

Get Ready To Go!

Purpose: to encourage God's people to remember 5 things that Moses told the children of Israel to do as they prepared to go into the promised land.

You have probably heard me say more than once that all of God's people must go through a "wilderness" period. Sooner or later, we must go from the wilderness to the promised land. We are getting close to that time, and I want to learn from the lessons of the children of Israel as they prepared for their transition.

Here is a brief summary of chapters 1 – 3 of Deuteronomy

- They are now at the edge of the promised land!
- What was suppose to be an 11-day journey had become 40 years of wandering
- Now they are finally preparing to enter the land that had been promised to them
- Deuteronomy means "second law", because Moses gives them the law a second time

Moses begins his final address:

- After their training on Mt Sinai for 2 years, he told them to leave and they headed toward the promised land
- When they arrived they asked Moses to spy out the land, so Moses chose 12 men from each tribe.
- They rebelled, did not want to go into the land and were afraid of the people of the land.
- Even though Moses encouraged them they refused to go and would not trust the Lord.
- God was angry with them and punished them and even Moses also could not go in because of them.
- After many years wandering and after the unbelieving generation had died, God sent them toward the promised land again
- Now God began to make the nations afraid of them and they defeated the two great kings, Sihon king of Heshbon (king of the Amorites), and Og king of Bashan.

How are we like them?

- They were delivered from Egypt.
- We have been delivered from the power of the world.
- They were brought to a place where God taught them and changed their thinking
- God is calling us to re-evaluate all that we do, in the light of His word. Everything must be reconsidered – our traditions, worship practices and, in particular, our character.
- They had to learn to obey in order to defeat their enemies.
- We also are learning to obey, so that we can defeat our enemies.

Now they were just about to move into the promised land!
Are we not the same?

- He has been speaking to us about the times that we are in.
- He has reminded us and showed us again and again that He is in control of the affairs of men.
- He has been challenging us to become more involved with our local community
- He is bringing us to a greater place of unity for His purpose
- He is moving us to modernise our methods (zoom, websites, online presence, etc.
- He is making things uncomfortable – which is causing us to pray more and to be dependent upon Him even more.

Based on all that happened to them, what did Moses tell them to do?

1. Listen:

Deu 4:1 - "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you.

Here are similar words that describe what we must listen to:

- **Statutes** – things that are marked out so that you can see what to do.
- **Judgments** – things that are determined for his people to do, judged to be right or wrong
- **Commandments** – things that are obliged to do; we must do them
- **Testimonies** – things that are beyond – pictures that speak/testify of things to come
- **Ordinances** – things that guard or watch over us – they remind us to watch our ways
- **Precepts** – things that are noticed or visited – to do with proper conduct and behaviour

2. Don't add to or take away from the things that He has showed us:

Deu 4:2 - You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

3. Remember what happened to those who didn't listen:

Deu 4:3 - Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal Peor; for the LORD your God has destroyed from among you all the men who followed Baal of Peor.

Deu 4:4 - But you who held fast to the LORD your God *are* alive today, every one of you.

4. Wisdom comes when we observe what He says:

Deu 4:5 - "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according *to them* in the land which you go to possess.

Deu 4:6 - Therefore be careful to observe *them*; for this *is* your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people.'

Deu 4:7 - "For what great nation *is there* that has God *so* near to it, as the LORD our God *is* to us, for whatever *reason* we may call upon Him?

Deu 4:8 - And what great nation *is there* that has *such* statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?

5. Pass on what we have seen:

Deu 4:9 - Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren,

We are on the verge of change, and things cannot remain as they were. We will soon be moving from the wilderness phase to the promised land phase. Let's not forget these 5 things:

1. Listen
2. Don't add to or take away from the things that He has showed us
3. Remember what happened to those who didn't listen
4. Wisdom comes when we observe to do what He says
5. Pass on what we have seen