaoh, and on all his household, 23 but he brought us from there in order to lead us in and give us the land that he swore to our ancestors. 24 The Lord commanded us to follow all these statutes and to fear the Lord our God for our prosperity always and for our preservation, as it is today. 25 Righteousness will be ours if we are careful to follow every one of these commands before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us.” — CSB

Avoid Idolatrous People and Destroy Idols

Chapter 7

Moses instructs the people about idols and those persons who worship idols. As for the idol worshippers, show now mercy but destroy them.

“You must destroy all the peoples the Lord your God is delivering over to you and not look on them with pity. Do not worship their gods, for that will be a snare to you.” — CSB

Do not marry those who are not killed. They will lead you to idols. As for the idols, “tear down their altars, smash their sacred pillars, cut down their Asherah poles, and burn their carved images.” (CSB)

The people were chosen by God who is loyal to His promises. God is also certain to punish those who disobey.

They lived in a time of agriculture. Farming is not easy. A sick animal here, a rainy day there, and a year’s work yields nothing. God, however, will bless their crops and livestock and prevent these calamities.

The people should not fear the nations that are in the Promised Land. God will defeat those nations. God's people should remember how God brought their ancestors out of Egypt. That was an unprecedented show of power. God will do it again.

This chapter ends with one more warning about idols:

"25 Burn up the carved images of their gods. Don't covet the silver and gold on the images and take it for yourself, or else you will be ensnared by it, for it is detestable to the Lord your God. 26 Do not bring any detestable thing into your house, or you will be set apart for destruction like it. You are to abhor and detest it utterly because it is set apart for destruction." — CSB

Remember the Source of Blessings

Chapter 8

As opposed to the message in the prior passages (stay away from idols), the following passages tell the people to stay near to Jehovah their God—the source of their blessings.

Jehovah brought them out of slavery in Egypt and guided them through forty years in the wilderness. Think about that—forty years in the wilderness with no means of support and a couple million grumpy relatives.

Jehovah gave them manna, which was a daily miracle. And Moses tells them the phrase that Jesus repeated to Satan when tempted, "man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." (CSB)

Moses describes the land they are about to enter:

"...a good land, a land with streams, springs, and deep water sources, flowing in both valleys and hills; 8 a land of wheat, barley, vines, figs, and pomegranates; a land of olive oil and honey; 9 a land where you will eat food without shortage, where you will lack nothing;" — CSB

Moses gives the warning against forgetfulness and the pride of life, "When you eat and are full... be careful that your heart doesn't become proud and you forget the Lord your God..." (CSB)

This ends with another warning against idolatry.

Driving out the Wicked

Chapter 9

Moses tells the people that Jehovah drives out wicked people. Jehovah has put insurmountable enemies in front of the people. No worries though as Jehovah will move into the land before the people as a consuming fire. Jehovah will defeat the wicked. And it is not because the Jews are righteous.

The History of Rebellion and Idolatry

Moses goes back to a history lesson. First, there is a summary about the rebellion against Jehovah since leaving Egypt.

Then Moses discusses specific instances. First their ancestors made an idol to worship while Moses was up the mountain receiving the law on the stone tablets. God was going to destroy the people, but Moses broke the tablets by throwing them to the ground. Moses then fell to the ground and begged God to spare the people.

After more rebellion, Moses falls to the ground and prays:

“Lord God, do not annihilate your people, your inheritance, whom you redeemed through your greatness and brought out of Egypt with a strong hand. 27 Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Disregard this people’s stubbornness, and their wickedness and sin. 28 Otherwise, those in the land you brought us from will say, ‘Because the Lord wasn’t able to bring them into the land he had promised them, and because he hated them, he brought them out to kill them in the wilderness.’ 29 But they are your people, your inheritance, whom you brought out by your great power and outstretched arm.” — CSB

New Tablets and a Box to Hold Them

Chapter 10

God had Moses cut two new stone tablets and make an ark or box of acacia wood to hold the tablets. Moses went back up the mountain to Jehovah who wrote the law onto the new tablets. The stone tablets remained in the ark for recorded history.

In just a few words, Moses recounts the journeys over forty years including the death of Aaron. The history also includes how God chose the tribe of Levi to be the priests for the people and conduct all the ceremonies of worship.

Describing Jehovah, the God of the People

Moses describes Jehovah their God. What Jehovah asks is, “fear the Lord your God by walking in all his ways, to love him, and to worship the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and 13 Keep the Lord’s commands and statutes I am giving you today, for your own good.” (CSB)

The heavens and the earth belong to Jehovah their God. Yet this all-seeing and all-powerful God chose this people out of all the peoples of the earth. Therefore, the people are to emulate Jehovah their God. They are to have mercy on those who are powerless. They should never forget that they were once powerless and were rescued by Jehovah their God. Starting with seventy poor and starving people, Jehovah their God created a mighty nation that is feared by all nations.

Chapter 11

Therefore, “...love the Lord your God and always keep his mandate and his statutes, ordinances, and commands.” (CSB)

There is an odd break in chapters and verses here as chapter 11, verse 2 begins a new thought.

