



## Portion:

## Title:

### SCRIPTURES

- Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11
- 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
- Genesis 3:12-13
- Philippians 4:13
- Ephesians 5:15-16
- Proverbs 19:3
- Galatians 6:4-5
- Hebrews 3:13

### THE NEXT GENERATION

- Can't Snow God
- Stop Blame Shifting
- It wasn't me!
- Twisting the Way
- Examine Yourself
- Charge, Encourage, Strength
- Exhort One Another
- Passing The Baton!

*The 2021 Olympics have kicked off. On this world stage, Men and Women compete for medals that bring recognition to their sport, their Country, and themselves as athletes. In Track and Field, one type of event is the "relay race." Runners must pass a baton to their teammate who continues the race. A clean exchange helps the next runner keep the momentum. Making all clean exchanges gives the team the best chance of winning. From time to time, a poor exchange will result in a dropped Baton. That team is instantly disqualified.*

*It is evident in Deuteronomy that Moses is passing the baton to Joshua, although it does not always appear to be a “clean exchange. Nevertheless, he Charges, Encourages and Strengthens Joshua as the one who would bring the Nation of Israel into the promised land. Each generation thereafter has had to pass the Baton to the next in a sort of spiritual relay race. Some exchanges have not been so clean and I can say we’ve even had a few “dropped batons” resulting in disqualifications. I think you can imagine what I mean.*

*We have a task at hand. We must run the race well and make a clean exchange as we pass the the baton to the Next Generation. May I paraphrase what Paul said on the matter... “All the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. I discipline myself and stay under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”*

*Don’t drop the handoff! Don’t be disqualified!*

**THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE**

“See, I have taught you **statutes and rules**, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. Keep them and do them, for **that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples**, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘**Surely**

***this great nation is a wise and understanding people.*** For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? *And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today? **“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently,** lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. **Make them known to your children and your children's children—*** Deuteronomy 4:5-9 ESV

But **charge** Joshua, and **encourage and strengthen** him, for he shall go over at the head of this people, and he shall put them in possession of the land that you shall see.’ Deuteronomy 3:28 ESV

### **OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE**

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. **But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.**” 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 ESV

# Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This portion completes the historical prologue of the Deuteronomy covenant document and begins a rehearsal of the stipulations. Part of that rehearsal is a repetition of the Ten Commandments and the famous first passage of the Shema: Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

## **Deuteronomy 3**

2. **Moses Forbidden to Enter the Land:** Moses reminds the people that he is not going to enter the land and how he pleaded with Yahweh to let him cross over, but was not permitted because He was angry with Moses "on their account." God told him to not speak on this matter again.
  - (a) In chapter one Moses also blamed his exclusion from the promised land on the people. *"The LORD was also angry with me for your sakes, saying, 'Even you shall not go in there.'" (Deuteronomy 1:37)* We know that it was actually Moses lack of faith that was the cause, as he struck the rock twice instead of speaking to it, as instructed by Yahweh. So, it is interesting that he chose to blame the people. Yes, it was the people who created the circumstance to which Moses had to respond, but it was still his response that brought the consequence.

(b) In chapter 4 he blames them again. *“Furthermore the LORD was angry with me for your sakes, and swore that I would not cross over the Jordan...” Deuteronomy 4:21-22 NKJV*

3. Moses can see the promised land from across the Jordan but is commanded to prepare Joshua to inherit it.

## **Deuteronomy 4**

4. **Moses Commands Obedience:** Moses is adamant about Israel remembering and observing Yahweh’s commands (and teaching them to their children and grandchildren). He reminds them of their encounter at Horeb when God spoke to them the Ten Commandments from the mountain and gave them the stone tablets. He reminds them that he taught them all Yahweh’s commands and how they were to keep them when they crossed into the promised land, and how He annihilated the people who followed Baal Peor. Famously he records these words, *“You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.” Deuteronomy 4:2 NKJV*
5. **Beware of Idolatry:** Moses reminds the people to flee from idolatry as they were delivered from an idolatrous nation (Egypt). And how Yahweh is a jealous God (a consuming fire), so worshiping other gods is especially offensive and will provoke Him to anger.

