Deuteronomy 4

Review…

- **Overview of the book…**
  - Deuteronomy gets its name from the fact this is the second giving of God's Law...
  - The Hebrew name for the book is - דְּבָרִים - *Devarim* - meaning 'these are the words'...
  - Deuteronomy is the record of the final 3 sermons of Moses to Israel...
    - 1st - Teaching a new generation - rehearse the history of the nation...
    - 2nd - A covenant - rules to make Israel God's nation - the Law of God...
    - 3rd - Blessing or curses - followed the Law - blessings / broke the Law - curses...
- **Deuteronomy 1 - Rehearsing the history - coming out of Egypt…**
  - God had been faithful to His promises - abundantly so!
  - But Israel rebelled at the 12 spies - doubting the Lord was with them...
  - So they had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years...
- **Deuteronomy 2-3 - After the 40 years…**
  - The descendents of Esau / Lot - Israel was not to attack their relatives - good example...
  - Dedicated to the Lord - only once all those who'd rebelled had died could Israel enter...
  - Israel completely wipes out the nation of the Amorites - every man / woman / child...
  - Moses seeing the victory was excited - ready to enter the Land - but God forbid it!

Conclusion of the History Lesson… (*3 thigns*)

- **1st - The word of God… vs. 1-14** Read: Deuteronomy 4:1-14
  - 1st - Listen and live... vs. 1
    - Listening to the Word of God - is the key to having life - possessing 'the Land'...
      - Nothing more important than spending time in God's Word - **Romans 10:17**...
      - Suppose I gave you the parts to a car - and your life depended on assembling it...
      - Along with it I gave you an instruction manual - would you wing it / or read it...
      - Happiness / our eternity depends on what we do with the life God has given us...
      - He has given us an instruction manual so we can be successful...
      - It is through hearing the Word we get to know and have a relationship with God...
      - It is in the Word we learn about God's expectations / will for our lives...
      - It is through hearing God's Word we learn how to enter eternal life!
      - * **John 5:24** - "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life..."
    - Therefore take the time - make the time - to get into God's Word...
      - Take the time to have personal devotions - read your Bible...
        - You might be thinking - when - there is not enough time - I am too busy...
        - Funny how we have time to lago-x2 / watch TV / text / spend time on Facebook...
        - It is not a matter of time - it is a matter of priorities - what we do with out time!
      - It does not matter when we read the Word...
        - **Psalms 5:3 –** "My voice shall thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up."
        - Mornings are a nice time because it means we start our day with Jesus...
        - But if you are not a morning person - if you have a hard time getting up - anytime!...

- What is important is that we find time to read the Bible...
- You may think that you are incapable of understanding the Word…
  - Always remember that you have a teacher who is always with you…
  - **John 14:26** - "The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."
- Attend Bible Studies...
  - It is a blessing to come together a couple times a week for a study the Bible...
  - It is a time when we can fellowship with God and with each other...
  - Think of it like gathering with Dad and the rest of the family for dinner...
  - But it cannot be your sole source of time in the Word of God...
  - Any more than only eating a meal once or twice a week would work...

- 2nd - Do not add or take away from the Word... vs. 2-4
  - People have a tendency to try and tweak the Word of God to suite their needs...
    - If someone does not like a particular passage - they tend to skip over it...
      - Ever notice how most pastors only teach certain passages - over and over...
      - You don't hear a lot of sermons about sin / hell / or repentance...
      - It upsets people - they would rather hear about - forgiveness / heaven...
      - But you don't know you need Jesus until you see you are a sinner...
      - And you will not receive forgiveness/heaven with repentance!
    - If someone thinks the Bible is 'overlooking' something - they try and add to it...
      - 'Doctrines and Covenants' - is the book the Mormon's attempt to help the Bible...
      - They feel the scriptures are 'incomplete' - and need their addition...
      - The Bible is complete/perfect - nothing needs to be added to it...
      - In fact if you try - God says He will add curses to you - **Revelation 22:18**
  - Israel understood this - they saw what God did at Baal Peor...
    - Where the woman of Moab seduced the men of Israel (*Balaam's counsel*)...
      - How God had killed 23,000 in one day because they had abandoned His Word...
      - They choose to 'forget' some of God's commands - and it cost them everything...
    - Only those who obey the Word live...
      - That is why we go through the whole Bible - to get the whole counsel of God...
      - **Acts 20:27** - "I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God."
      - We may not like every subject - some of them can be very convicting...
      - All the more we need to teach the whole Bible - Genesis to Revelation!

- 3rd - Obey the Word - and you will be a great nation... vs. 5-8
  - Israel knew the Word - but if they did not obey the Word - then it did nothing...
    - There are a lot of people who know what the Bible says - they can quote lots of verses...
    - But its not enough to know what the Bible says - we need to do what it says!
    - * **James 1:22-23** -"Be doers of the Word, not hearers only, deceiving yourselves..."
    - Often we listen to God's word - we attend Bible studies and are 'convicted'...
    - We agree with what we hear - we see our need to change - but then we go home...
    - And we go right back to the way we used to be - forgetting what we saw...
    - In the end we are no different than before we heard God's Word - it did nothing!
  - If Israel obeyed the Word - people would call them blessed...
    - People see that God was for them - they could ask anything of the Lord...
    - They see God's Word at work in their lives - His righteous laws and judgments...