A Break in Generations and Witnesses

Moses reminds the current generation of adults that they saw the exodus from Egypt. They saw Pharaoh and his army drown in a sea through which they had walked on dry land. They saw the earth open and swallow the two brothers who wrongly assumed the duties of priests. Their children, born in the wilderness, did not witness these amazing events.

Blessings Promised for Obedience

Moses tells the people the blessings they will enjoy with obedience. The people may live in the land “flowing with milk and honey.” (CSB) The land is not like Egypt which needed irrigation. Instead, “It is a land the Lord your God cares for. He is always watching over it from the beginning to the end of the year.” (CSB)

The land is blessed by God. Obeying God will continue these blessings.

In an era of agriculture, rain will fall at the right time in the right amount so that the crops will be plentiful year after year. There will be no hunger.

Starvation Promised for Disobedience

The opposite will come to the agricultural era if the people worship other gods. The rain will stop; the crops will die, and the people will perish quickly.

Know This and Teach

Moses emphasizes that these words are serious and sure. The people are to burn these into their minds and hearts and teach their children continuously. The people are to post these words everywhere inside and outside their homes. They will see the words everywhere and every day.

The Simple Choice

Moses presents a simple choice. Obedience brings a blessing; idolatry brings a curse.

The repetition is becoming monotonous. Still, Moses finds that he cannot repeat it too much.

The Wrong and the Right Place for Some Types of Worship

Chapter 12

Moses instructs the people about places and types of worship. First, the land the people are entering has many places where the inhabitants worship their gods. The people are to destroy those places. There should be no evidence that people worshipped one of those gods. If a name is engraved on a wall or stone, destroy that.

Moses tells the people that Jehovah God will designate a place for some types of worship (Jerusalem and the Temple would be that place). Obey the commands and go to that place for those things. This will be a big change from what the people do here and now, “everyone is doing whatever seems right in his own sight. (CSB)

At the right time, the people will, “Bring ... everything I command you: your burnt offerings, sacrifices, offerings of the tenth, personal contributions, and all your choice offerings you vow to the Lord.” (CSB)

There will be one and only one place. Again, Moses warns the people against following the practices of the idolatrous people whom they will move out of the land. Those practices will “make sense” as they are practical and easy to practice. That, however, is wrong and practicing that will bring punishment.

Moses tells the people that there is a distinction among the types of things they eat and the places they eat them.

There is meat to eat. The people may slaughter and eat meat in the cities wherein they live. That is fine.

There are things set aside to sacrifice to God. These are, “the tenth of your grain, new wine, or fresh oil; the firstborn of your herd or flock; any of your vow offerings that you pledge; your freewill offerings; or your personal contributions.” (CSB) These are to be consumed in the place God designates.

More on Idolatry

Chapter 13

Moses warns the people several more times about idolatry.

The first warning is about prophets. If a person correctly predicts future events, but follows those with encouragement to worship other gods, do not listen to that person and do not follow those gods. Note, this prophet performed miraculous things, but did not follow the true Jehovah God. The people are to execute this prophet by stoning.

The next is about family and loved ones. These persons close to you may entice you to worship other gods (and that happened in the centuries to follow). The command is to kill these persons no matter how they are related to you or how close a friend they are. Stone these persons. The one approached by them must cast the first stone.

As a side note, this is one of the great deterrents to sin among the people. If a person close to me sins, I must throw rocks at them until they are dead. That would be awful. Therefore, I would strongly urge them to stay away from the sin. I don’t want to kill them, but if they sin, I must.

The final warning here is about an entire city of persons. If all the people of a city worship other gods (and in the centuries to follow, this happened), the entire city must die. Every person in the city must die as well as all the livestock. In addition, all the goods, i.e., the spoil, must be placed in the center of the city. Finally, the entire city from its walls and everything inside the walls must be burned. The people could never rebuild the city.

Children of God

Chapter 14

The people are chosen by God and heirs of God. They are not like other peoples who cut themselves and shave their foreheads as a show of hopelessness at burial ceremonies. Again, those practices are a show of dependence on the gods of the peoples of the land. God's people are not to imitate those practices in any way.

Clean and Unclean Food

For the first time, Moses tells the people about food they may and may not eat.

"You may eat any animal that has hooves divided in two and chews the cud." — CSB

"9 You may eat everything from the water that has fins and scales, 10 but you may not eat anything that does not have fins and scales—it is unclean for you." — CSB

"11 You may eat every clean bird, 12 but these are the ones you may not eat:..." — CSB

"19 All winged insects are unclean for you; they may not be eaten. 20 But you may eat every clean flying creature." — CSB

While there are dietary and health reasons for prohibiting some foods and allowing other foods, there is another reason for these restrictions, and these restrictions go along with the immediately preceding caution against following the burial ceremonies of the peoples of the land they are entering.

"21 You are not to eat any carcass; you may give it to a resident alien within your city gates, and he may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner. For you are a holy people belonging to the Lord your God. Do not boil a young goat in its mother's milk." — CSB

The people belong to Jehovah their God. They are different. They are to live differently. These differences extend to what they eat, which is a fundamental part of life.

Six and Seven Years and Ownership

The commands start to move towards finance, property, and ownership. The idea of six and seven years comes into focus. Also is the idea of ownership. God owns all. God allows the people to enjoy all. The people, however, do not own much of anything. They depend on God.