6. Moses calls heaven and earth as a witness against them and warns that they will you soon utterly perish if they commit idolatry in the land, but then makes this dreadful prediction.
  - (a) Yahweh will scatter you among the nations for your disobedience and idolatry. (Note: scatter them out of the promised land they have NOT EVEN ENTERED YET!)
  - (b) And then he prophesies that they will repent, seek Yahweh, and obey, and that He would not destroy them, nor forget the covenant He made with their fathers.
7. Then Moses reminds them that, from creation forward, Yahweh has never done such great things for any other people on earth, as He has done for Israel, so they would know Him as the Almighty God!
  - (a) He separated them from all other nations
  - (b) He delivered them from mightier nations with His presence
  - (c) Out of heaven they heard His voice as to instruct them
  - (d) They should be radically obedient to Him and then it will “go well with them and with their children.”
8. Moses then reminds them of the cities of refuge east of the Jordan.
9. **Introduction to God’s Law:** at the end of chapter 4 we are reminded that God gave Israel the law after they came out of Egypt.

## Deuteronomy 5

10. **The Ten Commandments Reviewed:** All Ten Commandments written on stone are reviewed in detail in the first part of chapter 5 with this exclamation point. *“These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.” (Deuteronomy 5:22)*
11. **People are Afraid of God’s Presence:** Moses reiterates how the people were so concerned about hearing the voice of God directly, as they might be consumed with His fire, that they ask Moses to serve as their go-between. *“For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?” (Deuteronomy 5:26)*
12. The people then asked that Moses go hear Yahweh’s voice for them and anything he tells them Yahweh said, they would do. Yahweh told Moses that what the People are asking for is a good thing. Moses comes back with an offer from Yahweh and the people accept. Their “I do”, at that moment, was the “I do” of Israel becoming Yahweh’s bride.
13. Yahweh knows that they will not be a faithful bride. They are instructed to not turn to the left or the right (not to stray off the course of obeying Him). *“Oh, that they had such a heart in*

*them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever! (Deuteronomy 5:29)*

## **Deuteronomy 6**

14. **The Greatest Commandment:** Then comes a very famous moment in the Torah. Certainly Judaism recognizes it as such. And so does Y'shua (You do know He was a Jew, don't you? 😊) It's called the "Shema" which gets its name from the first word of Deuteronomy 6:4. [Hear, שְׁמַע (šə·ma') meaning **to hear, listen to, obey**].
15. Verses 6:1-3 emphatically commands God's people and their children and grandchildren to keep all His statutes and His commandments.
16. Then these words appear in verse 6:4, which have become maybe the most important prayer in all of Judaism: *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."*
- (a) These words are to be in their hearts and they are to diligently teach them to their children, everywhere and at all times. They should be engrained in their minds and should cause them to take action because of them. They should



cover the entrance of their homes as to govern all they do, forever.

- (b) And thus it should not be a surprise that when our blessed Savior Y'shua Himself was asked which is the first (greatest) commandment, the exchange looked like this: *“Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, **“Which is the first commandment of all?”** Jesus answered him, **“The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’** This is the first commandment.”* Mark 12:28-30 NKJV [Note: Matthew 22:34-38 has the same question and Y'shua uses these words *“This is the **first** and **great** commandment.”* Matthew does leave off the first part *“Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.”*]

17. **Caution Against Disobedience:** when you come into the land, beware lest you forget the God who delivered you from Egypt. You shall fear the LORD and not go after the gods of the peoples who are all around you.

18. When your children ask the meaning of the testimonies, the statutes, the judgments and the commands, then you shall say:

- (a) We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand;
- (b) the LORD showed signs and wonders before our eyes, great and severe, against Egypt, Pharaoh, and all his household;
- (c) He brought us out from there to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers;
- (d) And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes that He might preserve us alive;
- (e) ***Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us.***” Deuteronomy 6:25

19. **A Chosen People:** You will conquer nations greater and mightier than you.

- (a) Make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them;
- (b) Don’t intermarry so they don’t influence you to worship their gods;
- (c) Instead, destroy their altars, break down their sacred pillars, cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.

20. *“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.”*

*(Deuteronomy 7:6)*

21. Yahweh chose you because He loves you and to keep the oath which He swore to your fathers
22. Yahweh keeps His covenant and mercy for a thousand generations **with those who love Him and keep His commandments**; and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face. (*Deuteronomy 7:9-10*)
23. You can see last year's teaching on this portion here: [Your Final Testimony](#)

