

Deuteronomy

The One and Only

Study 2 – Learning from History

Introduction

We begin our second study in Deuteronomy by noting two important facts about history. Fact number one is that history matters. History, correctly understood, helps us know where we have come from, who we are and how we should act in the future. History matters because, provided we learn from history, we can avoid the mistakes of the past and make better decisions for the future. Fact number two is that people seldom learn from history and frequently end up making the same mistakes as those who have gone before.

Both of these facts about history underlie Deuteronomy chapters 1 to 4, the section of the book that we are considering in this study. This section of the book comprises the first of Moses' three sermons to the Israelites on the plains of Moab. What is striking is that although chapter 4 is all about application and response, chapters 1 – 3 simply tell the story of the journey from Sinai to the borders of the Promised Land, a journey which should have taken 11 days but ended up taking 40 years (see Deuteronomy 1:2-3). Thus the opening section of the book, is a retelling of Israel's history, not just for its own sake, but so that a new generation of Israelites may learn from history and thus be reminded about what the LORD has done for them and who this LORD has called them to be.

Read Deuteronomy 1:1-4:43



Investigate

1. What does Moses' account of Israel's history in chapters 1-3 teach:
 - a. About the LORD?

Apply



In what way has Deuteronomy 1-4 informed or challenged your thinking?



In what way has Deuteronomy 1-4 spoken to your heart?



What needs to change in your daily life as a result of this study?