

GOOD
NEWS
BIBLE

THE BIBLE SOCIETIES/COLLINS

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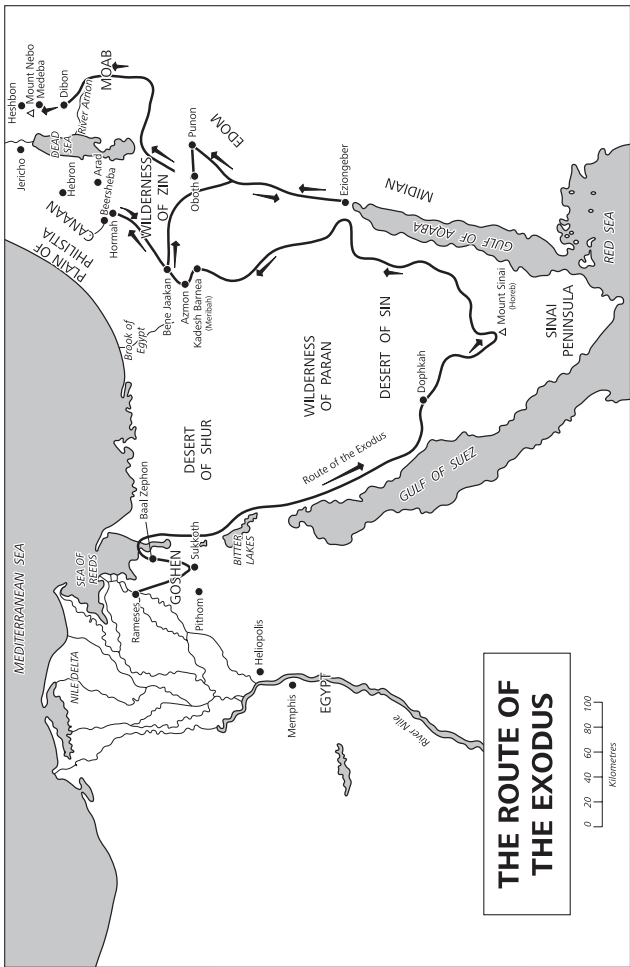
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THE ROUTE OF THE EXODUS

DEUTERONOMY

INTRODUCTION

Deuteronomy is organized as a series of addresses given by Moses to the people of Israel in the land of Moab, where they had stopped at the end of the long wilderness journey and were about to enter and occupy Canaan.

Some of the most important matters recorded in the book are as follows:

(1) Moses recalls the great events of the past forty years. He appeals to the people to remember how God has led them through the wilderness and to be obedient and loyal to God. (2) Moses reviews the Ten Commandments and emphasizes the meaning of the First Commandment, calling the people to devotion to the Lord alone. Then he reviews the various laws that are to govern Israel's life in the promised land. (3) Moses reminds the people of the meaning of God's covenant with them, and calls for them to renew their commitment to its obligations. (4) Joshua is commissioned as the next leader of God's people. After singing a song celebrating God's faithfulness, and pronouncing a blessing on the tribes of Israel, Moses dies in Moab, east of the River Jordan.

The great theme of the book is that God has saved and blessed his chosen people, whom he loves; his people are to remember this, and love and obey him, so that they may have life and continued blessing.

The key verses of the book contain the words that Jesus called the greatest of all commandments: "Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." (6.4–6)

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Introduction

1 In this book are the words that Moses spoke to the people of Israel when they were in the wilderness east of the River Jordan. They were in the Jordan Valley near Suph, between the town of Paran on one side and the towns of Tophel, Laban, Hazereth, and Dizahab on the other.² (It takes eleven days to travel from Mount Sinai to Kadesh Barnea by way of the hill country of Edom.)³ On the first day of the eleventh month of the fortieth year after they had left Egypt, Moses

told the people everything the LORD had commanded him to tell them.⁴ This was after the LORD* had defeated King Sihon of the Amorites, who ruled in the town of Heshbon, and King Og of Bashan, who ruled in the towns of Ashtaroth and Edrei.⁵ It was while the people were east of the Jordan in the territory of Moab that Moses began to explain God's laws and teachings.

