

DEUTERONOMY

Moses' last words

AUTHOR	Moses, according to Jewish and Christian tradition. The book says Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the priests 31:9, 31:24, and Jesus quoted it as what Moses said Mark 10:3 to 5. Someone else wrote about Moses' death in chapter 34; the Talmud says Joshua did. Many modern scholars think most of the book was written in the 600s BC, around King Josiah's day.
EVENTS TOOK PLACE	On the plains of Moab, across the Jordan from Jericho, in the fortieth year after Egypt. Moses begins speaking on the first day of the eleventh month 1:3. The whole book covers only about two months, ending with thirty days of mourning for Moses 34:8.
DATE WRITTEN	Traditionally about 1406 BC, just before Israel crossed the Jordan. Those who date the Exodus later, in the 1200s BC, move that date down too.
WRITTEN TO	The new generation of Israel, the children of the people who left Egypt, about to go into the Promised Land without Moses.
KEY VERSE	Deuteronomy 6:4 to 5. Hear, O Israel: Yahweh our God, Yahweh is One. And you shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

This is 4QDeut n, called the All Souls Deuteronomy, a Dead Sea Scroll from Cave 4 at Qumran, copied about 30 to 1 BC. This piece holds Deuteronomy 5:1 to 6:1, the Ten Commandments. In its Sabbath command it gives both reasons, the rest after creation from Exodus 20:11 and the slavery in Egypt from Deuteronomy 5:15. Many scholars think it was a copy of favorite passages for study or worship, not the whole book. About thirty copies of Deuteronomy were found among the Dead Sea Scrolls, more than any other book except Psalms. Deuteronomy is one of the books Jesus quoted most. Photo Shai Halevi, Israel Antiquities Authority. Public domain.

Historical Setting

Forty years have passed. The generation that refused to enter the land has died in the wilderness, and Moses himself will not cross the Jordan. So before he dies, he gathers their children and preaches his heart out. He retells the journey, repeats the Ten Commandments, explains the law for life in the land, and begs them to love God and choose life. The English name comes from the Greek Bible, which turned the words a copy of this law in 17:18 into this second law, deuteronomion. The Hebrew name is Devarim, words, from the first verse.

What Was Going Wrong

A STUBBORN HISTORY. Moses reminds them of the fear at Kadesh and the golden calf. You have been rebelling against Yahweh since the day I came to know you 9:24.

FORGETTING HIM WHEN LIFE IS GOOD. Moses warns that once they are full and rich, they will say, The power and strength of my hands have made this wealth for me 8:12 to 17.

THE IDOLS OF CANAAN. The nations in the land worshiped idols, sorcery and the dead, and God warned that Israel would be pulled in 12:29 to 31, 18:9 to 12.

THE WARNING CAME TRUE. God told Moses that after his death Israel would turn to other gods and break the covenant 31:16 to 21. The rest of the Old Testament shows it happened.

MOSES SLIPPED TOO. Moses was not allowed to enter the land because of what happened at the waters of Meribah, and he begged God to change His mind 3:23 to 27, 32:51.

The Idiot Proof Summary

Deuteronomy is Moses' farewell sermon. He is 120 years old, he knows he will die before Israel crosses the Jordan, and he has one last chance to get through to them. So he tells their story again, from Mount Sinai to the plains of Moab. He reminds them that God chose them out of love, not because they were great or good. He gives them the law for life in the land and the greatest command of all: love Yahweh your God with all your heart. Then he lays out two roads, blessing and curse, life and death, and begs them to choose life. The book ends on Mount Nebo, where God shows Moses the land, and Moses dies with his work done.

Deuteronomy at a Glance

CH 1 to 4

LOOKING BACK

Moses' first speech: forty years retold, and do not make idols.

CH 5 to 11

THE HEART OF THE LAW

The Ten Commandments, the Shema, and love and remember.

CH 12 to 26

LAWS FOR THE LAND

Worship, feasts, kings, prophets, justice, family and the poor.

CH 27 to 28

BLESSINGS AND CURSES

Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim, and what obedience brings.

CH 29 to 30

CHOOSE LIFE

The covenant renewed on the plains of Moab.

CH 31 to 34

MOSES SAYS GOODBYE

Joshua, the Song of Moses, the blessing and Moses' death.

Where Jesus Shows Up

DEUTERONOMY 8:3, 6:16, 6:13 When the devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness, all three of Jesus' answers came from Deuteronomy: man does not live on bread alone, do not put God to the test, and worship God only, Matthew 4:4, 7, 10.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4 TO 5 Jesus called this the greatest commandment, Mark 12:29 to 30.

DEUTERONOMY 18:15 TO 19 God promised a Prophet like Moses. Peter and Stephen said this Prophet is Jesus, Acts 3:22 to 23 and 7:37, and the crowds said, Truly this is the Prophet, John 6:14.

DEUTERONOMY 21:23 Anyone hung on a tree is under God's curse. Paul says Christ became a curse for us by hanging on the cross, Galatians 3:13.

DEUTERONOMY 30:12 TO 14 The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart. Paul uses these verses for the message of faith in Christ, Romans 10:6 to 8.

DEUTERONOMY 32:43 Let all God's angels worship Him. Hebrews 1:6 quotes this line about Jesus.

GOD'S NAMES IN DEUTERONOMY

Moses calls God the Rock five times in his song 32:4, 15, 18, 30, 31. He is a consuming fire, a jealous God 4:24, the God of gods and Lord of lords 10:17, and the eternal God whose everlasting arms are underneath 33:27. See Why We Say Yahweh in the Old Testament Introduction.

What to Watch for in Deuteronomy

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES	18:15-16, 18:18-19, 21:23, 30:6, 32:21, 32:43
MESSIANIC FORESHADOW	16:3, 30:12-14
PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE	1:8, 1:10, 3:27-28, 4:25-28, 12:5, 17:14, 28:15-19 and 9 more
PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN HISTORY	28:53-57, 28:63-68
THE HEART	4:29, 6:5-6, 8:2, 8:14, 10:16, 11:16, 11:18 and 3 more
MIRACLES	8:4
DEMONIC	1:28, 2:10-11, 2:20-21, 3:11, 3:13, 4:3, 4:15-19 and 30 more
NOTABLE	6:4, 6:7-9, 22:8, 24:5
GOD SPEAKING	Words in red are God speaking. Only the words He actually said are red.
BLOODLINE OF CHRIST	Names underlined in red are in the family line of Jesus.

Cool Stuff Most People Miss

JESUS QUOTED IT AGAINST THE DEVIL

All three answers Jesus gave Satan in the wilderness came from Deuteronomy 6 and 8.

A NAME FROM A TRANSLATION

Deuteronomy means second law. The Greek Bible got the name from 17:18, where the king must write a copy of this law. The book is not a new law. It is Moses explaining the same law again.

CHILD SACRIFICE WAS BANNED

The nations of Canaan burned their sons and daughters in the fire for their gods. Moses says Yahweh hates it, and no one in Israel may ever do it 12:31, 18:10.

SHAPED LIKE A TREATY

Deuteronomy follows the pattern of ancient treaties between a great king and his people: history, rules, witnesses, then blessings and curses. Scholars compare it to Hittite treaties from the 1300s BC and to Esarhaddon's treaty from 672 BC, and they argue over which it is closer to.

THE OLDEST TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Nash Papyrus, bought in Egypt in 1902, has the Ten Commandments and the Shema. It was the oldest known Bible text in Hebrew until the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. See the Field Notes page.

A KINDER LAW THAN YOU MIGHT THINK

Put a railing on your roof 22:8. A new husband gets a year off from the army 24:5. Leave some of the harvest for the poor 24:19. Do not muzzle the ox 25:4.

Did Anybody Listen?

For a while. Israel served Yahweh all the days of Joshua and the elders who outlived him, Joshua 24:31. But the next generation forgot, just as Moses warned, Judges 2:10 to 11. Over the centuries, the curses of chapter 28 came true one by one, all the way to exile in Assyria and Babylon. Centuries later, King Josiah found the Book of the Law in the temple, tore his clothes, and led the nation back to God, 2 Kings 22 to 23. And Jesus answered the devil with Deuteronomy and called its command to love God the greatest one of all.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE GOD SPEAKING

1

CHAPTER 1 IN 30 SECONDS

Forty years after Egypt, Moses stands on the plains of Moab and starts his farewell speech. He retells how he picked judges to help him, how twelve spies saw the land, and how the people refused to go in. So God turned them back into the desert. Moses is basically saying, Let's not do that again.

THE COMMAND TO LEAVE HOREB // EXODUS 33:1-6

¹These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel in the wilderness east of the Jordan—in the Arabah opposite Suph—between Paran and Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab.

²It is an eleven-day journey from Horeb to Kadesh-barnea by way of Mount Seir. ³In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses proclaimed to the Israelites all that Yahweh had commanded him concerning them. ⁴This was after he had defeated Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, and then at Edrei had defeated Og king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth.

⁵On the east side of the Jordan in the land of Moab, Moses began to explain this law, saying:

⁶Yahweh our God said to us at Horeb:

"You have stayed at this mountain long enough. ⁷Resume your journey and go to the hill country of the Amorites; go to all the neighboring peoples in the Arabah, in the hill country, in the foothills, in the Negev, and along the seacoast to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great River Euphrates.

⁸See, I have placed the land before you. Enter and possess the land that Yahweh swore He would give to your fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to their descendants after them."

■ DT 1:1 [NOTE] Deuteronomy is three long speeches by Moses, then a song, a blessing and his death. The Hebrew name is Devarim, words, from this first verse.

■ DT 1:8 [PROPHECY] Israel would enter and possess the land sworn to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob → JOSH 21:43-45 • MEDIUM p. 22

MOSES APPOINTS LEADERS // EXODUS 18:13-27

⁹At that time I said to you, "I cannot carry the burden for you alone. ¹⁰Yahweh your God has multiplied you, so that today you are as numerous as the stars in the sky. ¹¹

May Yahweh, the God of your fathers, increase you a thousand times over and bless you as He has promised. ¹²But how can I bear your troubles, burdens, and disputes all by myself? ¹³Choose for yourselves wise, understanding, and respected men from each of your tribes, and I will appoint them as your leaders."

¹⁴And you answered me and said, "What you propose to do is good."

¹⁵So I took the leaders of your tribes, wise and respected men, and appointed them as leaders over you—as commanders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens, and as officers for your tribes.

¹⁶At that time I charged your judges: "Hear the disputes between your brothers, and judge fairly between a man and his brother or a foreign resident. ¹⁷Show no partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be intimidated by anyone, for judgment belongs to God. And bring to me any case too difficult for you, and I will hear it."

¹⁸And at that time I commanded you all the things you were to do.

TWELVE SPIES SENT OUT // NUMBERS 13:1-33

¹⁹And just as Yahweh our God had commanded us, we set out from Horeb and went toward the hill country of the Amorites, through all the vast and terrifying wilderness you have seen. When we reached Kadesh-barnea, ²⁰I said: "You have reached the hill country of the Amorites, which Yahweh our God is giving us.

²¹See, Yahweh your God has placed the land before you. Go up and take possession of it as Yahweh, the God of your fathers, has told you. Do not be afraid or discouraged."

²²Then all of you approached me and said, "Let us send men ahead of us to search out the land and bring us word of

■ DT 1:10 [FULFILLS] Abraham's offspring would be as many as the stars ← GEN 15:5 p. 22

DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING

what route to follow and which cities to enter."

²³ The plan seemed good to me, so I selected twelve men from among you, one from each tribe. ²⁴ They left and went up into the hill country, and came to the Valley of Eshcol and spied out the land. ²⁵ They took some of the fruit of the land in their hands, carried it down to us, and brought us word: "It is a good land that Yahweh our God is giving us."

ISRAEL'S REBELLION // NUMBERS 14:1-12

²⁶ But you were unwilling to go up; you rebelled against the command of Yahweh your God. ²⁷ You grumbled in your tents and said, "Because Yahweh hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites to be annihilated. ²⁸ Where can we go? Our brothers have made our hearts melt, saying: 'The people are larger and taller than we are; the cities are large, with walls up to the heavens. We even saw the descendants of the Anakim there.'"

²⁹ So I said to you: "Do not be terrified or afraid of them! ³⁰ Yahweh your God, who goes before you, will fight for you, just as you saw Him do for you in Egypt ³¹ and in the wilderness, where Yahweh your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way by which you traveled until you reached this place."

³² But in spite of all this, you did not trust Yahweh your God, ³³ who went before you on the journey, in the fire by night and in the cloud by day, to seek out a place for you to camp and to show you the road to travel.

ISRAEL'S PENALTY // NUMBERS 14:20-35

³⁴ When Yahweh heard your words, He grew angry and swore an oath, saying, ³⁵ "Not one of the men of this evil generation shall see the good land I swore to give your fathers, ³⁶ except Caleb son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give him and his descendants the land on which he has set foot, because he followed Yahweh wholeheartedly."

³⁷ Yahweh was also angry with me on your account, and He said, "Not even you shall enter the land. ³⁸ Joshua son of Nun, who stands before you, will enter it. Encourage him, for he will enable Israel to inherit the land. ³⁹ And the little ones you said would become captives—your children who on that day did not know good from evil—will enter the land that I will give them, and they will possess it. ⁴⁰ But you are to turn back and head for the wilderness along the route to the Red Sea."

THE DEFEAT AT HORMAH // NUMBERS 14:40-45

⁴¹ "We have sinned against Yahweh," you replied. "We will go up and fight, as Yahweh our God has commanded us." Then each of you put on his weapons of war, thinking it easy to go up into the hill country.

⁴² But Yahweh said to me, "Tell them not to go up and fight, for I am not with you to keep you from defeat by your enemies."

⁴³ So I spoke to you, but you would not listen. You rebelled against the command of Yahweh and presumptuously went up into the hill country.

⁴⁴ Then the Amorites who lived in the hills came out against you and chased you like a swarm of bees. They routed you from Seir all the way to Hormah. ⁴⁵ And you returned and wept before Yahweh, but He would not listen to your voice or give ear to you.

⁴⁶ For this reason you stayed in Kadesh for a long time—a very long time.

2

CHAPTER 2 IN 30 SECONDS

Moses retells the long walk around Edom, Moab and Ammon. God says to leave those nations alone, because He gave them their land too. Then Sihon, king of Heshbon, refuses to let Israel pass, and God hands his whole kingdom to Israel. The trip finally starts going somewhere.

WANDERINGS IN THE WILDERNESS

¹ Then we turned back and headed for the wilderness by way of the Red Sea, as Yahweh had instructed me, and for many days we wandered around Mount Seir.

DT 1:28 [DEMONIC] The people are taller than we are, and we saw the Anakim

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² At this time Yahweh said to me, ³ "You have been wandering around this hill country long enough; turn to the north ⁴ and command the people: 'You will pass through the territory of your brothers, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. They will be afraid of you, so you must be very careful. ⁵ Do not provoke them, for I will not give you any of their land, not even a footprint, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as his possession. ⁶ You are to pay them in silver for the food you eat and the water you drink.'"

⁷ Indeed, Yahweh your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast wilderness. Yahweh your God has been with you these forty years, and you have lacked nothing.

⁸ So we passed by our brothers, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. We turned away from the Arabah road, which comes up from Elath and Ezion-geber, and traveled along the road of the Wilderness of Moab. ⁹ Then Yahweh said to me, "Do not harass the Moabites or provoke them to war, for I will not give you any of their land, because I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as their possession."

¹⁰ (The Emmites used to live there, a people great and many, as tall as the Anakites. ¹¹ Like the Anakites, they were also regarded as Rephaim, though the Moabites called them Emmites. ¹² The Horites used to live in Seir, but the descendants of Esau drove them out. They destroyed the Horites from before them and settled in their place, just as Israel did in the land that Yahweh gave them as their possession.)

¹³ "Now arise and cross over the Brook of Zered."

So we crossed over the Brook of Zered.

¹⁴ The time we spent traveling from Kadesh-barnea until we crossed over the Brook of Zered was thirty-eight years, until that entire generation of fighting men had perished from the camp, as Yahweh had sworn to them. ¹⁵ Indeed, Yahweh's

hand was against them, to eliminate them from the camp, until they had all perished.

¹⁶ Now when all the fighting men among the people had died, ¹⁷ Yahweh said to me, ¹⁸ "Today you are going to cross the border of Moab at Ar. ¹⁹ But when you get close to the Ammonites, do not harass them or provoke them, for I will not give you any of the land of the Ammonites. I have given it to the descendants of Lot as their possession."

²⁰ (That too was regarded as the land of the Rephaim, who used to live there, though the Ammonites called them Zamzummites. ²¹ They were a people great and many, as tall as the Anakites. But Yahweh destroyed them from before the Ammonites, who drove them out and settled in their place, ²² just as He had done for the descendants of Esau who lived in Seir, when He destroyed the Horites from before them. They drove them out and have lived in their place to this day. ²³ And the Avvim, who lived in villages as far as Gaza, were destroyed by the Caphtorites, who came out of Caphtor and settled in their place.)

THE DEFEAT OF SIHON // NUMBERS 21:21-30

²⁴ "Arise, set out, and cross the Arnon Valley. See, I have delivered into your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land. Begin to take possession of it and engage him in battle. ²⁵ This very day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you upon all the nations under heaven. They will hear the reports of you and tremble in anguish because of you."

²⁶ So from the Wilderness of Kedemoth I sent messengers with an offer of peace to Sihon king of Heshbon, saying, ²⁷ "Let us pass through your land; we will stay on the main road. We will not turn to the right or to the left. ²⁸ You can sell us food to eat and water to drink in exchange for silver. Only let us pass through on foot, ²⁹ just as the descendants of Esau who live in Seir and the Moabites who live in Ar did for us,

DT 2:10 [DEMONIC] Emim, Zamzumim, Rephaim — giant races destroyed by other nations

DT 2:20 [DEMONIC] Emim, Zamzumim, Rephaim — giant races destroyed by other nations

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until we cross the Jordan into the land that Yahweh our God is giving us.”

³⁰ But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass through, for Yahweh your God had made his spirit stubborn and his heart obstinate, that He might deliver him into your hand, as is the case this day.

³¹ Then Yahweh said to me, “**See, I have begun to deliver Sihon and his land over to you. Now begin to conquer and possess his land.**”

³² So Sihon and his whole army came out for battle against us at Jahaz. ³³ And Yahweh our God delivered him over to us, and we defeated him and his sons and his whole army.

³⁴ At that time we captured all his cities and devoted to destruction the people of every city, including women and children. We left no survivors. ³⁵ We carried off for ourselves only the livestock and the plunder from the cities we captured.

³⁶ From Aroer on the rim of the Arnon Valley, along with the city in the valley, even as far as Gilead, not one city had walls too high for us. Yahweh our God gave us all of them. ³⁷ But you did not go near the land of the Ammonites, or the land along the banks of the Jabbok River, or the cities of the hill country, or any place that Yahweh our God had forbidden.

3

CHAPTER 3 IN 30 SECONDS

Og, king of Bashan, comes out to fight and loses too. His iron bed was 13½ feet long, and it was still kept in Rabbah. Moses gives the land east of the Jordan to Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh.

Then he begs God to let him cross over, and God says, That is enough. Do not bring it up again.

THE DEFEAT OF OG // NUMBERS 21:31–35

¹ Then we turned and went up the road to Bashan, and Og king of Bashan and his whole army came out to meet us in battle at Edrei. ² But Yahweh said to me, “**Do not fear him, for I have delivered him into your hand, along with all his people and his land. Do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon.**”

³ So Yahweh our God also delivered Og king of Bashan and his whole army into our hands. We struck them down until no survivor was left.

⁴ At that time we captured all sixty of his cities. There was not a single city we failed to take—the entire region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan. ⁵ All these cities were fortified with high walls and gates and bars, and there were many more unwallled villages. ⁶ We devoted them to destruction, as we had done to Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women, and children of every city.

⁷ But all the livestock and plunder of the cities we carried off for ourselves.

⁸ At that time we took from the two kings of the Amorites the land across the Jordan, from the Arnon Valley as far as Mount Hermon— ⁹ which the Sidonians call Sirion but the Amorites call Senir— ¹⁰ all the cities of the plateau, all of Gilead, and all of Bashan as far as the cities of Salecah and Edrei in the kingdom of Og.

¹¹ (For only Og king of Bashan had remained of the remnant of the Rephaim. His bed of iron, 13½ feet long and 6 feet wide, is still in Rabbah of the Ammonites.)

LAND DIVISION EAST OF THE JORDAN // NUMBERS 32:1–42; JOSHUA 13:8–14

¹² So at that time we took possession of this land. To the Reubenites and Gadites I gave the land beyond Aroer along the Arnon Valley, and half the hill country of Gilead, along with its cities.

