

Moses' Final Addresses

KEY VERSES

Deuteronomy 6:4–5



Lesson Overview (TEACHER)

TRANSITION

Lesson 28 detailed God's vengeance on Midian and preparations for the second generation's land inheritance. Lesson 29 features Moses' final addresses, in which he reviewed Israel's history, reiterated God's covenants, and warned of the consequences for disobedience.

CENTRAL TRUTH

God demands covenant love and obedience.

KEY TEXTS

Deuteronomy 1:1–34:12; Psalm 90

SPOTLIGHT ON THE GOSPEL

God commanded perfect love and obedience—no one can keep this command other than Jesus. He loved the Father perfectly, died for us, and rose to give us eternal life. Repent of your sins and put your trust in Him as your Lord and Savior.

Family Devotional (PARENT)

This section explains what the Family Devotional covers for parents to use with their children each day of the week. Each devotional reinforces the lesson taught in Sunday School.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

- Day 1 **Moses' Final Addresses** (Sunday School review)
Deuteronomy 1:1–34:12; *Psalm 90*
- Day 2 **The Nation's History**
Deuteronomy 1:1–3:29
- Day 3 **Command for Obedience**
Deuteronomy 4:1–11:32
- Day 4 **Instructions for Living in the Land**
Deuteronomy 12:1–26:19
- Day 5 **Blessings and Curses**
Deuteronomy 27:1–28:68
- Day 6 **Moses' Last Instructions, Song, and Blessing**
Deuteronomy 29:1–33:29
- Day 7 **Moses' Death and His Psalm**
Deuteronomy 34:1–12; Psalm 90



LAST WEEK



NEXT WEEK



Moses' Final Addresses

THE FIRST ADDRESS

NOTE: Do not read this commentary aloud to the children. The commentary is designed to help educate and prepare the teacher for the lesson. The teacher's goal in studying the commentary is to better understand the lesson.

In the fortieth year after the Exodus (Deut 1:3), Moses gave a series of addresses to the second generation of the people of Israel. It was Moses' last opportunity to encourage and challenge the people of Israel. Moses' first address began with a review of the people's history from the days at Mount Horeb (Sinai) to their present (vv6). Moses wanted this generation to remember their history to prepare them to enter the land of promise. He recalled that the first generation had (mostly) died; this was the judgment of the LORD for their disobedience and rebellion (Num 14:33–34; Deut 1:34–35). Moses recalled that he was forbidden to enter the land of promise for his disobedience at the waters of Meribah (Num 20:12; Deut 1:37; 3:23–26; 4:21–22). Moses also recalled that the LORD had provided everything they needed for forty years (2:7). He reminded them of the victories over Sihon (2:31–33; Num 21:33–34) and Og (Deut 3:3; Num 21:33). ***Moses urged them to “keep the commandments of the LORD” (Deut 4:2,6) and to keep away from idolatry (vv15–19).*** They should remember that the LORD “is a consuming fire, a jealous God” (v24) and that “there is no other [god] besides him” (vv35,39).

THE SECOND ADDRESS

In the second address, Moses charged the second generation to learn and do the commandments delivered at Horeb (Sinai); these commandments were not just for the first generation but were for them as well (5:1–3)—he then redelivered the Ten Commandments to them (vv6–21). He also communicated a most significant confession of faith which they were to keep in mind and to teach to all following generations—“Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.” ***Along with this Moses commanded them: “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might” (6:4–9; see 10:12–11:32).*** Moses admonished this second generation: when they entered the land they were to destroy the Canaanite peoples (7:1–2); in part this was meant to keep Israel “a people holy to the LORD your God” (7:6). As a part of being holy, they were to eat only “clean” foods (14:3–21). They were not to depend on their own power or righteousness (8:17–18; 9:4–6). They were to avoid idolatry (12:1–3,29–31) and worship only at the place the LORD chose (12:11).

