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THE HOLY BIBLE **NKJV** REFERENCE GUIDE

OLD TESTAMENT

BOOK 5

DEUTERONOMY



Moses with the Ten Commandments, by Rembrandt

SUMMARY

Moses repeats the history of the children of Israel, Moses repeats the moral law (10 Commandments), the ceremonial law (sacrifices and offerings) and the civil law (judicial laws, dietary codes, punishments, etc.), history of the the life of Moses and briefly about his death.

The word "Deuteronomy" comes from the Greek word for "the second law" or "the law copied or repeated." In the book of Deuteronomy Moses is writing a series of speeches to the people of Israel in the plains of Moab on the day before they entered the land of Canaan, the promised land.

These messages are intended to speak to every member of the congregation of Israel, not just the religious. The purpose of Moses was to remind them of God's law, and everything that God did for them, and every promise God made to them.

Moses explained to them that their new life in the land of Canaan would be blessed or cursed depending on their ability to walk after God and His law. These words were spoken to them on the 11th month of the final year of Israel's wandering in the wilderness, the 40th year after they left Egypt.

In the first speech, Moses warns the people of Israel about the sins which had kept their fathers from entering the promised land. He repeatedly encourages them to obey God and reminds them about the events that took place in the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. He carefully explains what happens when there are difficult situations and they choose not to trust the Lord but rather act in obstinance, doubt, fear, and finally disobedience.

The second speech goes into the details about the law. It is really the main message here that Moses gives them, the first speech was more of an introduction and preparation for this message. It deals mainly with the legal aspects of the law, moral, civil, and ceremonial. It deals first with the 10 Commandments and secondly the details behind God's law with the emphasis on following God statutes, religious ordinances, and living with one another as the people of God.

The third speech is primarily a message about the blessings of obedience and the curses of disobedience. Moses mainly directs his message to the elders, the priests, the Levites, and all the leaders who are responsible to carry out the ceremonies. The place chosen for the ceremonies was a spot in the center of the land of Israel where the first altar to God have been erected.

Once they had crossed over the Jordan River they were commanded to set up great stones on Mount Ebal, with the law of God inscribed and to build a great altar. The 12 tribes of Israel were to be divided between the two hills.

Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin were to gather themselves on Mt. Gerizim to recite the blessings which God promised them if they would obey him. Across on Mt. Ebal, Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali were to speak the curses which God had promised them if they were to disobey him.

Moses finished his discourses and encourage the people to follow Joshua, their new leader, to cross the Jordan and to take the land which had been promised to their father Abraham.

SUMMARY Continued

Moses wrote down the law in a book, gave it to the priests, who were to keep it as a perpetual reminder for the people of Israel. They were to read it every seventh year when the people assembled for the feast of Tabernacles.

God told Moses and Joshua to come before Him at the tabernacle and He told them of the future infidelity of the children of Israel and instructed Moses to leave the people a song as a witness against them which they were to learn.

This song of Moses is recorded in Deuteronomy 32 and it speaks about the blessings which God has bestowed on his people and the corrupt ways in which they responded to those blessings. Deuteronomy 33 speaks about Moses' blessing on the people and Deuteronomy 34 records briefly the account of the death of Moses, the great leader of Israel.

NKJV SELECTED SCRIPTURE

- 1:21** Look, the Lord your God has set the land before you; go up and possess it, as the Lord God of your fathers has spoken to you; do not fear or be discouraged.
- 1:29** *Then I said to you, 'Do not be terrified, or afraid of them.*
- 1:30** The Lord your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt before your eyes,
- 2:11** They were also regarded as giants, like the Anakim, but the Moabites call them Emim.
- 2:20** That was also regarded as a land of giants; giants formerly dwelt there. But the Ammonites call them Zamzummim,
- 3:11** For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of the giants. Indeed his bedstead was an iron bedstead. (Is it not in Rabbah of the people of Ammon?) Nine cubits is its length and four cubits its width, according to the standard cubit.
- 3:13** The rest of Gilead, and all Bashan, the kingdom of Og, I gave to half the tribe of Manasseh. (All the region of Argob, with all Bashan, was called the land of the giants.
- 4:12** And the Lord spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice.
- 4:29** But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.
- 4:30** When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the Lord your God and obey His voice
- 4:31** (for the Lord your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.
- 5:33** *You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.*
- 6:6** *And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.*

