

Deuteronomy: Living as God's Covenant People
Second Chances
Deuteronomy 1:1-18

Philosopher George Santayana wrote, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." A grasp of history is important to every generation because it gives a sense of identity. If we don't know our historic roots, we may wander aimlessly here and there and never arriving at our destination. There is plenty of evidence in our own society that we have generations who do not know our history, the morality upon which we were founded, or the sacrifices made and policies implemented that made us one of the strongest and freest nations in the world. We could all use more history lessons.

1. God limits our time in the wilderness.

2. God compels us to move forward.

3. God provides structure for His people.

God is not only a God of the second chance. He is the God of another chance. Through His mercy, grace, and love, we are offered the chance to be right with God, to become a part of His elect, the church. Through His death we are offered forgiveness for our sins and through His resurrection we are offered the power of obedience and eternal life. What God was offering to His people back then is what He offers to us today—a life filled with His presence and grace.

Reflection

As much as it is possible for you to remember, consider the time before you came to know Christ. What did it look like for you to wander aimlessly in the wilderness? How has God ordered your steps and provided direction for you? Are there things that cause you to stumble on your journey? How do you overcome those obstacles when they appear? Does the term "elect" make you uncomfortable or does it serve to make you more grateful for the work that God has done in your life? How have you used your election to advance the gospel and expand the kingdom? What commitments will you make today that will allow you to fulfill your God-given kingdom purposes in 2025?