Finance

Chapter 15

Moses passes along to the people some basic rules of finance. First, all debts are to be cancelled every seven years. God will bless the people as they obey God's commands. If, however, there is a brother who is poor, the people are to load to that person what is needed.

God covers all loopholes. If this is the seventh year—the year that debts are forgiven, lend fully. Do not think, "Ah, this is the seventh year, the debt will soon be forgiven, so I will only lend little because I don't want much to be forgiven." (CSB)

Property

Next, Moses gives the commands for property. Slavery existed. The people were to release their Hebrew slaves after six years. In essence, they didn't own the slave but leased them for six

years. When they released a Hebrew slave, they gave the person plenty of goods so that the former slave would not immediately be destitute and fall back into slavery.

The people lived in an agricultural world where they had livestock. The firstborn was dedicated to God for a special purpose. That animal would not be used on the farm as the other animals were (no work, no shearing, etc.). Instead, that firstborn was for ceremony in honor of God. To honor God, the people had a festival and ate that animal.

The Three Festivals

Chapter 16

Moses describes the three main festivals of each year.

16 “All your males are to appear three times a year before the Lord your God in the place he chooses: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Shelters. No one is to appear before the Lord empty-handed. 17 Everyone must appear with a gift suited to his means, according to the blessing the Lord your God has given you.” — CSB

The Festival of the Passover commemorates the exit from Egypt. Emphasized is sacrificing an animal and eating only unleavened bread—called the bread of hardship. For seven days they are to eat only unleavened bread. As stated above, this shall take place in the place God chooses (the Temple at Jerusalem became that place).

The Festival of Weeks occurred seven weeks into the harvest of the standing grain. The offering will be proportionate to the blessings of the harvest. Again, this is a celebration where they are to eat what they give to God.

The Festival of Shelters (or tents) occurs at the end of the harvest. It lasts seven days in the place God chooses (Jerusalem). This is a celebration of the end of the agricultural year. The gift is to be proportionate to the size of the blessing in the harvest.

Local Judges

The people are to appoint judges in all the owns God gives them. “They are to judge the people with righteous judgment.” (CSB) This is one of the places that God emphasizes justice and being just. No bribes allowed; no favoritism allowed. “Pursue justice and justice alone...” (CSB)

Just Worship

Moses has a short mention of worship practices. Nothing that resembles what the other people worship is to be near the place where true worship of the true God occurs. Nothing flawed is to be offered to God. God is complete and perfect. All sacrifices to God are to be the same.

Judicial Procedure for Idolatry

Chapter 17

Worshipping an idol was a serious offense that brought with it death by stoning. This required a serious procedure for finding the offenders guilty and executing them. There must be at least

two or three witnesses—one witness was insufficient. The first persons to throw stones would be the witnesses. This was a big deterrent to false accusations.

Higher Judiciary

Each town had appointed persons to judge cases among the people. If a case was too difficult, the persons would bring it to the Levitical priests in the place God appointed (Jerusalem). Not only were the people to bring those difficult cases to the Levitical priests, but they were also to accept the judgement rendered. If they would not accept the judgement, they were to be stoned to death.

Prescriptions and Prohibitions for Future Kings

God saw a time coming when the people would want a king like the nations around them.

Prohibitions: No foreigners could be king; only one of the people. The king could have neither many horses nor large quantities of silver and gold.

Prescriptions: The king was to write a complete copy of the law given to the people from God. The king was to read from this every day of his life.

Then his heart will not be exalted above his countrymen, he will not turn from this command to the right or the left, and he and his sons will continue reigning many years in Israel. — CSB

The Salary of The Levites

Chapter 18

The Levites would not receive land from God. Instead, God chose the Levites to stand and minister before God. In return, the Levites would “be given the shoulder, jaws, and stomach” (CSB) from the animals sacrificed to God. In addition, the Levites would receive “the first fruits of your grain, new wine, and fresh oil, and the first sheared wool of your flock.” (CSB)

Detestable Practices

The people were to drive out the nations that occupied the promised land. Those people had detestable practices, and those practices were one of the reasons God was removing them. Those detestable practices included, “sacrifice his son or daughter in the fire, practice divination, tell fortunes, interpret omens, practice sorcery, 11 cast spells, consult a medium or a spiritist, or inquire of the dead.” (CSB)

Raising a Prophet

The people wanted someone to follow Moses; they wanted a prophet who would tell them what the Jehovah their God wanted them to hear. God promised them a future prophet(s). When the prophet spoke what God command the prophet to speak, they people should listen. If the prophet spoke what God had not commanded, “that prophet must die.” (CSB) How would

the people know if the words came from God? If “the message does not come true or is not fulfilled, that is a message the Lord has not spoken.” — (CSB)

The Cities of Refuge

Chapter 19

God saw the difference between killing a person accidentally and hating a person and planning to kill him.

The people were to set aside three cities for refuge and add three more “If the Lord your God enlarges your territory.” (CSB) These cities would provide refuge for a person who committed manslaughter or “having killed his neighbor accidentally without previously hating him.” (CSB)

The people of these cities would protect the accidental killer “Otherwise, the avenger of blood in the heat of his anger might pursue the one who committed manslaughter, overtake him because the distance is great, and strike him dead.” (CSB)

Murder, on the other hand, deserved punishment by death.