¹³ To the half-tribe of Manasseh I gave the rest of Gilead and all of Bashan, the kingdom of Og. (The entire region of Argob, the whole territory of Bashan, used to be called the land of the Rephaim.) ¹⁴ Jair, a descendant of Manasseh, took the whole region of Argob as far as the border of the Geshurites and Maacathites. He renamed

■ DT 3:11 [DEMONIC] Og king of Bashan had an iron bed 13½ feet long and 6 feet wide

■ DT 3:11 [NOTE] Some think Og's iron bed was really a coffin made of black basalt, an iron colored stone. Hundreds of ancient stone tombs called dolmens still stand in the old land of Bashan.

■ DT 3:13 [DEMONIC] Bashan was called the land of the Rephaim

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING

Bashan after himself, Havvoth-jair, by which it is called to this day.

¹⁵ To Machir I gave Gilead, ¹⁶ and to the Reubenites and Gadites I gave the territory from Gilead to the Arnon Valley (the middle of the valley was the border) and up to the Jabbok River, the border of the Ammonites. ¹⁷ The Jordan River in the Arabah bordered it from Chinnereth to the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea) with the slopes of Pisgah to the east.

¹⁸ At that time I commanded you: "Yahweh your God has given you this land to possess. All your men of valor are to cross over, armed for battle, ahead of your brothers, the Israelites. ¹⁹ But your wives, your children, and your livestock—I know that you have much livestock—may remain in the cities I have given you, ²⁰ until Yahweh gives rest to your brothers as He has to you, and they too have taken possession of the land that Yahweh your God is giving them across the Jordan. Then each of you may return to the possession I have given you."

²¹ And at that time I commanded Joshua: "Your own eyes have seen all that Yahweh your God has done to these two kings. Yahweh will do the same to all the kingdoms you are about to enter. ²² Do not be afraid of them, for Yahweh your God Himself will fight for you."

MOSES FORBIDDEN TO CROSS THE JORDAN //
NUMBERS 27:12-17

²³ At that time I also pleaded with Yahweh: ²⁴ "O Lord Yahweh, You have begun to show Your greatness and power to Your servant. For what god in heaven or on earth can perform such works and mighty acts as Yours? ²⁵ Please let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan—that pleasant hill country as well as Lebanon!"

²⁶ But Yahweh was angry with me on account of you, and He would not listen to me. "That is enough," Yahweh said to me. "Do not speak to Me again about this matter. ²⁷ Go to the top of Pisgah and look to the west and north and south and east. See the land with your own eyes, for you

will not cross this Jordan. ²⁸ But commission Joshua, encourage him, and strengthen him, for he will cross over ahead of the people and enable them to inherit the land that you will see."

²⁹ So we stayed in the valley opposite Beth-peor.

4

CHAPTER 4 IN 30 SECONDS

Moses pleads with Israel to obey. God spoke from the fire at Horeb, but they saw no shape, so do not make any idol of Him. If they do, God will scatter them, but if they seek Him with all their heart, they will find Him. No other nation has a God this near.

AN EXHORTATION TO OBEDIENCE // DEUTERONOMY 11:1-7

¹ Hear now, O Israel, the statutes and ordinances I am teaching you to follow, so that you may live and may enter and take possession of the land that Yahweh, the God of your fathers, is giving you. ² You must not add to or subtract from what I command you, so that you may keep the commandments of Yahweh your God that I am giving you.

³ Your eyes have seen what Yahweh did at Baal-peor, for Yahweh your God destroyed from among you all who followed Baal of Peor. ⁴ But you who held fast to Yahweh your God are alive to this day, every one of you.

⁵ See, I have taught you statutes and ordinances just as Yahweh my God has commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land that you are about to enter and possess. ⁶ Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding in the sight of the peoples, who will hear of all these statutes and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people."

⁷ For what nation is great enough to have a god as near to them as Yahweh our God is to us whenever we call on Him? ⁸ And

■ **DT 3:27 [PROPHECY]** Moses would see the land but not cross over. Joshua would lead the people in → DT 34:4-5; JOSH 1:1-2 p.~

■ **DT 4:3 [DEMONIC]** God destroyed all who followed Baal of Peor

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

THE HEART

DEMONIC

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW GOD SPEAKING

what nation is great enough to have righteous statutes and ordinances like this entire law I set before you today?

⁹ Only be on your guard and diligently watch yourselves, so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen, and so that they do not slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and grandchildren. ¹⁰ The day you stood before Yahweh your God at Horeb, Yahweh said to me, “Gather the people before Me to hear My words, so that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach them to their children.”

¹¹ You came near and stood at the base of the mountain, a mountain blazing with fire to the heavens, with black clouds and deep darkness. ¹² And Yahweh spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of the words but saw no form; there was only a voice. ¹³ He declared to you His covenant, which He commanded you to follow—the Ten Commandments that He wrote on two tablets of stone.

¹⁴ At that time Yahweh commanded me to teach you the statutes and ordinances you are to follow in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess.

A WARNING AGAINST IDOLATRY // DEUTERONOMY 12:29–32; EZEKIEL 6:1–7

¹⁵ So since you saw no form of any kind on the day Yahweh spoke to you out of the fire at Horeb, be careful ¹⁶ that you do not act corruptly and make an idol for yourselves of any form or shape, whether in the likeness of a male or female, ¹⁷ of any beast that is on the earth or bird that flies in the air, ¹⁸ or of any creature that crawls on the ground or fish that is in the waters below.

¹⁹ When you look to the heavens and see the sun and moon and stars—all the host of heaven—do not be enticed to bow down and worship what Yahweh your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven. ²⁰ Yet Yahweh has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of

Egypt, to be the people of His inheritance, as you are today.

²¹ Yahweh, however, was angry with me on account of you, and He swore that I would not cross the Jordan to enter the good land that Yahweh your God is giving you as an inheritance. ²² For I will not be crossing the Jordan, because I must die in this land. But you shall cross over and take possession of that good land.

²³ Be careful that you do not forget the covenant of Yahweh your God that He made with you; do not make an idol for yourselves in the form of anything He has forbidden you. ²⁴ For Yahweh your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

²⁵ After you have children and grandchildren and you have been in the land a long time, if you then act corruptly and make an idol of any form—doing evil in the sight of Yahweh your God and provoking Him to anger—²⁶ I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you this day that you will quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess. You will not live long upon it, but will be utterly destroyed.

²⁷ Then Yahweh will scatter you among the peoples, and only a few of you will survive among the nations to which Yahweh will drive you. ²⁸ And there you will serve man-made gods of wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or eat or smell.

²⁹ But if from there you will seek Yahweh your God, you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. ³⁰ When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to Yahweh your God and listen to His voice. ³¹ For Yahweh your God is a merciful God; He will not abandon you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers, which He swore to them by oath.

■ DT 4:23 [DEMONIC] Making idols will bring exile to gods of wood and stone

■ DT 4:24 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → HEB 12:29 p. 6

■ DT 4:25 [PROPHECY] Israel's eventual idolatry would lead to exile and scattering → 2KI 17:6; 2KI 17:18–23; 2KI 25:11; 2KI 25:21 p. 6

■ DT 4:29 [HEART] If you seek God with all your heart and soul, you will find Him.

■ DT 4:15 [DEMONIC] Do not make any idol or worship the sun, moon, and stars

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW GOD SPEAKING

YAHWEH ALONE IS GOD

³² Indeed, ask now from one end of the heavens to the other about the days that long preceded you, from the day that God created man on earth: Has anything as great as this ever happened or been reported? ³³ Has a people ever heard the voice of God speaking out of the fire, as you have, and lived? ³⁴ Or has any god tried to take as his own a nation out of another nation—by trials, signs, wonders, and war, by a strong hand and an outstretched arm, and by great terrors—as Yahweh your God did for you in Egypt, before your eyes?

³⁵ *You were shown these things so that you would know that Yahweh is God; there is no other besides Him.*

³⁶ He let you hear His voice from heaven to discipline you, and on earth He showed you His great fire, and you heard His words out of the fire. ³⁷ Because He loved your fathers, He chose their descendants after them and brought you out of Egypt by His presence and great power, ³⁸ to drive out before you nations greater and mightier than you, and to bring you into their land and give it to you for your inheritance, as it is this day.

³⁹ Know therefore this day and take to heart that Yahweh is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.

⁴⁰ Keep His statutes and commandments, which I am giving you today, so that you and your children after you may prosper, and that you may live long in the land that Yahweh your God is giving you for all time.

CITIES OF REFUGE // NUMBERS 35:9–34;
DEUTERONOMY 19:1–14; JOSHUA 20:1–9

⁴¹ Then Moses set aside three cities across the Jordan to the east ⁴² to which a manslayer could flee after killing his neighbor unintentionally without prior malice.

To save one's own life, he could flee to one of these cities: ⁴³ Bezer in the wilderness on the plateau belonging to the

Reubenites, Ramoth in Gilead belonging to the Gadites, or Golan in Bashan belonging to the Manassites.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LAW

⁴⁴ This is the law that Moses set before the Israelites. ⁴⁵ These are the testimonies, statutes, and ordinances that Moses proclaimed to them after they had come out of Egypt, ⁴⁶ while they were in the valley across the Jordan facing Beth-peor in the land of Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon and was defeated by Moses and the Israelites after they had come out of Egypt.

⁴⁷ They took possession of the land belonging to Sihon and to Og king of Bashan—the two Amorite kings across the Jordan to the east— ⁴⁸ extending from Aroer on the rim of the Arnon Valley as far as Mount Siyon (that is, Hermon), ⁴⁹ including all the Arabah on the east side of the Jordan and as far as the Sea of the Arabah, below the slopes of Pisgah.

5

CHAPTER 5 IN 30 SECONDS

Moses calls all Israel together and repeats the Ten Commandments that God spoke from the fire. The people were so scared of God's voice that they asked Moses to go near and listen for them. God said they had spoken well. If only they would always have such a heart.

THE COVENANT AT HOREB

¹ Then Moses summoned all Israel and said to them:

Hear, O Israel, the statutes and ordinances that I declare in your hearing this day. Learn them and observe them carefully. ² Yahweh our God made a covenant with us at Horeb.

³ He did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with all of us who are alive here today. ⁴ Yahweh spoke with you face to face out of the fire on the mountain.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

// EXODUS 20:1–17

⁵ At that time I was standing between Yahweh and you to declare to you the word of Yahweh, because you were afraid of the fire and would not go up the mountain. And He said: ⁶ **"I am Yahweh your God,**

DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW GOD SPEAKING

who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

⁷ You shall have no other gods before Me.

⁸ You shall not make for yourself an idol in

the form of anything in the heavens

above, on the earth below, or in the

waters beneath. ⁹ You shall not bow

down to them or worship them; for I,

Yahweh your God, am a jealous God,

visiting the iniquity of the fathers on

their children to the third and fourth

generations of those who hate Me, ¹⁰

but showing loving devotion to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

¹¹ You shall not take the name of Yahweh your God in vain, for Yahweh will not leave anyone unpunished who takes His name in vain.

¹² Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as Yahweh your God has commanded you. ¹³ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁴ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to Yahweh your God, on which you must not do any work—neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your ox or donkey or any of your livestock, nor the foreigner within your gates, so that your manservant and maidservant may rest as you do. ¹⁵ Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and that Yahweh your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. That is why Yahweh your God has commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

¹⁶ *Honor your father and your mother, as Yahweh your God has commanded you, so that your days may be long and that it may go well with you in the land that Yahweh your God is giving you.*

¹⁷ *You shall not murder.*

¹⁸ *You shall not commit adultery.*

¹⁹ *You shall not steal.*

²⁰ *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*

²¹ *You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. You shall not covet your neighbor's house or field, or his manservant or maidservant, or his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."*

MOSES INTERCEDES FOR THE PEOPLE // EXODUS 20:18-21; HEBREWS 12:18-29

²² Yahweh spoke these commandments in a loud voice to your whole assembly out of the fire, the cloud, and the deep darkness on the mountain; He added nothing more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.

²³ And when you heard the voice out of the darkness while the mountain was blazing with fire, all the heads of your tribes and your elders approached me, ²⁴ and you said, "Behold, Yahweh our God has shown us His glory and greatness, and we have heard His voice out of the fire. Today we have seen that a man can live even if God speaks with him. ²⁵ But now, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us, and we will die, if we hear the voice of Yahweh our God any longer. ²⁶ For who of all flesh has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the fire, as we have, and survived? ²⁷ Go near and listen to all that Yahweh our God says. Then you can tell us everything Yahweh our God tells you; we will listen and obey."

²⁸ And Yahweh heard the words you spoke to me, and He said to me, "I have heard the words that these people have spoken to you. They have done well in all that they have spoken. ²⁹ If only they had such a heart to fear Me and keep all My commandments always, so that it might be

■ **DT 5:6 [NOTE]** THE TEN COMMANDMENTS AGAIN. They match Exodus 20 almost word for word. Two changes stand out: here the Sabbath remembers slavery in Egypt, 5:15, not creation, and the wife comes before the house in the last command, 5:21.

■ **DT 5:6 [FIELD NOTES]** A copy of the Ten Commandments from about 150 to 100 BC. See the Nash Papyrus Field Notes page.

■ **DT 5:7 [DEMONIC]** No other gods and no idols

■ **DT 5:9 [DEMONIC]** The command against idols warns of iniquity to the third and fourth generation

■ **DT 5:16 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → EPH 6:2-3 p.-

■ **DT 5:17 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → MT 5:21 p.-

■ **DT 5:17 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → JAS 2:11 p.-

■ **DT 5:18 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → MT 5:27 p.-

■ **DT 5:21 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → ROM 7:7 p.-

DEBATED FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH FOR THE FIND, DEBATED FOR THE EXACT DATE

THE NASH PAPYRUS

DEUTERONOMY 5:6 TO 21 · 6:4 TO 5 · EXODUS 20:2 TO 17



The Nash Papyrus, MS Or.233, Cambridge University Library. Public domain.

WHAT IT IS

A single sheet of papyrus, put together from a few pieces, with 24 lines of Hebrew. It holds the Ten Commandments, a short line of introduction, and the start of the Shema, Deuteronomy 6:4 to 5.

HOW OLD IT IS

Most experts date it to about 150 to 100 BC, by the shape of its letters. That makes it about a hundred years older than Jesus.

HOW BIG

About 5½ inches tall and 2½ inches wide.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

W. L. Nash, secretary of the Society of Biblical Archaeology, bought it from a dealer in Egypt in 1902. It was said to come from the Fayyum. Stanley Cook published it in 1903.

WHAT IT SAYS

The Ten Commandments here mix Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. The Sabbath command gives the reason from Exodus, creation. The order is do not commit adultery, then do not murder, then do not steal, the same order as some copies of the Greek Bible, Luke 18:20 and Romans 13:9.

WHY TOGETHER

In Jesus' day the priests in the temple said the Ten Commandments and the Shema together every morning, Mishnah Tamid 5:1. Many think this sheet was used for prayer or teaching, maybe even from a phylactery, not copied from a whole scroll.

WHERE IT IS TODAY

Cambridge University Library in England, MS Or.233.

THE BIG DEBATE

Cook first dated it to the 100s AD. In 1937 William Albright dated it to the 100s BC, and the Dead Sea Scrolls later backed that up. Scholars still argue over whether it is a Bible text or a prayer sheet.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

It does not prove who wrote Deuteronomy or when. It shows the Ten Commandments and the Shema were already being read together before Jesus was born.

well with them and with their children forever. ³⁰ Go and tell them: 'Return to your tents.' ³¹ But you stand here with Me, that I may speak to you all the commandments and statutes and ordinances you are to

teach them to follow in the land that I am giving them to possess."

³² So be careful to do as Yahweh your God has commanded you; you are not to turn aside to the right or to the left. ³³ You must walk in all the ways that Yahweh your God

THE HEART DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

NOTABLE

has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.

6

CHAPTER 6 IN 30 SECONDS

Hear, O Israel: Yahweh our God, Yahweh is One. Love Him with all your heart, soul and strength. Talk about His words at home, on the road, at bedtime and at breakfast. When you get rich in the land, do not forget who got you there. And when your kids ask why, tell them the story.

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT // MATTHEW 22:34-40; MARK 12:28-34

¹These are the commandments and statutes and ordinances that Yahweh your God has instructed me to teach you to follow in the land that you are about to enter and possess, ²so that you and your children and grandchildren may fear Yahweh your God all the days of your lives by keeping all His statutes and commandments that I give you, and so that your days may be prolonged. ³Hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe them, so that you may prosper and multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as Yahweh, the God of your fathers, has promised you.

⁴*Hear, O Israel: Yahweh our God, Yahweh is One.* ⁵*And you shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*

⁶These words I am commanding you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷And you shall teach them diligently to your children and speak of them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when

you lie down and when you get up. ⁸Tie them as reminders on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates.

¹⁰And when Yahweh your God brings you into the land He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that He would give you—a land with great and splendid cities that you did not build, ¹¹with houses full of every good thing with which you did not fill them, with wells that you did not dig, and with vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant—and when you eat and are satisfied, ¹²be careful not to forget Yahweh who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

¹³*Fear Yahweh your God, serve Him only, and take your oaths in His name.* ¹⁴Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you. ¹⁵For Yahweh your God, who is among you, is a jealous God. Otherwise the anger of Yahweh your God will be kindled against you, and He will wipe you off the face of the earth.

¹⁶*Do not test Yahweh your God as you tested Him at Massah.* ¹⁷You are to diligently keep the commandments of Yahweh your God and the testimonies and statutes He has given you. ¹⁸Do what is right and good in the sight of Yahweh, so that it may be well with you and that you may enter and possess the good land that Yahweh your God swore to give your fathers, ¹⁹driving out all your enemies before you, as Yahweh has said.

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN

²⁰In the future, when your son asks, "What is the meaning of the decrees and

■ **DT 6:4 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → MK 12:29-30 p.-

■ **DT 6:4 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → MK 12:32 p.-

■ **DT 6:4 [NOTABLE]** The Shema, named for its first Hebrew word, hear. Jews still pray it every morning and evening, and Jesus called the next verse the greatest commandment, Mark 12:29 to 30.

■ **DT 6:4 [NOTE]** THE SHEMA. Shema is Hebrew for hear. One is echad, the same word used when a man and wife become one flesh, Genesis 2:24.

■ **DT 6:5 [HEART]** Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength.

■ **DT 6:5 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → MT 22:37 p.-

■ **DT 6:5 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → MK 12:33 p.-

■ **DT 6:5 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → LK 10:27 p.-

■ **DT 6:6 [HEART]** These words are to be on your heart.

■ **DT 6:8 [NOTE]** Many Jews still tie small leather boxes called tefillin, with these verses inside, on the arm and forehead, and put a mezuzah on the doorpost, 6:9. Jesus mentions them in Matthew 23:5, and tefillin were found at Qumran.

■ **DT 6:13 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → MT 4:10 p.-

■ **DT 6:13 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → LK 4:8 p.-

■ **DT 6:14 [DEMONIC]** Do not follow the gods of the peoples around you

■ **DT 6:16 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → MT 4:7 p.-

■ **DT 6:16 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → LK 4:12 p.-

DEMONIC

statutes and ordinances that Yahweh our God has commanded you?" ²¹then you are to tell him, "We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but Yahweh brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. ²²Before our eyes Yahweh inflicted great and devastating signs and wonders on Egypt, on Pharaoh, and on all his household. ²³But He brought us out from there to lead us in and give us the land that He had sworn to our fathers.

²⁴And Yahweh commanded us to observe all these statutes and to fear Yahweh our God, that we may always be prosperous and preserved, as we are to this day. ²⁵And if we are careful to observe every one of these commandments before Yahweh our God, as He has commanded us, then that will be our righteousness."

7

CHAPTER 7 IN 30 SECONDS

Israel is to destroy the nations of Canaan and their idols and not marry into them. Why did God choose Israel? Not because they were big. They were the fewest of all peoples. He chose them because He loved them and kept His promise. God will drive the nations out little by little.

DRIVE OUT THE NATIONS

¹When Yahweh your God brings you into the land that you are entering to possess, and He drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you— ²and when Yahweh your God has delivered them over to you to defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction. Make no treaty with them and show them no mercy.

³Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, ⁴because they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods. Then the anger of Yahweh will burn against you, and He will swiftly destroy you.

■ **DT 7:2 [NOTE] HOLY WAR.** This is one of the hardest commands in the Bible. See the Big Question pages Holy War and the Canaanites.

⁵Instead, this is what you are to do to them: tear down their altars, smash their sacred pillars, cut down their Asherah poles, and burn their idols in the fire. ⁶For you are a people holy to Yahweh your God. Yahweh your God has chosen you to be a people for His prized possession out of all peoples on the face of the earth.

⁷Yahweh did not set His affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than the other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. ⁸But because Yahweh loved you and kept the oath He swore to your fathers, He brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

⁹Know therefore that Yahweh your God is God, the faithful God who keeps His covenant of loving devotion for a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments. ¹⁰But those who hate Him He repays to their faces with destruction; He will not hesitate to repay to his face the one who hates Him.

