

On The Edge

I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. **Women's Retreat Planning Meeting** here Friday at 7:00 PM in New Room. All ladies are welcome. Retreat will be on April 11-13.
- B. **Men's Conference *Taking Off the Gloves*** here Saturday at 8am. On-line registration \$25, after tonight sign up at the door \$30.
- C. **Pray for imp Hearing Tomorrow.** (Bob Tyler; James)
 - 1. **Motion of summary adjudication & Cross motion of summary judgement.**

II. Slide#2 **Intro:**

- A. My last OT book to do (kinda) - explain.
- B. **Why this book?** - Because of memory lost.
 - 1. **Ever hear of the story about the 3 absent-minded sisters who lived together, Anabelle, Mabel, & Gladys?**
 - a) **Anabelle** announced she was going upstairs to take a bubble bath. She filled the tub, got one leg in & forgot if she was *getting in or getting out*. She called Mabel to help.
 - b) **Mabel** started up the stairs, making it to the landing, & then couldn't remember if she was *going up or coming down*. It was Gladys' time to help.
 - c) **Gladys** shaking her head lamented, "those 2 sisters of mine, if they didn't have me to help them remember they wouldn't make it through the day. I'm glad I'm not like that, knock on wood." She wrapped twice on the coffee table, then responded looking in the direction of the front door, "Come in!"
 - 2. **We all forget at times.** Sometimes it can paralyze us & keep us from moving ahead.
 - a) *To get **where we need to go**, we need to remember **where we've been**.
 - b) *That's why the Israelites needed the Book of Deut. It **reminded them** of their **past & prepared them** for their **future**.
 - 3. This **new generation** of desert wanderers were about to enter the Promise Land.
 - a) But before they could **move ahead**, they needed to **recall & emblazon on their minds & hearts** the precious **heritage** God had given them.
 - b) **As** they would **reflect** on **God's Faithfulness** they would **build faith** for the **future**.
- C. Ps.103:1-5 **Forget not all his benefits.**

III. Slide#3,4 **MOSES' STORY**

- A. **Background:** 1400bc. - Read 1st 3 & last 3 verses of Deut.
- B. **Moses' Story:** *It's a story of...*
 - 1. **Slide#5a** It's a story of an incredible **birth** at the wrong/right time.

- a) King of Egypt, decided to kill all Hebrew baby boys.
2. **Slide#5b** It's a story of **rescue** - from the water (Moses = drawn forth)
3. **#5c** It's a story of **adoption** - by Pharaoh's daughter.
4. **#5d** It's a story of a **royal upbringing** - in Pharaoh's court.
5. **#5e** It's a story of Moses the *historian, leader, statesman, legislator, & patriot*.
6. **#5f** It's a story of the **greatest honor**...being considered a **friend** of God.
 - a) Ex.3:11 *...as a man speaks to a friend*. Holy intimacy w/the Almighty.
7. **#5g** It's a story of **long life** of 120 years. Broken into 3 sections of 40 yrs each.
 - a) **1st 40yrs**: Birth to fleeing to Midian, as Pharaoh's son. Learned how to be **somebody**.
 - b) **2nd 40yrs**: Midian to Exodus, as **desert dweller**. Learned how to be **nobody**.
 - (1) *We learn life's most important lessons not in times of success but during seasons of loss, failure, disappointment, and discouragement.*
 - c) **3rd 40yrs**: from the Exodus to his own, as **God's Leader**. Learned **God** was **everybody**.
8. **#5h** It's a story of an **absolute break** from this world - Heb.11:24,25.
 - a) Refusal & choice. **Not enough to refuse...we must also choose**.
9. **#5i** It's a story of being a **type** of Christ:
 - a) **Both** were preserved from the perils of infancy.¹
 - b) **Both** knew what it was to fast for 40 days. (Ex.34:28) Solitude was their strength.
 - c) **Both** had power to control the sea.
 - d) **Both** fed a multitude. (Manna)
 - e) **Both** had a radiant face.
 - f) **Both** endured murmurings.
 - g) **Both** were discredited at home.
 - h) **Both** were mighty intercessors.
 - i) **Both** spoke as the oracles of God.
 - j) **Both** had 70 helpers.
 - k) **Both** establishment memorials. (Passover/Communion)
 - l) **Both** reappeared after death. (Transfiguration/Res)
10. **#5j** It's a story of a **penman** - he gets to write the Pentateuch.
 - a) Jesus said in Jn.5:46 **For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me...thus setting the seal to the Mosaic authorship of these books.**
11. **#5k** It's a story of an incredible **death** - he died in the plains of Moab.