“11 But if someone hates his neighbor, lies in ambush for him, attacks him, and strikes him fatally, and flees to one of these cities, 12 the elders of his city are to send for him, take him from there, and hand him over to the avenger of blood and he will die.” — (CSB)

More Civil Law: Boundaries and Testimony

The people were to respect the property of others.

14 “Do not move your neighbor’s boundary marker, established at the start in the inheritance you will receive in the land the Lord your God is giving you to possess.” — CSB

Two or more witnesses were required when the people judged a crime.

“15 “One witness cannot establish any iniquity or sin against a person, whatever that person has done. A fact must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.” — CSB

False witnesses deserved the punishment they were trying to bring against someone else, “you must do to him as he intended to do to his brother.” — CSB

Wisdom and Restraint in Warfare

Chapter 20

God’s people were to engage in warfare against the inhabitants of the land. They were to defeat the people, but not destroy the land as that was to become their homes. This called for wisdom and restraint.

First, the people must realize that “the Lord your God...is with you.” (CSB)

Next, the officers of the army were not to go into battle with men who were distracted. If a man had a new house, a new vineyard, or a new fiancé, send that man home. He would not have his mind completely on the task at hand.

There was a difference between the cities in the Promised Land and cities that were far away. For distant cities, God's people were to offer peace. If accepted, the inhabitants were to live and serve as forced labor. If not accepted, God's people were to kill the men, but could

“...take the women, dependents, animals, and whatever else is in the city—all its spoil—as plunder.” — CSB

The cities in the Promised Land were different. For those cities,

“You must completely destroy them (the inhabitants) ...so that they won't teach you to do all the detestable acts they do for their gods, and you sin against the Lord your God.”
— CSB

When God's people laid siege to a city, they could fell the trees that didn't bear fruit and use that lumber. The trees that bore fruit, however, must be left standing. God's people would need that food.

Innocence of a City

Chapter 21

Moses passes along the law concerning “a murder victim is found lying in a field...and it is not known who killed him” (CSB) Someone in the nearest city would be suspect in the murder. The Elders of that city were told how to keep their city innocent of the murder. The ceremony involved “(1) a young cow that has not been yoked, (2) a continually flowing stream, and (3) a place not tilled or sown.” (CSB) The Elders are to wash their hands and declare the innocence of their city.

Some Legal Rights of Women

Moses tells the people how God gives women some legal rights. While we may consider this bad in our day, in this time, these were revolutionary rights granted to women and men were to obey these regulations.

If a woman was captured in battle, a man from God's people could take her as a wife. After a time of cleansing and mourning, the woman would become a full-fledged wife with all rights of a woman born to God's people.

If a man had two wives, he was to respect the rights of the firstborn son. This disregarded who was the “favorite wife” of the man. The man could not choose a son who was not born first because the man liked one wife more than the other. The least favored wife was protected and given all the rights she was due.

Finder's Returners

Chapter 22

Moses provides instructions for property that is found. If a person finds property, the person is to keep it safe and return it to the owner. There is no “finders keepers,” as the opposite is the instruction.

A Collection of Regulations

In one paragraph, Moses provides a set of somewhat disjointed regulations. These include:

- Women wear women’s clothing.
- Men wear men’s clothing.
- You may take eggs to eat but let the mother bird live.
- Put a safety rail on the roof of your house.
- Don’t plant a vineyard with two kinds of seed.
- Don’t make clothes with two kinds of materials.
- Don’t plow with two kinds of animals.
- Put tassels on the four corners of your outer garments.

Sexual Conduct

Moses begins the rules of sexual conduct. If a man marries a woman whom he does not like and falsely accuses her of wrongdoing, the man will be punished and fined. The woman will remain the wife of the man with all rights of that position. These rights for women were unprecedented in that time.

If the woman is not a virgin at marriage, she will be executed by stoning.

If a man commits adultery with another man’s wife, they are both to be executed. If an engaged woman has sexual relations with a man, they are both to be executed. If a man rapes a woman, the man is to be executed. If a man rapes a woman who is not engaged, the man will pay the woman’s father and the two will marry. The man may not divorce the woman, ever.

Entering the Assembly of Jehovah

Chapter 23

A man with damaged testicles may not enter the assembly of Jehovah. The same prohibition holds for an illegitimate person, an Ammonite, and a Moabite. The Edomites and Egyptians may enter the assembly.

Camp Hygiene and Sanitation

The people lived in tents for forty years as they wandered in the wilderness. They were to live in tents for as long as it took them to remove the occupants of the Promised Land. God gave them regulations to maintain their health while encamped. The people were to relieve themselves outside the camp. They were to carry a shovel to bury their excrement. If a man was unclean, he had to stay outside the camp so as not to spread the uncleanness or infection.

A Collection of Regulations

Again, Moses provides a set of disjointed regulations.

- Don't return an escaped slave to the owner.
- Don't be a cult prostitute.
- Don't bring a prostitute's wages into the house of God.
- Don't charge interest to a brother Israelite.
- Do what you say you will do.
- You may eat a neighbor's crops, but only what you can eat.
- Don't fill a container with your neighbor's crops.

Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage

Chapter 24

If a man is displeased with his wife because of indecency, he may write a divorce certificate and send her away. She may marry a second man. The second man, like the first, can divorce and send away the wife. The first husband may not remarry a previous wife.

When a man marries, he is to stay with her at least a year and not go out in battle with the army.

A Collection of Regulations

Again, Moses provides a set of disjointed regulations.

- Don't take a person's source of livelihood.
- Kidnappers are to be executed.
- Follow the instructions of the priests concerning serious skin diseases.

The Indebted and Needy

Moses provides instructions to protect the indebted and the needy. First, the lender is not to take what the borrower has pledged as collateral. If a borrower has pledged his garment, return it at sundown so the borrower can sleep in it.

The people are to pay hired workers at sunset of each day. That worker depends on those daily wages.

Each person is to be punished for their own actions. No one is to be punished for the actions of another. The resident alien—even though not a member of God's chosen people—still deserves justice. Note, many of the laws given to the people seem harsh or unreasonable to us today. This law, concerning the resident alien, was unprecedented at the time.

Farmers are not to take every little thing from their fields. They are to leave some for the resident aliens, the orphans, and the widows to pick and eat.

Court and Punishment

Chapter 25

God's people had laws and judges. Men took their disputes to a judge who pronounced innocence and guilt. If flogging is a just punishment, the guilty will be flogged, but no more than forty lashes.

Allow an ox to eat the grain that it is treading.

Brothers and Wives

If a married man dies without a son, the brother of the man is to marry the woman. Their first son will carry on the family name of the dead brother.

If the brother refuses to marry the woman, we have something that seems just plain weird to us. The elders of the town are to question the refusing brother. If he still refuses to marry the widow,

“...then his sister-in-law will go up to him in the sight of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, and spit in his face. Then she will declare, ‘This is what is done to a man who will not build up his brother’s house.’ 10 And his family name in Israel will be ‘The house of the man whose sandal was removed.’” — CSB

If a woman grabs the genitals of man who is not her husband, the people are to cut off her hand.

Measure things justly. This is one of many regulations requiring the people to live in justice and righteousness. Things are right and wrong; things are just and unjust. Be right and just in all ways.

The Initial Harvest of the Promised Land

Chapter 26

Something special was required of the people when they had their first harvest in the Promised Land. They are to take a basket of their crops to the place God designates and give it to the priest to be set before the altar. The person is to say,

“My father was a wandering Aramean. He went down to Egypt with a few people and resided there as an alien. There he became a great, powerful, and populous nation. But the Egyptians mistreated and oppressed us and forced us to do hard labor. So we called out to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, and the Lord heard our cry and saw our misery, hardship, and oppression. Then the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, with terrifying power, and with signs and wonders. He led us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. I have now brought the first of the land’s produce that you, Lord, have given me.” — CSB

The Harvest of the Third Year of the Promised Land

Something special was required of the people when they had their harvest in the third year in the Promised Land. They are to take tenth of the crops and, “give it to the Levites, resident

aliens, fatherless children, and widows, so that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied.” (CSB). Then they are to say,

“I have taken the consecrated portion out of my house; I have also given it to the Levites, resident aliens, fatherless children, and widows, according to all the commands you gave me. I have not violated or forgotten your commands. I have not eaten any of it while in mourning, or removed any of it while unclean, or offered any of it for the dead. I have obeyed the Lord my God; I have done all you commanded me. Look down from your holy dwelling, from heaven, and bless your people Israel and the land you have given us as you swore to our ancestors, a land flowing with milk and honey.” — CSB

A Summary so Far

“The Lord your God is commanding you this day to follow these statutes and ordinances. Follow them carefully with all your heart and all your soul. Today you have affirmed that the Lord is your God and that you will walk in his ways, keep his statutes, commands, and ordinances, and obey him. And today the Lord has affirmed that you are his own possession as he promised you, that you are to keep all his commands, that he will elevate you to praise, fame, and glory above all the nations he has made, and that you will be a holy people to the Lord your God as he promised.” — CSB

The Altar of Plastered Stones

Chapter 27

When the people have crossed the Jordan River, they are to build an altar of stones. These are to be uncut stones. They are to plaster the stones, and on this altar, “you are to sacrifice fellowship offerings, eat, and rejoice in the presence of the Lord your God. Write clearly all the words of this law on the plastered stones.” (CSB)

The Covenant Curses

After crossing the Jordan River, the tribes are to stand on opposite mountains. From one mountain, they are to announce acts which are detestable to God and curse the person who commits these. This list of detestable actions is:

- Make a carved idol or cast image
- Dishonor his father or mother
- Move his neighbor’s boundary marker
- Lead a blind person astray on the road
- Deny justice to a resident alien, a fatherless child, or a widow
- Sleep with his father’s wife
- Has sexual intercourse with any animal
- Sleep with his sister, whether his father’s daughter or his mother’s daughter
- Sleep with his mother-in-law
- Secretly kill his neighbor
- Accept a bribe to kill an innocent person

- Does not put the words of this law into practice

Blessings for Obedience

Chapter 28

The people are promised blessings for following God's commands. God will, "put you far above all the nations of the earth." (CSB) The blessings include:

- In the city and in the country
- Your offspring
- Your land's produce
- The offspring of your livestock
- Your basket and kneading bowl
- When you come in and go out
- Your barns
- Everything you do
- In the land the Jehovah your God is giving you
- All the work of your hands

The enemies who rise against the people will be defeated. Note, it does not say that the people will defeat the enemies.