¹¹So keep the commandments and statutes and ordinances that I am giving you to follow this day.

THE PROMISES OF GOD // EXODUS 23:20-33

¹²If you listen to these ordinances and keep them carefully, then Yahweh your God will keep His covenant and the loving devotion that He swore to your fathers. ¹³He will love you and bless you and multiply you. He will bless the fruit of your womb and the produce of your land—your grain, new wine, and oil, the young of your herds and the lambs of your flocks—in the land that He swore to your fathers to give you. ¹⁴You will be blessed above all peoples; among you there will be no barren man or woman or livestock.

¹⁵And Yahweh will remove from you all sickness. He will not lay upon you any of the terrible diseases you knew in Egypt, but He will inflict them on all who hate you. ¹⁶You must destroy all the peoples Yahweh your God will deliver to you. Do

■ **DT 7:4 [DEMONIC]** Tear down their altars and burn their idols

DEMONIC

not look on them with pity. Do not worship their gods, for that will be a snare to you.

¹⁷ You may say in your heart, "These nations are greater than we are; how can we drive them out?" ¹⁸ But do not be afraid of them. Be sure to remember what Yahweh your God did to Pharaoh and all Egypt: ¹⁹ the great trials that you saw, the signs and wonders, and the mighty hand and outstretched arm by which Yahweh your God brought you out. Yahweh your God will do the same to all the peoples you now fear.

²⁰ Moreover, Yahweh your God will send the hornet against them until even the survivors hiding from you have perished.

²¹ Do not be terrified by them, for Yahweh your God, who is among you, is a great and awesome God.

²² Yahweh your God will drive out these nations before you little by little. You will not be enabled to eliminate them all at once, or the wild animals would multiply around you. ²³ But Yahweh your God will give them over to you and throw them into great confusion, until they are destroyed.

²⁴ He will hand their kings over to you, and you will wipe out their names from under heaven. No one will be able to stand against you; you will annihilate them.

²⁵ You must burn up the images of their gods; do not covet the silver and gold that is on them or take it for yourselves, or you will be ensnared by it; for it is detestable to Yahweh your God. ²⁶ And you must not bring any detestable thing into your house, or you, like it, will be set apart for destruction. You are to utterly detest and abhor it, because it is set apart for destruction.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

HOLY WAR AND THE CANAANITES

Do Not Spare Them?

DEUTERONOMY 7:1 TO 6 · 9:4 TO 5 · 20:10 TO 18 · GENESIS 15:16

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

God told Israel to completely destroy the seven nations of Canaan, make no treaty with them, show them no mercy and not marry them, 7:1 to 3. In 20:16 to 18 the rules of war say to leave nothing that breathes alive in those cities, so they would not teach Israel their detestable practices. Cities farther away were to be offered peace first, 20:10 to 15.

THE HEBREW WORD

The word is herem. It means something set apart for God, often by destroying it so no one could take it for themselves. Other nations used the same idea. King Mesha of Moab bragged on a stone monument, about 840 BC, that he devoted a whole Israelite town to his god Chemosh.

WHY, ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

Not because Israel was better. Moses says it plainly: It is not because of your righteousness, but because of the wickedness of these nations, 9:4 to 5. God told Abraham more than four hundred years earlier that the sin of the Amorites was not yet complete, Genesis 15:16. Moses names the sins in 12:31 and 18:9 to 12: idols, sorcery and burning their children in the fire.

GOD JUDGES ISRAEL TOO

The same chapters warn that if Israel worships idols, God will destroy them the same way, 8:19 to 20. Later He sent Israel into exile for the same sins, 2 Kings 17.

■ DT 7:16 [DEMONIC] Do not worship their gods, for that will be a snare

■ DT 7:25 [DEMONIC] Burn the images of their gods and do not keep the gold

THE HEART | MIRACLES | OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

How Christians Read It

JOSHUA 2 · JOSHUA 11:23 · JUDGES 1:27 TO 36 · MATTHEW 5:44

GOD'S JUDGMENT VIEW

Many Christians, from Augustine to today, say God has the right to judge, as He did at the flood and at Sodom. He waited more than four hundred years, and Israel was His tool for a judgment that happened once, in one place, at one time. It was never a pattern for anyone after.

THE BIG LANGUAGE VIEW

Some scholars, like Paul Copan and Nicholas Wolterstorff, say ancient war reports used sweeping words, the way a fan says his team wiped out the other team. They point out that Joshua says all the land was taken, but Judges 1 says many Canaanites were still living there. Others answer that the commands still read as real commands.

DRIVE OUT, NOT ONLY DESTROY

Some point out that many verses say God would drive the nations out little by little, 7:22, and that people could leave or join Israel. Rahab the Canaanite and her family were saved, Joshua 6:25, and she is in Jesus' family line, Matthew 1:5.

THE LATER STORY VIEW

Many critical scholars say these chapters were written centuries later, in Josiah's day, as a strong warning against idols, and that the conquest did not happen this way.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

These are some of the hardest verses in the Bible, and honest readers should feel that. They are not a command for anyone today. Jesus told us to love our enemies, Matthew 5:44. See also The War on Midian pages in Numbers, p.~.

REMEMBER YAHWEH YOUR GOD

¹You must carefully follow every commandment I am giving you today, so that you may live and multiply, and enter and possess the land that Yahweh swore to give your fathers. ²Remember that these forty years Yahweh your God led you all the way in the wilderness, so that He might humble you and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep His commandments.

³He humbled you, and in your hunger He gave you manna to eat, which neither you nor your fathers had known, so that you might understand that man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of Yahweh. ⁴Your clothing did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years.

⁵So know in your heart that just as a man disciplines his son, so Yahweh your God disciplines you. ⁶Therefore you shall keep the commandments of Yahweh your God, walking in His ways and fearing Him.

⁷For Yahweh your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks and fountains and springs that flow through the valleys and hills; ⁸a land of wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of olive oil and honey; ⁹a land where you will eat food without scarcity, where you will lack nothing; a land whose rocks are iron and whose hills are ready to be mined for copper. ¹⁰When you eat and are satisfied, you are to bless Yahweh your God for the good land that He has given you.

¹¹Be careful not to forget Yahweh your God by failing to keep His commandments and ordinances and statutes, which I am giving you this day. ¹²Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses in which to dwell, ¹³and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then your heart will

■ DT 8:2 [HEART] God tested Israel in the desert to show what was really in their heart.

■ DT 8:3 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → MT 4:4 p.~

■ DT 8:3 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → LK 4:4 p.~

■ DT 8:4 [MIRACLE] Israel's clothes did not wear out for forty years

8

CHAPTER 8 IN 30 SECONDS

Remember the desert. God let you go hungry and fed you manna to teach you that man does not live on bread alone. Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell for forty years. When you are full and rich, do not say, I did this myself.

DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING

become proud, and you will forget Yahweh your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

¹⁵ He led you through the vast and terrifying wilderness with its venomous snakes and scorpions, a thirsty and waterless land. He brought you water from the rock of flint. ¹⁶ He fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers had not known, in order to humble you and test you, so that in the end He might cause you to prosper.

¹⁷ You might say in your heart, "The power and strength of my hands have made this wealth for me." ¹⁸ But remember that it is Yahweh your God who gives you the power to gain wealth, in order to confirm His covenant that He swore to your fathers even to this day.

¹⁹ If you ever forget Yahweh your God and go after other gods to worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely perish. ²⁰ Like the nations that Yahweh has destroyed before you, so you will perish if you do not obey Yahweh your God.

9

CHAPTER 9 IN 30 SECONDS

Do not think God is giving you the land because you are such good people. You are stubborn. Moses retells the golden calf, how he smashed the tablets, and how he lay face down before God for forty days and nights to beg for their lives. This is not a pep talk. It is an honest one.

ASSURANCE OF VICTORY

¹ Hear, O Israel: Today you are about to cross the Jordan to go in and dispossess nations greater and stronger than you, with large cities fortified to the heavens. ² The people are strong and tall, the descendants of the Anakim. You know about them, and you have heard it said, "Who can stand up to the sons of Anak?" ³ But understand that today Yahweh your God goes across ahead of you as a consuming

fire; He will destroy them and subdue them before you. And you will drive them out and annihilate them swiftly, as Yahweh has promised you.

⁴ When Yahweh your God has driven them out before you, do not say in your heart, "Because of my righteousness Yahweh has brought me in to possess this land." Rather, Yahweh is driving out these nations before you because of their wickedness.

⁵ It is not because of your righteousness or uprightness of heart that you are going in to possess their land, but it is because of their wickedness that Yahweh your God is driving out these nations before you, to keep the promise He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ⁶ Understand, then, that it is not because of your righteousness that Yahweh your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stiff-necked people.

THE GOLDEN CALF // EXODUS 32:1-35; ACTS 7:39-43

⁷ Remember this, and never forget how you provoked Yahweh your God in the wilderness. From the day you left the land of Egypt until you reached this place, you have been rebelling against Yahweh.

⁸ At Horeb you provoked Yahweh, and He was angry enough to destroy you. ⁹ When I went up on the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant that Yahweh made with you, I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I ate no bread and drank no water.

¹⁰ Then Yahweh gave me the two stone tablets, inscribed by the finger of God with the exact words that Yahweh spoke to you out of the fire on the mountain on the day of the assembly. ¹¹ And at the end of forty days and forty nights, Yahweh gave me the two stone tablets, the tablets of the covenant. ¹² And Yahweh said to me, "Get up and go down from here at once, for your people, whom you brought out of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. How quickly they have turned aside from the way that I commanded them! They

■ DT 8:14 [HEART] When you are full and rich, do not let your heart become proud and forget God.

■ DT 8:19 [DEMONIC] Going after other gods means you will surely perish

■ DT 9:1 [DEMONIC] Who can stand against the sons of Anak? God goes before you

DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW GOD SPEAKING

have made for themselves a molten image."

¹³ Yahweh also said to me, "I have seen this people, and they are indeed a stiff-necked people." ¹⁴ Leave Me alone, so that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven. Then I will make you into a nation mightier and greater than they are."

¹⁵ So I went back down the mountain while it was blazing with fire, with the two tablets of the covenant in my hands. ¹⁶ And I saw how you had sinned against Yahweh your God; you had made for yourselves a molten calf. You had turned aside quickly from the way that Yahweh had commanded you. ¹⁷ So I took the two tablets and threw them out of my hands, shattering them before your eyes.

¹⁸ Then I fell down before Yahweh for forty days and forty nights, as I had done the first time. I did not eat bread or drink water because of all the sin you had committed in doing what was evil in the sight of Yahweh and provoking Him to anger. ¹⁹ For I was afraid of the anger and wrath that Yahweh had directed against you, enough to destroy you. But Yahweh listened to me this time as well.

²⁰ Yahweh was angry enough with Aaron to destroy him, but at that time I also prayed for Aaron. ²¹ And I took that sinful thing, the calf you had made, and burned it in the fire. Then I crushed it and ground it to powder as fine as dust, and I cast it into the stream that came down from the mountain.

²² You continued to provoke Yahweh at Taberah, at Massah, and at Kibroth-hat-taavah. ²³ And when Yahweh sent you out from Kadesh-barnea, He said, "Go up and possess the land that I have given you." But you rebelled against the command of Yahweh your God. You neither believed Him nor obeyed Him. ²⁴ You have been rebelling against Yahweh since the day I came to know you. ²⁵ So I fell down before

Yahweh for forty days and forty nights, because Yahweh had said He would destroy you.

²⁶ And I prayed to Yahweh and said, "O Lord Yahweh, do not destroy Your people, Your inheritance, whom You redeemed through Your greatness and brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand. ²⁷ Remember Your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Overlook the stubbornness of this people and the wickedness of their sin. ²⁸ Otherwise, those in the land from which You brought us out will say, 'Because Yahweh was not able to bring them into the land He had promised them, and because He hated them, He has brought them out to kill them in the wilderness.' ²⁹ But they are Your people, Your inheritance, whom You brought out by Your great power and outstretched arm."

10

CHAPTER 10 IN 30 SECONDS

God tells Moses to cut two new tablets, and He writes the Ten Commandments again. They go in the ark. Then Moses asks, What does God want? To fear Him, walk in His ways, love Him and serve Him with all your heart. Circumcise your hearts. Love the foreigner, because you were foreigners in Egypt.

NEW STONE TABLETS // EXODUS 34:1-9

¹ At that time Yahweh said to me, "Chisel out two stone tablets like the originals, come up to Me on the mountain, and make an ark of wood. ² And I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke; and you are to place them in the ark."

³ So I made an ark of acacia wood, chiseled out two stone tablets like the originals, and went up the mountain with the two tablets in my hands. ⁴ And Yahweh wrote on the tablets what had been written previously, the Ten Commandments that He had spoken to you on the mountain out of the fire on the day of the assembly. Yahweh gave them to me, ⁵ and I went back down the mountain and placed the tablets in the ark I had made, as Yah-

■ DT 9:12 [DEMONIC] Moses retells the sin of the golden calf

■ DT 9:19 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → HEB 12:21 p.~

THE HEART GOD SPEAKING

weh had commanded me; and there they have remained.

⁶ The Israelites traveled from Beeroth Bene-jaakan to Moserah, where Aaron died and was buried, and Eleazar his son succeeded him as priest. ⁷ From there they traveled to Gudgodah, and from Gudgodah to Jotbathah, a land with streams of water.

⁸ At that time Yahweh set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of Yahweh, to stand before Yahweh to serve Him, and to pronounce blessings in His name, as they do to this day. ⁹ That is why Levi has no portion or inheritance among his brothers; Yahweh is his inheritance, as Yahweh your God promised him.

¹⁰ I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights, like the first time, and that time Yahweh again listened to me and agreed not to destroy you.

¹¹ Then Yahweh said to me, **"Get up. Continue your journey ahead of the people, that they may enter and possess the land that I swore to their fathers to give them."**

A CALL TO OBEDIENCE // JOSHUA 24:14–28

¹² And now, O Israel, what does Yahweh your God ask of you but to fear Yahweh your God by walking in all His ways, to love Him, to serve Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ and to keep the commandments and statutes of Yahweh that I am giving you this day for your own good?

¹⁴ Behold, to Yahweh your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, and the earth and everything in it. ¹⁵ Yet Yahweh has set His affection on your fathers and loved them. And He has chosen you, their descendants after them, above all the peoples, even to this day.

¹⁶ Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and stiffen your necks no more. ¹⁷ For Yahweh your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, mighty, and awesome God, showing no partiality and accepting no bribe. ¹⁸ He executes justice for the fa-

therless and widow, and He loves the foreigner, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹ So you also must love the foreigner, since you yourselves were foreigners in the land of Egypt.

²⁰ You are to fear Yahweh your God and serve Him. Hold fast to Him and take your oaths in His name. ²¹ He is your praise and He is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome wonders that your eyes have seen. ²² Your fathers went down to Egypt, seventy in all, and now Yahweh your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky.

11

CHAPTER 11 IN 30 SECONDS

Love God and keep His commands, and He will send the rain in its season. Teach these words to your kids and write them on your doorposts. Today you have a choice: a blessing on Mount Gerizim or a curse on Mount Ebal. Choose wisely. There will be a test.

OBEDIENCE AND DISCIPLINE // DEUTERONOMY 4:1–14

¹ You shall therefore love Yahweh your God and always keep His charge, His statutes, His ordinances, and His commandments.

² Know this day that it is not your children who have known and seen the discipline of Yahweh your God: His greatness, His mighty hand, and His outstretched arm; ³ the signs and works He did in Egypt to Pharaoh king of Egypt and all his land; ⁴ what He did to the Egyptian army and horses and chariots when He made the waters of the Red Sea engulf them as they pursued you, and how He destroyed them completely, even to this day; ⁵ what He did for you in the wilderness until you reached this place; ⁶ and what He did in the midst of all the Israelites to Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab the Reubenite, when the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them, their households, their tents, and every living thing that belonged to them.

⁷ For it is your own eyes that have seen every great work that Yahweh has done.

DT 10:16 [HEART] God tells Israel to cut away what covers their hearts and stop being stubborn. The heart, not just the body, has to belong to God.

THE HEART DEMONIC

GOD'S GREAT BLESSINGS // JOSHUA 1:1–9

⁸ You shall therefore keep every commandment I am giving you today, so that you may have the strength to go in and possess the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ⁹ and so that you may live long in the land that Yahweh swore to your fathers to give them and their descendants, a land flowing with milk and honey.

¹⁰ For the land that you are entering to possess is not like the land of Egypt, from which you have come, where you sowed your seed and irrigated on foot, like a vegetable garden. ¹¹ But the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks in the rain from heaven. ¹² It is a land for which Yahweh your God cares; the eyes of Yahweh your God are always on it, from the beginning to the end of the year.

¹³ So if you carefully obey the commandments I am giving you today, to love Yahweh your God and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹⁴ then I will provide rain for your land in season, the autumn and spring rains, that you may gather your grain, new wine, and oil. ¹⁵ And I will provide grass in the fields for your livestock, and you will eat and be satisfied.

¹⁶ But be careful that you are not enticed to turn aside to worship and bow down to other gods, ¹⁷ or the anger of Yahweh will be kindled against you. He will shut the heavens so that there will be no rain, nor will the land yield its produce, and you will soon perish from the good land that Yahweh is giving you.

REMEMBER GOD'S WORDS

¹⁸ Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as reminders on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

¹⁹ Teach them to your children, speaking

about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ²⁰ Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates, ²¹ so that as long as the heavens are above the earth, your days and those of your children may be multiplied in the land that Yahweh swore to give your fathers.

²² For if you carefully keep all these commandments I am giving you to follow—to love Yahweh your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him—²³ then Yahweh will drive out all these nations before you, and you will dispossess nations greater and stronger than you. ²⁴ Every place where the sole of your foot treads will be yours. Your territory will extend from the wilderness to Lebanon, and from the Euphrates River to the Western Sea. ²⁵ No man will be able to stand against you; Yahweh your God will put the fear and dread of you upon all the land, wherever you set foot, as He has promised you.

A BLESSING AND A CURSE

²⁶ See, today I am setting before you a blessing and a curse—²⁷ a blessing if you obey the commandments of Yahweh your God that I am giving you today, ²⁸ but a curse if you disobey the commandments of Yahweh your God and turn aside from the path I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.

²⁹ When Yahweh your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess, you are to proclaim the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal. ³⁰ Are not these mountains across the Jordan, west of the road toward the sunset, in the land of the Canaanites who live in the Arabah opposite Gilgal near the Oak of Moreh?

³¹ For you are about to cross the Jordan to enter and possess the land that Yahweh your God is giving you. When you take possession of it and settle in it, ³² be care-

■ DT 11:14 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → JAS 5:7 D.

■ DT 11:16 [HEART] Be careful or your heart will be deceived and you will turn to other gods.

■ DT 11:16 [DEMONIC] Do not be enticed to worship other gods.

■ DT 11:18 [HEART] Fix these words in your hearts and minds.

■ DT 11:26 [DEMONIC] God sets before Israel a blessing and a curse

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE DEMONIC

ful to follow all the statutes and ordinances that I am setting before you today.

12

CHAPTER 12 IN 30 SECONDS

In the land, tear down every pagan shrine. Do not worship God however you want. Bring your offerings to the one place He will choose. You can eat meat at home, just not the blood. And never copy the nations, who even burned their own children for their gods.

ONE PLACE FOR WORSHIP

¹ These are the statutes and ordinances you must be careful to follow all the days you live in the land that Yahweh, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess.

² Destroy completely all the places where the nations you are dispossessing have served their gods—atop the high mountains, on the hills, and under every green tree. ³ Tear down their altars, smash their sacred pillars, burn up their Asherah poles, cut down the idols of their gods, and wipe out their names from every place. ⁴ You shall not worship Yahweh your God in this way.

⁵ Instead, you must seek the place Yahweh your God will choose from among all your tribes to establish as a dwelling for His Name, and there you must go. ⁶ To that place you are to bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and heave offerings, your vow offerings and freewill offerings, as well as the firstborn of your herds and flocks. ⁷ There, in the presence of Yahweh your God, you and your households shall eat and rejoice in all you do, because Yahweh your God has blessed you.

⁸ You are not to do as we are doing here today, where everyone does what seems right in his own eyes. ⁹ For you have not yet come to the resting place and the inheritance that Yahweh your God is giving you.

¹⁰ When you cross the Jordan and live in the land that Yahweh your God is giving

you as an inheritance, and He gives you rest from all the enemies around you and you dwell securely, ¹¹ then Yahweh your God will choose a dwelling for His Name. And there you are to bring everything I command you: your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, and all the choice offerings you vow to Yahweh. ¹² And you shall rejoice before Yahweh your God—you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and the Levite within your gates, since he has no portion or inheritance among you.

