

good
NEWS BIBLE

The book of
DEUTERONOMY

Bible Society
Trinity Business Centre
Stonehill Green, Westlea
Swindon SN5 7DG
biblesociety.org.uk

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Welcome to the Good News Bible

Welcome to this dyslexia-friendly edition of the book of Deuteronomy, using text from the Good News Bible.

If you are dyslexic, you may find most Bibles very difficult to read, because of their small type, long paragraphs and thin paper. This book has been specially designed with the British Dyslexia Association's style guide in mind, so it has the following features:

- Thicker paper, so that type does not show through
- Cream-coloured paper
- Matt paper
- Plain font
- Larger type
- Wider line spacing
- Short paragraphs
- Bold headings

The Good News Bible is a clear, easy-to read translation of the Bible. It uses ordinary, everyday language so that as many people as possible can read and understand it. This has made it a very popular translation, selling over 150 million copies in the UK alone.

The book of DEUTERONOMY

The story so far

What's it about? Deuteronomy is made up of the final speeches of Moses, before he passes leadership on to Joshua. He reminds the people of God's laws and of their story so far.

Who wrote it? As the last book of the Torah, it is attributed to Moses. The book itself says that Moses wrote everything down (31.9), but he could not have recorded his own death (34.5–6).

Why read it? Deuteronomy ties up all the events from the first five books of the Bible, particularly the laws that God gave the people. Time and again, we see God's forgiveness and faithfulness.

What's it to me? Moses reminds the people of the law and their story, in order to stop them making the same mistakes again. God cares about his people and wants them to live in harmony with him. Like the people of God, we make mistakes and need to be reminded of God's love for us and how he wants us to live with him.

Chapter 1

Introduction

¹In this book are the words that Moses spoke to the people of Israel when they were in the wilderness east of the River Jordan. They were in the Jordan Valley near Suph, between the town of Paran on one side and the towns of Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab on the other.

²(It takes eleven days to travel from Mount Sinai to Kadesh Barnea by way of the hill country of Edom.)

³On the first day of the eleventh month of the fortieth year after they had left Egypt, Moses told the people everything the LORD had commanded him to tell them.

⁴This was after the LORD^a had defeated King Sihon of the Amorites, who ruled in the town of Heshbon, and King Og of Bashan, who ruled in the towns of Ashtaroth and Edrei.

⁵It was while the people were east of the Jordan in the territory of Moab that Moses began to explain God's laws and teachings.

He said, ⁶“When we were at Mount Sinai, the LORD our God said to us, ‘You have stayed long enough at this mountain.

⁷Break camp and move on. Go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all the surrounding regions — to the Jordan Valley, to the hill country and the lowlands, to the southern

^a the LORD; or Moses.

region, and to the Mediterranean coast. Go to the land of Canaan and on beyond the Lebanon Mountains as far as the great River Euphrates.

⁸All of this is the land which I, the LORD, promised to give to your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to their descendants. Go and occupy it.' "

Moses Appoints Judges

⁹Moses said to the people, "While we were still at Mount Sinai, I told you, 'The responsibility for leading you is too much for me. I can't do it alone.

¹⁰The LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky.

¹¹May the LORD, the God of your ancestors, make you increase a thousand times more and make you prosperous, as he promised!

¹²But how can I alone bear the heavy responsibility for settling your disputes?

¹³Choose some wise, understanding, and experienced men from each tribe, and I will put them in charge of you.'

¹⁴And you agreed that this was a good thing to do.

¹⁵So I took the wise and experienced leaders you chose from your tribes, and I placed them in charge of you. Some were responsible for a thousand people, some for a hundred, some for fifty, and some for ten. I also appointed other officials throughout the tribes.

16 "At that time I instructed them, 'Listen to the disputes that come up among your people. Judge every dispute fairly, whether it concerns only your own people or involves foreigners who live among you.

17 Show no partiality in your decisions; judge everyone on the same basis, no matter who they are. Do not be afraid of anyone, for the decisions you make come from God. If any case is too difficult for you, bring it to me, and I will decide it.'

18 At the same time I gave you instructions for everything else you were to do.

The Spies are Sent Out from Kadesh Barnea

19 "We did what the LORD our God commanded us. We left Mount Sinai and went through that vast and fearful desert on the way to the hill country of the Amorites. When we reached Kadesh Barnea, ²⁰⁻²¹ I said, 'You have now come to the hill country of the Amorites, which the LORD our God, the God of our ancestors, is giving us. Look, there it is. Go and occupy it as he commanded. Do not hesitate or be afraid.'

