

Deuteronomy 30v11-20: Choose Life

After Exodus comes the book of Leviticus, a long, some may say tedious book of law. Why? Because freed slaves need structure and good order or they will soon become chaotic and enslaved all over again to their own unrestrained desires!

Next comes Numbers which provides some statistics and details of a journey that should have taken a few weeks but in the end lasted forty years! The people were not quick to accept God's laws, trust His loving promises or obey His instructions. Tragically a whole generation passed away in the wilderness before their children were ready to trust for a new life.

So Deuteronomy comes as the next-generation Israelites are poised on the bank of the River Jordan, border of the 'Promised Land'. This book is basically Moses' last will and testament, his final message to those he has led all these years. He repeats the Ten Commandments and summarises key laws, instructing the people to learn the lessons of the past if they want to enjoy success in the future.

Faith requires obedience. If we profess to trust in God we must be careful to do what He says!

In graphic terms chapter 28 spells out 'blessings and curses', the benefits of trusting and obeying the gracious, saving, providing Lord their God, and the grim harvest that will result from wilful disobedience. People do reap what they sow!

Then, from the heart, this aged shepherd/pastor concludes by urging them, 'Now *choose life*, so that you and your children may *live* and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the Lord *is* your life, and He will give you many years in the land He swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.'

Sound advice!