

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

DEUTERONOMY 1-4

What does “NCIS,” “Everybody Loves Raymond,” “Batman,” and “The Law Of Moses” have in common? *“Holy rerun, Batman. They’ve all been rereleased.”*

The book of Deuteronomy is **a holy rerun**. The word means “second law.” Jews today call it, “Mishneh Torah” or “repetition of the law.” Greeks used the term “Deuteronomy” to denote “a copy or a duplicate.”

The book was a refresher course on the Mosaic Law for the younger generation about to enter a new land.

It’s actually a series of three speeches Moses gives in one day on the east bank of the Jordan River. Just before their leader dies and the people of Israel cross over the Jordan Moses re-articulates God’s Law - not to Gen Z - now to Jew Z, a new generation of Israelis.

The book begins, “These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel on this side of the Jordan in the wilderness, in the plain opposite Suph, between Paran, Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab.” All these locations were deep in the Sinai Peninsula, near Mount Sinai. This was Israel’s starting point after the exodus.

Verse 2, “It is eleven days’ journey from Horeb by way of Mount Seir to Kadesh Barnea.” After receiving the Law at Horeb, or Mount Sinai, the first generation had an eleven day march to the Promise Land. *The Hebrews could almost taste the milk and honey...*

But something went wrong... Verse 3 tells us, “Now it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spoke to the children of Israel according to all that the LORD had given him as commandments to them...”

The journey from Sinai, or the Horeb Mountains, to Kadesh Barnea normally took eleven days, less than two weeks. Kadesh was a Canaanite border town. Yet now it’s forty years later, and the children of the Hebrews who exited Egypt are still on the outside of the Promised Land looking in. Their unbelief turned **an eleven day journey** into a **forty year death march**.

Yet the tide has turned. Victories over the Amorite kings east of the Jordan had created momentum. Big Mo was now on Israel’s side. For “after he had killed Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt in Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who dwelt at Ashtaroth in Edrei. On this side of the Jordan in the land of Moab.

Moses began to explain this law, saying, "The LORD our God spoke to us in Horeb, saying: 'You have dwelt long enough at this mountain. Turn and take your journey, and go to the mountains of the Amorites, to all the neighboring places in the plain, in the mountains and in the lowland, in the South and on the seacoast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the River Euphrates.'" These were the boundaries of the land God had promised Abraham.

Included is much of the Middle East today. Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, even Iraq was deeded by God to the Jews. And now Moses has the second generation on the threshold. They're just across the Jordan River in Moab awaiting their orders to invade.

Coming out of the wilderness the former slaves of Egypt would've entered the Promised Land from the south. Kadesh would be a natural border-crossing.

So Moses said, "See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to your fathers - to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob - to give to them and their descendants after them." God deeded this land to Abraham and his heirs. Israel had the promise, but had yet to take possession. They need to rise up in faith, and grab hold of all that God had given.

And this is true of us... the joy of the Lord, the peace of God, the power of His Spirit, the love of Jesus - has been deeded to believers... yet we don't experience His blessings because we're crippled by ignorance, or sidetracked by the flesh, or we succumb to fear, or we get blindsided by the things of this world... and we don't grab hold of the blessings God has deeded us.

Moses says in verse 9, "And I spoke to you at that time, saying: 'I alone am not able to bear you. The LORD your God has multiplied you, and here you are today, as the stars of heaven in multitude.'" Recall Numbers 1 told us Israel left Egypt with 603,550 fighting men - males twenty years old and older. Add to that number women and children, and the nation that exited Egypt now totaled close to 2-3 million people.

Moses notes their vast numbers, verse 11, and "May the LORD God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you as He has promised you!" *This is just their beginning!*

But, "How can I alone bear your problems and your burdens and your complaints?" Moses is thankful for the people God entrusted into his care, but they were simply too many for him to attend to all their needs.

Remember, Exodus 18 was the lifeline that saved Moses from burnout. Jethro, his father-in-law, paid him a visit. And Pops told Moses his *frustration* could be ended with a little *delegation*. He encouraged Moses to divide the people into groups, and appoint

able men as judges to settle their disputes. A case too hard for the subordinates, was then brought to the big cheese!

And we can learn from this, some of the *agitation and frustration* we experience is probably because we've yet to learn the art of *delegation*. If a man, the stature of a Moses, couldn't do it all; neither can we.

Moses was the quarterback in touch with the coach and who called the plays, but he needed to learn to hand the ball off to others, not hold on to it himself.

