

# DEUTERONOMY

The Bible Series



# Introduction...



- A new generation had arrived on the east bank of the Jordan River Chapter 1:5 one month before entering the Promised Land Chapter 1:3.
- Those of the generation which had left Egypt were dead and their bones were bleaching beneath the desert skies because of their unbelief and disobedience.



# Introduction...

- Deuteronomy is therefore Moses' farewell speech and final words to Israel. Given over one month.
- He looks to the Past ( Chapters 1-3)
- He looks at the Present (Chapters 4-26)
- He looks to the Future (Chapters 27 –end)
- That is why the book is called 'Second Law' – This is because Moses is repeating himself or the Law as applicable to a second generation and after forty years in the Wilderness.



# Introduction...

- The Heart of the Book of Deuteronomy, is LOVE GOD.
- It is a very powerful book from which Jesus Christ quoted the most and the Bible looks back at this book around 400 times.
- It wraps up the essence of the Torah and points to the crux of the matter...You Shall Love The Lord Your God with ALL.



# Introduction....

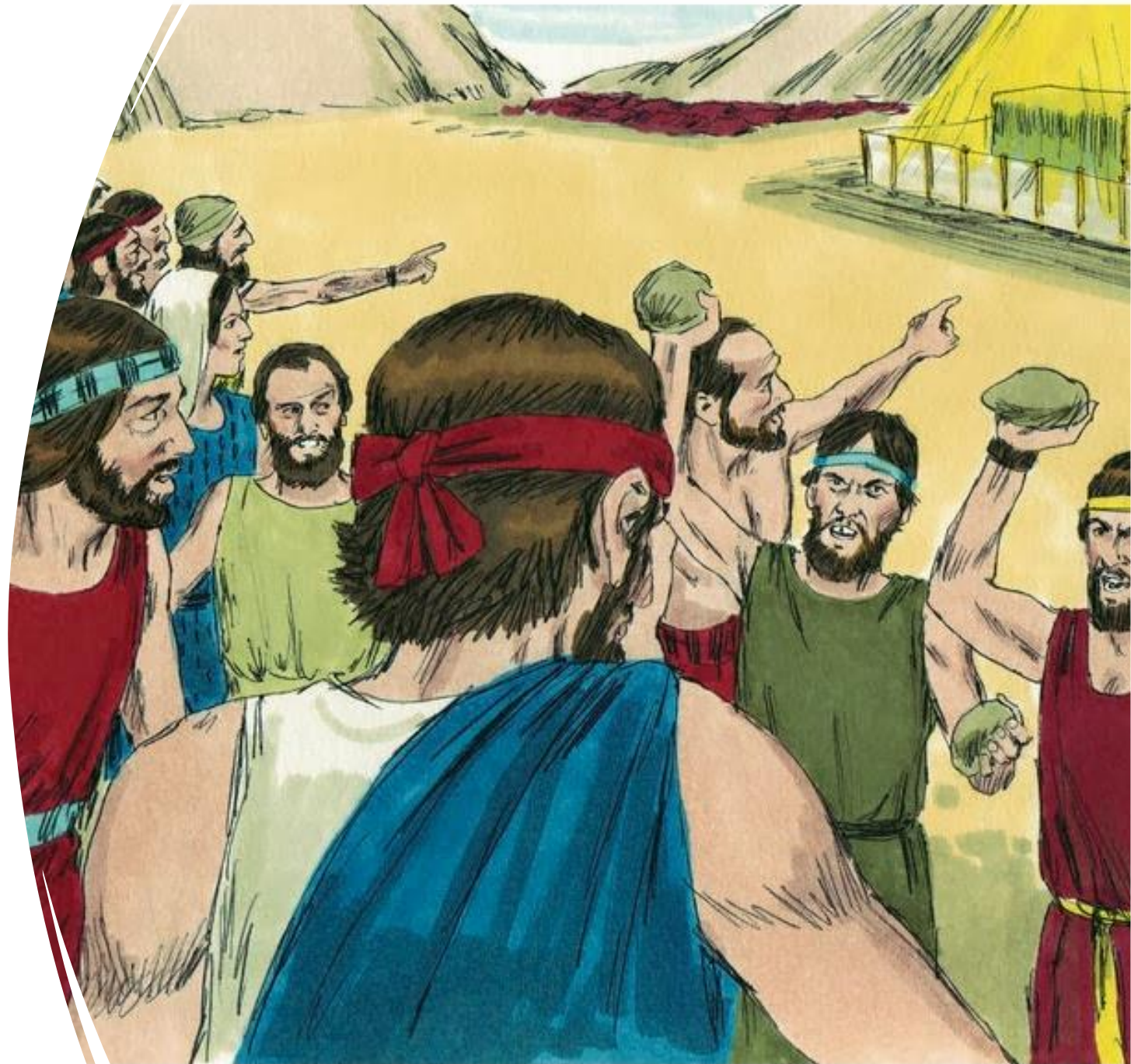
- This book teaches man to love and obey God. The word “love” occurs 22 times; “obey” occurs 10 times. The motive for obedience is love.
- The Lord Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” [John 14:15](#). The true motive for obedience is stated in [Deuteronomy 6:4, 5](#)
- We will now do a brief journey through Deuteronomy examining PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

