

# Deuteronomy

## *Loving Obedience to a Loving God*

### Deuteronomy 1:9-18

#### I. Introduction

The importance of history has two focal points: 1) there is the covenant tradition of promise from Abraham to Moses; 2) there is the experience of God in history working out in deed the content of the promise.

*“Thus, for the renewal of the covenant described in Deuteronomy, the prologue recalls not only the covenant’s history, but also the ability of the Lord of the covenant to fulfill his promise. What God had done in the past, he could continue to do in the future. There is thus a presentation of a faithful God, whose demand was for a faithful people.” Peter Craigie*

#### II. Leaders Recognize Limitations

v.9 – *“I am not able to bear you by myself...”*

Moses was not a weak or unorganized leader and probably the greatest leader in the OT.

v.12 – *“How can I bear by myself the weight and burden of you and your strife?”*

Leaders carry their people on their hearts! It can lead to stress, frustration, and discouragement.

#### III. Leaders Need Others

v.13 – *“Choose for your tribes wise, understanding, and experienced men...”*

Qualities of Leaders: (Exodus 18)[

**Wise** - a moral rather than an intellectual quality. To be "foolish" is to be godless (Psalm 14:1). True wisdom is a gift from God to those who ask it (James 1:5).

**Understanding** – the ability to discern. This discernment with wisdom together with their experience makes for a great leader.

**Experienced** – Hebrew word – *yada* – “to know” – knowledge gained from experience.

#### IV. Leaders Judge Wisely

v.16 – *“And I charged your judges at that time, Hear the cases...”*

Leaders are to be diligent and patient, just and impartial, resolute and courageous.

There is to be no difference between great and small, the poor or rich, the unimportant and important. Those too difficult would be given to Moses.

As leaders we are God's representatives, therefore we are to act like Him in our judgment.

#### **V. Jesus Models Leadership**

Jesus' model leadership for His disciples. He also models it for us today.

*And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:42-45*