¹ All the Men of the Bible, Herbert Lockyer, pg. 47,248.

- a) He climbed mount Nebo. Looked into the land. *Then, kissed to sleep by an angel.*
God became his undertaker. Deut.34:6

IV. Slide#6 **MOSES' BOOK, DEUTERONOMY**

A. Slide#7a **Book Break Down:** 3 parts.

1. **Looking Back** (ch.1-4); **Looking Up** (ch.5-26); **Looking Ahead** (ch.27-34).
 - a) Slide#7b **Remember God's Faithfulness** (ch.1-4)
 - (1) **Stop**/reflect on ground you've covered. **Stop**/see it's God who got you this far.
 - (2) **Remember His faithfulness** when we've **doubted**; **His strength** when we **faltered**; **His grace** when we **disobeyed**.
 - (3) **When was the last time you stopped to reflect on God's faithfulness throughout your spiritual journey? A few moments of reflection can refuel you for the journey.**
 - b) **Remember God's Holiness** (ch.5-26)
 - (1) He restates His Law. Exhorts them to holy living.
 - c) **Remember God's Promises** (ch.27-34)
 - (1) The book closes with God's promises of **blessing** (ch.28) **or cursing** (ch.29) **depending on** how well they **obey** His commandments.

B. Slide#8a **40 Days Of Purpose:**

1. This whole book of **40 days** occurs **On The Edge** before entering the Promise Land.
 - a) **#8b 40 days** to reflect on the past. *God's miraculous deliverance from Egypt, from Pharaoh's army. God's provision of manna & water in the desert. And the bodies of their disobedient parents & grandparents who lay buried under desert sand.*
 - b) **#8c 40 days** to hear afresh God's own laws for His own people. *The 10 commandments. The holy statutes. The compassionate decrees. The distinctive codes of behavior that would make Israel shine like a city on a hill.*
 - c) **#8d 40 days** for the Israelites to anticipate the realization of God's promises. *A land of their own. God's Law to guide them. His strength to sustain them.*

C. **Key message:** Love God & keep His commandments.

D. Slide#9a **Book Name:** Deuteronomy

1. **Hebrew:** *Haddebarim* "the words" 1:1.
 - a) This is a series of *Farewell Sermons* from Moses to the Israelites. Where he urges them to love God, obey His laws, & follow the leadership of Joshua.
2. **#9b Greek:** *To Deuteromion Touto* (where we get our English) "The Second Law".
 - a) **However**, it really isn't a **2nd Law**, it's a **restatement** & **expansion** of the law originally given at Sinai & recorded in Exodus & Leviticus.

b) **Deuteronomy fills in missing elements** & gives the **spiritual significance** of the history found in the other books of Moses.

E. **Slide#10 Setting: Where** the Jews received these words **is crucial** to understanding the significance of **What** was said.

1. Vs.5 **in the land of Moab**, other side of Jordan river.
2. **40 years earlier**, they walked out of Egypt. They received God's Law. They heard God's voice. They stood on the brink of Canaan at **Kaedsh-barnea** - **Then** tragically chose not to trust their God who had brought them out of slavery.
 - a) **See how close they came on the map behind me?**
 - b) **Slide#11 Now** this **next generation** stands at the gates of the Promise Land. They too are urged to keep covenant with God. (**picture**: looking from Mnt Nebo to Promise Land)
 - c) They represent a new era in the life of Israel. A new land. A new leader (Joshua). A new way of living (settled instead of nomadic).
 - (1) But **God** who brought them out of Egypt has **remained unchanged**.
 - (2) He was **still holy, still faithful, still jealous** for the devotion of His people.

F. **Slide#12a The Book Ends With:**

1. The last 4 chapters mark **the end** of Moses life.
2. His ministry **ends** like it **began**...w/God & him conversing on a mountain.
3. **There is a leadership transition**.
4. Moses takes in a breath taking view of the Promised Land....which is only a mere shadow of where he was going - to heaven, the ultimate Promises Land.
 - a) **Slide#12b** And there He will be met, **not by a burning bush, but by** the great **I Am** in all His **blazing splendor**. Home at last.