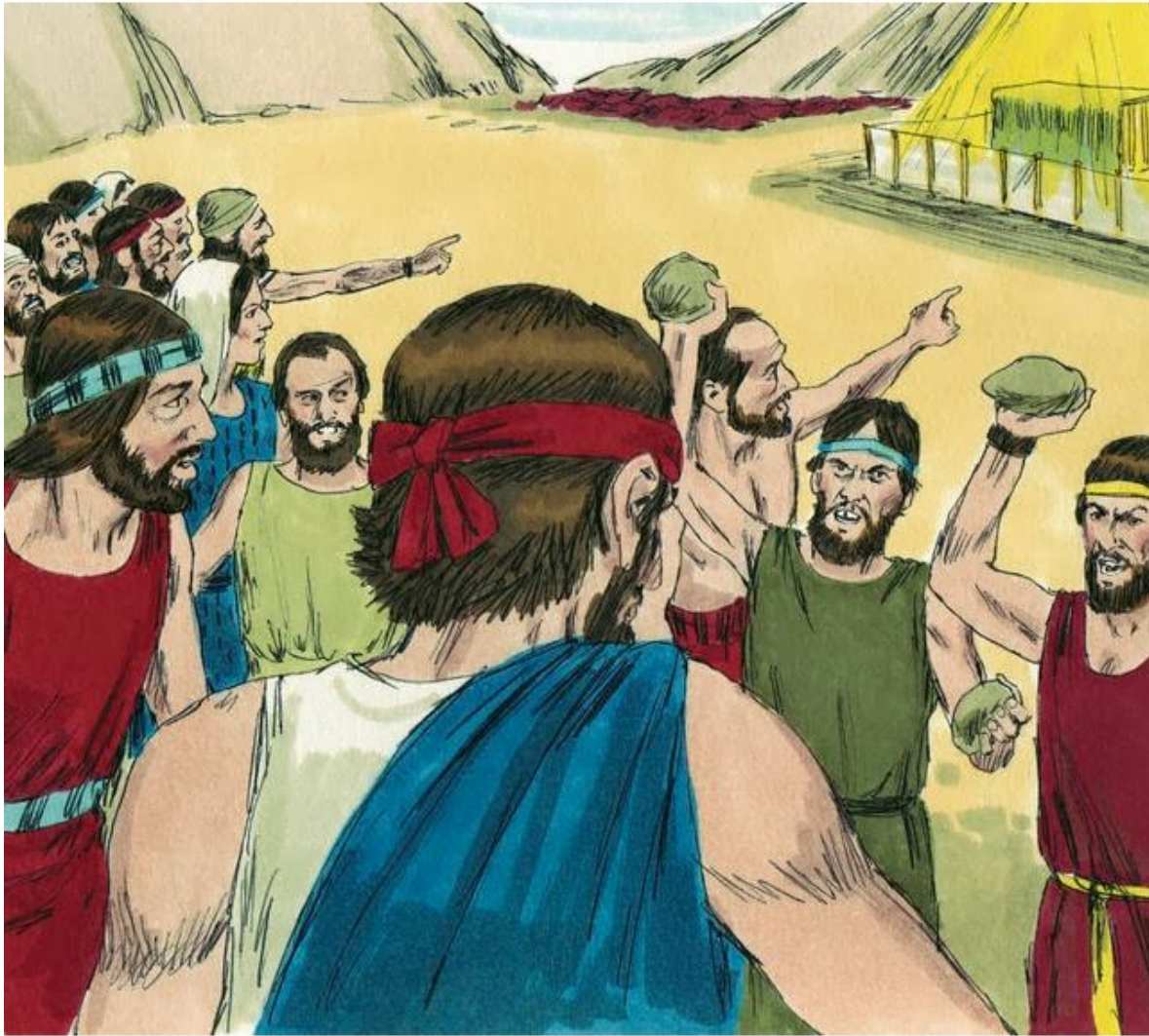


# The Past...

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- It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by way of Mount Seir to Kadesh Barnea (Deut 1:2). The journey from Mount Horeb to Kadesh Barnea only took eleven days. But from Kadesh Barnea (the threshold of the Promised Land) back to Kadesh Barnea (back to the threshold of the Promised Land) took forty years.
- i. This was because it took forty years for the generation of unbelief — those who were adults when Israel left Egypt — it took forty years for that generation to die out in the wilderness, and for a generation of faith and trust in God to arise in place after them.





## The Past

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- God granted Canaan to the Israelites and instructed them to take ownership of it. They hesitated and by staying outside of the land, they were not obeying God's instructions.
- Sometimes, when God presents us with opportunities we shrink back because we have doubts. Or maybe we are afraid of failure or defeat. But if God opens a door for us, we need to go through it boldly. We need to take advantage of opportunities to grow and show our faith. Don't hold back when God shows you the way.

# The Past...

- **I alone am not able to bear you** Deut 1:9. Moses experienced this crisis in [Numbers 11](#) when the people complained again about the food God provided. To help Moses bear the burden, God directed him to appoint seventy elders to assist him in bearing up under the pressure of leading the nation.
- i. As described in [Numbers 11](#), these elders had a precious function: To *stand there with Moses* ([Numbers 11:16](#)), to have the same *Spirit* as Moses, and to *bear the burden of the people with Moses* ([Numbers 11:17](#)).
- c. **So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and knowledgeable men, and made them heads over you:** Moses chose the elders of Israel by using a combination of approval by the congregation, and approval by Moses himself. Moses then instructed the elders in principles of righteous leadership, and thus relieved himself of many burdens.