¹³ Be careful not to offer your burnt offerings in just any place you see; ¹⁴ you must offer them only in the place Yahweh will choose in one of your tribal territories, and there you shall do all that I command you.

¹⁵ But whenever you want, you may slaughter and eat meat within any of your gates, according to the blessing Yahweh your God has given you. Both the ceremonially clean and unclean may eat it as they would a gazelle or deer, ¹⁶ but you must not eat the blood; pour it on the ground like water.

¹⁷ Within your gates you must not eat the tithe of your grain or new wine or oil, the firstborn of your herds or flocks, any of the offerings that you have vowed to give, or your freewill offerings or special gifts.

¹⁸ Instead, you must eat them in the presence of Yahweh your God at the place Yahweh your God will choose—you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and the Levite within your gates. Rejoice before Yahweh your God in all you do, ¹⁹ and be careful not to neglect the Levites as long as you live in your land.

²⁰ When Yahweh your God expands your territory as He has promised, and you crave meat and say, "I want to eat meat," you may eat it whenever you want. ²¹ If the place where Yahweh your God chooses to put His Name is too far from you, then you may slaughter any of the herd or flock He has given you, as I have commanded you,

DT 12:2 [DEMONIC] Destroy every place where the nations served their gods

DT 12:5 [PROPHECY] God would choose one place to put His Name → 1KI 8:29; 2CH 6:6 p.~

DEMONIC

and you may eat it within your gates whenever you want. ²² Indeed, you may eat it as you would eat a gazelle or deer; both the ceremonially unclean and the clean may eat it. ²³ Only be sure not to eat the blood, because the blood is the life, and you must not eat the life with the meat. ²⁴ You must not eat the blood; pour it on the ground like water. ²⁵ Do not eat it, so that it may go well with you and your children after you, because you will be doing what is right in the eyes of Yahweh.

²⁶ But you are to take your holy things and your vow offerings and go to the place Yahweh will choose. ²⁷ Present the meat and blood of your burnt offerings on the altar of Yahweh your God. The blood of your other sacrifices must be poured out beside the altar of Yahweh your God, but you may eat the meat. ²⁸ Be careful to obey all these things I command you, so that it may always go well with you and your children after you, because you will be doing what is good and right in the eyes of Yahweh your God.

A WARNING AGAINST IDOLATRY // DEUTERONOMY 4:15–31; EZEKIEL 6:1–7

²⁹ When Yahweh your God cuts off before you the nations you are entering to dispossess, and you drive them out and live in their land, ³⁰ be careful not to be ensnared by their ways after they have been destroyed before you. Do not inquire about their gods, asking, "How do these nations serve their gods? I will do likewise."

³¹ You must not worship Yahweh your God in this way, because they practice for their gods every abomination which Yahweh hates. They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods.

³² See that you do everything I command you; do not add to it or subtract from it.

13

CHAPTER 13 IN 30 SECONDS

If a prophet does a real miracle and then says, Let's follow other gods, do not listen. God is testing you. Not even your brother, your child or your best friend gets a pass if they try to lead you away. A whole town that turns to idols must be destroyed.

IDOLATERS TO BE PUT TO DEATH

¹ If a prophet or dreamer of dreams arises among you and proclaims a sign or wonder to you, ² and if the sign or wonder he has spoken to you comes about, but he says, "Let us follow other gods (which you have not known) and let us worship them," ³ you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. For Yahweh your God is testing you to find out whether you love Him with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴ You are to follow Yahweh your God and fear Him. Keep His commandments and listen to His voice; serve Him and hold fast to Him.

⁵ Such a prophet or dreamer must be put to death, because he has advocated rebellion against Yahweh your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery; he has tried to turn you from the way in which Yahweh your God has commanded you to walk. So you must purge the evil from among you.

⁶ If your very own brother, or your son or daughter, or the wife you embrace, or your closest friend secretly entices you, saying, "Let us go and worship other gods" (which neither you nor your fathers have known, ⁷ the gods of the peoples around you, whether near or far, whether from one end of the earth or the other), ⁸ you must not yield to him or listen to him. Show him no pity, and do not spare him or shield him.

⁹ Instead, you must surely kill him. Your hand must be the first against him to put him to death, and then the hands of all the people. ¹⁰ Stone him to death for trying to

DT 13:1 [DEMONIC] Do not listen to a prophet who says follow other gods

DT 13:5 [DEMONIC] Anyone who entices you to other gods must not be spared

DT 12:29 [DEMONIC] The nations burn their children for their gods

DEMONIC

turn you away from Yahweh your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ¹¹ Then all Israel will hear and be afraid, and will never again do such a wicked thing among you.

IDOLATROUS CITIES TO BE DESTROYED

¹² If, regarding one of the cities Yahweh your God is giving you to inhabit, you hear it said ¹³ that wicked men have arisen from among you and have led the people of their city astray, saying, "Let us go and serve other gods" (which you have not known), ¹⁴ then you must inquire, investigate, and interrogate thoroughly. And if it is established with certainty that this abomination has been committed among you, ¹⁵ you must surely put the inhabitants of that city to the sword. Devote to destruction all its people and livestock.

¹⁶ And you are to gather all its plunder in the middle of the public square, and completely burn the city and all its plunder as a whole burnt offering to Yahweh your God. The city must remain a mound of ruins forever, never to be rebuilt.

¹⁷ Nothing devoted to destruction shall cling to your hands, so that Yahweh will turn from His fierce anger, grant you mercy, show you compassion, and multiply you as He swore to your fathers, ¹⁸ because you obey Yahweh your God, keeping all His commandments I am giving you today and doing what is right in the eyes of Yahweh your God.

14

CHAPTER 14 IN 30 SECONDS

You are God's children, so no cutting yourselves for the dead. Here is the menu: cows, sheep and goats, yes. Camels, pigs and rabbits, no. Fish with fins and scales, yes. Shrimp, no. Set aside a tithe and throw a feast before God, and every third year share it with the Levite, the foreigner, the orphan and the widow.

CLEAN AND UNCLEAN ANIMALS // LEVITICUS 11:1-47; ACTS 10:9-16

¹ You are sons of Yahweh your God; do not cut yourselves or shave your foreheads on behalf of the dead, ² for you are a peo-

ple holy to Yahweh your God. Yahweh has chosen you to be a people for His prized possession out of all the peoples on the face of the earth.

³ You must not eat any detestable thing. ⁴ These are the animals that you may eat:

The ox, the sheep, the goat, ⁵ the deer, the gazelle, the roe deer, the wild goat, the ibex, the antelope, and the mountain sheep.

⁶ You may eat any animal that has a split hoof divided in two and that chews the cud.

⁷ But of those that chew the cud or have a completely divided hoof, you are not to eat the following:

the camel,
the rabbit,
or the rock badger.

Although they chew the cud, they do not have a divided hoof. They are unclean for you, ⁸ as well as the pig; though it has a divided hoof, it does not chew the cud. It is unclean for you. You must not eat its meat or touch its carcass.

⁹ Of all the creatures that live in the water, you may eat anything with fins and scales, ¹⁰ but you may not eat anything that does not have fins and scales; it is unclean for you.

¹¹ You may eat any clean bird, ¹² but these you may not eat:

the eagle, the bearded vulture, the black vulture, ¹³ the red kite, the falcon, any kind of kite, ¹⁴ any kind of raven,

¹⁵ the ostrich, the screech owl, the gull, any kind of hawk,

¹⁶ the little owl, the great owl, the white owl,

¹⁷ the desert owl, the osprey, the cor-morant,

¹⁸ the stork, any kind of heron, the hoopoe, or the bat.

¹⁹ All flying insects are unclean for you; they may not be eaten. ²⁰ But you may eat any clean bird.

■ DT 13:12 [DEMONIC] A town that turns to other gods must be destroyed

■ DT 14:2 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → TIT 2:14 p.-

THE HEART

²¹ You are not to eat any carcass; you may give it to the foreigner residing within your gates, and he may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner. For you are a holy people belonging to Yahweh your God.

You must not cook a young goat in its mother's milk.

GIVING TITHES // LEVITICUS 27:30-34; DEUTERONOMY 26:1-15; NEHEMIAH 13:10-14

²² You must be sure to set aside a tenth of all the produce brought forth each year from your fields. ²³ And you are to eat a tenth of your grain, new wine, and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks, in the presence of Yahweh your God at the place He will choose as a dwelling for His Name, so that you may learn to fear Yahweh your God always.

²⁴ But if the distance is too great for you to carry that with which Yahweh your God has blessed you, because the place where Yahweh your God will choose to put His Name is too far away, ²⁵ then exchange it for money, take the money in your hand, and go to the place Yahweh your God will choose. ²⁶ Then you may spend the money on anything you desire: cattle, sheep, wine, strong drink, or anything you wish. You are to feast there in the presence of Yahweh your God and rejoice with your household. ²⁷ And do not neglect the Levite within your gates, since he has no portion or inheritance among you.

²⁸ At the end of every three years, bring a tenth of all your produce for that year and lay it up within your gates. ²⁹ Then the Levite (because he has no portion or inheritance among you), the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow within your gates may come and eat and be satisfied. And Yahweh your God will bless you in all the work of your hands.

15

CHAPTER 15 IN 30 SECONDS

Every seventh year, cancel your neighbor's debts. Do not get tightfisted as that year gets close. There will always be poor people, so open your hand wide. Set Hebrew servants free in the seventh year, and do not send them away empty handed. Remember, you were slaves too.

THE SEVENTH YEAR // EXODUS 23:10-13; LEVITICUS 25:1-7

¹ At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts. ² This is the manner of remission: Every creditor shall cancel what he has loaned to his neighbor. He is not to collect anything from his neighbor or brother, because Yahweh's time of release has been proclaimed. ³ You may collect something from a foreigner, but you must forgive whatever your brother owes you.

⁴ There will be no poor among you, however, because Yahweh will surely bless you in the land that Yahweh your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance, ⁵ if only you obey Yahweh your God and are careful to follow all these commandments I am giving you today. ⁶ When Yahweh your God blesses you as He has promised, you will lend to many nations but borrow from none; you will rule over many nations but be ruled by none.

GENEROSITY IN LENDING AND GIVING // MATTHEW 6:1-4

⁷ If there is a poor man among your brothers within any of the gates in the land that Yahweh your God is giving you, then you are not to harden your heart or shut your hand from your poor brother. ⁸ Instead, you are to open your hand to him and freely loan him whatever he needs.

⁹ Be careful not to harbor this wicked thought in your heart: "The seventh year, the year of release, is near," so that you look upon your poor brother begrudgingly and give him nothing. He will cry out to Yahweh against you, and you will be guilty of sin.

■ **DT 14:21 [NOTE]** This is the third time the Law says it, Exodus 23:19 and 34:26. Later rabbis built the Jewish rule of not mixing meat and milk on these three verses.

■ **DT 15:9 [HEART]** Do not let a selfish thought in your heart keep you from helping the poor. Give generously, and do not give with a grudging heart.

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW THE HEART

¹⁰ Give generously to him, and do not let your heart be grieved when you do so. And because of this Yahweh your God will bless you in all your work and in everything to which you put your hand. ¹¹ For there will never cease to be poor in the land; that is why I am commanding you to open wide your hand to your brother and to the poor and needy in your land.

HEBREW SERVANTS // EXODUS 21:1-11

¹² If a fellow Hebrew, a man or a woman, is sold to you and serves you six years, then in the seventh year you must set him free.

¹³ And when you release him, do not send him away empty-handed. ¹⁴ You are to furnish him liberally from your flock, your threshing floor, and your winepress. You shall give to him as Yahweh your God has blessed you. ¹⁵ Remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt, and Yahweh your God redeemed you; that is why I am giving you this command today.

¹⁶ But if your servant says to you, 'I do not want to leave you,' because he loves you and your household and is well off with you, ¹⁷ then take an awl and pierce it through his ear into the door, and he will become your servant for life. And treat your maidservant the same way.

¹⁸ Do not regard it as a hardship to set your servant free, because his six years of service were worth twice the wages of a hired hand. And Yahweh your God will bless you in all you do.

FIRSTBORN ANIMALS // EXODUS 13:1-16

¹⁹ You must set apart to Yahweh your God every firstborn male produced by your herds and flocks. You are not to put the firstborn of your oxen to work, nor are you to shear the firstborn of your flock. ²⁰ Each year you and your household are to eat it before Yahweh your God in the place Yahweh will choose.

²¹ But if an animal has a defect, is lame or blind, or has any serious flaw, you must not sacrifice it to Yahweh your God. ²² Eat it within your gates; both the ceremonially

unclean and clean may eat it as they would a gazelle or a deer. ²³ But you must not eat the blood; pour it on the ground like water.

16

CHAPTER 16 IN 30 SECONDS

Three times a year, every man goes to God's chosen place for Passover, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Booths. Nobody shows up empty handed, and everybody is told to rejoice. Then judges are to be appointed in every town. No bribes, no favorites. Justice, and only justice.

PASSOVER AND THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED

BREAD // EXODUS 12:14-28; LEVITICUS 23:4-8; NUMBERS 28:16-25

¹ Observe the month of Abib and celebrate the Passover to Yahweh your God, because in the month of Abib Yahweh your God brought you out of Egypt by night.

² You are to offer to Yahweh your God the Passover sacrifice from the herd or flock in the place Yahweh will choose as a dwelling for His Name. ³ You must not eat leavened bread with it; for seven days you are to eat with it unleavened bread, the bread of affliction, because you left the land of Egypt in haste—so that you may remember for the rest of your life the day you left the land of Egypt.

⁴ No leaven is to be found in all your land for seven days, and none of the meat you sacrifice in the evening of the first day shall remain until morning.

⁵ You are not to sacrifice the Passover animal in any of the towns that Yahweh your God is giving you. ⁶ You must only offer the Passover sacrifice at the place Yahweh your God will choose as a dwelling for His Name. Do this in the evening as the sun sets, at the same time you departed from Egypt. ⁷ And you shall roast it and eat it in the place Yahweh your God will choose, and in the morning you shall return to your tents.

⁸ For six days you must eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day you shall

■ **DT 15:11 [NOTE]** Jesus echoed this verse when He said, The poor you will always have with you, Matthew 26:11. Moses' point was to keep giving, not to give up.

■ **DT 16:3 [PROPHECY]** Exodus deliverance extended to messianic deliverance → LK 22:15-20 p.-

DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

hold a solemn assembly to Yahweh your God, and you must not do any work.

THE FEAST OF WEEKS // NUMBERS 28:26–31

⁹ You are to count off seven weeks from the time you first put the sickle to the standing grain. ¹⁰ And you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks to Yahweh your God with a freewill offering that you give in proportion to how Yahweh your God has blessed you, ¹¹ and you shall rejoice before Yahweh your God in the place He will choose as a dwelling for His Name—you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and the Levite within your gates, as well as the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widows among you.

¹² Remember that you were slaves in Egypt, and carefully follow these statutes.

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES // NUMBERS 29:12–40

¹³ You are to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days after you have gathered the produce of your threshing floor and your winepress. ¹⁴ And you shall rejoice in your feast—you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and the Levite, as well as the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widows among you.

¹⁵ For seven days you shall celebrate a feast to Yahweh your God in the place He will choose, because Yahweh your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that your joy will be complete.

¹⁶ Three times a year all your men are to appear before Yahweh your God in the place He will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles. No one should appear before Yahweh empty-handed. ¹⁷ Everyone must appear with a gift as he is able, according to the blessing Yahweh your God has given you.

JUDGES AND JUSTICE

¹⁸ You are to appoint judges and officials for your tribes in every town that Yahweh

your God is giving you. They are to judge the people with righteous judgment.

¹⁹ Do not deny justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.

²⁰ Pursue justice, and justice alone, so that you may live, and you may possess the land that Yahweh your God is giving you.

FORBIDDEN FORMS OF WORSHIP

²¹ Do not set up any wooden Asherah pole next to the altar you will build for Yahweh your God, ²² and do not set up for yourselves a sacred pillar, which Yahweh your God hates.

17

CHAPTER 17 IN 30 SECONDS

Idol worshipers must be put to death, but only on the word of two or three witnesses. Hard cases go to the priests and the judge. If Israel wants a king, he must not collect horses, wives or gold, and he must write out his own copy of God's law and read it every day.

DETESTABLE SACRIFICES

¹ You shall not sacrifice to Yahweh your God an ox or a sheep with any defect or serious flaw, for that is detestable to Yahweh your God.

PURGE THE IDOLATER

² If a man or woman among you in one of the towns that Yahweh your God gives you is found doing evil in the sight of Yahweh your God by transgressing His covenant ³ and going to worship other gods, bowing down to them or to the sun or moon or any of the host of heaven—which I have forbidden— ⁴ and if it is reported and you hear about it, you must investigate it thoroughly.

If the report is true and such an abomination has happened in Israel, ⁵ you must bring out to your gates the man or woman who has done this evil thing, and you must stone that person to death. ⁶ *On the testimony of two or three witnesses a man shall be put to death, but he shall not be exe-*

DT 16:21 [DEMONIC] Do not set up an Asherah pole or sacred pillar

DT 17:2 [DEMONIC] Whoever worships other gods or the stars must be stoned

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE THE HEART OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

cuted on the testimony of a lone witness.⁷ The hands of the witnesses shall be the first in putting him to death, and after that, the hands of all the people. So you must purge the evil from among you.

COURTS OF LAW

⁸ If a case is too difficult for you to judge, whether the controversy within your gates is regarding bloodshed, lawsuits, or assaults, you must go up to the place Yahweh your God will choose. ⁹ You are to go to the Levitical priests and to the judge who presides at that time. Inquire of them, and they will give you a verdict in the case.

¹⁰ You must abide by the verdict they give you at the place Yahweh will choose. Be careful to do everything they instruct you, ¹¹ according to the terms of law they give and the verdict they proclaim. Do not turn aside to the right or to the left from the decision they declare to you.

¹² But the man who acts presumptuously, refusing to listen either to the priest who stands there to serve Yahweh your God, or to the judge, must be put to death. You must purge the evil from Israel. ¹³ Then all the people will hear and be afraid, and will no longer behave arrogantly.

GUIDELINES FOR A KING // 1 SAMUEL 8:1-9

¹⁴ When you enter the land that Yahweh your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, "Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us," ¹⁵ you are to appoint over yourselves the king whom Yahweh your God shall choose. Appoint a king from among your brothers; you are not to set over yourselves a foreigner who is not one of your brothers.

¹⁶ But the king must not acquire many horses for himself or send the people back to Egypt to acquire more horses, for Yahweh has said, 'You are never to go

back that way again.' ¹⁷ He must not take many wives for himself, lest his heart go astray. He must not accumulate for himself large amounts of silver and gold.

¹⁸ When he is seated on his royal throne, he must write for himself a copy of this instruction on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. ¹⁹ It is to remain with him, and he is to read from it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear Yahweh his God by carefully observing all the words of this instruction and these statutes. ²⁰ Then his heart will not be exalted above his countrymen, and he will not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or to the left, in order that he and his sons may reign many years over his kingdom in Israel.

18

CHAPTER 18 IN 30 SECONDS

The priests and Levites get no land; God is their share. Israel must stay away from every kind of fortune telling, sorcery and talking to the dead, and from sacrificing children. Instead, God promises to raise up a Prophet like Moses. Listen to Him.

PROVISION FOR PRIESTS AND LEVITES // 1 CORINTHIANS 9:1-18

¹ The Levitical priests—indeed the whole tribe of Levi—shall have no portion or inheritance with Israel. They are to eat the food offerings to Yahweh; that is their inheritance. ² Although they have no inheritance among their brothers, Yahweh is their inheritance, as He promised them.

³ This shall be the priests' share from the people who offer a sacrifice, whether a bull or a sheep: the priests are to be given the shoulder, the jowls, and the stomach.

⁴ You are to give them the firstfruits of your grain, new wine, and oil, and the first wool sheared from your flock. ⁵ For Yahweh your God has chosen Levi and his

■ DT 17:6 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → JN 8:17 p.-

■ DT 17:6 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → HEB 10:28 p.-

■ DT 17:7 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → 1CO 5:13 p.-

■ DT 17:14 [PROPHECY] Israel would one day ask for a king like all the nations → 1SA 8:5 p.-

■ DT 17:16 [NOTE] Solomon broke all three rules: horses from Egypt, 1 Kings 10:28, seven hundred wives, 11:3, and so much gold that silver was worth nothing, 10:21.

■ DT 17:17 [HEART] A king must not collect many wives, or his heart will be led astray. It happened to Solomon, 1 Kings 11:3 to 4.

■ DT 17:18 [NOTE] The name Deuteronomy comes from this verse. The Greek Bible turned a copy of this law into this second law, deuteronomion.

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW GOD SPEAKING

sons out of all your tribes to stand and minister in His name for all time.

