

**Lesson 20: Deuteronomy 6–8; 15; 18; 29–30; 34, “Beware Lest Thou Forget the Lord”**

After 40 years of wandering the Israelites are on the east side of the Jordan river and ready to enter the Promised Land. Moses can't go with them.

Deuteronomy is basically 3 discourses given by Moses to the Israelites as they prepared to enter the Promised Land.

The New Testament contains more than 80 quotations from Deuteronomy. Only Psalms, Isaiah, and Exodus are quoted more.

Humility and Prosperity

Deut 8:2-3

2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.

What did the Lord accomplish by keeping the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years?

(the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart)

In the pride cycle, what follows “humility”?

(prosperity)

Moses tells them that the Lord will bless them and they will prosper

Deut 8:10-14

10 When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

11 Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:

12 Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;

13 And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;  
14 Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

What did Moses tell them that they must do to prevent their prosperity leading to pride?

(Be thankful - then thou shalt bless the Lord  
Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God  
Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God)

Remember the Lord and His Commandments

Deut 8:17-19

17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

18 But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.

Again, who are they to recognize and thank for their prosperity?

(But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth)

What will happen if the forget the Lord?

(if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God  
I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish)

How can we always remember God and all He has done for us?

(prayer, scripture study, temple, etc.)

Spencer W. Kimball

“The reason the Lord asked Adam to offer sacrifices [was so] he and his posterity would remember—remember the basic things that they had been taught. There are many lessons that we learn which have a tendency to slip

from us.

"I remember a young Navaho boy returning from his mission who was supported largely by a seventies quorum in the Bonneville Stake. I happened to be present the day he made his report and as tears rolled down his face, he said, 'Oh, if I could only remember always just how I feel now.'" (The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball, pp 113)

Deut 6:10-12

10 And it shall be, when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not,

11 And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;

12 Then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Again, what does the Lord warn them about as they are entering a land where they will be prosperous?

(Then beware lest thou forget the Lord)

Ezra Taft Benson

"The great commandment of life is to love the Lord...

"To love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength is all-consuming and all-encompassing. It is no lukewarm endeavor. It is total commitment of our very being-physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually-to a love of the Lord....

"When we put God first, all other things fall into their proper place or drop out of our lives. Our love of the Lord will govern the claims for our affection, the demands on our time, the interests we pursue, and the order of our priorities." ("The Great Commandment-Love the Lord," Ensign, May 1988)

Also note that they are being given this land because of covenants made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

In Ch.5 Moses reviewed the 10 commandments. He stressed that they remember the Lords commandments and told them how.

Deut 6:6-9

6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Since their children didn't have these experiences, what does Moses admonish them to do?

(teach them diligently unto thy children)

Pres Kimball is referring to a talk he heard as a young man

Spencer W. Kimball

"The 'Mormon Church' has stood its ground for the first two generations. The first generation fired with a new religion developed a great enthusiasm for it. Surrounded by a hostile world, they were forced to huddle together for survival. There was good reason to expect they would live and die faithful to their espoused cause.

'The second generation came along born to men and women who had developed great faith, were inured to hardships and sacrifices for their faith. They inherited from their parents and soaked up from religious homes the stuff of which the faithful are made.

'But wait till the third and fourth generations come along, The fire will have gone out—the devotion will have been diluted—the sacrifice will have been nullified—the world will have hovered over them and surrounded them and eroded them—the faith will have been expended and the religious fervor leaked out.'" (The New Era, Feb 1974)

What does the Book of Mormon tell us about some who grew up and didn't hear the words of King Mosiah?

Do you think the admonition in verses 8 & 9 are literal or figurative?

Any know what a mezuzah & phylactery is?

Ezra Taft Benson

"[Those who are] captained by Christ will be consumed in Christ... Enter their homes, and the pictures on their walls, the books on their shelves, the music in the air, their words and acts reveal them as Christians." (CR, Oct. 1985)

Nephi asks his brothers how they could forget the Lord after all He had done for them

1 Nephi 7:9-12

9) How is it that ye have not hearkened unto the word of the Lord?

10) How is it that ye have forgotten that ye have seen an angel of the Lord?

11) Yea, and how is it that ye have forgotten what great things the Lord hath done for us, in delivering us out of the hands of Laban, and also that we should obtain the record?

12) Yea, and how is it that ye have forgotten that the Lord is able to do all things according to his will, for the children of men, if it so be that they exercise faith in him? Wherefore, let us be faithful to him.