22 "But you came to me and said, 'Let's send men ahead of us to spy out the land, so that they can tell us the best route to take and what kind of cities are there.'

23 "That seemed a good thing to do, so I selected twelve men, one from each tribe.

24 They went into the hill country as far as the Valley of Eshcol and explored it.

²⁵They brought us back some fruit they found there, and reported that the land which the LORD our God was giving us was very fertile.

²⁶“But you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God, and you would not enter the land.

²⁷You grumbled to one another: ‘The LORD hates us. He brought us out of Egypt just to hand us over to these Amorites, so that they could kill us.

²⁸Why should we go there? We are afraid. The men we sent tell us that the people there are stronger and taller than we are, and that they live in cities with walls that reach the sky. They saw giants there!’

²⁹“But I said, ‘Don't be afraid of those people.

³⁰The LORD your God will lead you, and he will fight for you, just as you saw him do in Egypt ³¹and in the desert. You saw how he brought you safely all the way to this place, just as a father would carry his son.’

³²But in spite of what I said, you still would not trust the LORD, ³³even though he always went ahead of you to find a place for you to camp. To show you the way, he went in front of you in a pillar of fire by night and in a pillar of cloud by day.

The LORD Punishes Israel

³⁴“The LORD heard your complaints and became angry, and so he solemnly declared, ³⁵‘Not one of you from this

evil generation will enter the fertile land that I promised to give your ancestors.

³⁶ Only Caleb son of Jephunneh will enter it. He has remained faithful to me, and I will give him and his descendants the land that he has explored.'

³⁷ Because of you the LORD also became angry with me and said, 'Not even you, Moses, will enter the land.

³⁸ But strengthen the determination of your helper, Joshua son of Nun. He will lead Israel to occupy the land.'

³⁹ "Then the LORD said to all of us, 'Your children, who are still too young to know right from wrong, will enter the land — the children you said would be seized by your enemies. I will give the land to them, and they will occupy it.

⁴⁰ But as for you people, turn round and go back into the desert along the road to the Gulf of Aqaba.'

⁴¹ "You replied, 'Moses, we have sinned against the LORD. But now we will attack, just as the LORD our God commanded us.' Then each one of you got ready to fight, thinking it would be easy to invade the hill country.

⁴² "But the LORD said to me, 'Warn them not to attack, for I will not be with them, and their enemies will defeat them.'

⁴³ I told you what the LORD had said, but you paid no attention. You rebelled against him, and in your pride you marched into the hill country.

⁴⁴Then the Amorites who lived in those hills came out against you like a swarm of bees. They chased you as far as Hormah and defeated you there in the hill country of Edom.

⁴⁵So you cried out to the LORD for help, but he would not listen to you or pay any attention to you.

The Years in the Desert

⁴⁶“So then, after we had stayed at Kadesh for a long time,

Chapter 2

¹we finally turned and went into the desert, along the road to the Gulf of Aqaba, as the LORD had commanded, and we spent a long time wandering about in the hill country of Edom.

²“Then the LORD told me ³that we had spent enough time wandering about in those hills and that we should go north.

⁴He told me to give you the following instructions: ‘You are about to go through the hill country of Edom, the territory of your distant relatives, the descendants of Esau. They will be afraid of you, ⁵but you must not start a war with them, because I am not going to give you so much as a square metre of their land. I have given Edom to Esau's descendants.

⁶You may buy food and water from them.’

⁷“Remember how the LORD your God has blessed you in everything that you have done. He has taken care of you as

you wandered through this vast desert. He has been with you these forty years, and you have had everything you needed.

⁸“So we moved on and left the road that goes from the towns of Elath and Eziongeber to the Dead Sea, and we turned north-east towards Moab.

⁹The LORD said to me, ‘Don’t trouble the people of Moab, the descendants of Lot, or start a war against them. I have given them the city of Ar, and I am not going to give you any of their land.’ ”

¹⁰(A mighty race of giants called the Emim used to live in Ar. They were as tall as the Anakim, another race of giants.

¹¹Like the Anakim they were also known as Rephaim; but the Moabites called them Emim.

¹²The Horites used to live in Edom, but the descendants of Esau chased them out, destroyed their nation, and settled there themselves, just as the Israelites later chased their enemies out of the land that the LORD gave them.)

¹³“Then we crossed the River Zered as the LORD told us to do.

¹⁴This was 38 years after we had left Kadesh Barnea. All the fighting men of that generation had died, as the LORD had said they would.

¹⁵The LORD kept on opposing them until he had destroyed them all.

¹⁶“After they had all died, ¹⁷the LORD said to us, ¹⁸‘Today you are to pass through the territory of Moab by way of Ar.