1.4 the LORD; or Moses.

See also: **1.4:** Num 2.21–35

He said, ⁶ “When we were at Mount Sinai, the LORD our God said to us, ‘You have stayed long enough at this mountain. ⁷ Break camp and move on. Go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all the surrounding regions — to the Jordan Valley, to the hill country and the lowlands, to the southern region, and to the Mediterranean coast. Go to the land of Canaan and on beyond the Lebanon Mountains as far as the great River Euphrates. ⁸ All of this is the land which I, the LORD, promised to give to your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to their descendants. Go and occupy it.’ ”

Moses Appoints Judges

(Ex 18.13–27)

⁹ Moses said to the people, “While we were still at Mount Sinai, I told you, ‘The responsibility for leading you is too much for me. I can’t do it alone. ¹⁰ The LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky. ¹¹ May the LORD, the God of your ancestors, make you increase a thousand times more and make you prosperous, as he promised! ¹² But how can I alone bear the heavy responsibility for settling your disputes? ¹³ Choose some wise, understanding, and experienced men from each tribe, and I will put them in charge of you.’ ¹⁴ And you agreed that this was a good thing to do. ¹⁵ So I took the wise and experienced leaders you chose from your tribes, and I placed them in charge of you. Some were responsible for a thousand people, some for a hundred, some for fifty, and some for ten. I also appointed other officials throughout the tribes.

¹⁶ “At that time I instructed them, ‘Listen to the disputes that come up among your people. Judge every dispute fairly, whether it concerns only your own people or involves foreigners who live among you. ¹⁷ Show no partiality in your decisions; judge everyone on the same basis, no matter who they are. Do not be afraid of anyone, for the decisions you make come from God. If any case is too

difficult for you, bring it to me, and I will decide it.’ ¹⁸ At the same time I gave you instructions for everything else you were to do.

The Spies are Sent Out from Kadesh Barnea

(Num 13.1–33)

¹⁹ “We did what the LORD our God commanded us. We left Mount Sinai and went through that vast and fearful desert on the way to the hill country of the Amorites. When we reached Kadesh Barnea, ^{20–21} I said, ‘You have now come to the hill country of the Amorites, which the LORD our God, the God of our ancestors, is giving us. Look, there it is. Go and occupy it as he commanded. Do not hesitate or be afraid.’

²² “But you came to me and said, ‘Let’s send men ahead of us to spy out the land, so that they can tell us the best route to take and what kind of cities are there.’

²³ “That seemed a good thing to do, so I selected twelve men, one from each tribe. ²⁴ They went into the hill country as far as the Valley of Eshcol and explored it. ²⁵ They brought us back some fruit they found there, and reported that the land which the LORD our God was giving us was very fertile.

²⁶ “But you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God, and you would not enter the land. ²⁷ You grumbled to one another: ‘The LORD hates us. He brought us out of Egypt just to hand us over to these Amorites, so that they could kill us. ²⁸ Why should we go there? We are afraid. The men we sent tell us that the people there are stronger and taller than we are, and that they live in cities with walls that reach the sky. They saw giants there!’

²⁹ “But I said, ‘Don’t be afraid of those people. ³⁰ The LORD your God will lead you, and he will fight for you, just as you saw him do in Egypt ³¹ and in the desert. You saw how he brought you safely all

See also: 1.26: Deut 9.23; Heb 3.16
1.31: Acts 13.18

the way to this place, just as a father would carry his son.’³² But in spite of what I said, you still would not trust the LORD,³³ even though he always went ahead of you to find a place for you to camp. To show you the way, he went in front of you in a pillar of fire by night and in a pillar of cloud by day.