⁶ Now if a Levite moves from any town of residence throughout Israel and comes in all earnestness to the place Yahweh will choose, ⁷ then he shall serve in the name of Yahweh his God like all his fellow Levites who stand there before Yahweh. ⁸ They shall eat equal portions, even though he has received money from the sale of his father's estate.

SORCERY FORBIDDEN // ACTS 8:9-25

⁹ When you enter the land that Yahweh your God is giving you, do not imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. ¹⁰ Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, practices divination or conjury, interprets omens, practices sorcery, ¹¹ casts spells, consults a medium or spiritist, or inquires of the dead. ¹² For whoever does these things is detestable to Yahweh. And because of these detestable things, Yahweh your God is driving out the nations before you.

¹³ You must be blameless before Yahweh your God. ¹⁴ Though these nations, which you will dispossess, listen to conjurers and diviners, Yahweh your God has not permitted you to do so.

A PROPHET LIKE MOSES // ACTS 3:11-26

¹⁵ *Yahweh your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to him.* ¹⁶ *This is what you asked of Yahweh your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of Yahweh our God or see this great fire anymore, so that we will not die!"*

■ **DT 18:9 [DEMONIC]** Comprehensive ban: divination, observer of times, enchanter, witch, charmer, medium, wizard, necromancer

■ **DT 18:15 [PROPHECY]** A Prophet like Moses would arise → JN 6:14 p.-

■ **DT 18:15 [PROPHECY]** Believing Moses would lead one to believe in Christ → JN 5:45-47 p.-

■ **DT 18:15 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → MT 17:5 p.-

■ **DT 18:15 [ALLUDED TO]** The New Testament refers to this → MK 9:7 p.-

■ **DT 18:15 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → ACTS 3:22-23 p.-

■ **DT 18:15 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → ACTS 7:37 p.-

■ **DT 18:15 [NOTE]** A PROPHET LIKE MOSES. Who is He? See the Big Question pages The Prophet like Moses.

¹⁷ Then Yahweh said to me, *"They have spoken well.* ¹⁸ *I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him.* ¹⁹ *And I will hold accountable anyone who does not listen to My words that the prophet speaks in My name.* ²⁰ But if any prophet dares to speak a message in My name that I have not commanded him to speak, or to speak in the name of other gods, that prophet must be put to death."

²¹ You may ask in your heart, "How can we recognize a message that Yahweh has not spoken?" ²² When a prophet speaks in the name of Yahweh and the message does not come to pass or come true, that is a message Yahweh has not spoken. The prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.

THE BIG QUESTION

THE PROPHET LIKE MOSES

Who Is He?

DEUTERONOMY 18:15 TO 19 · 34:10 TO 12 · JOHN 1:21 · JOHN 6:14

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Moses said, Yahweh your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to him, 18:15. God added, I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him, 18:18. Anyone who will not listen will answer to God, 18:19.

STILL WAITING

The last verses of Deuteronomy say no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom Yahweh knew face to face, 34:10. So whoever wrote that line was still waiting for the Prophet.

IN JESUS' DAY

People asked John the Baptist, Are you the Prophet? He said no, John 1:21. After Jesus fed the five thousand, the crowds said, Truly this is the Prophet who is to come into the world, John 6:14. At the Transfiguration God said, This is My

■ **DT 18:18 [PROPHECY]** Sent by the Father to speak God's words → JN 8:28-29 p.-

■ **DT 18:19 [PROPHECY]** Those who reject this Prophet would bear their own sin → ACTS 3:22-23 p.-

■ **DT 18:20 [DEMONIC]** A prophet who speaks for other gods must die

beloved Son. Listen to Him, Matthew 17:5, echoing listen to him in 18:15.

LIKE MOSES HOW?

At Mount Sinai the people were so afraid of God's voice that they begged for a go between, 18:16. God's answer was this Prophet. Like Moses, He would stand between God and the people, speak God's own words, and lead God's people. Moses also did signs and wonders, and gave Israel a covenant from God, 34:11.

WHAT THE APOSTLES SAID

Peter quoted 18:15 to 19 in the temple and said it was about Jesus, Acts 3:22 to 23. Stephen did the same before he was stoned, Acts 7:37.

One Prophet or Many?

JOSHUA 1:1 TO 2 • JEREMIAH 1:9 • HEBREWS 3:1 TO 6

THE LINE OF PROPHETS VIEW

Many Jewish teachers, like Rashi and Ibn Ezra, read prophet as a kind of person: God would keep sending true prophets, like Joshua, Samuel and Jeremiah, so Israel would not need fortune tellers. The verses right before, 18:9 to 14, are about sorcerers, and the verses after, 18:20 to 22, tell how to spot a false prophet.

THE ONE PROPHET VIEW

Most Christians, from the apostles on, read it as one special Prophet, the Messiah. Jesus spoke God's words, John 12:49, gave a new covenant, and is worthy of more glory than Moses, Hebrews 3:3. Many say both are true: a line of prophets, ending in the greatest one.

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

The people at Qumran waited for a prophet, and the Messiahs of Aaron and Israel. One scroll, 4QTestimonia, puts 18:18 to 19 next to the star of Jacob from Numbers 24:17.

THE SAMARITANS

The Samaritans, who kept only the five books of Moses, waited for the Taheb, the one who returns, a prophet like Moses. The Samaritan woman told Jesus, I know Messiah is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us, John 4:25.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

God promised to keep speaking to His people through someone like Moses, and to hold them responsible to listen. Christians believe Jesus is that Prophet, and Jews read it as God's promise of true prophets.

19

CHAPTER 19 IN 30 SECONDS

Three cities of refuge, plus three more later, so a person who kills by accident can run there and be safe. Murderers do not get to hide there. Do not move your neighbor's boundary stone. One witness is not enough to convict, and a false witness gets the punishment he wanted for the other guy.

CITIES OF REFUGE // NUMBERS 35:9-34;
DEUTERONOMY 4:41-43; JOSHUA 20:1-9

¹When Yahweh your God has cut off the nations whose land He is giving you, and when you have driven them out and settled in their cities and houses, ²then you are to set apart for yourselves three cities within the land that Yahweh your God is giving you to possess. ³You are to build roads for yourselves and divide into three regions the land that Yahweh your God is giving you as an inheritance, so that any manslayer can flee to these cities.

⁴Now this is the situation regarding the manslayer who flees to one of these cities to save his life, having killed his neighbor accidentally, without intending to harm him: ⁵If he goes into the forest with his neighbor to cut timber and swings his axe to chop down a tree, but the blade flies off the handle and strikes and kills his neighbor, he may flee to one of these cities to save his life.

⁶Otherwise, the avenger of blood might pursue the manslayer in a rage, overtake him if the distance is great, and strike him dead though he did not deserve to die, since he did not intend any harm. ⁷This is why I am commanding you to set apart for yourselves three cities.

⁸And if Yahweh your God enlarges your territory, as He swore to your fathers, and gives you all the land He promised them, ⁹and if you carefully keep all these com-

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

mandments I am giving you today, loving Yahweh your God and walking in His ways at all times, then you are to add three more cities to these three.

¹⁰ Thus innocent blood will not be shed in the land that Yahweh your God is giving you as an inheritance, so that you will not be guilty of bloodshed.

¹¹ If, however, a man hates his neighbor and lies in wait, attacks him and kills him, and then flees to one of these cities, ¹² the elders of his city must send for him, bring him back, and hand him over to the avenger of blood to die. ¹³ You must show him no pity. You are to purge from Israel the guilt of shedding innocent blood, that it may go well with you.

¹⁴ You must not move your neighbor's boundary marker, which was set up by your ancestors to mark the inheritance you shall receive in the land that Yahweh your God is giving you to possess.

THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES // MATTHEW 18:15-20

¹⁵ *A lone witness is not sufficient to establish any wrongdoing or sin against a man, regardless of what offense he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.*

¹⁶ If a false witness testifies against someone, accusing him of a crime, ¹⁷ both parties to the dispute must stand in the presence of Yahweh, before the priests and judges who are in office at that time. ¹⁸ The judges shall investigate thoroughly, and if the witness is proven to be a liar who has falsely accused his brother, ¹⁹ you must do to him as he intended to do to his brother. So you must purge the evil from among you. ²⁰ Then the rest of the people will hear and be afraid, and they will never again do anything so evil among you. ²¹ You must show no pity: life for life, eye for

eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, and foot for foot.

20

CHAPTER 20 IN 30 SECONDS

Rules for war. The priest tells the army, Do not be afraid. Anyone who just built a house, planted a vineyard or got engaged goes home, and so does anyone who is scared. Offer peace to distant cities first. And do not cut down fruit trees. The trees are not the enemy.

LAWS OF WARFARE

¹ When you go out to war against your enemies and see horses, chariots, and an army larger than yours, do not be afraid of them; for Yahweh your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, is with you. ² When you are about to go into battle, the priest is to come forward and address the army, ³ saying to them, "Hear, O Israel, today you are going into battle with your enemies. Do not be fainthearted or afraid; do not be alarmed or terrified because of them. ⁴ For Yahweh your God goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory."

⁵ Furthermore, the officers are to address the army, saying, "Has any man built a new house and not dedicated it? Let him return home, or he may die in battle and another man dedicate it. ⁶ Has any man planted a vineyard and not begun to enjoy its fruit? Let him return home, or he may die in battle and another man enjoy its fruit. ⁷ Has any man become pledged to a woman and not married her? Let him return home, or he may die in battle and another man marry her."

⁸ Then the officers shall speak further to the army, saying, "Is any man afraid or fainthearted? Let him return home, so that the hearts of his brothers will not melt like his own."

⁹ When the officers have finished addressing the army, they are to appoint commanders to lead it.

¹⁰ When you approach a city to fight against it, you are to make an offer of peace. ¹¹ If they accept your offer of peace

■ DT 19:15 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → MT 18:16 p.-

■ DT 19:15 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → JN 8:17 p.-

■ DT 19:15 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → 2CO 13:1 p.-

■ DT 19:15 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → 1TI 5:19 p.-

■ DT 19:15 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → HEB 10:28 p.-

DEMONIC

and open their gates, all the people there will become forced laborers to serve you.

¹² But if they refuse to make peace with you and wage war against you, lay siege to that city. ¹³ When Yahweh your God has delivered it into your hand, you must put every male to the sword. ¹⁴ But the women, children, livestock, and whatever else is in the city—all its spoil—you may take as plunder, and you shall use the spoil of your enemies that Yahweh your God gives you. ¹⁵ This is how you are to treat all the cities that are far away from you and do not belong to the nations nearby.

¹⁶ However, in the cities of the nations that Yahweh your God is giving you as an inheritance, you must not leave alive anything that breathes. ¹⁷ For you must devote them to complete destruction—the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites—as Yahweh your God has commanded you, ¹⁸ so that they cannot teach you to do all the detestable things they do for their gods, and so cause you to sin against Yahweh your God.

¹⁹ When you lay siege to a city for an extended time while fighting against it to capture it, you must not destroy its trees by putting an axe to them, because you can eat their fruit. You must not cut them down. Are the trees of the field human, that you should besiege them? ²⁰ But you may destroy the trees that you know do not produce fruit. Use them to build siege works against the city that is waging war against you, until it falls.

21

CHAPTER 21 IN 30 SECONDS

If a body is found in a field, the nearest town makes atonement. Rules for marrying a captive woman, for protecting the firstborn son of an unloved wife, and for a son who is a stubborn drunk. And a hanged body must be buried the same day, because anyone hung on a tree is under God's curse.

ATONEMENT FOR AN UNSOLVED MURDER

¹ If one is found slain, lying in a field in the land that Yahweh your God is giving you to possess, and it is not known who killed him, ² your elders and judges must come out and measure the distance from the victim to the neighboring cities.

³ Then the elders of the city nearest the victim shall take a heifer that has never been yoked or used for work, ⁴ bring the heifer to a valley with running water that has not been plowed or sown, and break its neck there by the stream.

⁵ And the priests, the sons of Levi, shall come forward, for Yahweh your God has chosen them to serve Him and pronounce blessings in His name and to give a ruling in every dispute and case of assault. ⁶ Then all the elders of the city nearest the victim shall wash their hands by the stream over the heifer whose neck has been broken, ⁷ and they shall declare, "Our hands did not shed this blood, nor did our eyes see it. ⁸ Accept this atonement, O Yahweh, for Your people Israel whom You have redeemed, and do not hold the shedding of innocent blood against them."

And the bloodshed will be atoned for. ⁹ So you shall purge from among you the guilt of shedding innocent blood, since you have done what is right in the eyes of Yahweh.

MARRYING A CAPTIVE WOMAN

¹⁰ When you go to war against your enemies and Yahweh your God delivers them into your hand and you take them captive, ¹¹ if you see a beautiful woman among them, and you desire her and want to take her as your wife, ¹² then you shall bring her into your house. She must shave her head, trim her nails, ¹³ and put aside the clothing of her captivity.

After she has lived in your house a full month and mourned her father and mother, you may have relations with her and be her husband, and she shall be your wife. ¹⁴ And if you are not pleased with her, you are to let her go wherever she wishes. But you must not sell her for

DT 20:18 [DEMONIC] The nations would teach Israel their detestable worship

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW NOTABLE

money or treat her as a slave, since you have dishonored her.

INHERITANCE RIGHTS OF THE FIRSTBORN

¹⁵ If a man has two wives, one beloved and the other unloved, and both bear him sons, but the unloved wife has the first-born son, ¹⁶ when that man assigns his inheritance to his sons he must not appoint the son of the beloved wife as the first-born over the son of the unloved wife.

¹⁷ Instead, he must acknowledge the first-born, the son of his unloved wife, by giving him a double portion of all that he has. For that son is the firstfruits of his father's strength; the right of the firstborn belongs to him.

A REBELLIOUS SON // LUKE 15:11-32

¹⁸ If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and does not listen to them when disciplined, ¹⁹ his father and mother are to lay hold of him and bring him to the elders of his city, to the gate of his hometown, ²⁰ and say to the elders, "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he does not obey us. He is a glutton and a drunkard."

²¹ Then all the men of his city will stone him to death. So you must purge the evil from among you, and all Israel will hear and be afraid.

CURSED IS ANYONE HUNG ON A TREE

²² If a man has committed a sin worthy of death, and he is executed, and you hang his body on a tree, ²³ *you must not leave the body on the tree overnight, but you must be sure to bury him that day, because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse. You must not defile the land that Yahweh your God is giving you as an inheritance.*

22

CHAPTER 22 IN 30 SECONDS

Return your neighbor's lost ox. Help lift his fallen donkey. Put a railing around your flat roof so nobody falls off. Do not mix seeds, plow with an ox and a donkey together, or wear wool and linen together. Then come laws to protect a bride who is falsely accused and to punish adultery and rape.

VARIOUS LAWS

¹ If you see your brother's ox or sheep straying, you must not ignore it; be sure to return it to your brother. ² If your brother does not live near you, or if you do not know who he is, you are to take the animal home to remain with you until your brother comes seeking it; then you can return it to him. ³ And you shall do the same for his donkey, his cloak, or anything your brother has lost and you have found. You must not ignore it.

⁴ If you see your brother's donkey or ox fallen on the road, you must not ignore it; you must help him lift it up.

⁵ A woman must not wear men's clothing, and a man must not wear women's clothing, for whoever does these things is detestable to Yahweh your God.

⁶ If you come across a bird's nest with chicks or eggs, either in a tree or on the ground along the road, and the mother is sitting on the chicks or eggs, you must not take the mother along with the young. ⁷ You may take the young, but be sure to let the mother go, so that it may be well with you and that you may prolong your days.

⁸ *If you build a new house, you are to construct a railing around your roof, so that you do not bring bloodguilt on your house if someone falls from it.*

⁹ Do not plant your vineyard with two types of seed; if you do, the entire harvest will be defiled—both the crop you plant and the fruit of your vineyard.

¹⁰ Do not plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together.

■ DT 21:23 [PROPHECY] Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree → GAL 3:13 p.~

■ DT 21:23 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → GAL 3:13 p.~

■ DT 22:8 [NOTABLE] Flat roofs were living space, so God required a railing. It is one of the oldest building safety codes, and it teaches that loving your neighbor includes keeping them safe.

DEMONIC

¹¹ Do not wear clothes of wool and linen woven together.

¹² You are to make tassels on the four corners of the cloak you wear.

MARRIAGE VIOLATIONS

¹³ Suppose a man marries a woman, has relations with her, and comes to hate her, ¹⁴ and he then accuses her of shameful conduct and gives her a bad name, saying, "I married this woman and had relations with her, but I discovered she was not a virgin."

¹⁵ Then the young woman's father and mother shall bring the proof of her virginity to the city elders at the gate ¹⁶ and say to the elders, "I gave my daughter in marriage to this man, but he has come to hate her. ¹⁷ And now he has accused her of shameful conduct, saying, 'I discovered that your daughter was not a virgin.' But here is the proof of her virginity." And they shall spread out the cloth before the city elders.

¹⁸ Then the elders of that city shall take the man and punish him. ¹⁹ They are also to fine him 2½ pounds of silver and give them to the young woman's father, because this man has given a virgin of Israel a bad name. And she shall remain his wife; he must not divorce her as long as he lives.

²⁰ If, however, this accusation is true, and no proof of the young woman's virginity can be found, ²¹ she shall be brought to the door of her father's house, and there the men of her city will stone her to death. For she has committed an outrage in Israel by being promiscuous in her father's house. So you must purge the evil from among you.

²² If a man is found lying with another man's wife, both the man who slept with her and the woman must die. You must purge the evil from Israel.

²³ If there is a virgin pledged in marriage to a man, and another man encounters her in the city and sleeps with her, ²⁴ you must take both of them out to the gate of that

city and stone them to death—the young woman because she did not cry out in the city, and the man because he has violated his neighbor's wife. So you must purge the evil from among you.

²⁵ But if the man encounters a betrothed woman in the open country, and he overpowers her and lies with her, only the man who has done this must die. ²⁶ Do nothing to the young woman, because she has committed no sin worthy of death. This case is just like one in which a man attacks his neighbor and murders him. ²⁷ When he found her in the field, the betrothed woman cried out, but there was no one to save her.

²⁸ If a man encounters a virgin who is not pledged in marriage, and he seizes her and lies with her, and they are discovered, ²⁹ then the man who lay with her must pay the young woman's father 1¼ pounds of silver, and she must become his wife because he has violated her. He must not divorce her as long as he lives.

³⁰ A man is not to marry his father's wife, so that he will not dishonor his father's marriage bed.

23

CHAPTER 23 IN 30 SECONDS

Who may join the assembly of Yahweh, and who may not. Keep the army camp clean, and yes, there is a rule about bathroom breaks with a shovel. Do not send a runaway slave back to his master. No interest on loans to fellow Israelites. And keep your vows.

EXCLUSION FROM THE CONGREGATION

¹ No man with crushed or severed genitals may enter the assembly of Yahweh.

² No one of illegitimate birth may enter the assembly of Yahweh, nor may any of his descendants, even to the tenth generation.

³ No Ammonite or Moabite or any of their descendants may enter the assembly of Yahweh, even to the tenth generation. ⁴ For they did not meet you with food and water on your way out of Egypt, and they

■ DT 22:22 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → JN 8:5 p.~

■ DT 23:2 [DEMONIC] Children of forbidden unions excluded to tenth generation; Ammonite/Moabite

DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

hired Balaam son of Beor from Pethor in Aram-naharaim to curse you. ⁵ Yet Yahweh your God would not listen to Balaam, and Yahweh your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because Yahweh your God loves you. ⁶ You are not to seek peace or prosperity from them as long as you live.

⁷ Do not despise an Edomite, for he is your brother. Do not despise an Egyptian, because you lived as a foreigner in his land.

⁸ The third generation of children born to them may enter the assembly of Yahweh.

UNCLEANNES IN THE CAMP // LEVITICUS 15:1-12

⁹ When you are encamped against your enemies, then you shall keep yourself from every wicked thing. ¹⁰ If any man among you becomes unclean because of a nocturnal emission, he must leave the camp and stay outside. ¹¹ When evening approaches, he must wash with water, and when the sun sets he may return to the camp.

¹² You must have a place outside the camp to go and relieve yourself. ¹³ And you must have a digging tool in your equipment so that when you relieve yourself you can dig a hole and cover up your excrement.

¹⁴ For Yahweh your God walks throughout your camp to protect you and deliver your enemies to you. Your camp must be holy, lest He see anything unclean among you and turn away from you.

MISCELLANEOUS LAWS

¹⁵ Do not return a slave to his master if he has taken refuge with you. ¹⁶ Let him live among you wherever he chooses, in the town of his pleasing. Do not oppress him.

¹⁷ No daughter or son of Israel is to be a shrine prostitute. ¹⁸ You must not bring the wages of a prostitute, whether female or male, into the house of Yahweh your God to fulfill any vow, because both are detestable to Yahweh your God.

