

## Lesson #8

**PREPARATION FOR LESSON:** read Deuteronomy 5, 8, 18, 28, 30, 34; Psalms 90 (written by Moses at the end of his life)

## BACKGROUND

**Author and Date:** written by Moses during his lifetime c. 1400 – 1300 BC  
instruction given over a period of 30-40 days

**Theme:** “Deutero” means 2<sup>nd</sup>; “nomos” means *law*; Moses is repeating the laws of Exodus and Leviticus to the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation.  
By the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, all Jewish boys memorized parts of this book at 3 yrs. old; the entire book by 7 yrs. old.  
It is quoted over 80 times in the New Testament.

**Purpose:** God wants the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generations to know that the same contract He made with their parents is still in effect for them. He will restate the terms so they know there have been no changes. They are His people and He is their God. They are responsible to obey His laws. Dt. 29:12-13.

## OUTLINE

What God <b>has done</b> for them in the past - loved and led	1 - 4
What God expects from them <b>now</b> - obedience	5 - 26
What God <b>will do</b> , based on their response - bless or punish	27 -34

## DEFINITION of Love

**In our culture:** *love* means *closeness, excitement, warm fuzzies, feelings*

It is spontaneous and changeable. Because it is an emotion and feeling it is impossible to command.

**In Scripture:** *love* has 2 meanings

- when *love* is **not** commanded, it includes feeling; God gave us the emotion of love as part of our relationships
- when *love* is **is** commanded, it is a choice; a use of our will; it is an action we are capable of doing.  
It is never an emotion because emotions cannot be commanded. *I command you to love me!*  
It means **do what is right**, based on God’s standards

*Love your enemy:* no revenge, but protect yourself and hold the person accountable.

*Love your neighbor, family, friends:* do what is right, not just what they want. It can include...

... saying “no”, setting boundaries, breaking relationships and doing what is healthy for all

*Love God:* obey Him

**commanded love** always means **do what is right**, based on God’s standards

## EXPLANATIONS

**The LORD your God:** a phrase used over 300 times in this book to confirm their relationship as God’s people.

LORD is the Hebrew name *Yahweh* that emphasizes God’s relationship and salvation for His people.

Moses tells the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation, *The nations have many gods. You have only one God; Yahweh is your God.*

**Why God chose the Jews** Deut. 7:6-8

Because He loved them. He had affection for them and did what was right by keeping His promise.

Because He wanted them as His example and voice to give His message to the nations so they also could believe

**Why God gave them the Holy Land** Deut. 9:5-6

To remove the Canaanites because they were so evil.

To give His knowledge to the 3 continents around them.

To use them in the future to give His message to the world.



## Chapter 5

Vs. 4 **Face to Face:** a Hebrew phrase to mean *to be in God’s presence*.

Moses and the people never saw a literal face, but they heard God’s voice and saw fire come out of Mt. Sinai.

Vs. 9 **A jealous God:** God is *zealous*, meaning He is careful to protect His reputation, His honor and His character.

## Chapter 6

Vs. 4 The Jewish Shemá or confession of faith is often put in a metal box on the doorframe or gate (mezuzah)

Vs. 5 *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength*

This means to obey what He shows us to do with right actions, right attitudes and to the best of our ability

If we focus on and obey what God shows us to do at the moment, we are doing everything He wants us to do

This is why Jesus said it is the greatest and most important command.

A cycle of obedience and blessing will then begin from generation to generation.



### EXPLANATION (continued)

#### Chapter 6

Vs. 16 *Do not test the Lord your God* (the word “tempt” is wrong because God cannot be tempted James 1:13)

*Do not demand God has to give you what you want, when you want it.*

The Old Testament Jews demanded God give them water or meat when they wanted it

God said it was wrong then and it is still wrong for us today. We are to ask according to His will.

#### Chapter 18

Vs. 10 The Jews were not to use these occult methods; they were not to contact the spirit world or get spirit guides.

Yahweh was to be the source of their answers; they were only to use His methods to know...

...what decisions to make, what is right and wrong or what will happen in the future.

If we are in God's family, it is also wrong for us to use occult methods or to contact the spirit world.

Vss. 21-22 How to test those who claim to be speaking for God - both then and now

Their specific predictions must be 100% accurate.

Their message and life must be consistent with God's character and commands. 13:1-2

#### Chapter 28: the national consequence of disobedience

Vs. 33 happens at the time of the Judges; vss. 36-37 happen during the Assyrian and Babylonian exiles.

### APPLICATION: Psalm 90, written by Moses, is the earliest Psalm to be written in the Jewish Psalter (hymn book)

Ten months earlier, the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation had rebelled against God. Moses and Aaron said the people rebelled against *them* and *they* were the ones who were providing the water. Their rash words kept the people from seeing God's holiness. Because of their disobedience, God said they could not complete their ministry to lead the people into the land.

As the Jews are camped by the Jordan River, Moses asks God to let him enter; God says *no*. Dt. 3:23-26. Moses becomes overwhelmed with sadness and disappointment. Yet a few weeks later he could praise God and say everything God does is right. Dt. 32:2-4. I suggest Moses finds peace as he works thru his feelings with his prayer of Psalm 90.

Vss. 1-6 *God is our place to come home to*. He thanks God that from the beginning He has been their refuge; the One in whom they feel safe and secure. Human life is so brief. God, however, is eternal, so He can be a refuge for every generation. In the brevity and chaos of life, only God can provide stability.

Vss. 7-11 **“Lord, You responded to our disobedience and sent consequences** (God's anger). **The consequences have been painful and hard”**. Moses is thinking about the failure of the 1<sup>st</sup> generation who died in the wilderness and of those who died for their sin in the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation. He admits his own guilt (secret sins). He is overwhelmed with sadness and heaviness.

Vss. 12-17 Aware of his discouragement, he prays he will wisely use the time he has left in what he does, how he thinks and how he responds. He prays he can have greater awareness and enjoyment of God's presence and comfort.

He then prays for the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation, that they will obey, so they can have God's blessings and stability.

He prays that God will complete in them what he, Moses, had started.

He releases the people to God and asks God to establish them in the land.

As he dwells on that picture, he finds peace and comfort. Deut. 32:4

*God's works are perfect and all His ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong; upright and fair is He.*

The prayer of Moses can serve as a pattern for our prayers

We start by focusing on God and His stability, in spite of the chaos that fills our lives.

We need to admit our disobedience and accept the consequences God has sent.

For family and friends, we should pray they choose obedience, so they can have God's blessing and stability.

We should commit and release them to God to let God establish them.

In praying for ourselves, in times of discouragement...

We should ask for greater awareness and enjoyment of God's presence and comfort.

We should ask for wisdom in how to use the years we have left, in both our choices and actions.

*Lord, teach us how to fully enjoy what You give us; teach us to learn even from the things that are difficult.*

