

## **The Words of Eternal Life (Deuteronomy Chapters 1-12)**

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### **Analytic Outline of Deuteronomy Chapters 1-12**

#### **Prologue**

1:4 Historical setting "Moses spoke to all Israel beyond the Jordan in the wilderness"

1:5 Purpose "Moses undertook to explain this *torah*"

1:6-8 Leave Horeb "Go in and take possession of the land that YHWH swore to your fathers"

1:9-18 Civil organization "I took the heads of your tribes, wise and experienced men"

#### **Refusal to enter the land**

1:19-25 Spies sent from Kadesh-barnea "It is a good land that YHWH our God is giving us"

1:26-33 Rebellion against YHWH "Our brothers have made our hearts melt"

1:34-40 Death sentence "Not one of these men of this evil generation shall see the good land"

1:41-46 Rebellion against YHWH "We have sinned against YHWH. We ourselves will go up and fight."

2:1-3 The wilderness years "for many days we traveled around Mount Seir"

#### **Approaching the promised land**

2:4-8, 12 Passing by Esau "I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession"

2:9-11, 13 Passing by Moab "Now rise up and go over the brook Zered"

2:14-16 Death of the Exodus generation "as soon as all the men of war had perished and were dead"

2:17-23, 37 Passing by Ammon "do not harass them or contend with them"

2:24-36 Defeat of King Sihon "I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon"

3:1-11 Defeat of King Og "devoting to destruction every city, men, women, and children"

3:12-17 Division of the land "I gave to the Reubenites and the Gadites ... to the half-tribe of Manasseh"

#### **An Object Lesson**

3:18-20 The war is just beginning "until YHWH gives rest to your brothers ... beyond the Jordan"

3:21-22 The lesson: "Your eyes have seen all that YHWH your God has done to these two kings. So will YHWH do to all the kingdoms into which you are crossing. You shall not fear them, **for it is YHWH your God who fights for you.**"

3:23-27 Moses final plea "Enough from you; do not speak to me of this matter again"

3:28-29 Joshua to lead "charge Joshua ... for he shall go over at the head of this people"

#### **Moses begins to teach**

4:1-2, 5-9 "O Israel, listen to the *huqqim* and the *mish'patim* that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live ... you shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it"

4:3-4 Recent apostasy "YHWH destroyed from among you all the men who followed the Baal of Peor"

4:10-14 **Remember Horeb** "let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so"

4:15-18 YHWH cannot be represented by an image "you saw no form on the day that the LORD spoke"

4:19 "beware lest you ... see the sun and the moon and the stars ... you be drawn away to serve them"

4:20-24 **Remember Horeb** "Take care, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God"

4:25-28 Covenant curses "you will soon utterly perish from the land that you are going ... to possess"

4:29-31 Repentance prescribed "For YHWH your God is a merciful God"

4:32-36 The Plan of God "To you it was shown, that you might know that YHWH is God"

4:37-40 The Grace of God "because he loved your fathers and chose their offspring after them"

4:41-43 An object lesson in mercy and justice "anyone who kills his neighbor unintentionally"

4:44-49 Summary "This is the *torah* that Moses set before the people of Israel"

#### **The Ten Words (mitz'wah)**

5:1-5 **Remember Horeb** "Not with our fathers did YHWH make this covenant, **but with us**"

5:6-15 Relationship with God "I am YHWH your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt"

5:16-21 Relationships with people "that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you"

5:22-27 The fear of the people “This day we have seen God speak with man, and man still live”  
5:28-30 Godly fear “Oh that they had such a heart as this always, **to fear me** ...”  
5:31-33 **Definition of torah** “I will tell you all of the *mitz<sup>e</sup>wah* and the *huqqim* and the *mish<sup>e</sup>patim* ...”

