

Life Lesson 38
Deuteronomy
Text: Deuteronomy

Introduction

Suppose your best friend said, "I just read the best book. It was so good! It's my favorite book ever." You would want to read it too, wouldn't you? If your best friend liked the book, chances are that you would enjoy it just as much.

The book of Deuteronomy was probably Jesus' favorite book of the Bible. We know that because He quoted from it more than from any other book of the Bible. If Jesus liked it, no doubt we will find it wonderful, too.

The Story

The book of Deuteronomy is the fifth book of the Bible. It's the last one Moses wrote down. It's also the fifth and final book of the law.

The name of the book means "second law." That's because Moses goes over the main points of the law of God again in this book so the people will be sure to understand what God wants them to do.

The first part of Deuteronomy is a "looking backward." Moses reminded the Israelites of all the wonderful things God had done for them. Most of the older people had died by this time. The young children had grown up and didn't remember the exodus from Egypt, or the crossing of the Red Sea, or the water that came from a rock. Moses reminded them of the things they had surely heard their parents speak of. He reminded them of the laws God had given them.

"Hear O Israel. The Lord our God is one Lord, and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might," Moses told them. He knew if they

remembered and obeyed this commandment, the others would be easy. If we love God with all our hearts, we want to live right so that we please Him.

Moses knew he would die very soon. There would be only Joshua and Caleb of the older generation to direct the people after he had gone. That's why he said, "The words I command you today shall be in your heart, and you must teach them diligently to your children. Talk about them all the time. Think about them all the time. Then you won't forget the Lord when you have moved into the wonderful new land God will give you."

Then Moses reminded the people of the law God had given them and the blessings God would give those who obeyed those laws. He told them of the terrible curses disobedience would bring.

After Moses had finished speaking, God spoke to Moses.

"Go up to Mount Nebo," God told him. "You may not go into the promised land, but you may look at it before you die. You will die up in the mountain, and I will take you with Me to Heaven."

How excited Moses must have been! After all the trials and hardships of his long life, he could now lay down his heavy burden and go to be with God. When Christian people die it isn't a fearful or terrible thing. It's wonderful, because they get to go and be with Jesus.

Moses climbed up to Mount Nebo. There he saw spread out before him the wonderful land God had promised to Abraham and his descendants so long ago. After that Moses died. God, Himself, buried Moses. To this day no one on earth knows where Moses' grave is.

The people were sad and they mourned for Moses. He had been a leader like no other. He had been meek and patient and kind through almost all of the troubles the Israelites had caused

him. God had used him in a mighty way.

Things were changing for the Israelites. They had lost their leader. God sent them another, a man who was wise and loved God very much. His name was Joshua.

For as long as these people could remember they had been wandering around in the desert. Now they would at last enter into their own land, the land they had been waiting for so many years to claim.

All their life they had eaten the manna God had sent from Heaven. Now they would be eating the food grown in the land of Canaan.

Things were changing and exciting adventures lay ahead. We'll learn about those things when we begin our study of the books of history, beginning with the book of Joshua.

Review Questions

What is the fifth book of the Bible?

Deuteronomy

Who wrote down the book of Deuteronomy?

Moses

What does Deuteronomy mean?

Second law.

Why is it called "Asecond law?"

Because Moses went over the law a second time with all the people.

How do we know that it was probably Jesus' favorite book?

Because He quoted from it more than from any other book of the Bible.

Where did Moses go to die?

To Mount Nebo

What did he see from Mount Nebo?

The promised land.

Who buried Moses?

God buried him.

Where is Moses buried?

No one knows.