In verse 19 Moses continues his history lesson. "So we departed from Horeb, and went through all that great and terrible wilderness which you saw on the way to the mountains of the Amorites as the LORD our God had commanded us. Then we came to Kadesh Barnea." It was from here he sent out the twelve spies.

Of course, they return with huge clusters of grapes. And in verse 25 the spies share their report, "It is a good land which the LORD our God is giving us."

Yet Moses says, "Nevertheless you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of the LORD your God; and you complained in your tents, and said, 'Because the LORD hates us...' Don't believe that lie. God loves you, not hates you. "He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us. Where can we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our hearts, saying, 'The people are greater and taller than we; the cities are great and fortified up to heaven; moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakim there.'" Who were "giants."

"Then I said to you, 'Do not be terrified, or be afraid of them. The LORD your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness where you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, in all the way that you went until you came to this place.' The Hebrews had been on a *piggy-back ride*! Their Father God had carried them.

Why fear a few giants, God had already broken the might of Egypt? Poor Yul Bryner was now a shell of the haughty pharaoh he had once been... And little Edgar G. Robinson who scoffed at Moses had now been shut-up... *Why would the Hebrews doubt their God?*

He had even sent bread from heaven, and brought water from a rock. God guided them supernaturally. They followed a cloud by day and a fire by night.

Yet, verse 32, "For all that, you did not believe the LORD your God, who went in the way before you to search out a place for you to pitch your tents, to show you the way you should go, in the fire by night and in the cloud by day." God put the nation on His shoulders, and carried them. And He planned to set them down in Canaan, *had their*

faith not been overcome with fear. The Hebrews thwarted God's plan because of unbelief.

"The LORD heard the sound of your words, and was angry, and took an oath, saying, 'Surely not one of these men of this evil generation shall see that good land of which I swore to give to your fathers, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him and his children I am giving the land on which he walked, because he wholly followed the LORD.' Caleb was one of two spies who believed God could defeat giants. He was rewarded with entrance into the land.

And there were two survivors, for "The LORD was also angry with me for your sakes, saying, 'Even you shall not go in there; Joshua the son of Nun, who stands before you, he shall go in there. Encourage him, for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.'" Moses' assistant, Joshua, also enjoyed the blessing of God, but sadly that was it, not even Moses entered the land.

"Moreover your little ones and your children, who you say will be victims, who today have no knowledge of good and evil, they shall go in there; to them I will give it, and they shall possess it." Recall, the first generation of Hebrews to exit Egypt worried the Canaanite giants would slaughter their children. But it was their children who slaughtered the giants. God gave up on a faithless first generation, "As for you, turn and take your journey into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea.'

It reminds me of the poem, "*Footprints in the Sand.*" A man dreamed he was walking down the beach. He saw two sets of footprints, and realized God had been walking by his side. But on occasion, during trials and difficulties, the man saw only one set of footprints. He asked the Lord why He left him when the times got difficult... God answered, *He hadn't left him.* In fact, it was during those tough times that God actually carried him. That's why there were only one set of footprints!

But there's a similar poem that more accurately reminds me of Israel's faithlessness at Kadesh... "One night I had a wondrous dream - one set of footprints there was seen. The footprints of my precious Lord, but mine were not along the shore. But then some stranger prints appeared, and I asked the Lord, "What have we here?" Those prints are large and round and neat, "But Lord, they are too big for human feet." "My child," He said in somber tones, "For miles I carried you alone. I challenged you to walk in faith, but you refused and made me wait. You disobeyed, you would not grow, the walk of faith, you would not know, so I got tired, I got fed up, and there I dropped you on your butt. Because in life, there comes a time, when one must fight, and one must climb, when one must rise and take a stand, or leave their butt prints in the sand."

That's what happened to the first generation. God carried them, yet they didn't trust Him. And literally, He dropped them in the sand. They died in the desert.

The rest of Chapter 1 recounts the reaction of Israel when they realize they'd missed their opportunity. They rashly take up weapons to fight - but God isn't with them. They move in their own strength and get routed.

This was all a warning to the second generation not to repeat their parent's mistakes. It's said, "Experience is the best teacher, but why does it always have to be your own experience?" Deuteronomy is based on the idea a wise person can learn from other's mistakes.

Chapter 2, "Then we turned and journeyed into the wilderness of the Way of the Red Sea, as the LORD spoke to me, and we skirted Mount Seir for many days." We're told they "skirted" or "circled" Mount Seir, which was a range of mountains south of the Dead Sea. It's sad, but they just kept going around in circles!

For four decades they kept circling - verse 3 "And the LORD spoke to me, saying: 'You have skirted this mountain long enough; turn northward.'" Perhaps, **this is what God is saying to you today!** You've been going around in circles long enough. It's time to really belief God, take a stand, lay hold of your blessings!