¹⁹ Do not charge your brother interest on money, food, or any other type of loan. ²⁰ You may charge a foreigner interest, but not your brother, so that Yahweh your God

■ DT 23:17 [DEMONIC] No Israelite may be a shrine prostitute

may bless you in everything to which you put your hand in the land that you are entering to possess.

²¹ If you make a vow to Yahweh your God, do not be slow to keep it, because He will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin. ²² But if you refrain from making a vow, you will not be guilty of sin.

²³ Be careful to follow through on what comes from your lips, because you have freely vowed to Yahweh your God with your own mouth.

²⁴ When you enter your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes, but you must not put any in your basket.

²⁵ When you enter your neighbor's grainfield, you may pluck the heads of grain with your hand, but you must not put a sickle to your neighbor's grain.

24

CHAPTER 24 IN 30 SECONDS

Laws about divorce and remarriage. A new husband gets a year off from the army to make his wife happy. Do not take a millstone as a pledge, because that is someone's living. Pay your workers before sunset. Leave some grain, olives and grapes for the foreigner, the orphan and the widow.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE LAWS // MATTHEW 5:31-32; LUKE 16:18

¹ If a man marries a woman, but she becomes displeasing to him because he finds some indecency in her, he may write her a certificate of divorce, hand it to her, and send her away from his house.

² If, after leaving his house, she goes and becomes another man's wife, ³ and the second man hates her, writes her a certificate of divorce, hands it to her, and sends her away from his house, or if he dies, ⁴ then the husband who divorced her first may not remarry her after she has been defiled, for that is an abomination to Yah-

■ DT 24:1 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → MT 5:31 p. -

■ DT 24:1 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → MT 19:7 p. -

■ DT 24:1 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → MK 10:4 p. -

■ DT 24:1 [NOTE] Jesus said Moses allowed divorce because of hard hearts, but it was not so from the beginning, Matthew 19:8. In Jesus' day, rabbis argued over what something indecent meant.

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW **NOTABLE**

weh. You must not bring sin upon the land that Yahweh your God is giving you as an inheritance.

5 If a man is newly married, he must not be sent to war or be pressed into any duty. For one year he is free to stay at home and bring joy to the wife he has married.

ADDITIONAL LAWS

6 Do not take a pair of millstones or even an upper millstone as security for a debt, because that would be taking one's livelihood as security.

7 If a man is caught kidnapping one of his Israelite brothers, whether he treats him as a slave or sells him, the kidnapper must die. So you must purge the evil from among you.

8 In cases of infectious skin diseases, be careful to diligently follow everything the Levitical priests instruct you. Be careful to do as I have commanded them. **9** Remember what Yahweh your God did to Miriam on the journey after you came out of Egypt.

10 When you lend anything to your neighbor, do not enter his house to collect security. **11** You are to stand outside while the man to whom you are lending brings the security out to you. **12** If he is a poor man, you must not go to sleep with the security in your possession; **13** be sure to return it to him by sunset, so that he may sleep in his own cloak and bless you, and this will be credited to you as righteousness before Yahweh your God.

14 Do not oppress a hired hand who is poor and needy, whether he is a brother or a foreigner residing in one of your towns. **15** You are to pay his wages each day before sunset, because he is poor and depends on them. Otherwise he may cry out to Yahweh against you, and you will be guilty of sin.

16 Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor children for their fathers; each is to die for his own sin.

■ DT 24:5 [NOTABLE] God gave a new husband a year off from the army and other duties so he could make his wife happy. Marriage mattered to God more than the war.
■ DT 24:14 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → JAS 5:4 p.-

17 Do not deny justice to the foreigner or the fatherless, and do not take a widow's cloak as security. **18** Remember that you were slaves in Egypt, and Yahweh your God redeemed you from that place. Therefore I am commanding you to do this.

19 If you are harvesting in your field and forget a sheaf there, do not go back to get it. It is to be left for the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow, so that Yahweh your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

20 When you beat the olives from your trees, you must not go over the branches again. What remains will be for the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow.

21 When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you must not go over the vines again. What remains will be for the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow. **22** Remember that you were slaves in the land of Egypt. Therefore I am commanding you to do this.

25

CHAPTER 25 IN 30 SECONDS

No more than forty lashes. Do not muzzle an ox while it treads the grain. If a man dies with no son, his brother should marry the widow, and if he refuses, she pulls off his sandal and spits in his face. Use honest weights. And remember what Amalek did.

FAIRNESS AND MERCY

1 If there is a dispute between men, they are to go to court to be judged, so that the innocent may be acquitted and the guilty condemned.

2 If the guilty man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall have him lie down and be flogged in his presence with the number of lashes his crime warrants. **3** He may receive no more than forty lashes, lest your brother be beaten any more than that and be degraded in your sight.

4 *Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.*

■ DT 25:4 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → 1CO 9:9 p.-
■ DT 25:4 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → 1TI 5:18 p.-

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

WIDOWHOOD AND MARRIAGE

⁵ When brothers dwell together and one of them dies without a son, the widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband's brother is to take her as his wife and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law for her. ⁶ The first son she bears will carry on the name of the dead brother, so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel.

⁷ But if the man does not want to marry his brother's widow, she is to go to the elders at the city gate and say, "My husband's brother refuses to preserve his brother's name in Israel. He is not willing to perform the duty of a brother-in-law for me."

⁸ Then the elders of his city shall summon him and speak with him. If he persists and says, "I do not want to marry her," ⁹ his brother's widow shall go up to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal, spit in his face, and declare, "This is what is done to the man who will not maintain his brother's line." ¹⁰ And his family name in Israel will be called "The House of the Unsandaled."

¹¹ If two men are fighting, and the wife of one comes to rescue her husband from the one striking him, and she reaches out her hand and grabs his genitals, ¹² you are to cut off her hand. You must show her no pity.

STANDARD WEIGHTS AND MEASURES //

PROVERBS 11:1–3; EZEKIEL 45:10–12

¹³ You shall not have two differing weights in your bag, one heavy and one light. ¹⁴ You shall not have two differing measures in your house, one large and one small.

¹⁵ You must maintain accurate and honest weights and measures, so that you may live long in the land that Yahweh your God is giving you. ¹⁶ For everyone who behaves dishonestly in regard to these things is detestable to Yahweh your God.

■ DT 25:5 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → MT 22:24 p. –

■ DT 25:5 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → MK 12:19 p. –

■ DT 25:5 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → LK 20:28 p. –

■ DT 25:5 [NOTE] This is the law behind Ruth and Boaz, Ruth 4, and behind the Sadducees' trick question to Jesus about seven brothers.

REVENGE ON THE AMALEKITES

¹⁷ Remember what the Amalekites did to you along your way from Egypt, ¹⁸ how they met you on your journey when you were tired and weary, and they attacked all your stragglers; they had no fear of God.

¹⁹ When Yahweh your God gives you rest from the enemies around you in the land that He is giving you to possess as an inheritance, you are to blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!

26

CHAPTER 26 IN 30 SECONDS

In the land, bring the first of your harvest in a basket and tell the story: My father was a wandering Aramean. Every third year, give the tithe to the Levite, the foreigner, the orphan and the widow. Today Israel says, Yahweh is our God, and God says, You are My treasured people.

OFFERING FIRSTFRUITS AND TITHES // LEVITICUS 27:30–34; DEUTERONOMY 14:22–29; NEHEMIAH 13:10–14

¹ When you enter the land that Yahweh your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you take possession of it and settle in it, ² you are to take some of the firstfruits of all your produce from the soil of the land that Yahweh your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place Yahweh your God will choose as a dwelling for His Name, ³ to the priest who is serving at that time, and say to him, "I declare today to Yahweh your God that I have entered the land that Yahweh swore to our fathers to give us."

⁴ Then the priest shall take the basket from your hands and place it before the altar of Yahweh your God, ⁵ and you are to declare before Yahweh your God, "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down to Egypt few in number and lived there and became a great nation, mighty and numerous. ⁶ But the Egyptians mistreated us and afflicted us, putting us to hard labor. ⁷ So we called out to Yahweh, the God of our fathers; and Yahweh

■ DT 26:5 [NOTE] The wandering Aramean is Jacob. These words are still read at the Jewish Passover meal.

heard our voice and saw our affliction, toil, and oppression. ⁸ Then Yahweh brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror, signs, and wonders. ⁹ And He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land that You, O Yahweh, have given me."

Then you are to place the basket before Yahweh your God and bow down before Him. ¹¹ So you shall rejoice—you, the Levite, and the foreigner dwelling among you—in all the good things Yahweh your God has given to you and your household.

¹² When you have finished laying aside a tenth of all your produce in the third year, the year of the tithe, you are to give it to the Levite, the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat and be filled within your gates.

¹³ Then you shall declare in the presence of Yahweh your God, "I have removed from my house the sacred portion and have given it to the Levite, the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow, according to all the commandments You have given me. I have not transgressed or forgotten Your commandments. ¹⁴ I have not eaten any of the sacred portion while in mourning, or removed any of it while unclean, or offered any of it for the dead. I have obeyed Yahweh my God; I have done everything You commanded me. ¹⁵ Look down from Your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless Your people Israel and the land You have given us as You swore to our fathers—a land flowing with milk and honey."

OBEY YAHWEH'S COMMANDS

¹⁶ Yahweh your God commands you this day to follow these statutes and ordinances. You must be careful to follow them with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹⁷ Today you have proclaimed that Yahweh is your God and that you will walk in His ways, keep His statutes and command-

ments and ordinances, and listen to His voice.

¹⁸ And today Yahweh has proclaimed that you are His people and treasured possession as He promised, that you are to keep all His commandments, ¹⁹ that He will set you high in praise and name and honor above all the nations He has made, and that you will be a holy people to Yahweh your God, as He has promised.

27

CHAPTER 27 IN 30 SECONDS

After crossing the Jordan, set up big stones on Mount Ebal, coat them with plaster and write the law on them, and build an altar of uncut stones. Half the tribes stand on Mount Gerizim and half on Mount Ebal, and the Levites shout twelve curses. After each one, all the people say Amen.

THE ALTAR ON MOUNT EBAL // JOSHUA 8:30–35

¹ Then Moses and the elders of Israel commanded the people: "Keep all the commandments I am giving you today.

² And on the day you cross the Jordan into the land that Yahweh your God is giving you, set up large stones and coat them with plaster. ³ Write on them all the words of this law when you have crossed over to enter the land that Yahweh your God is giving you, a land flowing with milk and honey, just as Yahweh, the God of your fathers, has promised you. ⁴ And when you have crossed the Jordan, you are to set up these stones on Mount Ebal, as I am commanding you today, and you are to coat them with plaster.

⁵ Moreover, you are to build there an altar to Yahweh your God, an altar of stones. You must not use any iron tool on them. ⁶ You shall build the altar of Yahweh your God with uncut stones and offer upon it burnt offerings to Yahweh your God. ⁷ There you are to sacrifice your peace offerings, eating them and rejoicing in the presence of Yahweh your God. ⁸ And you

■ **DT 27:4 [TEXT]** The Samaritan Bible reads Mount Gerizim here, the Samaritans' holy mountain. A few scholars think Gerizim was the first reading. Most Bibles follow Ebal.

■ **DT 27:4 [FIELD NOTES]** A stone structure on Mount Ebal may be an altar. See the Mount Ebal Altar Field Notes page.

DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

shall write distinctly upon these stones all the words of this law."

⁹ Then Moses and the Levitical priests spoke to all Israel: "Be silent, O Israel, and listen! This day you have become the people of Yahweh your God. ¹⁰ You shall therefore obey the voice of Yahweh your God and follow His commandments and statutes I am giving you today."

CURSES PRONOUNCED FROM EBAL

¹¹ On that day Moses commanded the people: ¹² "When you have crossed the Jordan, these tribes shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin. ¹³ And these tribes shall stand on Mount Ebal to deliver the curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

¹⁴ Then the Levites shall proclaim in a loud voice to every Israelite:

¹⁵ 'Cursed is the man who makes a carved idol or molten image—an abomination to Yahweh, the work of the hands of a craftsman—and sets it up in secret.'

And let all the people say, 'Amen!'

¹⁶ 'Cursed is he who dishonors his father or mother.'

And let all the people say, 'Amen!'

¹⁷ 'Cursed is he who moves his neighbor's boundary stone.'

And let all the people say, 'Amen!'

¹⁸ 'Cursed is he who lets a blind man wander in the road.'

And let all the people say, 'Amen!'

¹⁹ 'Cursed is he who withholds justice from the foreigner, the fatherless, or the widow.'

And let all the people say, 'Amen!'

²⁰ 'Cursed is he who sleeps with his father's wife, for he has violated his father's marriage bed.'

And let all the people say, 'Amen!'

²¹ 'Cursed is he who lies with any animal.'

And let all the people say, 'Amen!'

²² 'Cursed is he who sleeps with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.'

And let all the people say, 'Amen!'

²³ 'Cursed is he who sleeps with his mother-in-law.'

And let all the people say, 'Amen!'

²⁴ 'Cursed is he who strikes down his neighbor in secret.'

And let all the people say, 'Amen!'

²⁵ 'Cursed is he who accepts a bribe to kill an innocent person.'

And let all the people say, 'Amen!'

²⁶ 'Cursed is he who does not put the words of this law into practice.'

And let all the people say, 'Amen!'

DEBATED FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: MEDIUM, ALTAR OR NOT IS DEBATED

THE MOUNT EBAL ALTAR

DEUTERONOMY 11:29 · 27:2 TO 8 · JOSHUA 8:30 TO 35



The stone structure on Mount Ebal that Adam Zertal called an altar. Photo Hoshvillim, CC BY SA 4.0.

WHAT IT IS

A large stone platform near the top of Mount Ebal, above the city of Shechem, Nablus today. Moses told Israel to build an altar of uncut stones on Mount Ebal after crossing the Jordan, 27:4 to 8, and Joshua 8:30 to 31 says Joshua did.

HOW OLD IT IS

The pottery is from the early Iron Age, the late 1200s and the 1100s BC. Zertal found an earlier, smaller phase under the big platform, and dated two Egyptian scarabs from the site to the late 1200s BC.

HOW BIG

About 30 by 23 feet and about 10 to 13 feet high, filled with layers of stones, earth, ash and bones. A ramp about 23 feet long leads up to it, not steps. Exodus 20:26 says not to go up to an altar by steps.

■ DT 27:15 [DEMONIC] Cursed is anyone who makes an idol in secret

■ DT 27:26 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → GAL 3:10 p.~

DEMONIC

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

Israeli archaeologist Adam Zertal found it during a survey in 1980 and dug it from 1982 to 1989 for the University of Haifa.

WHAT WAS FOUND

Burned bones of young bulls, sheep, goats and fallow deer, all clean animals, and no pigs. The Law never lists deer as a sacrifice, so scholars argue over that. There were also many small stone installations with ash and pottery around the platform.

THE BIG DEBATE

Zertal said it was Joshua's altar. Aharon Kempinski said it was a watchtower, and Israel Finkelstein doubted it too. Amihai Mazar said Zertal may be wrong in the details, but the site does look like a place of worship. Many scholars agree it was a place of worship but not that Joshua built it.

THE LEAD TABLET

In 2022 Scott Stripling's team said a tiny folded lead tablet, found in 2019 by sifting Zertal's old dirt piles, has a curse with God's name in very old letters. Many experts say no letters can be seen, and one said it may be a fishing net weight. The claim is strongly disputed.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

No inscription names Joshua or Israel, so it does not prove this is the altar of 27:4. It does show a place of worship on Mount Ebal from about the time the Bible places Israel there.

high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings will come upon you and overtake you, if you will obey the voice of Yahweh your God:

³ You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

⁴ The fruit of your womb will be blessed, as well as the produce of your land and the offspring of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

⁵ Your basket and kneading bowl will be blessed.

⁶ You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

⁷ Yahweh will cause the enemies who rise up against you to be defeated before you. They will march out against you in one direction but flee from you in seven.

⁸ Yahweh will decree a blessing on your barns and on everything to which you put your hand; Yahweh your God will bless you in the land He is giving you. ⁹ Yahweh will establish you as His holy people, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of Yahweh your God and walk in His ways. ¹⁰ Then all the peoples of the earth will see that you are called by the name of Yahweh, and they will stand in awe of you.

¹¹ Yahweh will make you prosper abundantly—in the fruit of your womb, the offspring of your livestock, and the produce of your land—in the land that Yahweh swore to your fathers to give you.

¹² Yahweh will open the heavens, His abundant storehouse, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations, but borrow from none.

¹³ Yahweh will make you the head and not the tail; you will only move upward and never downward, if you hear and carefully follow the commandments of Yahweh your God, which I am giving you today. ¹⁴

Do not turn aside to the right or to the left from any of the words I command you to—

28

CHAPTER 28 IN 30 SECONDS

Obey, and you will be blessed in the city and in the country, coming in and going out. Disobey, and the curses come: drought, disease, defeat, siege and exile. This is the longest chapter in Deuteronomy, and most of it is curses. Israel's later history reads like it was checking them off.

THE BLESSINGS OF OBEDIENCE // LEVITICUS

25:18–22

¹“Now if you faithfully obey the voice of Yahweh your God and are careful to follow all His commandments I am giving you today, Yahweh your God will set you

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

day, and do not go after other gods to serve them.

THE CURSES OF DISOBEDIENCE // LEVITICUS 20:1–9; LEVITICUS 26:14–39

¹⁵ If, however, you do not obey Yahweh your God by carefully following all His commandments and statutes I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

¹⁶ You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country.

¹⁷ Your basket and kneading bowl will be cursed.

¹⁸ The fruit of your womb will be cursed, as well as the produce of your land, the calves of your herds, and the lambs of your flocks.

¹⁹ You will be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out.

²⁰ Yahweh will send curses upon you, confusion and reproof in all to which you put your hand, until you are destroyed and quickly perish because of the wickedness you have committed in forsaking Him.

²¹ Yahweh will make the plague cling to you until He has exterminated you from the land that you are entering to possess.

²² Yahweh will strike you with wasting disease, with fever and inflammation, with scorching heat and drought, and with blight and mildew; these will pursue you until you perish. ²³ The sky over your head will be bronze, and the earth beneath you iron.

²⁴ Yahweh will turn the rain of your land into dust and powder; it will descend on you from the sky until you are destroyed.

²⁵ Yahweh will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You will march out against them in one direction but flee from them in seven. You will be an object of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. ²⁶

Your corpses will be food for all the birds of the air and beasts of the earth, with no one to scare them away.

²⁷ Yahweh will afflict you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors and scabs and itch from which you cannot be cured.

²⁸ Yahweh will afflict you with madness, blindness, and confusion of mind, ²⁹ and at noon you will grope about like a blind man in the darkness. You will not prosper in your ways. Day after day you will be oppressed and plundered, with no one to save you.

³⁰ You will be pledged in marriage to a woman, but another man will violate her. You will build a house but will not live in it. You will plant a vineyard but will not enjoy its fruit. ³¹ Your ox will be slaughtered before your eyes, but you will not eat any of it. Your donkey will be taken away and not returned to you. Your flock will be given to your enemies, and no one will save you.

³² Your sons and daughters will be given to another nation, while your eyes grow weary looking for them day after day, with no power in your hand. ³³ A people you do not know will eat the produce of your land and of all your toil. All your days you will be oppressed and crushed. ³⁴ You will be driven mad by the sights you see.

³⁵ Yahweh will afflict you with painful, incurable boils on your knees and thighs, from the soles of your feet to the top of your head.

³⁶ Yahweh will bring you and the king you appoint to a nation neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you will worship other gods—gods of wood and stone. ³⁷ You will become an object of horror, scorn, and ridicule among all the nations to which Yahweh will drive you.

■ **DT 28:14 [DEMONIC]** Do not go after other gods to serve them

■ **DT 28:15 [PROPHECY]** Curses in the city and country if you do not obey → Fulfilled repeatedly throughout Israel's history during periods of apostasy p.---

■ **DT 28:23 [PROPHECY]** The heavens above your head shall be bronze, the earth beneath you iron; rain turned to powder and dust → Fulfilled in droughts in Elijah's day (1KI 17) and others p.---

■ **DT 28:25 [PROPHECY]** Yahweh will cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways → Fulfilled in Israel's military defeats p.---

■ **DT 28:36 [PROPHECY]** Yahweh will bring you and your king to a nation you have not known; you shall become an astonishment, a proverb, a byword → Fulfilled in Assyrian exile of northern kingdom and Babylonian exile of Judah p.---

■ **DT 28:36 [DEMONIC]** In exile you will serve gods of wood and stone

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN HISTORY

³⁸ You will sow much seed in the field but harvest little, because the locusts will consume it. ³⁹ You will plant and cultivate vineyards, but will neither drink the wine nor gather the grapes, because worms will eat them. ⁴⁰ You will have olive trees throughout your territory but will never anoint yourself with oil, because the olives will drop off. ⁴¹ You will father sons and daughters, but they will not remain yours, because they will go into captivity. ⁴² Swarms of locusts will consume all your trees and the produce of your land.

