NOT LAW BUT TORAH

Most people have little interest in reading Deuteronomy, often because they think it consists of a bunch of laws that either they already understand or are no longer applicable. But this is a wrong picture of this book. Deuteronomy is not law at all! It is sermons. It is covenant. It is Torah (which means guidance or teaching in Hebrew). It is life.

Moses is about to die, Israel is about to cross the Jordan, and Moses wants to encourage and remind the Israelites of their covenantal commitment to God. He longs to inspire and motivate them, to move their hearts to greater faithfulness to Yahweh. And yet the people are already rebellious (see Deut. 31:27) and seem to have forgotten all their parents went through and how God helped them. So, Moses preaches a series of sermons and then writes them down, structured in the form of an ancient Hittite treaty/covenant that the people would be familiar with. The covenant begins by recounting all that the initiating party (God) had done in rescuing and helping the receiving party (Israel) of the covenant. Deuteronomy 1–4 is full of all the ways God has helped Israel in their journey.

The story Moses tells is a story of grace; God’s grace in helping a people bent on rejecting Him. And this grace is all the more reason that the people are to respond with obedience. But this obedience flows out of a heart of love and gratitude for salvation, not in order to be saved.

So, even at this most crucial juncture, Moses is not trying to browbeat the people but instead to win their hearts, their minds, their allegiance to God.
Write out Deuteronomy 1:19–37 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Deuteronomy 1:26–33. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Deuteronomy 1:19–37. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

How do I tend to deal with difficulties? To whom do I turn for counsel and guidance?

In what ways has God shown mercy and grace to me in the past?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut01-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying all of Deuteronomy 1:19–37?
What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How do God’s emotions affect your view of Him?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut01-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Numbers 13:25–14:12  
Exodus 32:1–26  
1 Kings 19:1–18  
2 Chronicles 20:1–24  
Joshua 1:1–9  
Hosea 11:1–11

What other verses come to mind in connection with Deuteronomy 1?

Review your memorized verse from Deuteronomy 1:19–37.
Meditate on Deuteronomy 1:19–37 again and look for where Jesus is.

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

How does seeing Yahweh as Jesus change your picture of Him?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut01-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what personal applications are you convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/deut01-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What are some things that God has done to deliver you in the past?

Who are some people that God has used to encourage you?

How can we intentionally remember what God has done for us in the past?

What are some practical ways that we can put ourselves in positions where God can remove the fear from our hearts?

How can we encourage others in times of difficulty, without glossing over the problems?

How does the structure of the covenant impact how you view Deuteronomy?

How do God's emotions impact your view of your relationship with Him?