### **Moses proceeds with torah**

6:1-3 Motivation “that your days may be long ... and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you”  
6:4-9 The requirement “Hear, O Israel: YHWH is our God, YHWH alone – these words that I command you today shall be in your heart”  
6:10-15 Self-satisfaction leads to idolatry “take care lest you forget YHWH ...and ... go after other gods”  
6:16-25 Teach your children “you shall say to your son, ‘We were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt ...’”  
7:1-5, 16 Zeal to eradicate sin “devote them to complete destruction ... show no mercy to them”  
7:6-8 The nature of God’s people “YHWH ... chose you, for you were the least<sup>1</sup> of all peoples”  
7:9-10 The nature of God “the faithful God who keeps covenant and *hesed* with those who love him”  
7:11-15 Blessings “YHWH your God ... will keep with you the covenant ... he will love you, bless you ...”  
7:16-24 Do NOT fear “remember ... YHWH your God ... no one shall be able to stand against you”  
7:25-26 Do NOT covet “you shall not covet the silver or the gold that is on them or take it for yourselves”  
8:1-10 The purpose of the wilderness years “YHWH your God has led you ... that he might humble you”  
8:11-20 Self-satisfaction leads to idolatry “when you have eaten and are full and forget YHWH your God”  
9:1-5 Self righteousness “Do not say in your heart ... ‘It is because of my righteousness ...’”  
9:6-8 True perspective “From ... the land of Egypt ... you have been rebellious against YHWH”

### **Apostacy at Sinai**

9:8-12 The original tablets “YHWH gave me the two tablets ... all the words that YHWH had spoken”  
9:13-17 The broken covenant “I took ... the two tablets and threw them ... and broke them”  
9:18-29 Moses intercedes “I lay prostrate before YHWH ... because YHWH said he would destroy you”  
10:1-11 Reconciliation “YHWH was unwilling to destroy you ... go ... at the head of the people”

### **True worship of YHWH**

10:12-21 God’s requirement “fear YHWH your God, walk in all his ways, love him, serve YHWH ...”  
10:22 Fulfilment of the promises “now YHWH has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven”  
11:1-7 Consider the past “you shall therefore love YHWH your God and keep his *torah*”  
11:8-12 Consider the future “go in and take possession of the land ... that YHWH your God cares for”  
11:13-15 Blessings “if you will indeed obey my commandments ... to love YHWH your God”  
11:16-17 Cursing “lest your heart be deceived, and you ... serve other gods and worship them”  
11:18-25 The promise of the fifth commandment “the days of your children may be multiplied”  
11:26-32 Blessings and Cursing “the blessing, if you obey ... the curse, if you do not obey”  
12:1-3 Zeal to eradicate sin “you shall destroy all the places where the nations ... served their gods”  
12:4-14 Establishment of the cult “to the place YHWH will choose ... you shall bring all your sacrifices”  
12:15-25 Animal slaughter “you may slaughter and eat meat within any of your towns”  
12:26-28 Sacrificial slaughter “you shall take, and you shall go to the place that YHWH will choose”  
12:29-31 Abominable worship “How did these nations serve their gods?”  
12:32 Final admonition “Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.”

### **To Explain This Torah**

Moses is explicit in his objective in these chapters:

... in the land of Moab, **Moses undertook to explain this [torah]**, saying, “The LORD our God said to us in Horeb  
... ” (Deuteronomy 1:5-6 ESV)

These chapters contain a definition of “conversion” – **this teaching of Moses is as much for us as it was for Ancient Israel**. These chapters contain Moses’ final attempt to help to Israelites to understand the message God had for them:

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<sup>1</sup> מִצְטָט - m<sup>e</sup>’at, “smallest”, “poorest”, see Holladay, W.L., A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1971, page 266 meaning 4; ESV has “fewest” – the comparison is qualitative NOT quantitative  
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And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your [mind], and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good? Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. Yet the LORD set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. (Deuteronomy 10:12-15 ESV)

We have thirty-five hundred years of history of the working-out of the Plan of God since the time of Moses. We have seen the establishment of the Kingdom of Israel under the Dynasty of David. We have seen David's being given the Promise of Messianic Descent. We have seen the failure and dissolution of the Nation of Israel with the termination of the Dynasty of David. We have seen God fulfill the Promise of Messianic Descent in the First Advent. We have seen the establishment of the New Testament Church of God and the transference of the Promises to the Church. We have seen the visible church taken over and corrupted by Satan so that True Christians for centuries have had to operate "underground". Today we are able to stand in the "light"; but, dark times are on the horizon. More than ever we need understanding of the teaching of God. We need faith to trust God to get us through the dark times.

