

Deuteronomy 1-26 Reflection

🔍 Starting Questions:

- What do you think the original author was trying to get across?
- What does the passage say about God/man?
- How does the passage inform my response to God?

These are some of our starting questions, but when we approach Scripture we are often left with additional questions of our own. This is a good thing! Here are a few questions we had while reading. Feel free to answer them, or come up with a few of your own:

🔍 How do we understand “blessings” today? How do you tend to respond to provision and blessings? Do you thank God and rejoice in Him as Provider or do you forget that He has provided everything you've received? In contrast, how do you respond to God in times of seemingly less provision? Do you freak out and grumble about God's unfaithfulness to provide, or do you approach the Lord in prayer, trusting that He provides all that you need? How does God prepare this generation of Israel to respond to the provisions of the Promised Land?

🔍 Think about the gospel narrative that all of Scripture makes up. When we use this big-picture lens, what do you think the wilderness signifies in every believer's faith journey? What need for all God's people is presented by Israel's time in the wilderness? What must happen to their heart before they can wholly follow the Lord and His commandments? Who can make this change in their hearts? (ch.8)

📌 Literary Elements (Themes and Repetition):

📌 Recurring Motif: fear- Israel is continuously encouraged not to fear, as God alone is meant to be feared, and the fear of the LORD brings courage and peace. This command is especially prevalent to their preparation for entering the promised land, as they are charged to “blot out” the Canaanites that inhabit the land because of their sins against the Lord. (7:1-11)

📌 Recurring motif: “You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.” God’s way is compared to a straight and narrow path. This is the way in which the Israelites are to obey all God’s commandments- wholly obeying the law and not mixing it with other religious practices of Canaan. There is only one God and ultimately there is only one way to get God. Jesus proclaims that he is that Way! (John 14:6)

🔍 **Prayer:** God, how many times in these books have you communicated Your desire for our obedience, as well as Your desire to abundantly provide for us? God, may we not get this confused with the conditional giving of the “prosperity gospel,” but would we understand the heart of Your desire to bless us. Would this understanding lead to more trust in and obedience to you!