- **Psalms 1:1-3** – "Blessed is the man... his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper."
- If you find nothing you try in life seem to be working out - work / relationships
- Chances are it is because you are not spending time in the Word...
- As we get into the Word - hear from the Lord - He directs our steps...
- Then no matter what we put our hands to - we will prosper!

o 4th - Do not forget what you have seen... vs. 9-14
- Don't forget you the day you stood before Mt. Sinai...
  - When He spoke to Israel from the midst of the fire - when you feared God...
  - The day God gave Israel the 10 commandments - written two stone tablets...
  - Israel had a real experience with God - they had met Him personally...
- But if they did not spend time with God daily - that relationship could fade...
  - Too often in life we try to live in the past - what God 'did' in our lives...
  - I have met many Christians who talk about how they 'used to serve the Lord'...
  - King Saul/Solomon - many great men start well in Jesus - but do not end well...
  - Doesn't matter what you 'used to do' for God - what's He doing in your life today!
  - When we focus on the past - it means we are doing nothing in the present...
- Don't forget to teach them to your children and grandchildren...
  - It was not enough to keep their relationship strong - they had to pass it on...
  - Don't just read your Bible - being doers of the Word - pass it on...
  - Each new generation must learn God's Word - have a relationship with Jesus...
  - God has no grandchildren - take the time to read with your children...

- **2ND - WARNING AGAINST IDOLATRY...VS. 15-31** READ: DEUTERONOMY 4:15-31

o You did not see God at Mt. Sinai... vs. 15-23
- Israel never saw the form of God when He 'appeared' on Mt. Sinai...
  - They did not know what God looked like - man/woman/animal/bird...
  - All of these images pagans have / and still do - attribute to the image of God...
  - But God did not want Israel to try to create an 'image' of Him...
  - Their intention might start out Good - to remember the day God appeared...
  - But what once served as an inspiration/representation - would become twisted...
  - Much like with statues of 'saints' - who are meant inspire and encourage...
  - God forbid idols – because it is man's propensity to worship 'things'…
  - What starts as a reminder - soon gets treated as if it has power and is worshiped…
- If Israel was not careful - there was a very real danger of falling into Idolatry...
  - If their relationship with God became distant - they would fill it with other things...
  - They might look up at the sun / moon / or stars - and begin to worship them...
  - What is it that we look up and get exited about - what do we worhsip...
  - If you find that you are more excited about cars / cell phones - than God...
  - It may be a good heart check - time to reevaluate - God should be number one!

o Punishment for Idolatry... vs. 24-31
- God is a jealous God - He is a consuming fire - **Hebrews 12:29** - He will not share us...
  - If we allow ourselves to drift away from God - He will start a fire...
  - He will allow anything /everything in our lives that is distracting us from him - to burn...

        - If we love our cell phone - it breaks or gets stolen / if we love our Tanduay - we get sick...
        - Not to punish us - but because He loves us - and want to make sure we get to heaven!
    - When you have grown old - children/grandchildren - become complacent...
        - Moses foresaw the history of Israel - they love for God would grow cold...
            - Once they were comfortable in the land - they would forget / drift away from God...
            - Then Israel would make their idols - they would forget about the Lord...
            - As a result Israel would be scattered among the nations...
            - They would end up serving gods of wood and stone - in bondage to...
            - God's with ears and noses - but cannot hear of smell - which cannot save them!
        - When life is easy - we get complacent - we forget to read / start to ignore God...
            - When we loose our close relationship with God - we end up in deep trouble...
            - We try to depend on things/money to save us - we cry out for it to help...
            - The printed faces on the money have ears and mouths - but can't hear or speak...
            - It is powerless to save us - in fact it fails us every time!
    - Then they would cry out to the one true God - to redeem and save them...
        - And God will hear - He is a merciful God - who does not forget His promises!
        - I am always amazed at the Grace of God - He is always there for us...
        - No matter how many times we fail/fall - He is there to pick us back up...
        - Once we realize He is the ONLY answer - and cry out to Him - He answers...
        - Our relationship with Him is restored - and He gets us out of our trouble!

- **3RD - GOD'S SPEICAL NATION...VS. 32-40** READ: DEUTERONOMY 4:32-49
    - From creation to the present / from one end of the world to the other...
        - God had never chosen one people to be His own special possession...
            - Because of His promise and love for Abraham / Isaac / and Jacob...
            - He called Israel out of another nation (*Egypt*) - to make them His nation...
            - Let them audibly hear the voice - the Law of the Lord booming from Mt. Sinai...
            - Driving out nations greater than them - so they could possess the Promised Land...
        - God has chosen us - therefore obey the Lord...
            - Israel is not the only one who is a special chosen nation - we are God's chosen people!
                - ***I Peter 2:9** - "You are chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out..."
                - God choose us - knowing exactly what He was getting - He knows everything...
                - He choose us knowing all of our sin / weaknesses / faults / and failures...
                - I know how much of a challenge I can be - how many times I make mistakes...
                - I am always amazed - that God also knowing exactly who I am - still choose me!
                - God is not surprised by our mistakes - He choose us knowing we were sinners
            - God choose us - to change us - mold us into the image of Jesus Christ - **Romans 8:29**...
                - It is not something that happens in a moment - the very day we are saved...
                - It is a process of growing in Jesus - learning to become more like Him...
                - God does not want to us to stay the same after we are saved...
                - He desires for us to grow - following the example of Jesus - become like Jesus!
            - How do we grow in Jesus - how are we conformed in the image of Christ...
                - By spending time with Him - spending time in His Word - then He changes us..
                - God Choose us! God forgave us! And He will also conform us - to be like Jesus!
                - He's the one who began a good work in our lives - and He will finish what He started!

        - **Hebrews 12:2** - "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..."
- Israel took possession of the Land...
    - Moses established the 3 eastern cities of refuge - **Numbers 35**...
    - And Israel settled the Land east of the Jordan River - ready to move into the Promised Land!