# The Past...

- . **You would not go up, but rebelled... and you murmured in your tents... you did not believe the LORD your God:** God had done nothing but show Himself faithful to Israel. They could not point to one instance where He had let them down, though the journey had not been easy. Yet they answered God's faithfulness with rebellion, murmuring, and unbelief.
- i. They were not persuaded of the love of God, and they found it hard to trust a God they did not believe loved them. Christians today also need to be persuaded of the love of God. Many believers are hindered in their walk with God because they are not genuinely persuaded of the love of God for them. They should ask, "What would it take to finally convince me that God really loves me?" We don't wait for God to give us everything we want before we love Him. That is the selfish demand of a short-sighted child, like the child who thinks mommy doesn't love him because he can't have all the candy he wants





# The Past....

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- a. **Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass through:** Because of this refusal, Israel fought a battle recorded in [Numbers 21](#). They simply asked for safe passage through the land of the Amorites, but they were refused.
- b. **The LORD your God hardened his spirit and made his heart obstinate, that He might deliver him into your hand:** God worked behind the scenes in hardening the heart of Sihon, the King of the Amorites.
  - i. It was right for God to do this because the Creator has the right to do whatever He pleases with His creatures. But it was also right because of the *way* God did it. God did not persuade a reluctant Sihon to act out against Israel; God simply let Sihon's heart take the evil way it wanted to take. God did not change Sihon's heart from good to bad but hardened it in its malice towards Israel.
- c. **That He might deliver him into your hand:** This explains why God hardened the heart of Sihon. God led Sihon into the destructive course that his heart desired so that the land of the Amorites became the possession and inheritance of Israel.