Moses Tells of the Lords Coming

In addition to Moses admonishing them to remember what has been done for them, he told them what they must look forward to.

Deut 18:15-19

15 The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

16 According to all that thou desiredst of the Lord thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

17 And the Lord said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.

18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

Who is Moses speaking of?

3 Nephi 20:23

23 Behold, I am he of whom Moses spake, saying: A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass that

every soul who will not hear that prophet shall be cut off from among the people.

(Acts 3:22-23)

Verse 16 - What did the Israelites ask Moses at Horeb (Mt. Sinai)?

Exodus 20:18-19

18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

When He comes, how will the Lord appear to Israelites?

(I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee)

Deut 32:1-4

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

2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

3 Because I will publish the name of the Lord: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

Why does Moses refer to Christ as 'the Rock'?

Robert J. Matthews

"Experienced builders know that a structure cannot endure unless its foundation is strong. The words rock and stone, referring to the prime elements in ancient foundations, are used in the scriptures as metaphors signifying strength, steadiness, and durability. The prophets used these metaphors in a variety of ways, conveying an impression of the unwavering character of God as well as the need for spiritual solidarity in the foundation and structure of our own lives.

"Not only is Jesus a Rock, but his gospel also is likened to a rock. In a revelation to the Prophet Joseph Smith He said, 'Behold, verily, verily, I say unto you, this is my gospel; and remember that they shall have faith in me or they can in nowise be saved; and upon this rock I will build my church;

yea, upon this rock ye are built, and if ye continue, the gates of hell shall not prevail against you.' (D&C 33:12–13.)” (“I Have a Question,” Ensign, Jan 1984)

How can we build our foundation upon the Rock?

Moses tells us in his closing remarks

Deut 32:45-47

45 And Moses made an end of speaking all these words to all Israel:  
46 And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law  
47 For it is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life: and through this thing ye shall prolong your days in the land, whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.

Moses prophesies of the latter-days

Deut 4:25-31

25 When thou shalt beget children, and children’s children, and ye shall have remained long in the land, and shall corrupt yourselves, and make a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, and shall do evil in the sight of the Lord thy God, to provoke him to anger:  
26 I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed.  
27 And the Lord shall scatter you among the nations, and ye shall be left few in number among the heathen, whither the Lord shall lead you.  
28 And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men’s hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.  
29 But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.  
30 When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the Lord thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice;  
31 (For the Lord thy God is a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.

What does Moses say about the Israelites in the latter-days?

(ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it And the Lord shall scatter you among the nations)

(But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul)

(he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them)

LeGrand Richards

"Moses told them that 'there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.' (Deut. 4:28.) Just think how literally the very words of Moses spoken over 3,000 years ago are fulfilled in the doctrine that was proclaimed in all the Christian churches all over this world at the time that Joseph Smith had his marvelous vision. But Moses didn't leave it at that. He said:

"But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

"When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the Lord thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice.' (Deut. 4:29–30.) And we live in the latter days. Thank God we have found him through the raising up of this prophet." (CR, April 1974)

Moses dies?

Deut 34:1-6

1 And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the Lord shewed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan,

2 And all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea,

3 And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zoar.

4 And the Lord said unto him, This is the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither.

5 So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord.

6 And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Beth-peor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.

What do we know that really happened to Moses?



Alma 45:18-19

18 And when Alma had done this he departed out of the land of Zarahemla, as if to go into the land of Melek. And it came to pass that he was never heard of more; as to his death or burial we know not of.

19 Behold, this we know, that he was a righteous man; and the saying went abroad in the church that he was taken up by the Spirit, or buried by the hand of the Lord, even as Moses. But behold, the scriptures saith the Lord took Moses unto himself; and we suppose that he has also received Alma in the spirit, unto himself; therefore, for this cause we know nothing concerning his death and burial.

Why is that significant?

Joseph Fielding Smith

"Elijah and Moses were preserved from death because they had a mission to perform and it had to be performed before the crucifixion of the Son of God. Christ is the first fruits of the resurrection; therefore if any former prophet had a work to perform preparatory to the mission of the Son of God, or to the dispensation of the meridian of times, it appears that it was essential that he be preserved to fulfill that mission in the flesh. For that reason Moses disappeared from among the people and was taken up into the mountain and the people thought he was buried by the Lord; the Lord preserved him, so that he could come at the proper time and restore his keys, on the heads of Peter, James and John, who stood at the head of the dispensation of the meridian of time." (Doctrines of Salvation, 2:110-111)