

Deuteronomy - Commentaries by Norman W. Berry

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 1, Deuteronomy 3, Verses 18-24, Day 281 - (3:18-24)

V.18-20 Glance at Numbers 32 again, to understand what these 3 verses refer to. The men of the 2½ tribes were to go ahead, leaving the wives and children protected.

V.21-22 Joshua is to become the great leader in the land, as Moses had been in the wilderness. The name “Joshua” is the same as “Jesus.” “Joshua” is the Hebrew (Old Testament language) Jesus is the Greek, or New Testament language.

V.23-25 Moses had pleaded with the Lord to let him go into the land.

V.26 It reminds us of Paul (2 Cor. 12:9), who prayed that the Lord would take away the thorn in the flesh. The Lord replied “my grace is sufficient for thee.” We see the same word “suffice” or “sufficient” here.

V.27 However, the Lord gave Moses something better. He gave him a heavenly view (God’s view) of the land! God had been the earthly Guide through the wilderness, now He would be the Heavenly Guide, pointing out the whole land to Moses. In Matthew 17:3 we read of Moses on the mount of transfiguration IN THE LAND. So he got in, and it was to be a wonderful experience, for he was with the Lord.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 1, Deuteronomy 3, Verses 1-17, Day 280 - (3:1-17)

It may seem strange that the Old Testament tells of so many battles and killings, but we believers need to remember that these battles have a spiritual meaning for us. (Carefully read 1 Cor. 10:11). God is saying this to you. Satan deceives us when we are careless, casual, indifferent or even disobedient to God’s Word and warnings. (Read Eph. 6:10-17; 1 Cor. 9:25-27; 1 Tim. 6:12; 1 Tim. 1:18; 2 Tim. 2:3-4). If you are serious about learning what Old Testament warfare means for you, you will read each of these five references in the New Testament.

V.1-17 One enemy after another fell before them. But they owed everything to God — He was guiding them.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 1, Deuteronomy 31, Verses 14-30, Day 314 - (31:14-30)

V.14-15 What an experience for these two men to meet the Lord in the tabernacle, even though He hid Himself in a cloud! Do you speak to the Lord as intimately? He is just as close, and longs for us to be conscious of His Presence. “The Lord” (mentioned 19 times in this chapter) spoke directly to Moses and told him he would soon die. There was to be an official change over in leadership of the Lord’s people in His Presence in the Tabernacle (only verses where tabernacle is mentioned in this book).

V.16-18 Moses represented the law, and it could not bring Israel into the land of promise and rest. So Moses is to pass away. The future is told to Moses that the people would turn away from the Lord to other gods! After all the Lord had done for them from Egypt to the gates of this land. Notice “God” (not “Lord”) is used when the punishment is foretold.

V.19-29 Moses is told to write two things — a song to help the people remember what the Lord was saying to them. The other was to write in a book the words God was telling him (verse 26 tells where Moses was to put this book).

V.23 In spite of all the warnings of coming trouble (because of the people’s disobedience) the Lord encourages Joshua and promises to be with him. He does this to us too Hebrews 13:5.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 1, Deuteronomy 31, Verses 1-13, Day 313 - (31:1-13)

V.1-6 Some of us will be touched by the tender words of Moses in this last loving appeal to the people to obey and trust the Lord. Moses loved God’s people (Read Ex. 32:31-32) and never became tired of pleading with them to keep on for the Lord. Moses and Paul are alike in this way. As both of these men came to the end of their life, they wrote, not about their life, but to others about following the Lord. Here in verse 6, notice seven things. Paul in Acts 20:28-35 gives seven or more pleadings to cleave to God and to the Word of His grace.

V.7-8 It is worth noticing that the words spoken to the whole congregation in the above verses are quite similar to those now spoken to the new great leader Joshua. Why? Because what the lowest and least important member of the camp of over 600,000 men needed was the same as the one who had the greatest responsibility — to be assured of God’s presence and power.

V.9-13 We learn that God attached great importance to everyone hearing the Word of God. So Moses gave the words to the priests, to ALL the elders to read to ALL Israel (v. 11) — men, women, children and strangers (v. 12). Every single person was to be brought into direct contact with the word of God.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 1, Deuteronomy 29, Verses 14-29, Day 311 - (29:14-29)

V.14-15 God thinks about others as well as those that were there. Read John 10:16 and Ephesians 2:11-13, 17, for what may be referred to in these two verses.