# The Present....

- Deuteronomy 5.28-30
- God told Moses he was pleased when the Israelites obeyed him because they wanted to, not because they had to. God doesn't make us obey him - it is our choice.
- Yes, we should have respect for God and a healthy fear if his anger, but God is not honoured when we do what he says simply because we are afraid to do otherwise. The LORD wants us to obey him because we love him.
- It is out of this desire to please God that we do what he says. How can you show God you love him?



**Love and  
Obey God**

# The Shema...

- Deuteronomy 6:4-5 The great commandment: Love the LORD your God.
- Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.
- a. **Hear, O Israel:** In Hebrew, these verses are known as the *Shema* (“hear” in Hebrew). It is the classic Hebrew confession of faith, describing who God is and what our duty is towards Him.
- b. **The LORD our God, the LORD is one:** This is the essential truth about God. He is a person and not a vague pantheistic force. Being **one**, He cannot be represented by contradictory images. Since **the LORD our God is one**, He is not Baal, or Ashtoreth — He is the LORD God, and they are not.

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל

Sh'ma Yisra'eil

Hear, Israel

# The Shema...

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- In the mind of many Jewish people, this verse alone disqualified the New Testament teaching that Jesus is God, and the New Testament teaching of the Trinity — that there is one God, existing in three Persons.
- At some times and places, as Jewish synagogues said the *Shema* together, and when the word **one** (*echad*) was said, they loudly and strongly repeated that one word for several minutes, as if it were a rebuke to Christians who believed in the Trinity.
- ii. Christians must come to a renewed understanding of the unity of God. They must appreciate the fact that **the LORD is one**, not three, as [1 Corinthians 8:6](#) says: *yet for us there is one God*. We worship *one* God, existing in *three* persons, not three separate gods.



# God is ONE...

- The very first use of *echad* in the Bible is in [Genesis 1:5](#): *So the evening and the morning were the first day*. Even here, we see a unity (one day) with the idea of plurality (made up of evening and morning).
- [Genesis 2:24](#) uses *echad* in saying *the two shall become one flesh*. Again, the idea of a unity (one flesh), making a plurality (the two).
- In [Exodus 26:6](#) and [11](#), the fifty gold clasps are used to hold the curtains together, so the tent would be *one (echad)* — a unity (one) made up of a plurality (the many parts of the tabernacle).
- In [Ezekiel 37:17](#) the LORD tells Ezekiel to join together two sticks (prophetically representing Ephraim and Judah) into *one (echad)*, speaking again of a unity (one stick) made up of a plurality (the two sticks).



# God is ONE...

- **The LORD our God:** In addition, even the name of **God** in this line suggests the plurality of God. The Hebrew word is *Elohim* and grammatically, it is a plural word used as if it were singular — the verbs and pronouns used with it are generally in the plural.
- i. Rabbi Simeon ben Joachi, commenting on the word *Elohim*: “Come and see the mystery of the word *Elohim*; there are *three degrees*, and each degree by itself *alone*, and yet notwithstanding they are all *one*, and *joined together* in *one*, and are not divided from each other.”
- Clarke adds: “He must be strangely prejudiced indeed who cannot see that the doctrine of a Trinity, and of a Trinity in unity, is expressed in the above words.”

ספריא

בכל יום קוראין קריאת שמע, בערב  
שנאמר (דברים ו ז) "ובשכבך ובקומך"  
שדרך בני אדם שוכבין וזה הוא לילה.  
שדרך בני אדם עומדין וזה הוא יום:  
וא קורא, שלשה...

חשנה חורף, הלכות קריאת שמע

# The Shema...

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- **Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might:** Knowing who God is enables us to act towards Him rightly. We give Him His due.
- i. God wants a complete love from us. This love is appropriate because He loved us completely: *We love Him because He first loved us* ([1 John 4:19](#)).
- ii. What God most wants from us is our **love**. We often think God demands a hundred other things from us — our money, our time, our effort, our will, our submission, and so forth — but what God really wants is our love. When we really love the LORD with all of our heart, soul, and mind, then everything else is freely given to the LORD. If we give the LORD all the rest — money, time, effort, will, and so forth — without giving Him our love, it is all wasted — and perhaps, all is lost.