When the second generation begins their march to the Promised Land, they pass through the boundaries of three nations... **Edom**, and **Moab**, and **Ammon**.

All three peoples were relatives of Israel. *Edom* or *Esau* was Jacob's brother. *Moab* and *Ammon* were the sons of Lot - Abraham's nephew. All three nations were occupying territory God had given them. Thus, God instructs the Hebrews not to meddle, or harass, or battle with these nations. Hey, purchase supplies from them, but respect their territory as God's gift to them.

For God had supplied Israel all they needed.

Verse 7, "For the LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hand. He knows your trudging through this great wilderness. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you; you have lacked nothing." For forty years Israel never once went to sleep hungry or thirsty. Chapter 8:4 tells us for their clothes never wore out; nor did their feet swell.

Imagine, the population of metro Orlando trudging across the desert... *do you think there'd be problems?* Those forty years were proof of God's faithfulness.

For four decades Israel skirted the wilderness of the Edomites and Moabites... Verses 8-15 speak of the people Israel encountered, particularly the **Emim** and **Anakim**

- both tribes of giants. This photo is from East Pakistan taken by an award-winning Italian journalist. As to its authenticity I'm not sure. But supposedly it's a skeleton of a man eleven feet tall... We've speculated these giants were not just NBA players. Something diabolical and nightmarish had occurred in Canaan.

The "*giants*" may have been the result of dark and deep occult activity. There's reason to think the giants were the offspring of humans and demons. Humanity's gene pool was being threatened. It was similar to the perversion that necessitated the flood of Noah's day.

In verse 16 when the first generation finally dies off Moses is told to move east of the Jordan Valley. This was the territory of the Moabites and Ammonites, descendants of Abraham's nephew, Lot. In verse 20-21 we're told this territory was previously the land of the "*Zamzummim, a people as great and numerous and tall as the Anakim.*" *Again, more giants!* Apparently, these giants were dispossessed by Moab and Ammon.

As were the Avim in Gaza. A people from Capthor, possibly the island of Crete, had migrated into the southern coastal territory. These were the forerunners of the Philistines, who became Israel's mortal enemies.

In other words, currently Israel is tiptoeing through the tulips. God is telling Moses to avoid a conflict with Edom, or Moab, or Ammon... *But there will come a time to fight...* Verse 24, "*Rise, take your journey, and cross over the River Arnon. Look, I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land. Begin to possess it, and engage him in battle.*

This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you upon the nations under the whole heaven, who shall hear the report of you, and shall tremble and be in anguish because of you.' The Arnon was a river that ran from the mountains of Moab into the Dead Sea, but to the Israelites it was a turning point. When they crossed the Arnon they were no longer *wanderers*, they were *the aggressor, the possessor, the occupier*.

The Arnon was a landmark. From this point onward Israel is no longer marching in circles they're declaring war. Conquest is in their hearts. They're fighting to win.

And again, let me encourage you **to cross the Arnon today!** Stop wandering and marching in circles, but get serious. Determine in your heart to rise up in faith and lay hold of God's blessing and total victory.

In verse 26 Moses recounts how he asked King Sihon for safe passage through his land. But Sihon refused, and instead verse 32, "*Then Sihon and all his people came out against us to fight at Jahaz.*" *And the LORD our God delivered him over to us; so we defeated him, his sons, and all his people. We took all his cities at that time, and*

we utterly destroyed the men, women, and little ones of every city; we left none remaining. We took only the livestock as plunder for ourselves, with the spoil of the cities which we took.”

Again, we read the Hebrews destroyed all the population. And you might wonder, *why so barbaric?*

But remember the Canaanites were steeped in vile and wicked practices. They were immersed in the occult. Recall the word “*nephilim*” used in Genesis 6:4. They were the offspring of demons who took on the bodies of men and impregnated human women. This is what caused God to wipe out an entire human race with a flood and start over with Noah and his family.

But this was happening again. King Sihon was a *giant*, or a *nephilim*, one of these mutant freaks. And God is going to use His people, Israel, to judge the wicked Canaanites and again cleanse the gene pool.

And don’t think this kind of phenomenon is so far-fetched. Did you know the highest experience in the occult is sex with a demon. The offspring is called a “*moon-child*.” And this is now a favorite Hollywood theme. The 1968 cult classic, “*Rosemary’s Baby*” was based on this concept. In the 1996 movie, “*Michael*,” John Travolta, played a lust-filled angel whose main desire was to hit on beautiful women. These kind of movies are now commonplace and definitely demonic.