V.16-21 First Moses reminds them that they had seen many horrible sights in the lands they had passed through — idol worship mixed with all kinds of uncleanness. Exposure to evil dulls our ability to know good and evil, and we soon get like the man in verse 19-21. The Lord assures us that no one will get away with anything (Read Heb. 10:31).

V.22-28 Although these are warnings to Israel, we today, know that they are meant to be warnings to us, as Romans 15:4 tells us. If Israel became unfaithful to God (and they were), people in the future, when visiting this choice land, would ask what had happened. They would see the land full of diseases and total ruin, and would ask why the Lord had done this.

V.25-28 Here is the answer they would receive. We who truly are born again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ need to take a look at our own life. Are we living for Christ each day? Are we following in His footsteps? When an unbeliever looks at us, does he, or she see a reflection of Christ? These verses are a serious warning to us. Read these four verses again. This is the same Lord Who is looking down into your life and mine each hour of the day.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 1, Deuteronomy 29, Verses 1-13, Day 310 - (29:1-13)

This chapter is the last part of the second main division of this book. It started with chapter 12. The first section, 1-11, was “why the people were to obey.” This second section is “what they were to obey.” Possibly the biggest help to understanding chapters 27 and 28 is to read verse 29 of today’s chapter, before you read the chapter. It simply means this, the “revealed” things are what Israel ought to have done, but didn’t; the “secret” things are what God would do in spite of their disobedience and complete failure. This is what the mercy and grace of God are! This is what the gospel is! This is what each believer should realize!

God is now going to make another covenant (agreement) with Israel at Moab. Why? You remember that they had broken the first covenant at Mount Sinai (or Horeb) just when they had crossed the Red Sea and came into the wilderness. They had turned to idolatry and had worshipped a golden calf. On that occasion they had been spared from total destruction by Moses’ intercession. That made it very plain that they had lost the right to enter the land. If God had kept them to that covenant at Sinai, He could not now bring them into the land after their long wanderings in the wilderness. What will He do? He will make another covenant with them at Moab! So this is one of the “secret things” of verse 29. In this way He can bring them into the land, for in this agreement He brings in His mercy! What a God!

V.1-13 As you read these verses of the covenant you will notice that it is a gentle agreement, not all law, nor all grace — but both. God reminds the people of His kindness since they left Egypt.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 1, Deuteronomy 27, Verses 11-26, Day 308 - (27:11-26)

V.11-13 Moses appoints two groups to stand on these separate mountains which were just inside the promised land. On Gerizim, to bless the people (for obeying) — on Ebal, to pronounce the curses if they disobeyed the law. Can you find the blessings? Not one word.

V.14-26 Twelve curses. Notice what all the people were to say after each curse was spoken! “Amen” means “I agree.” We have to turn to Galatians 3:10 to get the answer to our “why?” Paul even quotes from this very chapter. There can be no blessing from the law, even though God had kept His promise and brought them into this glorious land (Read Psa. 106:21-24).

To summarize our whole chapter: vvs. 1-10 present to us the heart of a gracious God, and the thoughts of God toward His beloved people. Yet vvs. 11-26 show us the actual condition of these people — they were on the ground of law — their blessings would depend on their obedience! So the sad result of Israel’s real state before God. BUT because of God’s grace and love, He has sent a Savior, Who has taken the curse for us and brought us into the position of total blessing. (Read Rom. 6:15).

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 1, Deuteronomy 27, Verses 1-10, Day 307 - (27:1-10)

Pay particular attention to the first ten verses and keep them completely separate in your mind before reading the rest of the chapter.

V.1-10 Here we read of the people of God, after 40 years of wilderness life, at last entering the land of promise. It was true that they were sinners, and because of this they needed the brazen altar and that of what it is a picture — the cross of Christ. The picture before us is of

people accepted by God. Nothing remained but to bring the “burnt offering” and the “peace offering” to God. No need of the “sin offering.” All that was settled. Now only to worship! Isn’t that beautiful?

V.9 What a position to be in!