The LORD Punishes Israel

(Num 14.20–45)

³⁴ “The LORD heard your complaints and became angry, and so he solemnly declared,³⁵ ‘Not one of you from this evil generation will enter the fertile land that I promised to give your ancestors.’³⁶ Only Caleb son of Jephunneh will enter it. He has remained faithful to me, and I will give him and his descendants the land that he has explored.’³⁷ Because of you the LORD also became angry with me and said, ‘Not even you, Moses, will enter the land.’³⁸ But strengthen the determination of your helper, Joshua son of Nun. He will lead Israel to occupy the land.’

³⁹ “Then the LORD said to all of us, ‘Your children, who are still too young to know right from wrong, will enter the land — the children you said would be seized by your enemies. I will give the land to them, and they will occupy it.’⁴⁰ But as for you people, turn round and go back into the desert along the road to the Gulf of Aqaba.’

⁴¹ “You replied, ‘Moses, we have sinned against the LORD. But now we will attack, just as the LORD our God commanded us.’ Then each one of you got ready to fight, thinking it would be easy to invade the hill country.

⁴² “But the LORD said to me, ‘Warn them not to attack, for I will not be with them, and their enemies will defeat them.’

⁴³ I told you what the LORD had said, but you paid no attention. You rebelled against him, and in your pride you marched into the hill country.⁴⁴ Then the Amorites who lived in those hills came out against you like a swarm of bees.

They chased you as far as Hormah and defeated you there in the hill country of Edom.⁴⁵ So you cried out to the LORD for help, but he would not listen to you or pay any attention to you.

The Years in the Desert

⁴⁶ “So then, after we had stayed at Kadesh for a long time,¹ we finally turned and went into the desert, along the road to the Gulf of Aqaba, as the LORD had commanded, and we spent a long time wandering about in the hill country of Edom.

² “Then the LORD told me³ that we had spent enough time wandering about in those hills and that we should go north.

⁴ He told me to give you the following instructions: ‘You are about to go through the hill country of Edom, the territory of your distant relatives, the descendants of Esau. They will be afraid of you,⁵ but you must not start a war with them, because I am not going to give you so much as a square metre of their land. I have given Edom to Esau’s descendants.’⁶ You may buy food and water from them.’

⁷ “Remember how the LORD your God has blessed you in everything that you have done. He has taken care of you as you wandered through this vast desert. He has been with you these forty years, and you have had everything you needed.

⁸ “So we moved on and left the road that goes from the towns of Elath and Eziongeber to the Dead Sea, and we turned north-east towards Moab.⁹ The LORD said to me, ‘Don’t trouble the people of Moab, the descendants of Lot, or start a war against them. I have given them the city of Ar, and I am not going to give you any of their land.’ ”

¹⁰ (A mighty race of giants called the Emim used to live in Ar. They were as tall as the Anakim, another race of giants.

¹¹ Like the Anakim they were also known as Rephaim; but the Moabites called them Emim.¹² The Horites used to live in Edom,

but the descendants of Esau chased them out, destroyed their nation, and settled there themselves, just as the Israelites later chased their enemies out of the land that the LORD gave them.)

¹³ “Then we crossed the River Zered as the LORD told us to do. ¹⁴ This was 38 years after we had left Kadesh Barnea. All the fighting men of that generation had died, as the LORD had said they would. ¹⁵ The LORD kept on opposing them until he had destroyed them all.

