

## Deuteronomy Chapter 01 Commentary

**1 These be the words which Moses spake unto all Israel on this side Jordan in the wilderness, in the plain over against the Red sea, between Paran, and Tophel, and Laban, and Hazeroth, and Dizahab. 2 (There are eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadeshbarnea.)**

The place, that Israel is right now, is an 11 day journey, from where they were originally told to go in to possess the land of promise. See the scriptures in:

- ***De 1:2 "(There are eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadeshbarnea.)"***
- ***Nu 13:25-26; 25 "And they returned from searching of the land after forty days. 26 And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land."***
- ***De 9:23 "Likewise when the LORD sent you from Kadeshbarnea, saying, Go up and possess the land which I have given you; then ye rebelled against the commandment of the LORD your God, and ye believed him not, nor hearkened to his voice."***

The references, in Numbers 13 and Deuteronomy 9, confirm their position at the former time and now. Thus, we understand that Israel, because of disobedience, has spent 40 years making an 11 day journey.

This certainly should serve as a lesson to us; that disobedience to God can certainly take us, and others, far away from our Land of Promise, and on long wilderness journeys, to die not receiving the joys of the fruits of the Promised Land. We can rob ourselves of much joy, blessing, and peace with God, by living in the strength of our own will and not according to "***thus saith the Lord,***" as demonstrated by what we see transpired, in the lives of Israel, from Numbers chapter 13 until now.

*Vernon McGee points out (having actually visited the place); from where they are at present, Israel can actually see Jerusalem, where King Solomon will build the temple of the Lord.*

This gives us a prophetic picture, of the born again sinner who refuses to unite with and walk in faithfulness to the Church of Salvation by Grace. Oh, what great horrors, and bitter trials and tribulations, they will have to endure, by not being obedient and trusting God and Christ, and then to die in the wilderness of sin never getting to enjoy the fruit of the Promised Land.

A prophetic picture, of what we see by spiritual eyes, as we sojourn here in time and look for the eternal day, when the New Jerusalem will be revealed, and we shall enter our final abode. We see it afar off and long for the accepted day to come.

**3 And it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spake unto the children of Israel, according unto all that the LORD had given him in commandment unto them;**

We are reminded of the curse of God upon Israel for their disobedience seen in: ***Nu 14:34 "After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye***

***bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.***" The years of punishment are nearly completed now.

***"And it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month,"*** I didn't find the date of Moses's death, but we know from scripture that it was not long at all from this time. From what many commentators say, from historic research, the book of Deuteronomy was delivered by Moses to Israel in about 4 or 5 week period.

*Matthew Henry's Commentary: The whole book contains the history but of two months; compare De 1:3 "And it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spake unto the children of Israel, according unto all that the LORD had given him in commandment unto them;" with Jos 4:19 "And the people came up out of Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and encamped in Gilgal, in the east border of Jericho." the latter of which was the thirty days of Israel's mourning for Moses; see how busy that great and good man was to do good when he knew that his time was short, how quick his motion when he drew near his rest. Thus we have more recorded of what our blessed Saviour said and did in the last week of his life than in any other.*

**4** After he had slain Sihon the king of the Amorites, which dwelt in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, which dwelt at Astaroth in Edrei: **5** On this side Jordan, in the land of Moab, began Moses to declare this law, saying, **6** The LORD our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount: **7** Turn you, and take your journey, and go to the mount of the Amorites, and unto all the places nigh thereunto, in the plain, in the hills, and in the vale, and in the south, and by the sea side, to the land of the Canaanites, and unto Lebanon, unto the great river, the river Euphrates. **8** Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the LORD swore unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them. **9** And I spake unto you at that time, saying, I am not able to bear you myself alone: **10** The LORD your God hath multiplied you, and, behold, ye are this day as the stars of heaven for multitude. **11** (The LORD God of your fathers make you a thousand times so many more as ye are, and bless you, as he hath promised you!) **12** How can I myself alone bear your cumbrance, and your burden, and your strife? **13** Take you wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make them rulers over you. **14** And ye answered me, and said, The thing which thou hast spoken is good for us to do. **15** So I took the chief of your tribes, wise men, and known, and made them heads over you, captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties, and captains over tens, and officers among your tribes. **16** And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him. **17** Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.

***"ye shall not be afraid of the face of man"*** Do not look upon the face of an evildoer, and let their stares, and gestures, make you afraid to render a true judgment. The judgment is not yours but God's. God has set the standards that all men are to live by, not you.

***"and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it."*** Notice that God is telling the people; I have set my judgments and statutes before you and you are to exercise obedience thereto. You are to use my words of truth coupled with understanding and you shall be able to render right judgment. God didn't say go set in a corner and pray and I will give you the answer. You have got

to do something, and that something is; to be knowledgeable about all my laws and commandments. This points out to them, they had a need to study, the laws and commandments, to be able to exercise and rightly divide the word of truth in judgment.