V.8, 10 All they needed to do was to obey the law; so to help them, the ten commandments were written on the stones (Ex. 24:12).

BUT NOW A CONTRAST.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 1, Deuteronomy 21, Verses 15-23, Day 301 - (21:15-23)

V.15-17 The unloved wife is a picture of Israel, the one God first chose. Because of their sin, in crucifying Jesus, they had to be put away — Israel today. So God turned to us, the Gentiles (the wife beloved); the heavenly and only bride of Christ (Acts 28:26-28). Nevertheless, after the believers are caught away to heaven, God will once again take up His earthly people. As it were, the child of the apparently rejected one, shall be the one to receive the inheritance on earth.

V.18-21 A picture of Israel, as a nation, which has been a rebellious child of God. They shall be the ones punished and destroyed at the end of the tribulation (vvs. 19-21).

V.22-23 Christ was hanged on a tree (1 Pet. 2:24). He was made a curse for us (Gal. 3:13).

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 1, Deuteronomy 21, Verses 1-14, Day 300 - (21:1-14)

V.1-9 Full instruction for their behavior. When a man was found murdered, this was what they were to do. Nothing important was left to them to decide. But we can see a bigger reason for these details — God always has Christ in His thoughts as the Scriptures were written. The man killed can be a picture of Christ.

Everyone (except the believer) even today, denies the responsibility for His crucifixion. The distance to the closest city was to be measured. God looks at the world, and sees Israel as the closest to the crucified Man. Look at your chart. During the seven years following the believers being taken to heaven, a little group (remnant) in Israel will believe. And although the land is held guilty — even though the people living then did not actually crucify the Lord Jesus — a substitute must be found (v. 4). Sin must be judged before sins can be forgiven. Christ again is seen here. The heifer is a type of the Lord Jesus, the Substitute for the sin of the person who killed the man. A picture of this desolate world. In the future the little remnant shall realize the Christ, their Messiah, died for their redemption and deliverance.

V.10-14 A picture of the Lord’s original relationship with Israel. He had chosen her for Himself out of all the peoples of the world. But Israel was unfaithful and rejected Him — chapter 24 will go into this more. However, it is not the end of this unfaithful person. If you have the time, read Isaiah chapter 62 for the conclusion of the story which will take place after we believers, the heavenly bride, will be taken up to be with Christ. Then the Lord will fulfill the promises He made to Israel in the past. But He will then give them a new heart for He has paid for all their unfaithfulness by shedding His blood for them. (Read Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:9-13). What grace!

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 1, Deuteronomy 16, Verses 9-22, Day 295 - (16:9-22)

V.9-12 Now the third feast; “the feast of weeks.” In this feast there was to be rejoicing. There were to be seven weeks plus one day, which equals 50 days from the harvest. In Acts 2 we see that Pentecost, which means “50,” was when the Holy Spirit came down to earth. It was 50 days after the cross! Of course there is joy for us.

V.10 Joy which the presence of the Holy Spirit causes us to have, is like a “free will offering.”

V.11 Not only was there joy in the Lord, but calling others to this joy as well.

V.13-15 The harvest was gathered in. Then came the third feast that of “tabernacles.” After we believers have been caught away to heaven, then God is going to gather some of the Jews (Israelites) around Himself once more (Matt. 13:41-43). (See your chart, 1,000 yrs., Christ the King.)

V.16-17 These verses end the religious side of things.

V.18-20 Righteousness was to be carried out in His holy land. No favoritism for certain people was to be tolerated.

V.21-22 Groves and idols were forbidden.

Chapter-A-Day: Volume 1, Deuteronomy 16, Verses 1-8, Day 294 - (16:1-8)

God is now giving new instructions. There are to be three times each year when every man would go to the place which God was going to choose. He would bring a sacrifice to offer to God. They were called "Feasts" (or get-togethers). We will take up one at a time.

V.1-8 The first was the Passover, and the feast of unleavened bread. Notice that there was no rejoicing at this feast. It was to be a constant reminder to them of the death of the lamb in Egypt. We know who God's Lamb is now. So for us it is to remember Him in His death. The day after the Passover there were seven days when they were to be very sure there was no "leaven" in their house. This is important for us, the number "seven" is a picture of completeness. So our whole life is to be separated from all evil.

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