

DEUTERONOMY—DULL DISCOURSE OR DRAMATIC DECLARATION?

Deuteronomy 1:1-4 // September 19, 2021 PM

I. Deuteronomy is a climactic word from a leading prophet (v. 1a).

II. Deuteronomy is a sufficient word to a conquering people (v. 1b).

III. Deuteronomy is a sharp word to a wandering people (vv. 2-3).

IV. Deuteronomy is a gracious word from a saving God (v. 4).

QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What are some reasons we might be tempted to think Deuteronomy is a boring book?
2. Who is Moses? What makes him unique? What specific circumstances was he facing that would make his preaching in Deuteronomy so important?
3. Where is Israel and what are they about to do as Moses preaches one final time to them?
4. What is the reason for the editor pointing out the temporal markers of eleven days (v. 2) and forty years (v. 3)? What does this teach us about Israel? How are we similar?
5. In what significant way does Deuteronomy differ from the Hittite treaties in the Ancient Near East? How do we see God's grace already at play in these introductory words?
6. Why is it significant that Christ quoted Deuteronomy during his forty-day temptation in the wilderness? How does Deuteronomy prepare us for Him?

QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. What would it have been like to be shepherded by Moses for forty years and to hear this final message from his lips?
2. Why is my obedience necessary if God covenants with me according to His unconditional grace? Do I live in the tension of these realities, or do I tend to obscure one by unhealthily fixating upon the other?
3. Do I sense my proneness to wander and need of heart-searching, pointed preaching?