Notice also, God said; If you can't figure it out, then come to me with it. If you have a matter that you can't find resolution to, you bring it to me and I will hear it. We see an example of this, when Sennacherib king of Assyria had come to destroy Jerusalem and the children of Judah/Israel in: **2Ki 19:14 "And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD."**

How can this apply to our lives today? We are commanded to read and study God's word; as seen in NT scriptures in:

- **1Th 4:11 "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;"**
- **2Ti 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."**

And we are commanded to judge as seen in:

- **Joh 5:30 "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."** Don't make a judgment for your own benefit. Make judgment according to the standards set by God and his commandments and statutes. You can only do this if you know what those statutes and commandments are. This requires your study of scripture. Why? Because if you don't know God's requirements, and make foolish self-satisfying judgments, you are casting shadows of darkness upon the name of God and your life as a Christian.
- **Joh 7:24 "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment."** Same application as above.
- **Joh 7:51 "Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?"** Search out and understand the whole matter before you make a judgment.
- **Joh 12:48 "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."** There are many text about not judging in the bible; so how can we know that we are to judge in this life. If you will read and study all the references on judging you will find that we are not to judge another as to their eternal destination, that is reserved to Christ, as seen in the text above. You see this judgment is "**in the last day**"

**18 And I commanded you at that time all the things which ye should do. 19 And when we departed from Horeb, we went through all that great and terrible wilderness, which ye saw by the way of the mountain of the Amorites, as the LORD our God commanded us; and we came to Kadeshbarnea. 20 And I said unto you, Ye are come unto the mountain of the Amorites, which the LORD our God doth give unto us. 21 Behold, the LORD thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged. 22 And ye came near unto me every one of you, and said, We will send men before us, and they shall search us out the land, and bring us word again by what way we must go up, and into what cities we shall come.**

Here in verse 22, we see plainly stated; it was the choice of the people to send the spies, not a commandment of Moses or of God. This demonstrated the people's doubt that God was able to do what he had promised.

**"and bring us word again by what way we must go up,"** It also showed that they did not trust God to lead them in the right way.

**23 And the saying pleased me well: and I took twelve men of you, one of a tribe:**

Here, Moses confesses that the idea was appealing to him also, and he acted upon it. We believe that Moses saw this as an opportunity to boost the confidence and the moral of the people. Certainly, it was a mistake on the part of Moses, and the people for asking.

**24 And they turned and went up into the mountain, and came unto the valley of Eshcol, and searched it out. 25 And they took of the fruit of the land in their hands, and brought it down unto us, and brought us word again, and said, It is a good land which the LORD our God doth give us. 26 Notwithstanding ye would not go up, but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD your God: 27 And ye murmured in your tents, and said, Because the LORD hated us, he hath brought us forth out of the land of Egypt, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us. 28 Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there. 29 Then I said unto you, Dread not, neither be afraid of them. 30 The LORD your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes; 31 And in the wilderness, where thou hast seen how that the LORD thy God bare thee, as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went, until ye came into this place. 32 Yet in this thing ye did not believe the LORD your God,**

The sin of unbelief is pointed out here; **"ye did not believe."** Do you notice; Moses is speaking to Israel as if the people present were the ones who were disobedient and unbelieving? Why would he do that, when this is a new generation? All those present, who were 20 years old and under when the event occurred, were as guilty as those who have died, therefore, Moses can address the whole congregation and make a declaration of their own unbelief. That same spirit of unbelief was in all people then as it is today.

What would this have to do with us today? Certainly we see this principle spoken against in the New Testament, in many places, but in context of this scripture as seen in:

- **Heb 3:1-19; 1 "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; 2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. 3 For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. 4 For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. 5 And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; 6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. 7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice, 8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: 9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. 10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation,**

*and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. 11 So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) 12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. 13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; 15 While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. 16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. 17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."*

- *Heb 4:1-16; 1 "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. 2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. 3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. 4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. 5 And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. 6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: 7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. 8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. 9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. 10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. 11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. 12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. 14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*
- *Re 21:8 "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."*

**33** Who went in the way before you, to search you out a place to pitch your tents in, in fire by night, to shew you by what way ye should go, and in a cloud by day. **34** And the LORD heard the voice of your words, and was wroth, and sware, saying, **35** Surely there shall not one of these men of this evil generation see that good land, which I sware to give unto your fathers, **36** Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the LORD. **37** Also the LORD was angry with me for your sakes, saying, Thou also shalt not go in thither. **38** But Joshua the son of Nun, which standeth before thee, he shall go in thither: encourage him: for he shall cause Israel to inherit it. **39** Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge

between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it. 40 But as for you, turn you, and take your journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea. 41 Then ye answered and said unto me, We have sinned against the LORD, we will go up and fight, according to all that the LORD our God commanded us. And when ye had girded on every man his weapons of war, ye were ready to go up into the hill. 42 And the LORD said unto me, Say unto them, Go not up, neither fight; for I am not among you; lest ye be smitten before your enemies. 43 So I spake unto you; and ye would not hear, but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD, and went presumptuously up into the hill. 44 And the Amorites, which dwelt in that mountain, came out against you, and chased you, as bees do, and destroyed you in Seir, even unto Hormah. 45 And ye returned and wept before the LORD; but the LORD would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear unto you. 46 So ye abode in Kadesh many days, according unto the days that ye abode there.

This, historical reminder, certainly demonstrates to us today; God will allow us to have our own desires (make bad decisions); and then make us suffer the consequences of making bad and/or disobedient choices.