

Title: Pass the Promise  
Passage: Deut 1:1-8  
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Series: Pass the Promise

If you have read the OT you may have found yourself uncomfortable with your sense of the terrible behaviour of people and the wrathful response of divinity.

You may have heard Christians tell each other we struggle with the God of the Old Testament. We much prefer the NT God. This is similar to the teaching (heresy) a Christian theologian Marcion of Sinope made around 100AD as he preached God sent Jesus, as new god, distinct from the "vengeful" God who had created the world.

Now while we may not be labelled heretics, the practical problem is we don't read the OT. And we struggle to learn from it.

To challenge this, in our coming series 'Pass the Promise' we are going to read from the bible Jesus read and from Jesus favourite book of the bible Deuteronomy.

This is the most quoted book by Jesus. Every Israelite, including their Kings, were expected to read it and live by it  
Deuteronomy is for z

Deuteronomy is for the OT what John is for the gospels.

After 40 years of wandering Moses has had time to reflect on the Exodus, and giving of the law.

Deuteronomy is for the OT what Romans is for the NT

- Moses commentary of the covenant, his reflection on the history, the relationship, the law

**In the whole bible, Deuteronomy may be one of the most important books to read.**

Deuteronomy is the books that establishes Israel.

That shapes Jesus and Paul

It is the book at the foundations of free democracy and the rule of law.

Bible reading plan

[opening prayer]

**Deut 1:1-8**

**The first 3 verses set the scene for the book of Deut.**

Israel is at Kadesh Barnea, and has been here before. It normally takes 11 days to travel. [MAP]

V2-3 tell us it has taken Israel nearly 40 years. What went wrong? Did someone leave the map behind?

Clearly something dreadful has happened.

V8 Israel is at the edge of a land God promised to Abraham back in Genesis 12.

God appeared to Abraham and promised 3 things

- Relationship
- Descendants
- Land

Abraham, and his descendants Isaac and Jacob are nomads until they take refuge in Egypt due to a terrible famine.

They grew in number, until they were a threat to Egypt, and they are made slaves to pharaoh.

Under Moses leadership God rescues Israel Plagues, Through red sea, to Horeb (Mt Sinai) Where God enters into a covenant relationship with Israel, giving the 10 commandments.

Then God leads them to the land promised to Abraham.

- Because of Israel's lack of trust in God they are unable to enter the land and Israel is sent back into the desert to wander for 40 years, until the adult generation died.

**As we open Deut we find Israel standing on the edge of having another go.**

This is a new group of people, no longer running Egyptian slaves, now desert wanderers.

And this is Moses last words to his wandering people

- Moses is not able to enter the land
- He will die.
- But he will leave Israel his words.
- And he can call them to listen and obey.

Deuteronomy is his last 3 sermons to the people he has lead. Moses is like a Pastor passing on what he can, so God's people will stay faithful.

Imagine you are Israel, at the edge of the promise your parents refused to take,

What are your hopes, fears?

What has changed? Have we learnt?

What if you were Moses?

The first time you were ready to enter

Now you have had 40 years, to reflect on why you did not.

What has changed for Moses? What has Moses learnt? What will he say?

How about us, how will we learn from Israel's lessons.

1 Cor 10:1-13

V5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. "6 Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did."

Vs 11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. 12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! 13 No temptation[c] has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted[d] beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted,[e] he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

As we read the Israelite story, you may find yourself wondering, am I so different from them?  
How is God seeing what I am doing?  
What do I need to change? What can I learn too?

Response/Prayer/Care cards