

# Looking Back, Moving Forward

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June 18, 2023 ▪ Brad Manley

**How did we get here?**

**How do we take next steps with God?**

## ***Deuteronomy 1:1-10***

<sup>1</sup> These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel beyond the Jordan in the wilderness, in the Arabah opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab. <sup>2</sup> It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea. <sup>3</sup> In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses spoke to the people of Israel according to all that the Lord had given him in commandment to them, <sup>4</sup> after he had defeated Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth and in Edrei. <sup>5</sup> Beyond the Jordan, in the land of Moab, Moses undertook to explain this law, saying, <sup>6</sup> "The Lord our God said to us in Horeb, 'You have stayed long enough at this mountain. <sup>7</sup> Turn and take your journey, and go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all their neighbors in the Arabah, in the hill country and in the lowland and in the Negeb and by the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates. <sup>8</sup> See, I have set the land before you. Go in and take possession of the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their offspring after them.'" (ESV)

## ***Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions***

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**Open:** What's one of the longest trips you've ever taken?

**Read and Discuss:** Deuteronomy 1:1-8

1. What does Moses say about God in each of the following verses: 1:10; 1:11; 1:17; 1:19; 1:25; 1:30; 1:31; 2:7; 3:24. After reading through all those verses, what impression do you get of God? How does this compare or contrast with common perceptions of who God is and what He's like?
2. Most of Deuteronomy is a record of the words of Moses to Israel. God speaks in the first person only five times in Deuteronomy. According to verse 5, Moses "undertook to explain this law." Why do we need people to remind us of what God has said to us? What are some ways others do this for you or ways you do this for others?
3. It took the Israelites 40 years to get from Egypt to the east side of the Jordan River (v. 3). Moses reminds this generation (*See Num. 14:28-30*) that the delay was the result of the previous generation's failure of faith and courage (*Deut. 1:19-40*) followed by their disobedience and God's judgment (*Deut. 2:14-15*). What effect do you think these words might have had on this present generation of Israelites? How have you seen disobedience to God derail people from experiencing His blessing?
4. In Deuteronomy 1-3 Moses gives Israel a refresher course on the history of God's covenant faithfulness, even though Israel had failed to obey Him. How do you think this truth might help Israel move forward in obedience to God? What truths have helped you recommit yourself to obeying God?
5. Moses was not unaffected by having to deal with a spiritually disobedient people. In anger toward Israel, Moses himself disobeyed God's direction (*See Num. 20:10-12*) and was forbidden from entering the land (*Deut. 32:51*). What lessons can we learn from this event in Moses' life?
6. God chooses Joshua to be Israel's next leader. Moses is charged with encouraging and strengthening Joshua for the task (*Deut. 3:28*). In what ways might this have been difficult for Moses? Have you had to hand off leadership responsibilities to others? If so, how did you need God's help in doing that?
7. God had promised to give His people the land of Canaan (*Deut. 1:8*). What "land" has God promised to give New Testament believers? (*See Phil. 3:20-21; Heb 11:13-16.*) How should we think about this promise of God in relation to our current life?

**Apply:** What have you learned about God through this study that you want to integrate into your life?

**Pray:** Pray that God would cause us to walk joyfully through life, confident of His care and promises for us.