

# DEUTERONOMY

## A CHALLENGE TO A NEW GENERATION

### GOD'S CHARACTER REVEALED

**BIG IDEA:** God is faithful despite our failures.

**DATE:** Sunday, June 7, 2026

**SCRIPTURE:** Deuteronomy 1:1-4:43

### OPENING QUESTION

**Have you ever taken a trip where you experienced delays? What happened?** *In what area of your life have you experienced the frustration of delay? How do you know when God is telling you to move forward in faith?*

### SETTING THE STAGE

The first section of Deuteronomy reveals both the power and patience of God. The Israelites didn't have a copy of the Bible to read to learn about the character of God. They had something better than a book. They had the opportunity to witness God's loving provision for them and learn firsthand about His character.

### SCRIPTURE READING

#### **Deuteronomy 1:26-32; 4:1-9 (CSB)**

<sup>26</sup> "But you were not willing to go up. You rebelled against the command of the LORD your God. <sup>27</sup> You grumbled in your tents and said, 'The LORD brought us out of the land of Egypt to hand us over to the Amorites in order to destroy us, because he hates us. <sup>28</sup> Where can we go? Our brothers have made us lose heart, saying: The people are larger and taller than we are; the cities are large, fortified to the heavens. We also saw the descendants of the Anakim there.'

<sup>29</sup> "So I said to you: Don't be terrified or afraid of them! <sup>30</sup> The LORD your God who goes before you will fight for you, just as you saw him do for you in Egypt. <sup>31</sup> And you saw in the wilderness how the LORD your God carried you as a man carries his son all along the way you traveled until you reached this place. <sup>32</sup> But in spite of this you did not trust the LORD your God...

**4:1-9** "Now, Israel, listen to the statutes and ordinances I am teaching you to follow, so that you may live, enter, and take possession of the land the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup> You must not add anything to what I command you or take anything away from it, so that you may keep the commands of the LORD your God I am giving you. <sup>3</sup> Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal-peor, for the LORD your God destroyed every one of you who followed Baal of Peor. <sup>4</sup> But you who have remained faithful to the LORD your God are all alive today. <sup>5</sup> Look, I have taught you statutes and ordinances as the LORD my God has commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to possess. <sup>6</sup> Carefully follow them, for this will show your wisdom and understanding in the eyes of the peoples. When they hear about all these statutes, they will say, 'This great nation is indeed a

wise and understanding people.' <sup>7</sup>For what great nation is there that has a god near to it as the LORD our God is to us whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what great nation has righteous statutes and ordinances like this entire law I set before you today? <sup>9</sup>"Only be on your guard and diligently watch yourselves, so that you don't forget the things your eyes have seen and so that they don't slip from your mind as long as you live. Teach them to your children and your grandchildren.

## DISCUSSION

### LEARN FROM YOUR PAST FAILURES

*Why did the people need to hear this recount of their history? How do these verses relate to our faith today? What have you learned from failure that you could not have learned any other way? What can we conclude about God's faithfulness today?*

### OUR GOD WILL CARRY US

READ: Deuteronomy 1:29-32

*When was a time that God carried you through a tough situation? How did that experience impact your faith in Him?*

### GAIN CONFIDENCE FROM SMALLER VICTORIES

*How has God used smaller victories, tests, and lessons in your life to prepare you for bigger trials?*

*How can we remind ourselves of the small ways God has been faithful to us when we are tempted to be overwhelmed?*

### DON'T FORGET WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN!

READ Deuteronomy 4:1-9

*From these verses, how would you summarize Moses' main message to the people? What is the point of remembering our past experiences with God? How can those experiences help us face the future?*

*How are you intentionally passing down a legacy of faith to your children, grandchildren or others around you?*

## RESPONSE

The Israelites were now facing their greatest challenge yet — returning to the Promised Land and conquering it. They had already failed once at this. Moses reminded them how they could find the faith to follow God into the Promised Land.

What great test or challenge or hardship are you facing in your life right now? Apply Moses's lessons to your life:

1. What has God taught you from your past failures?
2. Remind yourself that God has promised to carry you through every circumstance.
3. What has God taught about His faithfulness and power in other trials in your life?
4. Remember how God has showed up in your life and the lives of others!