

History of God's Works

Deuteronomy 1:1-3:29

@ Home Study Guide

What can we learn from History? For many of us, History class was/is an endless list of dates, wars, names, and nations that we could never hope to remember. Contrary to popular belief, studying history was not a waste of time. While we may not be able to remember minor details such as what year the War of 1812 was fought in or who is buried in Grant's tomb, history made an immeasurable impact on our lives. What a person becomes from considering the truths of the past is much more important than the details one remembers.

The first three chapters of the book of Deuteronomy exposes a new generation of young Israelites to the faithfulness of God's mighty works in the past. Moses wishes to remind them of the truth that the same God who was faithful to their fathers will be faithful to them as well.

This week, as we study these first three chapters, may we come to trust in the faithfulness of God. We can learn from Israel's history that the same God who was faithful to His Word almost 3,500 years ago is still faithful to keep His promises to us today.

Day 1

Read Deuteronomy 1:1-3:29

1. Who is the author of this book?

2. Who were the original recipients?

3. Where was this sermon given?

4. List 5 similarities between the original recipients and you?

5. Are you committed to faithfully studying the book of Deuteronomy? If so, write out your commitment below.

6. Pray that God will help you keep your commitment and that you would make time to study His Word this week.

Read Deuteronomy 1:1-18

1. In verse 8, God refers to a promise that He made to Israel's fathers. Go back and read Genesis 26:3-5. In your own words, write out the two basic elements of what God promised them.

2. Why did Moses find it necessary to appoint leaders of Israel?

3. Did God faithfully keep His promises to Israel?

4. Verse 11 indicates that there are more blessings to come. God's character is such that he always seeks to fulfill His promises in overflowing ways. He is not a God who holds back His generosity. Think back over the last several months and make a list of the answers to prayer, blessings, and fulfilled promises that God has given you.

5. Pray through this list, praising and thanking God for the good gifts He has given to you.

Day 2

Read Deuteronomy 1:19-28

1. In verse 21, Israel is told that the Lord "set the land before them." God did, however, require that Israel "go in and possess it." While God freely gives His children blessings which they have not earned and do not deserve, He does require obedient action on their part for those blessings to take effect. List some of God's blessings which He promises to you and the step of obedience He requires to receive them.

2. Why did Israel refuse to obey God's command to enter the land? What does this reveal about the level of their trust in Him to keep His Word?

Day 4

Read Deuteronomy 1:34-46

1. We have already learned from Israel's history that God is a generous God who always keeps His Word. This passage teaches us that God is also a just God who punishes those who disobey Him. What was the penalty that God placed upon those who failed to obey His command to enter the Land in verses 34-40?
2. Who did God preserve from this penalty in order for Him to still fulfill His promise?
3. Verse 41 records that Israel said that they had sinned and that they changed their mind about entering the land. However, when God specifically told them not to enter the land, they deliberately disobeyed. What was wrong with this course of action?
4. Ponder the fact that true repentance over sin involves accepting the punishment of that sin. Read 1 Corinthians 7:2-12. What is the difference between the "godly sorrow that produces repentance leading to salvation" and the "sorrow of the world which produces death?" In other words, are you sorry because you got caught and have to deal with the consequences or are you sorry because you have disobeyed a Holy God?

3. Israel had been provided for so faithfully by God that they lacked nothing (v. 7). Everything that Israel had worn, eaten, drank, and rode upon was given to them by God. Even of the other nations, Moses said that God gave them their land. Do you acknowledge that everything that you have from the clothes that you wear to the food that you eat to the house that you live in is a gift from God? How does this affect the way we view our possessions? How does it affect the way we view the possessions of others?

4. Thank God for His great mercy and forgiveness. Pray that He would help you to recognize His sovereignty over what He gives to you and to others. Commit to being content with the good gifts that He has given you. Ask Him to forgive you for being covetous and pray that He will give you the grace to rejoice over the good gifts He gives others.

Read Deuteronomy 2:26-3:29

1. God was faithful to deliver Israel's enemies into their hands. One of these Kings, King Sihon, had his spirit hardened and his heart made obstinate by God. This was done so that God could deliver him into the hand of Israel (v. 30). How do we explain this? Is this fair?

2. Chapter 3 records God giving nations over unto the children of Israel's hand to be utterly destroyed. Why was it important for Israel to destroy the inhabitants of the land? How does this harmonize with God's character of love and His command not to kill?

3. Moses, a man of God and Israel's faithful leader, was prohibited from entering the Promised Land. What did Moses do to have this privilege taken from Him? (Read Numbers 20:1-12).

4. Moses may not have worshiped the golden calf, murmured, complained, or refused to enter the land, but God still considered his dishonoring of the Word of the Lord a serious sin and worthy of punishment. When you look at your life, do you measure your spirituality based upon the standard of those around you? Do you think that God will excuse your sins because they are so small compared to your neighbor's. What standard should we use? Do you measure up?