Canaanite culture was up to its eyeballs in devilish, perverted practices. The killing of their kids may’ve been an act of mercy when you realize the wicked society and evil influences it allowed them to escape.

One thing is for sure, Israel’s victory over King Sihon and the Amorites gained for Israel a new momentum. God is priming them for their conquest of Canaan.

Chapter 3, “Then we turned and went up the road to Bashan; and Og king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei.” Edrei was also east of the Jordan - southeast of the Sea of Galilee.

“And the LORD said to me, ‘Do not fear him, for I have delivered him and all his people and his land into your hand; you shall do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt at Heshbon.’” The next few verses outline details of their victory over King Og.

And notice the detail in verse 11, “For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of the giants. Indeed his bedstead was an iron bedstead. (Is it not in Rabbah of the people of Ammon?) Nine cubits is its length and four cubits its width, according to the standard cubit.”

King Og was one of the last remaining giants. We don't know how big he was, but if the size of his bed was any indication, Og was a *hog*! His bed was 13½ feet long and 6 feet wide. **Call it a real king-size bed!**

Verses 12-20 recall the deal Moses made with the 2½ tribes that settled east of the Jordan River. Initially, Moses worried if these tribes would stay east of the river, and leave their brothers to fight for the Promised Land alone. Moses deeds them the territory they want only after they vow to fight with their brethren.

He marks out their boundaries in verses 12-20.

In verse 21 he says, "I commanded Joshua at that time, saying, 'Your eyes have seen all that the LORD your God has done to these two kings; so will the LORD do to all the kingdoms through which you pass.'" The success they saw east of the Jordan is what they'll experience on the West Bank if they walk by faith.

Moses encourages his successor, "You must not fear them, for the LORD your God Himself fights for you.' The key to victory is not *more fight*, but *more faith*.

Verse 23, "Then I pleaded with the LORD at that time, saying: 'O Lord GOD, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do anything like Your works and Your mighty deeds?'"

What an amazing statement, especially from a man like Moses, who saw miracles we have a hard time imagining... *a bush that burns, but is not consumed - a rod turned into a snake - a river that bled - darkness over Egypt for three days - a Sea splitting - food from heaven like the morning dew - water gushing from a rock - the ground opening and swallowing - yet Moses says, "O Lord God, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand..."*

What Moses had seen was just the beginning - the tip of the iceberg. God was just getting started...

And it was in the midst of a miracle from God that Moses forfeited the privilege of entering the Promised Land. He disobeyed God at the waters of Meribah. He blew his cool and misrepresented God as being mad with Israel. God had worked a miracle - brought water from a rock. But in Moses' anger he struck the rock twice, rather than speak to it, and as a result God told Moses he would not bring the people into the land.

Moses had come a long way with these people, and been with them a long time, he can't imagine the thought of getting this close to the Promised Land, and not entering... so in verse 25 Moses asks the Lord, "Let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, those pleasant mountains, and Lebanon.'

"But the LORD was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me. So the LORD said to me: 'Enough of that! Speak no more to Me of this matter. Go up to the top of Pisgah, and lift your eyes toward the west, the north, the south, and the east; behold it with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan.'" God answers half of Moses' prayer. He'll be allowed to see the land, but not allowed to enter.

Mount Pisgah was probably the range, Mount Nebo its tallest peak. Nebo sits 2600 feet above the Dead Sea - opposite where the Jordan feeds into the Sea.

The summit there offers a panoramic view of the interior of Israel. On a clear day, from the top of Nebo you can see the rooftops of Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

Thus, Moses sees the land, but that's as far as he goes. God tells Moses in verse 28, "Command Joshua, and encourage him and strengthen him; for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which you will see.' So we stayed in the valley opposite Beth Peor" - just across from Canaan.

In Deuteronomy 4 Moses encourages the second generation, and establishes a principle important for us and for pastors. "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you. You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take anything from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you." Don't *add* to what God has said or take away. **Let God speak for Himself.** Our sinful tendency is to **add to** God's Word and get legalistic, or **take away** from God's Word and *water it down*. The liberal waters it down. The legalist adds to it. Both are wrong.

Moses says, "Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal Peor; for the LORD your God has destroyed from among you all the men who followed Baal of Peor. But you who held fast to the LORD your God are alive today, every one of you." The case of Baal Peor was the idolatry taught by Balaam, the sorcerer. In Numbers 25, Moabite prostitutes had lured Israeli men into the worship of their false gods. And in the judgment that followed 23,000 Hebrews died.