NKJV SCRIPTURE Continued

- 6:7** *You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.*
- 6:25** Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the Lord our God, as He has commanded us.
- 7:21** *You shall not be terrified of them; for the Lord your God, the great and awesome God, is among you.*
- 8:18** And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.
- 10:20** You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in His name.
- 13:3** *You shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*
- 15:10** *You shall surely give to him, and your heart should not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the Lord your God will bless you in all your works and in all to which you put your hand.*
- 15:11** *For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.*
- 16:19** *You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.*
- 18:10** *There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,*
- 18:11** *or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.*
- 18:12** *For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you.*
- 18:22** *When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.*
- 22:5** *A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God.*
- 23:23** *That which has gone from your lips you shall keep and perform, for you voluntarily vowed to the Lord your God what you have promised with your mouth.*
- 28:1** Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.
- 28:2** And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:

NKJV SCRIPTURE Continued

- 28:6** Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.
- 28:7** The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.
- 28:10** Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you.
- 28:13** And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them.
- 28:58** If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD,
- 28:63** And it shall be, that just as the Lord rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so the Lord will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess.
- 28:66** Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life.
- 30:11** *For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off.*
- 30:14** *But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.*
- 30:15** *See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil,*
- 31:8** And the Lord, He is the one who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.
- 32:48** Then the Lord spoke to Moses that very same day, saying:
- 32:49** *Go up this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, across from Jericho; view the land of Canaan, which I give to the children of Israel as a possession;*
- 32:50** *and die on the mountain which you ascend, and be gathered to your people, just as Aaron your brother died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people;*
- 32:51** *because you trespassed against Me among the children of Israel at the waters of Meribah Kadesh, in the Wilderness of Zin, because you did not hallow Me in the midst of the children of Israel.*
- 34:5** So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord.
- 34:6** And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day.
- 34:7** Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.
- 34:10** But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.

CHARACTER Definitions

ANAKIM - The Anakim/Anakites were a formidable race of giant, warlike people who occupied the lands of southern Israel near Hebron before the arrival of the Israelites. The Anakim's ancestry has been traced back to Anak, the son of Arba, who at that time was regarded as the "greatest man among the Anakim".

The name "Anakim" most likely means "long-necked," i.e., "tall." The Hebrews thought them to be descendants of the Nephilim, a powerful race who dominated the pre-Flood world. When the twelve Israelite spies returned from exploring the Promised Land, they gave a frightening report of "people great and tall" whom they identified as the sons of Anak.

The Israelites, seized with fear and believing themselves to be mere "grasshoppers . . . in their sight", rebelled against God and refused to enter the land God had promised them.

The Israelites were exhorted by Moses not to fear the Anakim, but they refused to trust God's promises. As a result, God became angry and prohibited the "evil generation" from entering the Promised Land; Joshua and Caleb were the only exceptions. Because of their fear of the Anakim and their rebellion against God, the children of Israel were forced to wander for another 38 years in the wilderness.

During the conquest of Canaan, Joshua expelled the Anakim from the hill country, and Caleb finally drove them out of Hebron completely. However, a small remnant found refuge in the cities of Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod.

Many Bible scholars speculate that the Anakim's descendants were the Philistine giants David encountered, including Goliath of Gath.

EMIM - Stated to have been the earlier inhabitants of Moab, and to have been of tall stature, and hence, "accounted Rephaim (or giants) as the Anakim" or the Zamzummim of Ammon. As the name was given to them by the Moabites, it may not have been that by which they called themselves. A tall race, known to the Israelites as REPHAIM, once existed in Southern Palestine as well as on the East side of the Jordan, but its exact relationship is unknown.

AMMON - The country of Ammon was located north of Moab and east of the Jordan River. The Ammonites originated from Ben-Ammi, the son of an incestuous union of Lot with his younger daughter. In the time of Moses, the Ammonites as well as the Moabites were excluded from the Israelite community.