⁴³ The foreigner living among you will rise higher and higher above you, while you sink down lower and lower. ⁴⁴ He will lend to you, but you will not lend to him. He will be the head, and you will be the tail.

⁴⁵ All these curses will come upon you. They will pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, since you did not obey Yahweh your God and keep the commandments and statutes He gave you. ⁴⁶ These curses will be a sign and a wonder upon you and your descendants forever.

⁴⁷ Because you did not serve Yahweh your God with joy and gladness of heart in all your abundance, ⁴⁸ you will serve your enemies Yahweh will send against you in famine, thirst, nakedness, and destitution. He will place an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you.

⁴⁹ Yahweh will bring a nation from afar, from the ends of the earth, to swoop down upon you like an eagle—a nation whose language you will not understand, ⁵⁰ a ruthless nation with no respect for the old and no pity for the young. ⁵¹ They will eat the offspring of your livestock and the produce of your land until you are destroyed. They will leave you no grain or new wine or oil, no calves of your herds or lambs of your flocks, until they have caused you to perish. ⁵² They will besiege all the cities throughout your land, until the high and fortified walls in which you

trust have fallen. They will besiege all your cities throughout the land that Yahweh your God has given you.

⁵³ Then you will eat the fruit of your womb, the flesh of the sons and daughters whom Yahweh your God has given you, in the siege and distress that your enemy will inflict on you.

⁵⁴ The most gentle and refined man among you will begrudge his brother, the wife he embraces, and the rest of his children who have survived, ⁵⁵ refusing to share with any of them the flesh of his children he will eat because he has nothing left in the siege and distress that your enemy will inflict on you within all your gates.

⁵⁶ The most gentle and refined woman among you, so gentle and refined she would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground, will begrudge the husband she embraces and her son and daughter ⁵⁷ the afterbirth that comes from between her legs and the children she bears, because she will secretly eat them for lack of anything else in the siege and distress that your enemy will inflict on you within your gates.

⁵⁸ If you are not careful to observe all the words of this law which are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name—Yahweh your God— ⁵⁹ He will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary disasters, severe and lasting plagues, and terrible and chronic sicknesses. ⁶⁰ He will afflict you again with all the diseases you dreaded in Egypt, and they will cling to you.

⁶¹ Yahweh will also bring upon you every sickness and plague not recorded in this Book of the Law, until you are destroyed.

⁶² You who were as numerous as the stars in the sky will be left few in number, because you would not obey the voice of Yahweh your God.

DT 28:49 [PROPHECY] Yahweh will bring a nation against you from afar, from the ends of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, whose language you shall not understand; a nation of fierce countenance → 2KI 25:1-4 p. 41

DT 28:53 [PROPHECY] You shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and daughters, in the siege → HISTORY: Fulfilled in Samaria's siege (2 Kings 6:24-29)

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN HISTORY THE HEART OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

⁶³ Just as it pleased Yahweh to make you prosper and multiply, so also it will please Him to annihilate you and destroy you. And you will be uprooted from the land you are entering to possess.

⁶⁴ Then Yahweh will scatter you among all the nations, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you will worship other gods, gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. ⁶⁵ Among those nations you will find no repose, not even a resting place for the sole of your foot. There Yahweh will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and a despairing soul.

⁶⁶ So your life will hang in doubt before you, and you will be afraid night and day, never certain of survival. ⁶⁷ In the morning you will say, 'If only it were evening!' and in the evening you will say, 'If only it were morning!'—because of the dread in your hearts of the terrifying sights you will see.

⁶⁸ Yahweh will return you to Egypt in ships by a route that I said you should never see again. There you will sell yourselves to your enemies as male and female slaves, but no one will buy you."

29

CHAPTER 29 IN 30 SECONDS

For forty years, Moses reminds them, their clothes and sandals did not wear out. Now he renews the covenant on the plains of Moab with everyone there, and with those who are not there today. Anyone who thinks, I will be safe even if I go my own way, is a poisonous root. The secret things belong to God.

THE COVENANT IN MOAB

¹These are the words of the covenant that Yahweh commanded Moses to make with the Israelites in the land of Moab, in addi-

tion to the covenant He had made with them at Horeb.

²Moses summoned all Israel and proclaimed to them, "You have seen with your own eyes everything Yahweh did in Egypt to Pharaoh, to all his officials, and to all his land. ³You saw with your own eyes the great trials, and those miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴*Yet to this day Yahweh has not given you a heart to understand, eyes to see, or ears to hear.*

⁵For forty years I led you in the wilderness, yet your clothes and sandals did not wear out.

⁶You ate no bread and drank no wine or strong drink, so that you might know that I am Yahweh your God.

⁷When you reached this place, Sihon king of Heshbon and Og king of Bashan came out against us in battle, but we defeated them. ⁸We took their land and gave it as an inheritance to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. ⁹So keep and follow the words of this covenant, that you may prosper in all you do.

¹⁰All of you are standing today before Yahweh your God—you leaders of tribes, elders, officials, and all the men of Israel, ¹¹your children and wives, and the foreigners in your camps who cut your wood and draw your water— ¹²so that you may enter into the covenant of Yahweh your God, which He is making with you today, and into His oath, ¹³and so that He may establish you today as His people, and He may be your God as He promised you and as He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

¹⁴I am making this covenant and this oath not only with you, ¹⁵but also with those who are standing here with us today in the presence of Yahweh our God, as well as with those who are not here today.

■ **DT 29:4 [HEART]** After forty years of miracles, God had still not given them a heart to understand. Seeing is not the same as believing.

■ **DT 29:4 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → ROM 11:8 p.~

■ **DT 28:63 [PROPHECY]** Yahweh will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other; you shall serve other gods there → HISTORY: Fulfilled in the Babylonian exile and the Roman diaspora after AD 70

■ **DT 28:64 [DEMONIC]** Scattered among the nations you will worship other gods

■ **DT 28:65 [PROPHECY]** Among those nations you shall find no rest; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life → HISTORY: Jewish expulsions and persecutions

■ **DT 28:68 [PROPHECY]** Israel would be taken back to Egypt and sold as slaves, but no one would buy → HISTORY: Josephus · MEDIUM

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE DEMONIC

¹⁶ For you yourselves know how we lived in the land of Egypt and how we passed through the nations on the way here. ¹⁷ You saw the abominations and idols among them made of wood and stone, of silver and gold.

¹⁸ Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from Yahweh our God to go and worship the gods of those nations. Make sure there is no root among you that bears such poisonous and bitter fruit, ¹⁹ because when such a person hears the words of this oath, he invokes a blessing on himself, saying, 'I will have peace, even though I walk in the stubbornness of my own heart.'

This will bring disaster on the watered land as well as the dry. ²⁰ Yahweh will never be willing to forgive him. Instead, His anger and jealousy will burn against that man, and every curse written in this book will fall upon him. Yahweh will blot out his name from under heaven ²¹ and single him out from all the tribes of Israel for disaster, according to all the curses of the covenant written in this Book of the Law.

²² Then the generation to come—your sons who follow you and the foreigner who comes from a distant land—will see the plagues of the land and the sicknesses Yahweh has inflicted on it. ²³ All its soil will be a burning waste of sulfur and salt, unsown and unproductive, with no plant growing on it, just like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which Yahweh overthrew in His fierce anger.

²⁴ So all the nations will ask, 'Why has Yahweh done such a thing to this land? Why this great outburst of anger?'

²⁵ And the people will answer, 'It is because they abandoned the covenant of Yahweh, the God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt. ²⁶ They

went and served other gods, and they worshiped gods they had not known—gods that Yahweh had not given to them. ²⁷ Therefore the anger of Yahweh burned against this land, and He brought upon it every curse written in this book. ²⁸ Yahweh uprooted them from their land in His anger, rage, and great wrath, and He cast them into another land, where they are today.'

²⁹ The secret things belong to Yahweh our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, so that we may follow all the words of this law.

30

CHAPTER 30 IN 30 SECONDS

Even if Israel ends up scattered, God will bring them back if they return to Him. He will circumcise their hearts so they can love Him. His command is not too hard or too far away. It is in your mouth and in your heart. I set before you life and death. Choose life.

THE PROMISE OF RESTORATION // NEHEMIAH 1:1–11

¹ "When all these things come upon you—the blessings and curses I have set before you—and you call them to mind in all the nations to which Yahweh your God has banished you, ² and when you and your children return to Yahweh your God and obey His voice with all your heart and all your soul according to everything I am giving you today, ³ then He will restore you from captivity and have compassion on you and gather you from all the nations to which Yahweh your God has scattered you. ⁴ Even if you have been banished to the farthest horizon, He will gather you and return you from there.

⁵ And Yahweh your God will bring you into the land your fathers possessed, and you will take possession of it. He will cause you to prosper and multiply more than

■ DT 29:25 [DEMONIC] The land is ruined because they served other gods

■ DT 29:29 [NOTE] God does not tell us everything. What He has told us is enough to obey.

■ DT 30:1 [PROPHECY] Yahweh will gather you again from all the nations where He has scattered you; if any are driven to the farthest parts under heaven, He will bring you back → EZR 1:1–5; NEH 1:8–9. Many Christians see a further fulfillment in the modern State of Israel since 1948; others read it differently. · MEDIUM p.~

■ DT 29:17 [DEMONIC] Israel saw the idols of wood, stone, silver, and gold

■ DT 29:18 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → HEB 12:15 p.~

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

MESSIANIC FORESHADOW

DEMONIC

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

your fathers. ⁶Yahweh your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, and you will love Him with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.

⁷Then Yahweh your God will put all these curses upon your enemies who hate you and persecute you. ⁸And you will again obey the voice of Yahweh and follow all His commandments I am giving you today. ⁹So Yahweh your God will make you abound in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the offspring of your livestock, and the produce of your land. Indeed, Yahweh will again delight in your prosperity, as He delighted in that of your fathers, ¹⁰if you obey Yahweh your God by keeping His commandments and statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, and if you turn to Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

THE CHOICE OF LIFE OR DEATH

¹¹For this commandment I give you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. ¹²*It is not in heaven, that you should need to ask, 'Who will ascend into heaven to get it for us and proclaim it, that we may obey it?'* ¹³*And it is not beyond the sea, that you should need to ask, 'Who will cross the sea to get it for us and proclaim it, that we may obey it?'* ¹⁴*But the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you may obey it.*

¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, as well as death and disaster.

¹⁶For I am commanding you today to love Yahweh your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, statutes, and ordinances, so that you may live and increase, and Yahweh your God may bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.

¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not listen, but are drawn away to bow

down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you will surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess.

¹⁹I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore choose life, so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰and that you may love Yahweh your God, obey Him, and hold fast to Him. For He is your life, and He will prolong your life in the land that Yahweh swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

31

CHAPTER 31 IN 30 SECONDS

Moses is 120 and cannot go with them. He tells Joshua, Be strong and courageous. He writes the law and orders it read every seven years. Then God tells Moses the hard truth: after you die, they will turn to other gods. So He gives Moses a song to teach them, as a witness against them.

JOSHUA TO SUCCEED MOSES // NUMBERS 27:18–23

¹When Moses had finished speaking these words to all Israel, ²he said to them, "I am now a hundred and twenty years old; I am no longer able to come and go, and Yahweh has said to me, 'You shall not cross the Jordan.'

³Yahweh your God Himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you will dispossess them. Joshua will cross ahead of you, as Yahweh has said. ⁴And Yahweh will do to them as He did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, when He destroyed them along with their land.

⁵Yahweh will deliver them over to you, and you must do to them exactly as I have commanded you. ⁶*Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid or terrified of them, for it is Yahweh your God who goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you."*

■ DT 30:6 [PROPHECY] God would circumcise the hearts of His people so they would love Him → ROM 2:29; COL 2:11 · MEDIUM p. –

■ DT 30:12 [PROPHECY] The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart → ROM 10:6–8 · MEDIUM p. –

■ DT 30:12 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → ROM 10:6–8 p. –

■ DT 30:14 [HEART] The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart, so you can obey it.

■ DT 30:17 [DEMONIC] If you bow to other gods you will surely perish

■ DT 30:19 [DEMONIC] I set before you life and death, blessing and curse

■ DT 31:6 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → HEB 13:5 p. –

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW GOD SPEAKING

⁷ Then Moses called for Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you will go with this people into the land that Yahweh swore to their fathers to give them, and you shall give it to them as an inheritance.

⁸ *Yahweh Himself goes before you; He will be with you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid or discouraged."*

THE READING OF THE LAW // NEHEMIAH 8:1-8

⁹ So Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of Yahweh, and to all the elders of Israel.

¹⁰ Then Moses commanded them, "At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year of remission of debt, during the Feast of Tabernacles, ¹¹ when all Israel comes before Yahweh your God at the place He will choose, you are to read this law in the hearing of all Israel.

¹² Assemble the people—men, women, children, and the foreigners within your gates—so that they may listen and learn to fear Yahweh your God and to follow carefully all the words of this law. ¹³ Then their children who do not know the law will listen and learn to fear Yahweh your God, as long as you live in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess."

GOD COMMISSIONS JOSHUA

¹⁴ Then Yahweh said to Moses, "Behold, the time of your death is near. Call Joshua and present yourselves at the Tent of Meeting, so that I may commission him."

So Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves at the Tent of Meeting.

¹⁵ Then Yahweh appeared at the tent in a pillar of cloud, and the cloud stood over the entrance to the tent.

¹⁶ And Yahweh said to Moses, "You will soon rest with your fathers, and these people will rise up and prostitute themselves with the foreign gods of the land they are entering. They will forsake Me and break the covenant I have made with them."

¹⁷ On that day My anger will burn against them, and I will abandon them and hide My face from them, so that they will be consumed, and many troubles and afflictions will befall them.

On that day they will say, 'Have not these disasters come upon us because our God is no longer with us?'

¹⁸ And on that day I will surely hide My face because of all the evil they have done by turning to other gods.

¹⁹ Now therefore, write down for yourselves this song and teach it to the Israelites; have them recite it, so that it may be a witness for Me against them. ²⁰ When I have brought them into the land that I swore to give their fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey, they will eat their fill and prosper. Then they will turn to other gods and worship them, and they will reject Me and break My covenant. ²¹ And when many troubles and afflictions have come upon them, this song will testify against them, because it will not be forgotten from the lips of their descendants. For I know their inclination, even before I bring them into the land that I swore to give them."

²² So that very day Moses wrote down this song and taught it to the Israelites.

²³ Then Yahweh commissioned Joshua son of Nun and said, "Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land that I swore to give them, and I will be with you."

THE LAW PLACED IN THE ARK

²⁴ When Moses had finished writing in a book the words of this law from beginning to end, ²⁵ he gave this command to the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of Yahweh: ²⁶ "Take this Book of the Law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of Yahweh your God, so that it may remain there as a witness against you. ²⁷ For I know how rebellious and stiff-

■ DT 31:8 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → HEB 13:5 p.-

■ DT 31:16 [PROPHECY] After Moses' death Israel would forsake God, leading to disasters foretold in the Song of Moses → Judges-Kings p.-

■ DT 31:16 [DEMONIC] God foretells Israel will chase foreign gods

■ DT 31:20 [DEMONIC] Once they are full they will turn to other gods

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

necked you are. If you are already rebelling against Yahweh while I am still alive, how much more will you rebel after my death!

²⁸ Assemble before me all the elders of your tribes and all your officers so that I may speak these words in their hearing and call heaven and earth to witness against them. ²⁹ For I know that after my death you will become utterly corrupt and turn from the path I have commanded you. And in the days to come, disaster will befall you because you will do evil in the sight of Yahweh to provoke Him to anger by the work of your hands."

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

THE SCROLL FOUND IN THE TEMPLE

Lost and Found

DEUTERONOMY 31:24 TO 26 · 2 KINGS 22 TO 23 · 2 CHRONICLES 34

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

About 622 BC, while workers were repairing the temple, the high priest Hilkiah found the Book of the Law. When King Josiah heard it read, he tore his clothes in fear. He asked the prophetess Huldah what it meant, then read it to the whole nation, smashed the idols and high places, and held a Passover like no other since the judges, 2 Kings 22 and 23.

WHY MANY THINK IT WAS DEUTERONOMY

Josiah did what Deuteronomy commands. He shut down worship everywhere except the one place God chose, 12:5. He removed mediums and spiritists, 18:11. He kept the Passover at Jerusalem, 16:5 to 6. And the book is called the Book of the Covenant, like Deuteronomy 29:1.

THE OLD VIEW

Church fathers like Jerome, Athanasius and John Chrysostom already said

Josiah's book was Deuteronomy. Some later Jewish and Christian teachers thought it was all five books of Moses.

HOW COULD IT BE LOST?

King Manasseh, Josiah's grandfather, ruled 55 years and filled the temple with idols, 2 Kings 21. Many say the scroll was hidden or forgotten during those years. Deuteronomy 31:26 had said to keep it beside the ark.

Found or Written?

2 KINGS 22:8 TO 13 · 2 KINGS 23:25 · DEUTERONOMY 17:18

THE LOST AND FOUND VIEW

The traditional view: Moses wrote it, it was kept by the priests, and it was neglected or hidden during the evil years. Josiah found an old book, and his reaction shows he believed it was old and true.

THE NEW BOOK VIEW

In 1805 the German scholar W. M. L. de Wette argued that the book was written not long before it was found, to support Josiah's reforms. Many critical scholars still hold some form of this view and date the core of Deuteronomy to the 600s BC.

THE IN BETWEEN VIEW

Others say the laws and speeches are much older, maybe saved by Levites or prophets in the northern kingdom, and were collected and edited later. They point out that some laws fit an early time, not Josiah's.

THE TREATY CLUE

Deuteronomy is shaped like ancient treaties. Some, like Kenneth Kitchen, say it fits Hittite treaties from the 1300s BC, Moses' general time. Others, like Moshe Weinfeld, say its curses look most like Esarhaddon's Assyrian treaty from 672 BC, in Josiah's century.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

A scroll was found in the temple in Josiah's day, and it changed the nation. Most scholars on every side think it held at least part of Deuteronomy. It shows how God's Word, once forgotten, can bring a whole nation back.

- DT 31:26 [NOTE] LOST AND FOUND. Centuries later a Book of the Law was found in the temple in King Josiah's day. Was it this book? See the Big Question pages The Scroll Found in the Temple.
- DT 31:29 [PROPHECY] After Moses died Israel would turn corrupt and disaster would come → JUDG 2:11-15 p.~
- DT 31:29 [DEMONIC] Israel will provoke God with the work of their hands

DEMONIC GOD SPEAKING

MOSES BEGINS HIS SONG

³⁰ Then Moses recited aloud to the whole assembly of Israel the words of this song from beginning to end:

32

CHAPTER 32 IN 30 SECONDS

The Song of Moses. God is the Rock, and His works are perfect, but His people turned to idols and gods they never knew. God will judge them, and then He will rescue them and judge their enemies. Then God tells Moses to climb Mount Nebo, see the land and die there.

THE SONG OF MOSES // REVELATION 15:1–4

¹ Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak;
hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

² Let my teaching fall like rain
and my speech settle like dew,
like gentle rain on new grass,
like showers on tender plants.

³ For I will proclaim the name of Yahweh.
Ascribe greatness to our God!

⁴ He is the Rock, His work is perfect;
all His ways are just.

A God of faithfulness without injustice,
righteous and upright is He.

⁵ His people have acted corruptly toward
Him;
the blemish on them is not that of His
children,
but of a perverse and crooked genera-
tion.

⁶ Is this how you repay Yahweh,
O foolish and senseless people?
Is He not your Father and Creator?
Has He not made you and established
you?

⁷ Remember the days of old;
consider the years long past.
Ask your father, and he will tell you,
your elders, and they will inform you.

⁸ When the Most High gave the nations
their inheritance,
when He divided the sons of man,
He set the boundaries of the peoples
according to the number of the sons of
God.

■ DT 32:5 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → PHIL 2:15 p.~

■ DT 32:8 [TEXT] The oldest Hebrew copy, a Dead Sea Scroll, says sons of God here, and most Greek copies

⁹ But Yahweh's portion is His people,
Jacob His allotted inheritance.

¹⁰ He found him in a desert land,
in a barren, howling wilderness;
He surrounded him, He instructed him,
He guarded him as the apple of His eye.

¹¹ As an eagle stirs up its nest
and hovers over its young,
He spread His wings to catch them
and carried them on His pinions.

¹² Yahweh alone led him,
and no foreign god was with him.

¹³ He made him ride on the heights of the
land

and fed him the produce of the field.
He nourished him with honey from the
rock

and oil from the flinty crag,
¹⁴ with curds from the herd and milk from
the flock,
with the fat of lambs,

with rams from Bashan, and goats,
with the choicest grains of wheat.