¹⁶ “After they had all died, ¹⁷ the LORD said to us, ¹⁸ ‘Today you are to pass through the territory of Moab by way of Ar. ¹⁹ You will then be near the land of the Ammonites, the descendants of Lot. Don’t trouble them or start a war against them, because I am not going to give you any of the land that I have given them.’ ”

²⁰ (This territory is also known as the land of the Rephaim, the name of the people who used to live there; the Ammonites called them Zamzumim. ²¹ They were as tall as the Anakim. There were many of them, and they were a mighty race. But the LORD destroyed them, so that the Ammonites took over their land and settled there. ²² The LORD had done the same thing for the Edomites, the descendants of Esau, who live in the hill country of Edom. He destroyed the Horites, so that the Edomites took over their land and settled there, where they still live. ²³ The land along the Mediterranean coast had been settled by people from the island of Crete. They had destroyed the Avvim, the original inhabitants, and had taken over all their land as far south as the city of Gaza.)

²⁴ “After we had passed through Moab, the LORD said to us, ‘Now, start out and cross the River Arnon. I am placing in your power Sihon, the Amorite king of Heshbon, along with his land. Attack him, and begin occupying his land. ²⁵ From today on I will make people everywhere afraid of you. Everyone will tremble with fear at the mention of your name.’

Israel Defeats King Sihon

(Num 21.21–30)

²⁶ “Then I sent messengers from the desert of Kedemoth to King Sihon of Heshbon with the following offer of peace: ²⁷ ‘Let us pass through your country. We will go straight through and not leave the road. ²⁸ We will pay for the food we eat and the water we drink. All we want to do is to pass through your country, ²⁹ until we cross the River Jordan into the land that the LORD our God is giving us. The descendants of Esau, who live in Edom, and the Moabites, who live in Ar, allowed us to pass through their territory.’

³⁰ “But King Sihon would not let us pass through his country. The LORD your God had made him stubborn and rebellious, so that we could defeat him and take his territory, which we still occupy.

³¹ “Then the LORD said to me, ‘Look, I have made King Sihon and his land helpless before you; take his land and occupy it.’ ³² Sihon came out with all his men to fight us near the town of Jahaz, ³³ but the LORD our God put him in our power, and we killed him, his sons, and all his men. ³⁴ At the same time we captured and destroyed every town, and put everyone to death, men, women, and children. We left no survivors. ³⁵ We took the livestock and plundered the towns. ³⁶ The LORD our God let us capture all the towns from Aroer, on the edge of the valley of the Arnon, and the city in the middle of that valley, all the way to Gilead. No town had walls too strong for us. ³⁷ But we did not go near the territory of the Ammonites or to the banks of the River Jabbok or to the towns of the hill country or to any other place where the LORD our God had commanded us not to go.

Israel Conquers King Og

(Num 21.31–35)

3 “Next, we moved north towards the region of Bashan, and King Og came out with all his men to fight us near the town of Edrei. ² But the LORD said to me, ‘Don’t be afraid of him. I am going to give him, his men, and all his

Word list

Abib The first month of the Hebrew calendar. It runs from about mid-March to about mid-April. This month is also called Nisan.

Abys The place in the depths of the earth where, according to ancient Jewish teaching, the demons were imprisoned until their final punishment.

Acacia A flowering tree with hard and durable wood.

Adar The twelfth month of the Hebrew calendar. It runs from about mid-February to about mid-March.

Agate A semi-precious stone of different colours, but usually white and brown.

Alabaster A soft stone, usually of a light creamy colour, from which vases and jars were made.

Aloes A sweet-smelling liquid produced from a plant. It was used as medicine and as a perfume.

Amen A Hebrew word which means "it is so" or "may it be so". It can also be translated "certainly", "truly", or "surely". In Revelation 3.14 it is used as a name for Christ.

Amethyst A semi-precious stone, usually purple or violet in colour.

Anoint To pour or rub olive oil on someone in order to honour him or to appoint him to some special work. The Israelite kings were anointed when they took office, and so the king could be called "the anointed one". "Christ", the Greek word for "The Anointed One", is the title of the one whom God chose and appointed as Saviour and Lord.

Apostle Usually one of the group of twelve men whom Jesus chose to be his special followers and helpers. It is also used in the New Testament to refer to Paul and other Christian workers. The word means "messenger".