Moses repeatedly appeals to the Israelites to consider the mighty acts and the grace of God in delivering them from Egypt:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. (Deuteronomy 5:6 ESV)

... you shall say to your son, 'We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. And the LORD showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes. (Deuteronomy 6:21-22 ESV)

... it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. (Deuteronomy 7:8 ESV)

Based on God's grace and his mighty acts in the redemption of Israel, Moses adjures them to trust in God to fulfill his promises in the up-coming conquest:

The LORD our God said to us in Horeb, 'You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Go in and take possession of the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob ...' (Deuteronomy 1:6, 8 ESV)

Rise up, set out on your journey and go over the Valley of the Arnon. Behold, I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land. Begin to take possession, and contend with him in battle. This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you on the peoples who are under the whole heaven, who shall hear the report of you and shall tremble and be in anguish because of you. (Deuteronomy 2:24-25 ESV)

And I commanded Joshua at that time, 'Your eyes have seen all that the LORD your God has done to these two kings. So will the LORD do to all the kingdoms into which you are crossing. You shall not fear them, for it is the LORD your God who fights for you.' (Deuteronomy 3:21-22 ESV)

**God worked faithfully with Israel for a thousand years.** After too many violations of the covenant to be counted, the final dissolution of the nation came in 586BC. After this, God worked with a faithful remnant to prepare for the First Advent. Jesus trained the apostles who began the New Testament Church. Since then, the provisions of the Sinai Covenant have passed to True Christians:

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9 ESV)

As Christians today, we see the world in chaos. End-time prophecies are opening up before our eyes. We need to appeal, in faith, to the history of salvific acts of God to help us trust him to lead us through these end-times. The Christian calling is the most important act of God's grace that can be extended to a human being. The Christian calling is a rare privilege:

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. (Romans 11:29 ESV)

To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power ... (2 Thessalonians 1:11 ESV)

... who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began ... (2 Timothy 1:9 ESV)

Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. (2 Peter 1:10 ESV)

Moses had been condemned to death without entering the promised land. **Moses was aware of the rare privilege** he had in serving YHWH. Wanting to continue, he makes one final plea to YHWH to allow him to enter the Promised Land:

And I pleaded with the LORD at that time, saying, 'O Lord GOD, **you have only begun to show your servant your greatness and your mighty hand**. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as yours? **Please let me go over** and see the good land beyond the Jordan, that good hill country and Lebanon.' (Deuteronomy 3:23-25 ESV)

YHWH refuses and reminds Moses that **all things must unfold according to the Plan of God**:

... **charge Joshua**, and encourage and strengthen him, for he shall go over at the head of this people, and he shall put them in possession of the land ... (Deuteronomy 3:28 ESV)

For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether such a great thing as this has ever happened or was ever heard of. ... **To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD is God; there is no other besides him**. ... **because he loved your fathers and chose their offspring** after them and brought you out of Egypt with his own presence, by his great power ... know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that **the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other**. (Deuteronomy 4:32, 35, 37, 39 ESV)

The Plan of God and the Nature of God are revealed through God's covenants with humankind. The Sinai Covenant created the nation of Israel. Moses repeatedly comes back to the Covenant at Horeb as **the basis of God's grace**:

... **on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb**, the LORD said to me, 'Gather the people to me, that I may **let them hear my words**, so **that they may learn to fear me** all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so. ... **Take care, lest you forget the covenant** of the LORD your God, which he made with you ... **The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb**. Not with our fathers did the LORD make this covenant, but with us, **who are all of us here alive today**. (Deuteronomy 4:10, 23a, 5:2-3 ESV)

The **Nature of God** is exemplified in the second commandment:

You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for **I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity** of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but **showing [hesed]**<sup>2</sup> to thousands of **those who love me** and keep my commandments. (Deuteronomy 5:8-10 ESV)

Moses elaborates on **repentance**, **mercy**, and **retributive justice**:

... **you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him**, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your [being]. When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, **you will return to the LORD your God** and obey his voice. For **the LORD your God is a merciful God**. **He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant** with your fathers that he swore to them. ... Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, **the faithful God who keeps covenant and [hesed]** with **those who love him** and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations, and repays to their face **those who hate him**, by **destroying them**. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face. (Deuteronomy 4:29-31, 7:9-10 ESV)

Returning to the Theophany at Sinai, Moses explains **the fundamentals of idolatry**:

Then the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. **You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice**. ... Therefore **watch yourselves very carefully**. Since you saw no form on the day that the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, **beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image** for yourselves, **in the form of any figure**, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth. (Deuteronomy 4:12, 15-18 ESV)

It is NOT possible to make a physical representation of God, but idolatry can take other forms:

... beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see **the sun and the moon and the stars**, all the host of heaven, **you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them** ... (Deuteronomy 4:19 ESV)

**Self-satisfaction leads to idolatry**: being satisfied with oneself or one's accomplishments tends toward arrogance; then, the sinner sets up in his mind a perception, an image, of himself or his idea and it becomes an idol:

And **when the LORD your God brings you into the land** that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and **when**

<sup>2</sup> There is no English word to translate *hesed* – it means God's unequivocal commitment to a covenant. The closest translation would be "covenant love". God will accomplish his purpose without fail.

you eat and are full, then take care lest you forget the LORD ... You shall not go after other gods ... Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his [mish<sup>e</sup>patim] and his statutes, which I command you today, lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, ... who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness ... that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' ... And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them ... (Deuteronomy 6:10-12, 14, 8:11-17, 19 ESV)

**Idolatry is the root of all sin.** When a human being decides that something, anything, takes precedence over the Creator, that person has set up an idol. The next step in sin is to take the prerogative of deciding what is good and what is evil. All other sins follow from this. Moses alludes back to the **specification of the covenant blessings and curses** in Leviticus Chapter 26. This foreshadows the later elaboration of the blessings and curses in Deuteronomy Chapters 27 and 28. Sinning naturally brings on curses as well as God's wrath. Living by God's *torah* not only brings automatic blessings, but it also results in direct blessings from God:

... if you act corruptly by making a carved image in the form of anything, and by doing what is evil in the sight of the LORD your God, so as to provoke him to anger, I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will soon utterly perish ... See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way that I am commanding you today, to go after other gods that you have not known. (Deuteronomy 4:25-26, 11:26-28 ESV)

**God is Love,** this is expressed throughout the Old Testament by the application of God's ***hesed, covenant love***. Jesus summarized this love very succinctly:

... a lawyer, asked him a question "Teacher, **which is the great commandment** ...?" And he said to him, "**You shall love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your [being] and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** ..." (Matthew 22:35-39 ESV)

**The Ten Commandments define this love.** The first four define love for God. The final six define love for neighbour. Moses reiterates the Ten Commandments, **literally Ten Words**, as a central component of his explanation of the *torah* in Deuteronomy 5:7-21. He leads up to them with the following words:

**This is the [torah] that Moses set before the people of Israel.** These are the **testimonies**, the **statutes**, and the **[mish<sup>e</sup>patim]**, which Moses spoke to the people of Israel ... And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, "Hear, O Israel, the **statutes** and the **[mish<sup>e</sup>patim]** that I speak in your hearing today, and **you shall learn them and be careful to do them.** The LORD our God made a covenant<sup>3</sup> with us in Horeb. (Deuteronomy 4:44-45, 5:1-2 ESV)