"Then all the peoples of the earth will see that you bear the Lord's name, and they will stand in awe of you... The Lord will make you the head and not the tail; you will only move upward and never downward..." — CSB

Curses for Disobedience

As a parallel to the blessings for obedience come the curses for disobedience. The section discussing the curses is much, much longer. These include:

- Curses
- Confusion
- Rebuke
- Pestilence
- Wasting disease
- Fever
- Inflammation
- Burning heat
- Drought
- Blight
- Mildew
- Jehovah will turn the rain of your land into falling dust
- Your corpses will be food for all the birds of the sky and the wild animals of the earth, with no one to scare them away.

It continues with more horrible consequences of sin. Reading through this, some seem worse than others to each of us.

- The boils of Egypt
- Tumors
- Festering rash
- Scabies
- Madness
- Blindness
- Mental confusion
- You will not be successful in anything you do.
- You will become engaged to a woman, but another man will rape her.
- Your sons and daughters will be given to another people, while your eyes grow weary looking for them every day.
- “The Lord will bring you and your king that you have appointed to a nation neither you nor your ancestors have known, and there you will worship other gods, of wood and stone. You will become an object of horror, scorn, and ridicule among all the peoples where the Lord will drive you.” — CSB

To summarize, “The Lord will also afflict you with every sickness and plague not recorded in the book of this law.” (CSB)

Enter the Covenant

Chapter 29

At time, Moses returns to the beginning. Although the people had seen what happened to Pharaoh and how they came out of Egypt and through the wilderness, they still didn’t comprehend it all.

“10 “All of you are standing today before the Lord your God—your leaders, tribes, elders, officials, all the men of Israel, 11 your dependents, your wives, and the resident aliens in your camps who cut your wood and draw your water— 12 so that you may enter into the covenant of the Lord your God, which he is making with you today, so that you may enter into his oath 13 and so that he may establish you today as his people and he may be your God as he promised you and as he swore to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” — CSB

This was the time for the people to belong to Jehovah. This was the time for Jehovah to claim these people. The agreement was sealed.

Abandon the Covenant (at Your Peril)

Once again, Moses warns of the consequences of abandoning the covenant with Jehovah. And once again, the rebellion would come through idolatry.

There was nothing commendable about the idols they had seen and were to see in the future. Those idols were abhorrent. “You saw their abhorrent images and idols made of wood, stone, silver, and gold, which were among them.” (CSB)

The curses of God will fall upon the land and the people.

“Future generations of your children who follow you and the foreigner who comes from a distant country will see the plagues of that land and the sicknesses the Lord has inflicted on it. All its soil will be a burning waste of sulfur and salt, unsown, producing nothing, with no plant growing on it, just like the fall of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the Lord demolished in his fierce anger. All the nations will ask, ‘Why has the Lord done this to this land? Why this intense outburst of anger?’” — CSB

Repentance and Return

Chapter 30

If the people chose idols and received the curses for their disobedience, they would find themselves living as captives in far flung lands. History, however, would not end there. God would accept repentance and would return the people to the land given to their ancestors. In addition, God would put the curses on the enemies of the people and bless the people again.

“... the Lord will again delight in your prosperity, as he delighted in that of your ancestors, when you obey the Lord your God by keeping his commands and statutes that are written in this book of the law and return to him with all your heart and all your soul.” — CSB

Life and Prosperity; Death and Adversity

God is presenting a choice and a command to the people. This choice is neither difficult nor far from them. It is not in the heavens or across the sea; it is in their mouth and their heart.

Once again, the primary temptation is idolatry. Turning to the other gods will cause the people to perish. Simply,

“Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, love the Lord your God, obey him, and remain faithful to him. For he is your life, and he will prolong your days as you live in the land the Lord swore to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” — CSB

Moses Retires

Chapter 31

At the age of 120, Moses retires. Because of his own sins, God told Moses, “You will not cross the Jordan.” (CSB) Recall that the people alive at this point have only known Moses. Every day of their life, Moses was standing in the position of leader. This changes now. Moses steps aside into the grave, and instead,

“The Lord your God is the one who will cross ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you will drive them out. Joshua is the one who will cross ahead of you, as the Lord has said.” — CSB

Be Strong and Courageous

Moses tells all the people to,

“Be strong and courageous; don’t be terrified or afraid of them. For the Lord your God is the one who will go with you; he will not leave you or abandon you.” — CSB

Moses then tells Joshua to,

“Be strong and courageous, for you will go with this people into the land the Lord swore to give to their ancestors. You will enable them to take possession of it. The Lord is the one who will go before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or abandon you. Do not be afraid or discouraged.” — CSB

Moses wrote a copy of the law and gave it to the priests and elders of Israel. Every seven years at the right time in the right place, these priests and elders were to read the law to the people.