Moses spoke of the law of the sabbatical year (15:1–23) and commanded them to observe the annual feasts: Passover (16:1–8), Feast of Weeks (vv9–12), and Feast of Booths (vv13–17). This generation was to appoint judges (v18) and uphold justice in civil matters (vv19–20; see 17:6–13; 19:14–21; 24:16). In the future, their kings must know and abide by the Law (17:14–20). The nation must not listen to false prophets (13:1–5), but must listen to—and obey the words of—true prophets (18:15–22). They must not tolerate those who engage in occult practices (vv9–14). They must abide by certain laws regarding crime and punishment: regarding maintenance of the cities of refuge (19:1–13), regarding rules for witnesses to a crime (vv15–21), regarding procedure for dealing with the matter of an anonymous murder (21:9), regarding the execution of one guilty of a capital offense (vv22–23), and regarding the exercise of corporal punishment (25:1–3). They must follow certain rules for warfare: regarding exemptions from military service (20:6–9; 24:5), regarding procedures for attacking a city (20:10–20), and regarding the treatment of women captives (21:10–14). They must follow certain domestic laws: about dealing with a rebellious son (vv18–21), about the compassionate treatment of animals (22:1–4,6–7,10; 25:4), about wearing proper attire (22:5,11–12), about providing for home safety (22:8), about sexual purity (22:13–30; 23:15–18), about divorce and remarriage (24:1–4), about levirate marriage (25:5–10; this law stipulated that a man was to marry his brother's widow to raise up sons in the deceased man's name), about the fair treatment of hired servants (24:14–15), and about showing care and compassion to

the poor (vv17–22). They were charged to follow certain rules about community life: regarding who is to be excluded from the assembly (23:1–7), regarding the hygiene practices inside the community (vv9–14), regarding making loans (vv19–20; 24:6,10–13), regarding respect to the property of others (23:24–25; 24:7), and regarding fair weights (25:13–16). Moses also charged them to be scrupulous in their devotion to the LORD in matters such as making vows (23:21–23) and bringing in the first fruits and tithes (26:1–19). Moses was telling the second generation that every aspect of life and every enterprise of the people of Israel needed to be done according to God’s Law, which He had revealed to them at Sinai and now reiterated to them on the plains of Moab.

Moses gave the second generation—people and priests—a command to hold a service of consecration to be performed after they entered the land of promise (27:1–2,9–10). In this service of consecration, Moses called the people of Israel to ratify the covenant just reiterated in the second address just delivered by offering sacrifices on an altar they would build (vv4–8). Moses then explained the curses for covenant disobedience (vv11–26; 28:15–68) and blessings for covenant obedience (vv1–14).

MOSES’ FINAL ADDRESS AND DEATH

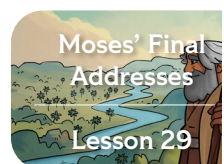
Moses had not finished speaking to the people about their covenant relationship with the LORD. Moses again reminded them of the power the LORD had exercised for them (29:2–3), the provisions He had given to them (vv5–6), and the victories He had empowered them to win (vv7–8). Moses charged them and future generations to “keep the words of this covenant” (v9). They—and all future generations—must avoid idolatry and disobedience (vv16–21). He warned them that if they—or future generations—failed to obey, they would be cursed, and the people and surrounding nations would see the sad spectacle of a nation destroyed by the wrath of their own God (vv22–28). (This stark warning was a virtual prophecy of the apostasy and judgment of future generations of the people of Israel—especially the generation that experienced the Babylonian captivity and the generation that rejected Jesus as their Messiah [see Matt 21:42–43; John 1:11; 5:43; Acts 4:11]).

Then Moses gave them an amazing prophecy that revealed (Deut 29:29) God’s plan to restore the people (30:3a). In the future, when the people repented and returned to the LORD and obeyed “with all [their] heart” (v2) then the LORD would have compassion (v3b) and gather them and bring them back to the land (vv3c–5). Moses had noted earlier that the covenant that the LORD had made at Mount Sinai (and just renewed) lacked a vital aspect: “the LORD has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear” (29:4). *But in this future covenant—a New Covenant—the LORD would “circumcise your heart...so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart” (30:6).* With this new heart—in this New Covenant—an Israelite could understand, truly believe, and be obedient. (This is the New Covenant found in Jeremiah 31:31–34 and Ezekiel 36:26.)