I ❤️ God  
and he ❤️ me.

{purplemages}



# The Present...

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- Deuteronomy 7.1-15  
Why would God command the Israelites to destroy their enemies without mercy? Does he hate some people and love others? No, God is loving and merciful, but he is also just so he doesn't permit evil to continue without being punished and corrected.
- God's command to destroy these nations was his judgment upon them for the wicked things they had done for many years. His command was also a dramatic warning to the nation of Israel that God's people should beware of being overcome by the evil practices of their enemies.
- Do not ever think that God is too kind to do anything about sin. Because he is holy and just, as well as merciful and loving, he must punish wrong actions and attitudes. God also rewards obedience.



Y FLESH & MY HEAR

MAY FAIL *BUT GOD*

IS THE STRENGTH

OF MY HEAR & MY

PORTION FOREVER PSALM 73:26

## The Present...

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- Deuteronomy 8.10-19
- God had promised the Israelites that if they obeyed his laws and teaching, he would bless them with food, shelter, and land. But with this promise, he also gave a warning that we should remember.
- When things are going well in family, career, or any other area of life, we are tempted to become proud. It is easy to think that our hard work and ingenuity have gotten us where we are.
- We should think again! It is God who gives us the ability to work and who blesses us with more than we need. He also requires us to be good caretakers of what we have been given. We must always give God the credit for our health, riches, and well-being.

If You Lie Down  
With Dogs You'll  
Wake Up With  
Fleas



## The Present...

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- Deuteronomy 12.29-31
- God made it very clear to the Israelites that he did not want them to get mixed up in the false religious surrounding them. Idolatry-the worship of handmade statues or images - was everywhere in the land.
- No doubt, it was very easy to be lured into practices that appeared to be harmless on the surface but were deadly in the end.
- Sometimes curiosity and the attempt to learn more about evil things can harm our spiritual growth if those evil things become too attractive to us. It is always best to stay as far away from evil as we can.

ALL THESE  
BLESSINGS  
WILL COME  
UPON YOU  
& OVERTAKE  
YOU IF YOU  
PAY ATTENTION  
TO THE VOICE  
OF THE LORD  
YOUR GOD.

DEUTERONOMY 28:2 AMP



# The Future...

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- Deuteronomy 28.1-14
- Moses let it be known that from this day on, the Israelites were God's people, so they needed to obey God's instructions. Possibly, Moses wanted to remind the new generation that had grown up during the desert wandering that they, too, were God's chosen people.
- It could be that since they were getting ready to enter the land God promised to them, Moses was announcing the formation of the nation of Israel. In either case, it was a new start for the people.
- When we chose to believe in God, we are also given a fresh start. We are citizens of a new nation, a heavenly kingdom. As such, we should begin to obey God's commands and follow his ways. Our behavior reveals what we truly believe in our hearts.