Moses and Joshua stood at the tent of meeting. At that place, Jehovah appeared in a pillar of cloud. Jehovah predicted that the people would soon fall to the temptation of idolatry. On that day, in response to their disobedience, Jehovah’s,

“...anger will burn against them on that day; I will abandon them and hide my face from them so that they will become easy prey. Many troubles and afflictions will come to them.” — CSB

Jehovah had Moses write a song that would be easy for the people to remember and pass down through their generations (see the next chapter for the song of Moses).

Jehovah finally commissioned Joshua, son of Nun,

“Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I swore to them, and I will be with you.” — CSB

Moses had the Levites place the copy of the law next to the ark of the covenant to be a witness to future generations. Moses accurately predicted that the people would rebel against Jehovah after Moses was gone. Moses told them,

“If you are rebelling against the Lord now, while I am still alive, how much more will you rebel after I am dead!” — CSB

Song of Moses

“Then Moses recited aloud every single word of this song to the entire assembly of Israel:” (CSB)

Chapter 32

The song of Moses comprises about forty stanzas. It is a song of warning, “so that you may command your children to follow all the words of this law carefully.” (CSB) The song tells that Jehovah God is great; the people are rebellious and worship other gods. The result is predictable. These two stanzas summarize the song:

The Rock—his work is perfect;
all his ways are just.
A faithful God, without bias,
He is righteous and true.

His people have acted corruptly toward him;
this is their defect—they are not his children
but a devious and crooked generation. — CSB

Part of the punishment of the people is described as:

I will unleash on them wild beasts with fangs,
as well as venomous snakes that slither in the dust. — CSB

God Promises Moses a View of the Promised Land

Jehovah told Moses that before he dies, he can view the Promised Land. Moses will go up Mount Nebo and gaze out over the land of Canaan that God is giving the Israelites.

Moses Blesses the Israelites

Chapter 33

Moses is about to die. It was the custom that a father would pronounce blessings on his sons before death. Although the tribes of Israel are not the descendants of Moses, he blesses them as he has been the leader for forty years. Moses blesses each tribe but Simeon which was later absorbed by Judah. The summary is:

Indeed he (Jehovah) loves the people. — CSB

Of his own tribe Levi, Moses has a longer blessing. Part of it is:

They will teach your ordinances to Jacob
and your instruction to Israel;
they will set incense before you
and whole burnt offerings on your altar. — CSB

The end of the blessings is:

How happy you are, Israel!
Who is like you,
a people saved by the Lord?
He is the shield that protects you,
the sword you boast in.
Your enemies will cringe before you,
and you will tread on their backs. — CSB

The Death of Moses

Chapter 34

Because of his sins, Moses was not permitted to enter the Promised Land. God took Moses up on Mount Nebo and showed the Promised Land to Moses.

The Lord then said to him, “This is the land I promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your own eyes, but you will not cross into it.” — CSB

Moses lived to the age of 120. He was as strong as a young man on the day of his death. God buried Moses. No one knows the location of the grave. Joshua became the leader of the people. The people mourned the death of Moses for thirty days.

God paid tribute to Moses with the words,

No prophet has arisen again in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. He was unparalleled for all the signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do against the land of Egypt—to Pharaoh, to all his officials, and to all his land— and for all the mighty acts of power and terrifying deeds that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel. — CSB

This ends the book of Deuteronomy.

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Jesus Quotes Deuteronomy

Scripture in this table is from CSB. The scriptures found in the Gospel of Matthew (Mt) are almost all repeated in the Gospels of Mark (Mk) and Luke (Lk). The Gospel of John has no quotes from Deuteronomy.

#	New Testament	Deuteronomy	Comment
1	Mt 4:4 He answered, "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."	8:3 He (God) humbled you by letting you go hungry; then he gave you manna to eat, which you and your ancestors had not known, so that you might learn that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.	These verses from Matthew 4 are from the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. Jesus emphasizes well-known commands from God about basic sustenance to obedience and the forbidden worship of other gods.
2	Mt 4:7 Jesus told him, "It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God."	6:16 Do not test the Lord your God as you tested him at Massah.	Same as above.
3	Mt 4:10 Then Jesus told him, "Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve only him."	6:13 Fear the Lord your God, worship him, and take your oaths in his name.	Same as above.
4	Mt 5:21 You have heard that it was said to our ancestors. Do not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment.	5:17 Do not murder.	These verses from Matthew 5 are from the sermon on the mount. Each verse is followed by Jesus saying, "But I tell you ..." Jesus is emphasizing the intent or heart of the law instead of just the letter of the law.
5	Mt 5:27 You have heard that it was said, Do not commit adultery.	5:18 Do not commit adultery.	Same as above.
6	Mt 5:31 It was also said, Whoever divorces his wife must give her a written notice of divorce.	24:1 If a man marries a woman, but she becomes displeasing to him because he finds something indecent about her, he may write her a divorce certificate, hand it	Same as above.

