



THE BOOK OF
DEUTERONOMY

Sermon Series Notes



“Testing, Temptation, Discipline, & the Word of God”(Deuteronomy 1-8)

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“Second Law” meant to remind them of failure, as well as of all that God had done for them. The purpose was to help those reading or hearing to learn from mistakes of the past, and for those who had been faithful (only a few), to persevere in faithfulness to the end. Read I Cor.10:1-13.

When Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, each time he resisted the temptation by quoting Scripture. See Matthew 4:1-10, noting what Scripture Jesus quoted at each point of temptation. The book of Deuteronomy is a pretty important book “eh?” It tells us how vital it is that we saturate our lives with the Word of God. See Deut.6:1-9.

My wife began taking our children through the books of the Bible when they were very young, every morning before they went off to school. After a couple of years watching her do this, I got convicted and began to lead our family on a regularly in a time of family devotions. The word of God was the central part of our time together.

Wendy has Scripture all through our house. Show pics.

Joshua 1:8 Do not let this book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Eph.6:17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- Illus: Eric’s swords

So one of the things we learn from Deuteronomy is how essential it is that we saturate our lives with the word of God. The next highlight I’d like us to glean from in this book is in Deut. 8, and it ties in with what we’ve just seen in chapter 6. Read Deut.8:1-5, 16.

There is a fine and yet profound line between temptation and testing.

James 1: 12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood **the test**, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. 13 When **tempted**, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

The book of Deuteronomy was a vital part of the Word of God for Jesus in resisting temptation. But Deuteronomy is also an essential part of the Word of God in helping in through times of testing. Why does God test us?

- Revelation
 - a. Testing reveals the true condition of our hearts

- Early in my Christian life God used his word, and life's experiences to reveal to me that I was conceited.
- I really love the apostle Peter. Peter was a proud man, but I don't think he saw himself as a proud man. I believe Peter really believed he was more committed to Jesus than the other eleven (see Mark 14:27-31). When Peter three times denied that he even knew Jesus, that was a time of testing & a time of temptation as well. And of course Peter failed the test and ended up falling to the temptation. But that failure humbled Peter greatly. And this was not the only time God used His word and the experiences of life to humble Peter (See Gal.2:7-16). Peter would ultimately face his greatest test and potential temptation of his life as an old man (John 21:18-19).
- b. Testing reveals the genuineness of our faith (See I Peter 1:6-7)
 - Prov.24:16 For though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again, but the wicked are brought down by calamity.
 - Samson, a failure in many ways throughout 20 years of ministry. But Samson is mentioned in Hebrews 11, God's "hall of faith." He was the real deal, despite his failures. His repentance after being greatly humbled revealed the genuineness of his faith.

Not only is testing mentioned in Deut.8, but discipline is as well. Discipline also proves that our faith is genuine (see Heb.12:5-11).

Why does God discipline us?

- Correction
 - II Tim.3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.
 - Prov.3:11 My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke.
 - Prov. 9:8 Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you.
 - Prov.13:1 A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.
 - Prov.15:31-32 He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise. He ignores discipline despises himself...
 - Prov.17:10 A rebuke impresses a man of discernment more than a hundred lashes a fool.
 - Prov.19:25...rebuke a discerning man, and he will gain knowledge.
 - Prov.25:12 Lie an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a man's rebuke to a listening ear.
 - Eccl.7:5 It is better to heed a wise man's rebuke than to listen to the song of fools.
- Punishment; This happens when we fail to respond correctly to discipline (Uzziah, II Chron.26; scars on my body).
 - God gives instruction, and he rebukes when we fail to follow his instruction. If we fail to heed his rebuke, then punishment is the natural consequence.
 - Psalm 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.
 - David & Bathsheeba; Psalm 38; I Cor.11:32)
- Maturation

- II Tim.3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and **training in righteousness.**
- Hebrews 5:8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.
- Name one mature saint in the Bible that did not go through testing, that did not experience discipline; Abraham (Gen.12:4, 7, 10-20; 14:1-24; 15:1-6; 16:1-5; 17:24; 22:1-2ff; Jacob; Joseph; Joshua; David, Esther; Job, etc.)

Bonus from our study: Instruction for parents on disciplining children

Four types of parents: Permissive (pillow), Dominant (Sledge hammer), Neglectful (TV remote), Balanced (PVC pole).

Prov.13:24 He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

Prov.22:15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

Prov.23:13-14 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.

Prov.29:15 The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.

What kind of rod should I use?

Make sure you are in control when you discipline

Choose a designated place

Do not discipline in public unless absolutely necessary

Be consistent

Remove padding that prevents pain (No pain no gain)

Expect immediate obedience (No counting)

Do not try to bribe your children (bribe vv.reward)

Do not spoil with gifts

How old before spanking?

How old is too old to spank?