And Israel knew better. What made them a great nation was the wise Law God had given them. Notice, verses 7-8, "For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?" The Law of Moses is the most advanced legal and moral code ever composed. Even today, 3500 years later, the ethical and legal framework of western civilization rests on this foundation.

Thus, Israel had two characteristics unique among the nations... *its access to God and its instruction from God*- for it was God's plan to use the Hebrews as a witness to the nations. Israel was God's lighthouse.

And God tells them in verse 9, "Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life." How could Israel forget the miracles they saw done by *the hand of God*, and the commands written by *the finger of God*? Yet it's possible. We're all so prone to forgetfulness.

The key word in Deuteronomy is "*remember*." It appears 14 times. This is why God spends the first four chapters retelling Israel's history. It is every generation's responsibility to remember God, His truth, and the lessons He's taught to previous generations.

God goes to great lengths to teach us lessons we can forget overnight. The primary reason for this book is to remind us of *our responsibility to remember*. A good memory is a huge component in our discipleship.

And not only are we to remember God's works and words, but also, verse 9, "Teach them to your children and your grandchildren, especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.' Realize a big part of what God has called all His followers to do is to teach our kids, and pass the baton of faith to the next generation.

Verse 11, "Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven, with darkness, cloud, and thick darkness. And the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice. So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone. And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that you might observe them in the land which you cross over to possess." When they gathered at the mountain what did God command? *He gave them a Top Ten List.*

The Ten Commandments were the specifics God told Israel to teach to their kids - yet sadly, in America today you can't even hang the Ten Commandments on the wall in a public classroom... Parents, here's how you can put your parenting to the test... Ask your kids to name the Ten Commandments, and see how they do. *How many of you can name the Ten Commandments?*

We all need non-negotiables in our life. Truths that are bigger than us. Moses knew God's Top Ten List would provide the ethical foundation every child needs.

He continues, "Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any beast that is on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that is in the water beneath the earth." And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage." When God appeared on the mountain there was no form or image. *God is Spirit!* Thus, never portray God as a carved or created image. Worship God not an image of God, or idol.

Notice the important expression in verse 19, when *"you feel driven to worship."* Humans are made to worship. **We are worshippers at heart.** Worship is a human instinct. God programs into every human heart the drive to worship... Some people worship the sun, moon, and stars... Others the car, house, and movie star... But since we're physical creatures human beings find it easier to worship tangible things.

This is why God says resist the urge to worship a creation; instead worship the Creator. Be careful that the drive within you finds its fulfillment only in God!

Verse 20, *"But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be His people, an inheritance, as you are this day."* Notice Egypt was a furnace where faith was forged. Oh, we like the good times, but faith is formed through trials...

Moses again mentions how God became angry with him, and it is going to cost him the promised land. But he says to the next generation, verse 23, *"Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God which He made with you, and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of anything which the LORD your God has forbidden you. For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God."* Note again the danger is *"lest you forget the covenant!"*

In verse 25 Moses begins to speak prophetically, he predicts Israel's future, **and it's not good.** *"When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the LORD your God to provoke Him to anger..."* Moses forces Israel backsliding. And when it happens he says, *"I call heaven and earth to witness against*

you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed.

And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. And there you will serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell.

But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice (for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.” Israel might forget God, but God won’t forget His promises to Israel. Even in the latter days the nation will turn back to God. That’s why we pray for revival in Israel to this very day.

And in verse 32 Moses speaks to the unprecedented nature of what Israel had seen. ”ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether any great thing like this has happened, or anything like it has been heard. Did any people ever hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and live? Or did God ever try to go and take for Himself a nation from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?” And the answer was “No!” What God did for Israel was unique. No other nation has ever been blessed with such direct divine intervention. Even today, Israel holds a special place in God’s economy.

And this should make us marvel over Romans 11 where Paul says we’ve been grafted into the family of Abraham. We too are now recipients of this same intimacy with God and assurance of His promises.

Verse 35 tells us God did all this to show Israel that He is the only God! He says in verse 40, “You shall therefore keep His statutes and His commandments which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD your God is giving you **for all time.**” And notice the duration of God’s promises to Israel, “for all time.” God never reneges on His promise. Israel is God’s people forever, and the land He gave them is theirs “for all time.”

In verses 41-43 Moses establishes three cities of refuge east of the Jordan: *Bezer*, *Ramoth*, and *Golan*. Israel took back the Golan Heights in the Yom Kippur War in

1973. Today, it's still holy ground in God's eyes.

The last of Chapter 4 summarizes again the victories Moses won over the kings east of the Jordan River.

For next time read Deuteronomy 5-8...