#	New Testament	Deuteronomy	Comment
		to her, and send her away from his house.	
7	Mt 5:33 Again, you have heard that it was said to our ancestors. You must not break your oath, but you must keep your oaths to the Lord.	23:21 If you make a vow to the Lord your God, do not be slow to keep it, because he will require it of you, and it will be counted against you as sin.	Same as above.
8	Mt 5:38 You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.	19:21 Do not show pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, and foot for foot.	Same as above.
9	Mt 15:4 Leave them alone! They are blind guides. And if the blind guide the blind, both will fall into a pit.	5:16 Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and so that you may prosper in the land the Lord your God is giving you.	Jesus has just chastised the Pharisees for causing people to give to a seemingly religious cause instead of honoring their father and mother. Jesus calls the Pharisees "blind guides."
10	Mt 18:16 But if he won't listen, take one or two others with you, so that by the testimony of two or three witnesses every fact may be established.	19:15 One witness cannot establish any iniquity or sin against a person, whatever that person has done. A fact must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.	Jesus is instructing how to restore a brother. After confronting the brother one-on-one, it may be necessary to have several witnesses as stated in the law.
11	Mt 19:18 Which ones?" he asked him. Jesus answered: Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; honor your father and your mother; and love your neighbor as yourself.	5:16-20 Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and so that you may prosper in the land the Lord your God is giving you. Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not give dishonest testimony against your neighbor.	Jesus is speaking with a rich young ruler who wants to know what he must do to have eternal life. Jesus begins with the basic commandments that describe relations among people.

#	New Testament	Deuteronomy	Comment
		Do not covet your neighbor's wife or desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male or female slave, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.	
12	Mt 22:24 Teacher (Jesus), Moses said, if a man dies, having no children, his brother is to marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother.	25:5 When brothers live on the same property and one of them dies without a son, the wife of the dead man may not marry a stranger outside the family. Her brother-in-law is to take her as his wife, have sexual relations with her, and perform the duty of a brother-in-law for her.	Some Sadducees come to Jesus hoping to trick Him with questions. They refer to the commands concerning keeping the family line going after a man dies.
13	Mt 22:37 He (Jesus) said to him, Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.	6:4-5 Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart.	After the Sadducees had failed to trap Jesus (see #12 above), the Pharisees ask which is the greatest command. Jesus points to a familiar description of Jehovah God.
14	Mk 7:10 For Moses said: Honor your father and your mother; and Whoever speaks evil of father or mother must be put to death.	5:16 Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and so that you may prosper in the land the Lord your God is giving you.	Same as #9
15	Mk 10:19 You know the commandments: Do not murder; do not commit adultery; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not defraud; honor your father and mother.	5:16-20 Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and so that you may prosper in the land the Lord your God is giving you. Do not murder. Do not commit adultery.	Same as #11

#	New Testament	Deuteronomy	Comment
		<p>Do not steal.</p> <p>Do not give dishonest testimony against your neighbor.</p> <p>Do not covet your neighbor's wife or desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male or female slave, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.</p>	
16	Mk 12:19 Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife behind but no child, that man should take the wife and raise up offspring for his brother.	25:5 When brothers live on the same property and one of them dies without a son, the wife of the dead man may not marry a stranger outside the family. Her brother-in-law is to take her as his wife, have sexual relations with her, and perform the duty of a brother-in-law for her.	Same as #12
17	Mk 12:30 Jesus answered, The most important is Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.	6:4-5 Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.	Same as #13
18	Lk 4:4 But Jesus answered him, "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone."	8:3 He (God) humbled you by letting you go hungry; then he gave you manna to eat, which you and your ancestors had not known, so that you might learn that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.	These are Luke's rendition of the sermon on the mount and have the same content as numbers 1, 2, and 3.
19	Lk 4:8 And Jesus answered him, "It is written: Worship	6:13 Fear the Lord your God, worship him, and take your oaths in his name.	Same as above.

#	New Testament	Deuteronomy	Comment
	the Lord your God, and serve him only.”		
20	Lk 4:12 And Jesus answered him, “It is said: Do not test the Lord your God.”	6:16 Do not test the Lord your God as you tested him at Massah.	Same as above.
21	Lk 9:41 Jesus replied, “You unbelieving and perverse generation, how long will I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.”	32:15 Then Jeshurun (Israel) became fat and rebelled—you became fat, bloated, and gorged. He abandoned the God who made him and scorned the Rock of his salvation.	Jesus seems exasperated with the people. He refers back to the part of the Song of Moses that describes how the Israelites constantly rebelled against the true God and sought the false gods.
22	Lk 10:27 He (Jesus) answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,” and “your neighbor as yourself.”	6:4-5 Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart.	Same as #13
23	Lk 18:20 You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery; do not murder; do not steal; do not bear false witness; honor your father and mother.”	5:16-20 Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and so that you may prosper in the land the Lord your God is giving you. Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not give dishonest testimony against your neighbor. Do not covet your neighbor’s wife or desire your neighbor’s house, his field, his male or female slave, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.	Same as #11

#	New Testament	Deuteronomy	Comment
24	Lk 20:28 Teacher (Jesus), Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother has a wife, and dies childless, his brother should take the wife and produce offspring for his brother.	25:5 When brothers live on the same property and one of them dies without a son, the wife of the dead man may not marry a stranger outside the family. Her brother-in-law is to take her as his wife, have sexual relations with her, and perform the duty of a brother-in-law for her.	Same as #12