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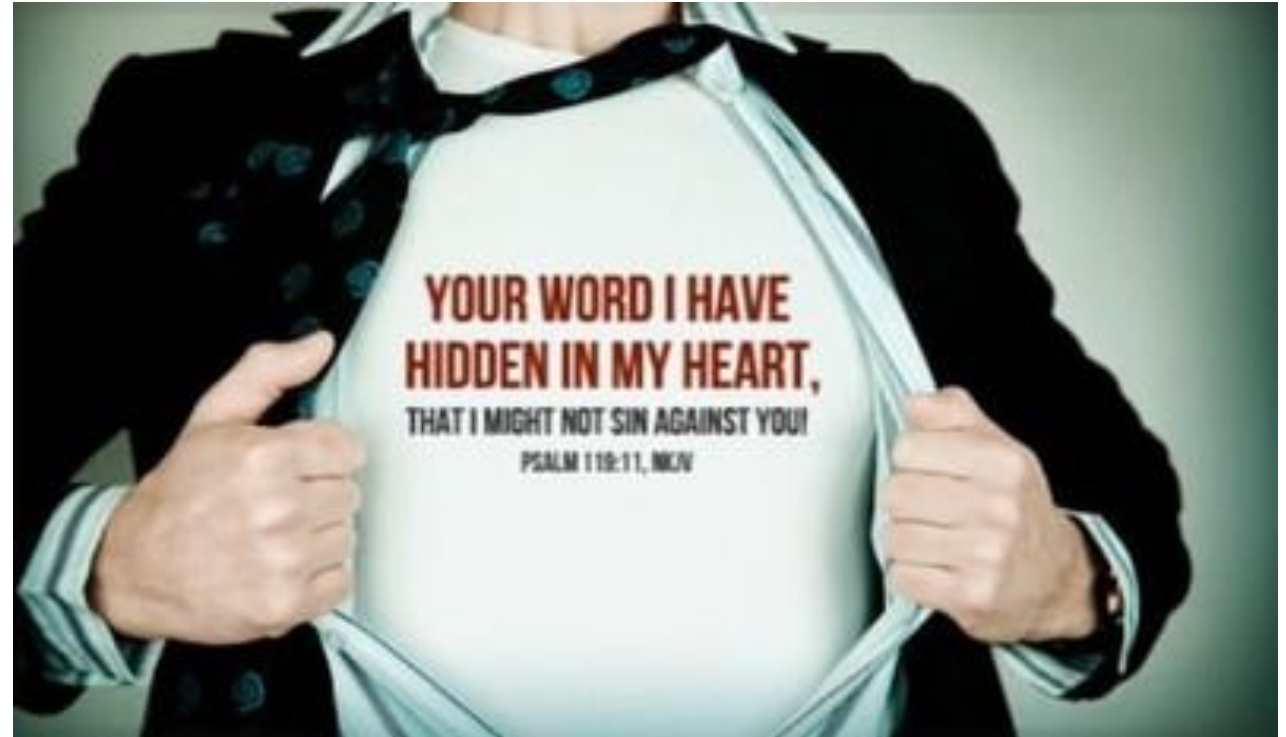
# The Future...

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- Deuteronomy 30.1-7
- The Israelites were given two choices: obey God's commands and live good lives, or disobey them and face death and disaster.
- God had made his laws very clear and understandable so the people could not claim they were impossible to obey - they simply had to decide what they would do.
- We have the same choice as God's followers. If we are slaves to sin we choose to go our own way; but when we become God's followers, he gives us the freedom, as well as the strength and courage, to follow God's way.
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# The Future...

- Deuteronomy 30.1-7
- Moses summed up his song by once again stressing to the people the importance of knowing God's Law, applying it to their lives, and teaching it to younger generations.
- It is not enough to merely read the Bible or hear a sermon. We should constantly ask, "What is God saying to me through this? How does he expect me to respond?"
- God's Word is powerful. It tells us what we need to know about God and how he wants us to live. It is the manual for life!





READY TO  
TAKE OFF

## The Future...

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- Deuteronomy 34.4-10
- Moses did not get to enter Canaan because he had disobeyed God. Sometimes we think that a small bit of disobedience is no big deal to God, but sin always has consequences.
- When we disobey God, he will forgive us if we turn away from our sin and turn back to him. We still must live with the consequences of that sin, though. God forgave Moses because of his trust in God, but Moses missed one of the greatest goals of his life - living in the land God had promised the Israelites
- Deuteronomy is like a pre-flight check-list for one of the most important adventures in biblical history. Moses led Israel through everything they needed to know to live successfully in Canaan. Then he warned them about the extreme dangers associated with deviating from the plan.

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# SUMMARY...Do Not Forget

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- The essence of this book was to REMIND a new generation of the Covenant between them and God and CHOOSE to follow after Him.
- **Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.**





# SUMMARY....Choose Life

- Fundamental to all of the Bible's narrative is the matter of Man choosing God or rejecting Him. This is the same choice presented by Moses in his farewell speech:
- ***I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore, choose life, that both you and your descendants may live***  
*Deuteronomy 30:19*



# SUMMARY...

*The Heart of the matter is the matter of the Heart*