Areopagus A hill in Athens where the city council used to meet. For this reason the council itself was called Areopagus, even after it no longer met on the hill.

Artemis The Greek name of an ancient goddess of fertility, worshipped especially in Asia Minor.

Asherah A goddess of fertility worshipped by the Canaanites; her male counterpart was Baal. After the Hebrews invaded Canaan, many of them began worshipping these two gods.

Astarte A goddess of fertility and war who was widely worshipped in the ancient Near East.

Atonement, Day of The most important of Israel's holy days, when the High Priest would offer sacrifice for the sins of the people of Israel (Leviticus 16). It was held on the 10th day of the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar (about 1 October). The Jewish name for this day is Yom Kippur.

Baal The god of fertility worshipped by the Canaanites; his female counterpart was Asherah. After the Hebrews invaded Canaan, many of them began worshipping these two gods.

Baal-of-the-Covenant A name by which the god Baal was known by the people of Shechem.

Balsam A tree from which sweet-smelling resin was obtained; the resin was used for perfume and medicine.

Barley A cultivated grain similar to wheat, grown as a food crop.

Bear: Great Bear and Little Bear Two groups of stars which can be seen north of the equator in the

northern sky. The star at the end of the "tail" of the Little Bear is Polaris, the Pole Star.

Beelzebub A New Testament name given to the Devil as the chief of the evil spirits.

Beryl A semi-precious stone, usually green or bluish green in colour.

Breastplate Part of a soldier's armour, made of leather or metal; it covered the chest and sometimes the back, to protect him against arrows and the blows of a sword.

Bul The eighth month of the Hebrew calendar. It runs from about mid-October to about mid-November.

Burnt offering A kind of sacrifice in which all the parts of the animal were completely burnt on the altar; in other sacrifices only certain parts of the animal were burnt.

Calamus A sweet-smelling plant, like a reed.

Capital The top part of a pillar holding up a roof.

Carnelian A semi-precious stone, usually red in colour.

Cassia A spice made from the bark of a tree; it is very like cinnamon.

Chalcedony A semi-precious stone, usually milky or grey in colour.

Christ At first it was a title, the Greek word for the Hebrew "Messiah". It means "The Anointed One". Jesus was called "The Christ" because he was the one whom God chose and sent as Saviour and Lord.

Circumcise To cut off the foreskin of the penis. As a sign of God's covenant with his people Israelite boys were circumcised eight days after they were born (Genesis 17.9-14).

Concubine A servant woman who, although not a wife, had sexual relations with her master. She had important legal rights and her master was referred to as her husband.

Coral A brightly-coloured stony substance found in the sea; it was used as jewellery.

Council The highest religious court of the Jews. It was made up of seventy leaders of the Jewish people. Its president was the High Priest.

Covenant An agreement, either between people or between God and a person or a group of people. God made a covenant with Noah (Genesis 9.8-17) and with Abraham (Genesis 17.1-8), but in the Old Testament the term usually refers to the covenant made between God and the people of Israel at the time of Moses (Exodus 24.4-8).

Covenant Box A wooden chest covered with gold. The two stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them were kept in it. It is often called "the Ark of the Covenant".

Cumin A small plant whose seeds are crushed and used for seasoning foods.

Cymbals A pair of thin pieces of metal held in the hands and struck together to make a loud sound in time with the music.

David's City In the Old Testament it usually refers to the part of Jerusalem which was captured from the Jebusites by King David. In the New Testament Bethlehem, David's boyhood home where Jesus was born, is referred to as David's town.

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[NT]	192	Rom 5.12–21		916	Zech 4.1–5
	219	1 Cor 15.22, 45–49	[NT]	4	Mt 12.24–24
	262	1 Tim 2.13, 14		6	Mt 4.11
Agabus [NT]	163	Acts 11.28		20	Mt 13.39, 41, 49
	176	Acts 21.10		25	Mt 16.27