From the juice of the finest grapes
you drank the wine.

¹⁵ But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked—
becoming fat, bloated, and gorged.
He abandoned the God who made him
and scorned the Rock of his salvation.

¹⁶ They provoked His jealousy with foreign
gods;

they enraged Him with abominations.

¹⁷ They sacrificed to demons, not to God,
to gods they had not known,
to newly arrived gods,
which your fathers did not fear.

¹⁸ You ignored the Rock who brought you
forth;
you forgot the God who gave you birth.

¹⁹ When Yahweh saw this, He rejected
them,
provoked to anger by His sons and
daughters.

²⁰ He said: **"I will hide My face from them;**

say angels of God. The standard Hebrew text says sons of Israel. Many Bibles, like this one, follow the older reading.

■ DT 32:16 [DEMONIC] They made God jealous with foreign gods

■ DT 32:17 [DEMONIC] They sacrificed to demons, not to God — to gods they had not known

■ DT 32:17 [ALLUDED TO] The New Testament refers to this → 1CO 10:20 p.~

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES DEMONIC OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW GOD SPEAKING

I will see what will be their end.
 For they are a perverse generation—
 children of unfaithfulness.

21 *They have provoked My jealousy by that
 which is not God;
 they have enraged Me with their worthless
 idols.
 So I will make them jealous by those who are
 not a people;
 I will make them angry by a nation without
 understanding.*

22 For a fire has been kindled by My anger,
 and it burns to the depths of Sheol;
 it consumes the earth and its produce,
 and scorches the foundations of the
 mountains.

23 I will heap disasters upon them;
 I will spend My arrows against them.

24 They will be wasted from hunger
 and ravaged by pestilence and bitter
 plague;
 I will send the fangs of wild beasts against
 them,
 with the venom of vipers that slither in
 the dust.

25 Outside, the sword will take their chil-
 dren,
 and inside, terror will strike
 the young man and the young woman,
 the infant and the gray-haired man.

26 I would have said that I would cut them
 to pieces
 and blot out their memory from
 mankind,

27 if I had not dreaded the taunt of the en-
 emy,
 lest their adversaries misunderstand
 and say:
 'Our own hand has prevailed;
 it was not Yahweh who did all this.'

28 Israel is a nation devoid of counsel,
 with no understanding among them.

29 If only they were wise, they would un-
 derstand it;
 they would comprehend their fate.

30 How could one man pursue a thousand,
 or two put ten thousand to flight,
 unless their Rock had sold them,
 unless Yahweh had given them up?

31 For their rock is not like our Rock,
 even our enemies concede.

32 But their vine is from the vine of Sodom
 and from the fields of Gomorrah.
 Their grapes are poisonous;
 their clusters are bitter.

33 Their wine is the venom of serpents,
 the deadly poison of cobras.

34 "Have I not stored up these things,
 sealed up within My vaults?
35 *Vengeance is Mine; I will repay.
 In due time their foot will slip;
 for their day of disaster is near,
 and their doom is coming quickly.*"

36 For Yahweh will vindicate His people
 and have compassion on His servants
 when He sees that their strength is gone
 and no one remains, slave or free.

37 He will say: "Where are their gods,
 the rock in which they took refuge,
38 which ate the fat of their sacrifices
 and drank the wine of their drink offer-
 ings?
 Let them rise up and help you;
 let them give you shelter!

39 See now that I am He;
 there is no God besides Me.
 I bring death and I give life;
 I wound and I heal,
 and there is no one
 who can deliver from My hand.

40 For I lift up My hand to heaven and de-
 clare:
 As surely as I live forever,
41 when I sharpen My flashing sword,
 and My hand grasps it in judgment,
 I will take vengeance on My adversaries
 and repay those who hate Me.

42 I will make My arrows drunk with blood,
 while My sword devours flesh—
 the blood of the slain and captives,
 the heads of the enemy leaders."

■ DT 32:21 [PROPHECY] God would make Israel jealous through a people who were not a nation → ROM 10:19; ROM 11:11 p.-

■ DT 32:21 [DEMONIC] They angered God with worthless idols

■ DT 32:21 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → ROM 10:19 p.-

■ DT 32:35 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → ROM 12:19 p.-

■ DT 32:35 [QUOTED] Quoted in the New Testament → HEB 10:30 p.-

■ DT 32:37 [DEMONIC] Where are their gods now? Let them rise up and help

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES OLD TESTAMENT QUOTED IN THE NEW

43 *Rejoice, O heavens, with Him, and let all
God's angels worship Him.*

*Rejoice, O nations, with His people;
for He will avenge the blood of His children.
He will take vengeance on His adversaries and
repay those who hate Him;
He will cleanse His land
and His people.*

44 Then Moses came with Joshua son of Nun and recited all the words of this song in the hearing of the people. **45** When Moses had finished reciting all these words to all Israel, **46** he said to them, "Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to carefully follow all the words of this law. **47** For they are not idle words to you, because they are your life, and by them you will live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess."

DEBATED FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH FOR THE FIND, DEBATED FOR WHICH READING IS FIRST

THE SONG OF MOSES SCROLL

DEUTERONOMY 32:8 · 32:43 · HEBREWS 1:6 · ROMANS 15:10



Cave 4 at Qumran, where 4QDeut q and hundreds of other scrolls were found. No free photo of the fragment itself is available. Photo Bahnfreund, CC BY SA 4.0.

- **DT 32:43 [PROPHECY]** The nations would rejoice with God's people and angels would worship Him → ROM 15:10; HEB 1:6 p.--
- **DT 32:43 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → ROM 15:10 p.--
- **DT 32:43 [QUOTED]** Quoted in the New Testament → HEB 1:6 p.--
- **DT 32:43 [TEXT]** A Dead Sea Scroll and the Greek Bible have a longer verse here. Hebrews 1:6 quotes the line let all God's angels worship Him. This Bible follows the longer verse.
- **DT 32:43 [FIELD NOTES]** See the Song of Moses Scroll Field Notes page.

WHAT IT IS

4QDeut q is a small Dead Sea Scroll with part of the Song of Moses, Deuteronomy 32. Its last column ends at 32:43, with blank space after it, so it may have held only the song, not the whole book. The poem is written in short lines, like a song sheet.

HOW OLD IT IS

Copied in the last century before Jesus, about 50 to 1 BC, judging by the shape of its letters.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

In Cave 4 at Qumran, near the Dead Sea, in 1952. That one cave held pieces of more than five hundred scrolls.

WHAT IT SAYS

The standard Hebrew text of 32:43 is short: Rejoice, O nations, with His people. This scroll reads, Rejoice, O heavens, with Him, and bow down to Him, all you gods. The Greek Bible is longer still, and some Greek copies say, let all God's angels worship Him. Hebrews 1:6 quotes that line about Jesus, and Romans 15:10 quotes the nations line.

THE SONS OF GOD

Another scroll from the same cave, 4QDeut j, reads sons of God in 32:8, where the standard Hebrew text says sons of Israel. The Greek Bible says much the same, angels of God. This Bible follows the older readings in both verses.

WHERE IT IS TODAY

The Israel Antiquities Authority in Jerusalem keeps it.

THE BIG DEBATE

Many scholars think the scroll keeps the older wording, and later scribes shortened the verse so it would not speak of other gods or heavenly beings. Others think the longer form grew over time. Either way, the scroll shows Hebrews was quoting a real reading of Deuteronomy, not making one up.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

It does not change what the Song teaches. The verse in every form calls heaven and earth to praise God, who will judge His enemies and cleanse His land and His people.

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE GOD SPEAKING BLOODLINE OF CHRIST

MOSES' DEATH FORETOLD

⁴⁸ On that same day Yahweh said to Moses, ⁴⁹ "Go up into the Abarim Range to Mount Nebo, in the land of Moab across from Jericho, and view the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites as their own possession.

⁵⁰ And there on the mountain that you climb, you will die and be gathered to your people, just as your brother Aaron died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people.

⁵¹ For at the waters of Meribah-kadesh in the Wilderness of Zin, both of you broke faith with Me among the Israelites by failing to treat Me as holy in their presence.

⁵² Although you shall see from a distance the land that I am giving the Israelites, you shall not enter it."

33

CHAPTER 33 IN 30 SECONDS

Before he dies, Moses blesses the tribes one by one, a lot like Jacob did in Genesis 49. Levi gets the priesthood, Benjamin rests on God's shoulders, and Joseph gets the best of the land. The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

MOSES BLESSES THE TWELVE TRIBES

¹ This is the blessing that Moses the man of God pronounced upon the Israelites before his death. ² He said:

"Yahweh came from Sinai and dawned upon us from Seir; He shone forth from Mount Paran and came with myriads of holy ones, with flaming fire at His right hand.

³ Surely You love the people; all the holy ones are in Your hand, and they sit down at Your feet; each receives Your words—

⁴ the law that Moses gave us, the possession of the assembly of Jacob.

⁵ So Yahweh became King in Jeshurun when the leaders of the people gathered, when the tribes of Israel came together.

⁶ Let Reuben live and not die, nor his men be few."

⁷ And concerning Judah he said:

"O Yahweh, hear the cry of Judah and bring him to his people.

With his own hands he defends his cause, but may You be a help against his foes."

⁸ Concerning Levi he said:

"Give Your Thummim to Levi and Your Urim to Your godly one, whom You tested at Massah and contested at the waters of Meribah.

⁹ He said of his father and mother, 'I do not consider them.'

He disregarded his brothers and did not know his own sons, for he kept Your word and maintained Your covenant.

¹⁰ He will teach Your ordinances to Jacob and Your law to Israel; he will set incense before You and whole burnt offerings on Your altar.

¹¹ Bless his substance, O Yahweh, and accept the work of his hands. Smash the loins of those who rise against him, and of his foes so they can rise no more."

¹² Concerning Benjamin he said:

"May the beloved of Yahweh rest secure in Him; God shields him all day long, and upon His shoulders he rests."

¹³ Concerning Joseph he said:

"May his land be blessed by Yahweh with the precious dew from heaven above

¹⁴ and the bountiful harvest from the sun and the abundant yield of the seasons,

¹⁵ with the best of the ancient mountains

■ DT 33:6 [PROPHECY] Let Reuben live and not die, nor let his men be few → Partially fulfilled · MEDIUM p.~

■ DT 33:7 [PROPHECY] Moses prayed that God would help Judah against his foes → JUDG 1:1-2 · MEDIUM p.~

■ DT 33:8 [PROPHECY] Levi → Fulfilled in the Levitical priesthood and their teaching role throughout Israel's history p.~

■ DT 33:12 [PROPHECY] Benjamin → JOSH 18:16; JOSH 18:28 · MEDIUM p.~

■ DT 33:13 [PROPHECY] Joseph → Fulfilled in Ephraim and Manasseh's wealth, size, and dominance in the northern kingdom p.~

■ DT 32:52 [PROPHECY] Moses would see the land from far away but not enter it → DT 34:1-5 p.~

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE

and the bounty of the everlasting hills,
¹⁶ with the choice gifts of the land and everything in it,
 and with the favor of Him who dwelt in the burning bush.
 May these rest on the head of Joseph and crown the brow of the prince of his brothers.
¹⁷ His majesty is like a firstborn bull, and his horns are like those of a wild ox. With them he will gore the nations, even to the ends of the earth. Such are the myriads of Ephraim, and such are the thousands of Manasseh."
¹⁸ Concerning Zebulun he said:
 "Rejoice, Zebulun, in your journeys, and Issachar, in your tents.
¹⁹ They will call the peoples to a mountain; there they will offer sacrifices of righteousness.
 For they will feast on the abundance of the seas and the hidden treasures of the sand."
²⁰ Concerning Gad he said:
 "Blessed is he who enlarges the domain of Gad!
 He lies down like a lion and tears off an arm or a head.
²¹ He chose the best land for himself, because a ruler's portion was reserved for him there.
 He came with the leaders of the people; he administered Yahweh's justice and His ordinances for Israel."
²² Concerning Dan he said:
 "Dan is a lion's cub, leaping out of Bashan."
²³ Concerning Naphtali he said:
 "Naphtali is abounding with favor, full of the blessing of Yahweh; he shall take possession of the sea and the south."

- DT 33:17 [FULFILLS] Jacob said Ephraim the younger would be greater than Manasseh ← GEN 48:19 p.~
- DT 33:18 [PROPHECY] Zebulun and Issachar → Fulfilled in their trading and coastal wealth · MEDIUM p.~
- DT 33:20 [PROPHECY] Gad → Fulfilled in Gad's warrior reputation (1 Chr 12:8) and their eastern land inheritance p.~
- DT 33:22 [PROPHECY] Dan is a lion's whelp; he shall leap from Bashan → JUDG 18:27-29 · MEDIUM p.~

²⁴ And concerning Asher he said:

"May Asher be the most blessed of sons; may he be the most favored among his brothers and dip his foot in oil.

²⁵ May the bolts of your gate be iron and bronze, and may your strength match your days."

²⁶ "There is none like the God of Jeshurun, who rides the heavens to your aid, and the clouds in His majesty.

²⁷ The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

He drives out the enemy before you, giving the command, 'Destroy him!'

²⁸ So Israel dwells securely; the fountain of Jacob lives untroubled in a land of grain and new wine, where even the heavens drip with dew.

²⁹ Blessed are you, O Israel!

Who is like you, a people saved by Yahweh?

He is the shield that protects you, the sword in which you boast.

Your enemies will cower before you, and you shall trample their high places."

34

CHAPTER 34 IN 30 SECONDS

Moses climbs Mount Nebo, and God shows him the whole land. Then Moses dies there at 120, his eyes still sharp and his strength not gone. God buries him, and nobody knows where. Israel mourns thirty days, Joshua takes over, and the book ends with this: no prophet has ever been like Moses.

THE DEATH OF MOSES

¹ Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which faces Jericho. And Yahweh showed him the whole land—from Gilead as far as Dan, ² all of Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Ju-

- DT 33:23 [PROPHECY] Naphtali → Fulfilled in Naphtali's fertile northern territory around the Sea of Galilee · MEDIUM p.~
- DT 33:24 [PROPHECY] Asher → Fulfilled in Asher's coastal olive oil abundance and Phoenician trade wealth p.~
- DT 33:24 [FULFILLS] Asher ← GEN 49:20 · MEDIUM p.~

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN SCRIPTURE GOD SPEAKING

dah as far as the Western Sea, ³the Negev, and the region from the Valley of Jericho (the City of Palms) all the way to Zoar.

⁴And Yahweh said to him, "This is the land that I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when I said, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have let you see it with your own eyes, but you will not cross into it."

⁵So Moses the servant of Yahweh died there in the land of Moab, as Yahweh had said. ⁶And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab facing Beth-peor, and no one to this day knows the location of his grave.

⁷Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak, and his vitality had not diminished.

⁸The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning for Moses came to an end.

⁹Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites obeyed him and did as Yahweh had commanded Moses. ¹⁰Since that time, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom Yahweh knew face to face— ¹¹no prophet who did all the signs and wonders that Yahweh sent Moses to do in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh and to all his officials and all his land, ¹²and no prophet who performed all the mighty acts of power and awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

- DT 34:1 [FULFILLS] Moses and Aaron would not enter the Promised Land because of their unbelief at the rock ← NUM 20:12 p.--
- DT 34:1 [FULFILLS] Moses would see the land from far away but not enter it ← DT 32:52 p.--
- DT 34:1 [FIELD NOTES] See the Mount Nebo Field Notes page.
- DT 34:4 [FULFILLS] Moses would see the land but not cross over. Joshua would lead the people in ← DT 3:27-28 p.--
- DT 34:6 [NOTE] Jude 9 says the archangel Michael argued with the devil over Moses' body. Nobody knows where the grave is.
- DT 34:10 [NOTABLE] The last words of the five books of Moses. Israel waited for the Prophet like Moses that 18:15 promised, and the New Testament says Jesus is that Prophet, Acts 3:22.
- DT 34:12 [NOTE] WHO WROTE MOSES' DEATH? See the Big Question pages Who Wrote Deuteronomy?

FIELD NOTES · ARCHAEOLOGY · CONFIDENCE: HIGH
FOR THE CHURCH, MEDIUM FOR THE EXACT PEAK

MOUNT NEBO

DEUTERONOMY 3:27 · 32:49 TO 52 · 34:1 TO 6 · JUDE 9



The hunting and herding mosaic in the baptistery of the Moses Memorial Church on Mount Nebo, dated by its Greek inscription to about AD 530. Photo Carole Raddato, CC BY SA 2.0.

WHAT IT IS

Mount Nebo is a ridge in Jordan, about 2,300 feet above sea level, across from Jericho. From here God showed Moses the land, and Moses died nearby, 34:1 to 5. Christians built a church on its western peak, Siyagha, to remember him.

HOW OLD IT IS

A pilgrim named Egeria visited about AD 384 and saw a small church there. It was rebuilt and enlarged in the 500s AD. The mosaic in the photo is dated by its own Greek inscription to about AD 530 and names three artists, Soelos, Kaiomos and Elias.

WHERE AND WHEN FOUND

The Franciscans bought the site in 1932 and began digging in 1933. In 1976 Father Michele Piccirillo found this mosaic hidden under a plainer mosaic floor in the church's north hall.

WHAT IT SHOWS

A shepherd fights a lion, horsemen hunt a bear and a boar, shepherds guard their flocks, and men lead an ostrich, a zebra and a camel. It decorated the room that also held the church's first baptism font.

THE VIEW

On a clear day you can see the Jordan Valley, Jericho, the Dead Sea and sometimes Jerusalem's hills. Deuteronomy 34:1 to 3 says God showed Moses

the land from Gilead to Dan and as far as the western sea, more than eyes alone can see. Many read it as God giving Moses a special view.

WHERE IT IS TODAY

The church, now called the Memorial of Moses, is cared for by the Franciscans. Pope John Paul II visited in 2000, and the church reopened in 2016 after years of work.

THE BIG DEBATE

34:1 says Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah. Some think Pisgah is the Siyagha peak, others a nearby ridge. And nobody knows where Moses is buried. 34:6 says no one knows his grave to this day.

WHAT IT DOES NOT PROVE

The church shows where Christians remembered Moses from the 300s AD on. It does not mark his grave, and nothing on the mountain comes from Moses' own time.

DEBATED THE BIG QUESTION

WHO WROTE DEUTERONOMY?

The Traditional View

DEUTERONOMY 1:1 · 31:9 · 31:24 · 34:5 TO 12 · MARK 10:3 TO 5

WHAT THE BOOK SAYS

These are the words Moses spoke to all Israel, 1:1. Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the priests, 31:9, and when he finished writing the words of this law in a book, he had it put beside the ark, 31:24 to 26. But chapter 34 tells about Moses' death and burial, and says no prophet since has been like him.

MOSES WROTE IT

The traditional Jewish and Christian view is that Moses wrote Deuteronomy, as the book says. Jesus quoted it as what Moses wrote and commanded, Mark 10:3 to 5 and Matthew 19:7 to 8, and Paul did too, Romans 10:19, 1 Corinthians 9:9.

WHO WROTE CHAPTER 34?

The Talmud, Bava Batra 14b to 15a, says Joshua wrote the last eight verses. One rabbi there says Moses wrote them with tears as God told him what would hap-

pen. Others say a later prophet or Ezra added them. Philo and Josephus thought Moses wrote of his own death by prophecy.

OTHER LATER TOUCHES

A few lines sound like they were added later, like to this day in 3:14 and 34:6, and the note about Og's bed still being in Rabbah, 3:11. Many who believe Moses wrote the book see these as small updates by a later editor, like Joshua or Samuel.

The Scholarly View

2 KINGS 22 · JOSHUA 1:7 TO 8 · NEHEMIAH 8

THE JOSIAH VIEW

Since de Wette in 1805, many scholars say the core of Deuteronomy, chapters 12 to 26, was written in the 600s BC and is the book found in the temple in 622 BC. They point to its one place of worship rule, its style, and how closely it matches Josiah's reforms. See The Scroll Found in the Temple pages near chapter 31.

LAYERS OVER TIME

Many think the book grew in layers: old laws, then Josiah's edition, then more chapters added during the exile in Babylon, like 4:25 to 31 and 30:1 to 10, which talk about scattering and coming home. Martin Noth in 1943 linked Deuteronomy with Joshua through 2 Kings as one long history.

THE EARLY DATE VIEW

Other scholars, like Kenneth Kitchen and Meredith Kline, say its treaty shape fits the 1300s BC, its world fits the time before Israel had a king or a temple, and the book should be read as Moses' words.

WHAT THE OLDEST COPIES SHOW

About thirty copies were found among the Dead Sea Scrolls, from the 100s BC on. They differ in small ways, but they are the same much loved book.

WHAT ALL SIDES AGREE ON

Deuteronomy presents itself as Moses' last words, Jesus and the apostles treated it as Scripture, and Christians who disagree on the date still read it as God's Word.