The word "**testimonies**" is from עֲדוּת - **edoth**, a rare word which is more or less synonymous with **mitz<sup>e</sup>wah**, "**commandments**". The word "**statutes**" is from חֻק - **hoq**, a masculine noun; the feminine noun is חֻקִּה - **huqqah**. "Statutes" is a good translation. The word **torah** encompasses all of God's teaching. All the instruction he has bequeathed to human beings in the entire Bible. **But it is more than that** – a True Christian is someone who has been begotten by the Holy Spirit. True Christians have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. **Through the Holy Spirit, God leads True Christians in a godly life, to live by God's way,** to keep the **torah**, to live by the **torah**. All the life-long teaching God provides through the Holy Spirit is part of the **torah**. The fundamental meaning of **mish<sup>e</sup>pat** is "**justness**" as a character attribute of God. In the context above, Moses uses **mish<sup>e</sup>patim**, the plural form, in the sense of **the understanding** of the statutes and the commandments that is derived from living God's way. All nuances of **mish<sup>e</sup>pat** are derived from the fundamental meaning, "**justness**"; there is also **the implication of "action" – doing mish<sup>e</sup>pat**. The **mitz<sup>e</sup>wah** are **the fundamental, eternal, principles of love**, which define the character human beings must attain to be like God. The **statutes** are **specific prescriptions and proscription**, which may, in some circumstances, be applied literally, but in general are **meant to be used to derive understanding of the mind of God**. So, **mish<sup>e</sup>patim** come from **living by the torah, the Way of God**, and progressively learning the mind of God. God requires love, understanding, humble adherence to the teaching of the Holy Spirit. God is NEVER interested in legalistic adherence to rules and regulations.

<sup>3</sup> The principal stipulation of the Sinai Covenant was to "obey my voice" (Exodus 19:5).

**The most common theme of the first twelve chapters of Deuteronomy** is “living God’s way – living the way of love”, keeping the torah, doing God’s commandments, **“Christian Living”**:

See, I have taught you statutes and [mish<sup>e</sup>patim], as the LORD my God commanded me, **that you should do them** in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. **Keep them and do them**, for that will be your **wisdom** and your **understanding** in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ (Deuteronomy 4:5-6 ESV)

Oh that they had such a heart as this always, **to fear me and to keep all my commandments**, that it might go well with them and with their descendants forever! ... stand here by me, and I will tell you the whole commandment and the statutes and the [mish<sup>e</sup>patim] that **you shall teach them, that they may do them** in the land that I am giving them to possess. You shall **be careful therefore to do as the LORD your God has commanded you**. **You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left**. **You shall walk in all the way** that the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess. (Deuteronomy 5:29-33 ESV)

And the LORD commanded us to **do all these statutes**, to **fear the LORD our God**, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. And **it will be righteousness<sup>4</sup> for us, if we are careful to do** all this commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us.’ (Deuteronomy 6:24-25 ESV)

You shall therefore **be careful to do** the commandment and the statutes and the [mish<sup>e</sup>patim] that I command you today. And because you **listen to these [mish<sup>e</sup>patim] and keep and do them**, the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the [hesed] that he swore to your fathers. He will love you, bless you, and multiply you. (Deuteronomy 7:11-13a ESV)

Know then in your heart that, **as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you**. So you shall **keep the commandments** of the LORD your God by **walking in his ways and by fearing him**. (Deuteronomy 8:5-6 ESV)

And if you will indeed **obey my commandments** that I command you today, **to love the LORD your God**, and to **serve him with all your heart and with all your [mind]**, he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil. And he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you shall eat and be full. (Deuteronomy 11:13-15 ESV)

Be careful to **obey all these words** that I command you, that it may go well with you and with your children after you forever, when you **do what is good and right** in the sight of the LORD your God. ... Everything that I command you, **you shall be careful to do**. **You shall not add to it or take from it**. (Deuteronomy 12:28, 32 ESV)

### **The Meaning of Torah**

**The Hebrew word “torah” has almost no overlap of meaning with the English word “law”**. It is a great tragedy that English translations of the Bible use the word “law” for “torah”. Thinking of the teaching of God as **a legalistic set of “dos and don’ts”** has crippled the minds of millions of people. This was the **whole problem of the Pharisees** in the time of Jesus. They came to believe that the worship of God could be reduced to a checklist of items **the performance of which would render one “righteous”**. Because of this most were impervious to the teaching of Jesus. As the New Testament Church was corrupted, this approach to serving God again came to permeate. In the hey-day of the power of the traditional church during the Middle Ages, **all true understanding of the Bible was suppressed in favour of absolute obedience to the edicts of the church**. **Today many people still look on the instruction of God as a set of “laws”**. This causes many to have out-right rejection the knowledge of God as “too restrictive”. Others fall back into the Pharisaical attitude of believing that “obeying the law” will earn salvation.