There was constant fighting between Ammon and Israel. Jephthah, the Judge, subdued the Ammonites, King Saul drove back Ammonite King Nahash from Jabesh in Gilead. There were good relations between King David and Ammon, but when David sent his servants to console the Ammonite King on the death of his father, the new king embarrassed the servants by shaving their heads.

A war then broke out and David subdued the Ammonites. It was during this war, the David-and-Bathsheba affair occurred, with the killing of Bathsheba's husband, Uriah. Ammon was defeated by Israel two more times in later years. When the Assyrians, followed by the Babylonians, took over the area, Ammon paid tribute to them for protection.

CHARACTERS Continued

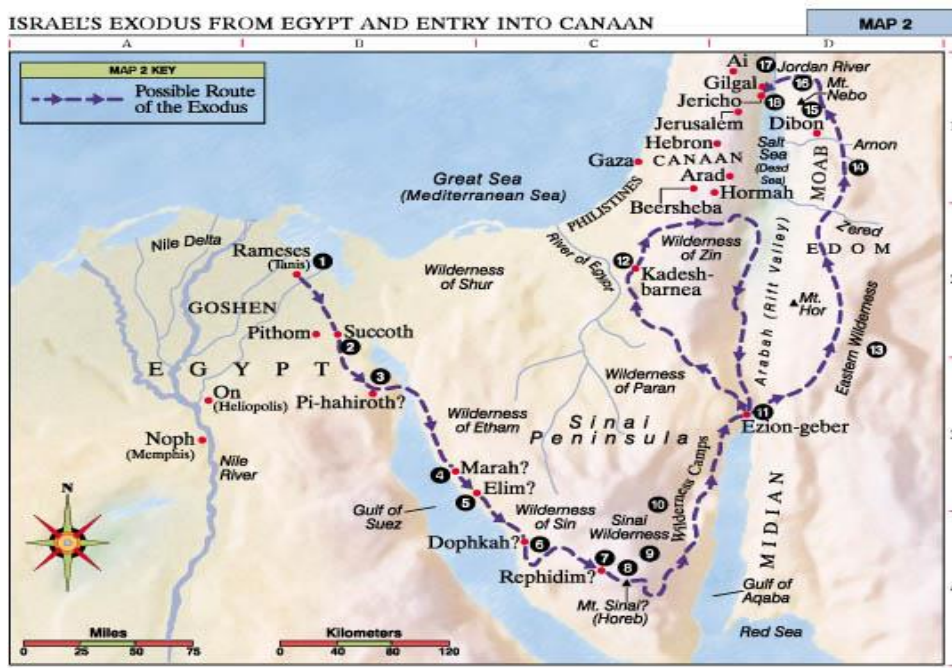
ARGOB - Stony heap, an "island," as it has been called, of rock about 30 miles by 20, rising 20 or 30 feet above the table-land of Bashan; a region of crags and chasms wild and rugged in the extreme. On this "island" stood sixty walled cities, ruled over by Og. It is called Trachonitis ("the rugged region") in the New Testament. These cities were conquered by the Israelites.

It is now called the Lejah. Here sixty walled cities are still traceable in a space of 308 square miles. The architecture is ponderous and massive. Solid walls 4 feet thick, and stones on one another without cement; the roofs enormous slabs of basaltic rock, like iron; the doors and gates are of stone 18 inches thick, secured by ponderous bars. The land bears still the appearance of having been called the 'land of giants' under the giant Og.

CUBIT - The **cubit** is an ancient unit based on the forearm length from the tip of the middle finger to the bottom of the elbow. Cubits of various lengths were employed in many parts of the world in antiquity, during the Middle Ages and as recently as Early Modern Times. One cubit = 1 ½ feet.

BIBLE TIMELINE

1407 BC	Moses' Summary of Israel's History	Deuteronomy 1 - 4
1406 BC	Recapitulation of the Law	Deuteronomy 4 - 31
1406 BC	The Song of Moses	Deuteronomy 32
1406 BC	Moses Blesses the Twelve Tribes	Deuteronomy 32:48
1406 BC	Blessings of Moses	Deuteronomy 33
1406 BC	The Death of Moses	Deuteronomy 34



MAP REFERENCES