In his last communications Moses encouraged the new generation to be obedient (Deut 30:11–20), he encouraged Joshua (his successor) to be “strong, and courageous” (31:1–8,23), he delivered a “song” which was a testimony of his faith (31:30–32:47), he wrote Psalm 90, and he gave a poetic farewell address to the tribes of Israel (33:1–29). Finally, he ascended Mount Nebo in Moab and saw the land of promise (34:1–3); he heard the LORD reiterate the promise of the land (v4). Then he died (v5) and was buried in an undisclosed location in Moab (v6). Moses had lived 120 years (v7). He was a prophet like no other (vv10–12).

LESSON SUMMARY

Deuteronomy 1:1–34:12 records Moses’ final addresses to the second generation before they leave the wilderness. He reviewed their history, recalling the first generation’s rebellion and his own exclusion from the promised land. Moses reiterated the Ten Commandments, urging wholehearted love for God, obedience, and avoidance of idolatry. He outlined blessings for obedience, curses for disobedience, and prophesied future restoration through the New Covenant. Lastly, he exhorted Joshua to be strong and courageous as his successor before dying on Mount Nebo.



Personal Preparation

The following section is provided for you to use as a devotional. This will help you prepare for your upcoming Generations of Grace lesson time. *Check off your progress as you go.*

- ☐ **PRAY** for wisdom to understand what you are about to read and to effectively teach the lesson.
- ☐ **REVIEW** last week's lesson and the central truth.
- ☐ **IDENTIFY** this week's central truth along with the transition, key texts, and key verse(s) from this lesson's title page.
- ☐ **READ** this week's key texts from Scripture and choose which passages you want to read aloud to the children during your lesson time. Record on the right hand page under **READ**.
- ☐ **STUDY** the commentary and identify the italicized sentences to summarize the lesson and central truth below.

- ☐ **SUMMARIZE** your notes from above into the **LESSON OUTLINE** on the right hand page. Add any additional questions that you want to reference while teaching your lesson (one question provided per point).
 - ☐ **PREPARE** your activity, craft, or coloring page for this week's lesson by visiting our website's additional resources page. Select the introduction, illustration, or application that you would like to use in your classroom along with any visual aid you may decide to use while teaching.
 - ☐ **PLAN** your music time by choosing songs that pertain to this week's narrative theme. Check the additional resources on our website for recommendations.
 - ☐ **RE-WRITE** this week's spotlight on the gospel in your own words on the teaching outline under **CONCLUDE** on the right hand page.
 - ☐ **PRAY** about how you can apply this lesson to your life and that you would communicate the central truth and spotlight on the gospel clearly in your lesson.
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**Additional
Resources**
gracecurriculum.org



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gracecurriculum.org

Teaching Outline

This section is designed to be used as a clean copy of your notes for teaching the lesson. Follow the teaching outline below as a step-by-step guide during your Sunday School lesson.

- ☐ **PRAY** with your class that the children would understand the central truth and gospel message, and that you would teach the children effectively.
- ☐ **REVIEW** last week's lesson and the central truth to begin your lesson.
- ☐ **INTRODUCE** this week's lesson and the central truth using the selected introduction, illustration, or application from our additional resources page.

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- ☐ **READ** the key texts from Scripture you selected that connect to the central truth.

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- ☐ **TEACH** your class using your summarized notes and questions from the **LESSON OUTLINE**. The points provided are the main headers from the commentary. Use the visual aid you selected and always connect your lesson back to the central truth.

LESSON OUTLINE

1. THE FIRST ADDRESS (DEUTERONOMY 1:1–4:43)

- Why did the people wander in the wilderness for forty years?

2. THE SECOND ADDRESS (DEUTERONOMY 4:44–28:68)

- Why were the Israelites commanded to destroy the Canaanite peoples?

3. MOSES' FINAL ADDRESS AND DEATH (DEUTERONOMY 29:1–34:12)

- How old was Moses when he died?

- ☐ **CONCLUDE** this week's lesson with the spotlight on the gospel and tie it into the central truth and the lesson you just taught.

- ☐ **PRAY** for the children hearing this lesson that they would be saved and follow the LORD.