As Moses has explained for us, **the torah**, the teaching of God, **the instruction he has bequeathed to us throughout the Bible**, contains the **words of eternal life**. God’s desire for each and every human being is to be part of the God Family, to be given the gift of eternal life. **The torah is the instruction we need to prepare us for this wonderful destiny:**

... **man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD**. (Deuteronomy 8:3 ESV)

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<sup>4</sup> See Genesis 15:6, James 2:22  
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**Thematic Analysis of Deuteronomy Chapters 1 through 12**

	setting / history	purpose / plan of God	promise	<i>mish ʿpat</i>	rebellion	YHWH word / action	Isarel word / action	Moses word / action	<i>hoq / huqqah</i>	<i>mitz ʿwah / ʿedoth</i>	live by God's way	<i>torah / hesed</i>	teach children	idolatry / hatred of sin	<i>b ʿrith</i>	blessing / curse	repentance / conversion	nature of God
Dt1:	v1-3a,4,7, 9-15,19-25, 36-40	v3b,5-6, 8	v8,10, 21,25	v17	v26-33, v41-46	v30-31, 34-40,42	v26-28, 41, 43b-45	v3b,5, 15-16, 29,43a										
Dt2:	v1,4-6,8-14a, 18-24,26-32, 35-36	v2-3	v25			v7, 14b-17, v24,30,33	v34-35	v26								v7		
Dt3:	v1,9-11,29		v21-22, 28			v2-3a, 26-27	v3b-8	v12-20, 23-25										
Dt4:	v3-4,11, 20-22a, 41-43,46-49	v7-8, 32-38	v22b,40	v1,5,8, 14,45		v3,10, 12-14, 36	v4,11, 47	v1-2, 5-9,14, 44-45	v1,5-6,8, 14,40,45	v2,13,40, 45	v5b-10, 13-14, 30,40	v8,44	v9-10,40	v12, 15-19, 23-25	v13, 23,31	v26-28	v29-30	v31, 39
Dt5:	v2,6	v3		v1,31		v2-4, 6-22, 28-33	v23-27	v1,5	v1,31	v10,29,31	v1,7-21, 27,29, 31b-33	v10			v2			v24
Dt6:	v12,16, 21-22	v10-11, 23	v3, 10-11, 18-19,23	v1,20	v12	v22-24		v1	v1,2,17, 20,24	v1,2,17, 20,25	v1-3,7-9, 13,16-18, 24-25		v2,7, 20-22	v14			v4-6	v15
Dt7:	v8, 18b-19	v1-2a, 6-8,12	v20, 22-24	v11-12		v18b-20, 21b-24			v11	v9,11	v3,11-12, 17-18a, 21a,26	v9,12		v2b,4-5, 16, 25-26	v2,9, 12	v13-15		v4b, 9-10, 21b
Dt8:	v2,4, 14b-16	v18b	v7-10	v11	v11-14a, 17				v11	v1-2,6,11	v1-3, 5-6,18a			v19a	v18	v19b-20		
Dt9:	v1-2, 8-12,29	v4-5, 27a,28	v3		v6-8, 12b-24	v10-12a, 13-14,23a	v12b	v9, 15-21, 25-29						v12b,16, 21	v9,11			v8,19-20
Dt10:	v1-9,21b	v15,22		v18		v1-2,11		v3-5,10	v13	v13	v12-13, 19-21a						v12-13,16	v10b,14, 17-18
Dt11:	v3-7, 30-31	v9b	v10-12, 21,23-25	v1,32	v16a				v1,32	v1,8,13, 22,27-28	v1-2,8, 13,18,20, 22,32		v19,21	v16b, 28b		v9a,14-15, 17,26-28a, 29		v2
Dt12:			v8-11, 20,29	v1					v1		v1,4-7, 12-19, 21-27,32			v2-3, 30-31		v28		

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