

**Old Testament Survey 06 - Deuteronomy/ Joshua:  
Covenant Renewal and Conquest** for the Bible Institute at  
Gulf Coast Baptist Church **Spring 2026** by Steve Thomas

**Genesis** Land - Seed - Blessing

**Exodus** Blood - Deliverance - Worship

**Leviticus/Numbers** Substitution - Access - Purity

**Deuteronomy/ Joshua** Promise (Renewed) - Stewardship - Accountability

**Introduction**

As the Pentateuch draws to a close, God prepares His people to enter the land. Moses gives a review of what brought them to that point in their history, recounting the faithfulness of God and the failures of the people at each point. Moses renews the covenant with the next generation, after the passing of every individual involved in the failure at Kadesh, save for Joshua and Caleb. The remainder of the book of Deuteronomy is a review of the law given so far, and additions and addendums for special situations. Key chapters are 28 and 29 with the focus on the conditional nature of the Mosaic Covenant. As the book comes to a close, God has Moses elevate Joshua in the eyes of the people as the transition of power draws near. God allows Moses to view the Promised Land from Mt. Pisgah, but stands firm in His chastening that Moses will not enter the Land.

God gives promises to Joshua, and much of what God speaks about with Joshua has a focus on the land. The people are to be good stewards of the land, with the responsibility to take it, and to keep it. This land is a promised possession, but obedience is necessary to enjoy and to keep it. The Obedience of a faithful few results in blessings for many Israelites, but then failure results in God's consequences as He holds the people accountable.

**A Grim History Lesson**

As the 40 years of wandering comes to a close, Moses reminds the people about the unbelief at Kadesh. This warning to the new generation serves to remind them of the consequences of unbelief in the future. God also teaches His people of the danger of disobedience as the Israelites are used to judge several nations that stand in the way of God fulfilling His promises to them. Those that oppose Israel are wiped out - man, woman, and child. But those who abide peacefully (at least those in the wilderness) are able to keep their lands because of promises made to Esau and to Lot's descendants.

**Law - Reminder and Expansion**

Most of the book of Deuteronomy is filled with a recount of the 10 commandments and then law explanation for special situations like cities of refuge, How to deal with sorcerers, Levitical regulations, and how to be a good steward of the land. Keeping the land well is a kind of theological geography. The Land has always been important to God, since the first promises made to Abraham. And it will fall to the people to be good stewards of the blessings from the promises as they are fulfilled. When the people "forget" to be good stewards of the land, God provides a rest for the land as the people are removed from it. God will get His way, sometimes in spite of His people.

### **Transition of Authority**

For a generation, Moses had been the voice of God to the people. The time had come for them to follow Joshua. God had Moses give Joshua a charge in the sight of all the people (Deuteronomy 31:7-8). This elevated Joshua from the position of Moses's manservant to the leader of the people. This transition could have been more difficult had that transition not happened in public in the eyes of the people.

### **Taking the Land - Almost**

The book of Joshua is a book of action. From Jericho to the possession of Joshua himself at Timnathserah, the land was divided among the 12 tribes. Everywhere that Israel attacked the enemy, they were victorious. But they became weary with war, and several tribes enslaved the people in the land instead of driving them out.

### **Dispensational Tie-in**

God continues to reveal Himself as the faithful God that their fathers knew when He renews the covenant with the people. They had experienced the shoes that never wore down, the manna that was present 6 days a week, and the water that never dried up. When 2 powerful kings presented themselves against Israel in the wilderness, God gave them victory, utterly wiping out the enemies of God. But the standard put on the people was going to be one that was not possible to keep. Moses laid out the path for blessing, cursing, and the path to restoration. Israel would see all three of these situations as they failed God, were judged for their disobedience, and then cried out for deliverance. These standards were to teach them about God's holiness, and that righteousness apart from God's power was not possible.

### **Joshua's Charge to the People**

After the taking of the land, Joshua gathered the people together to remind them of God's faithfulness and His words to them. Joshua warned them of the foolishness of incomplete obedience in driving the people out, and gave them a history lesson of what they experienced when they obeyed God, and when they did not. He put a charge before them, Choose you this day whom you will serve! And declared that He and his house would serve the Lord.

### **Conclusion and Preview**

This chapter in Israel's history is fraught with foreshadowing of what was to come next. Soon the people will do what is right in their own eyes, forsaking the law of God and His instructions. They will experience the consequences of those choices over and over in the next portion of their history.