## **PASSING THE BATON...REQUIRES CHARACTER FROM THE PREVIOUS GENERATION**

1. Please let me go over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, that good hill country and Lebanon.' ***But the LORD was angry with me because of you*** and would not listen to me. And the LORD said to me, 'Enough from you; do not speak to me of this matter again. *Deuteronomy 3:25-26 ESV*
2. Blame shifting is not a good character trait; as a matter of fact, it is a rather weak one!
3. This is not an uncommon human trait. It is actually one we can recognize in Adam at the outset of Creation.
4. The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to

the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." *Genesis 3:12-13 ESV*

5. Sound familiar? How often do you fall into this very same trap?
6. Moses seems deceived with who is responsible for the sad outcome of him not being able to take the Nation of Israel into the promised land.
7. It was his rather fiery anger misrepresenting Yahweh to the Nation that kept Moses from such blessing.
8. Do you deal with anger problems? Visit this teaching: [Watch Your Anger](#)
9. Even after Yahweh's explanation that Moses was being punished for "misrepresenting Him", Moses still does not take ownership of his impropriety!
10. How does this compare to you? Are you accustomed to bypassing your responsibility and blaming someone else?
11. Our character needs to be stronger than that in order for the *Next Generation* to not have a scapegoat if are tempted to skirt responsibility for their own improprieties!
12. Be willing to accept the consequence or the backlash of failure with your head held high; it will allow others to openly accept theirs as well.

## PASSING THE BATON...REQUIRES AN ARDENT COMMITMENT.

1. ***“Keep them and do them,*** for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples” *Deuteronomy 4:6 ESV*
2. In Moses’ Passing the Baton to the Nation of Israel, he emphasizes it is not enough to just “*keep*” these statutes, but that is also necessary to “*do them.*”
3. This line of thinking might seem rather elementary. However, the words of exhortation stated here are there for a reason.
4. Yahweh would not have inspired these words to be penned if it were not so.
5. Every generation since has had the same challenge passed on to them. It is no different for us, the older generation.
6. We have a task at hand. For in the “*keeping and doing of these statutes will be our wisdom and understanding in the sight of people*”
7. What would marriages look like in the Christian community if we would take heed to the commandment, “Thou shall not commit adultery”?
8. What would finances look like if we would take heed to the commandment, “Thou shall not covet”?
9. If we believe the words of the Apostle Paul when he penned “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” in

Philippians 4:13, then there are really no excuses we can apply to our circumstances.

## **PASSING THE BATON...REQUIRES WE DILIGENTLY KEEP OUR SOULS**

1. “Only take care, and ***keep your soul diligently***, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life.” *Deuteronomy 4:9 ESV*
2. The Apostle Paul gives us a New Testament glimpse of what Moses is referring to.
3. “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.” *Ephesians 5:15-16 ESV*
4. It might seem trite to mention, but our daily existence has an eternal *grand sum total*. Nothing that happens in our daily existence is by random happenstance. We are either gaining or we are losing ground for the Kingdom.
5. An old Baptist preacher once said “there are no inactive Church members, you are either scattering or you are gathering.”
6. What measures are you taking today to “diligently keep your soul”?

7. As the Apostle Paul said, “Look carefully how you walk”. I am sure you know he is referring to how you are living out faith, correct?
8. However, without a shadow of doubt, the *Next Generation* in your immediate circle of influence is taking note of how your Spiritual walk measures up with what the Apostle Paul was referring to.
9. Moses’ concern of “***Make them known to your children and your children's children***” is our ultimate goal in Passing the Baton!
10. We are conduits of His plan for His Glorification.
11. Our willingness to stand tall in the face of opposing views, or lack thereof, is evident with how we conduct ourselves in the face of new societal norms.
12. Our Children are prey in front of a hungry Lion whenever we let them walk out into society unprepared to defend themselves. This defense does not necessarily come from having Biblical head knowledge. It comes way more from them having recognized their God given identity and them refusing to relinquish it in the face of the counterfeit identity our current society is so alluringly presenting.
13. You should be convinced by now that you have a task at hand, regardless of marital status, societal accolades, or any other

“excuse” you might want to use to check out of your responsibility!

14. If you don't have any of your own children. Invest in someone else's children. If you don't believe you are someone of importance or relevance, that's great! You are in a great spot to be used for Kingdom Business.

### **PASSING THE BATON...REQUIRES CHARGING, ENCOURAGING AND STRENGTHENING.**

1. But **charge** Joshua, and **encourage and strengthen** him...  
*Deuteronomy 3:28 ESV*
2. **Charge...** Our job is to help the Next Generation recognize their God given agenda. An agenda that much in the likeness of Joshua's, is to lead their people to a promised land. Of course, we know it is not a physical land if you will. It is a Spiritual promised land in the rebirth of their Spirit by the Blood of Y'shua which will lead them to the Kingdom of God.
3. **Encourage...** It is way easier to retreat. I get that, especially when seemingly the whole world is against them. But cowering down to the pressure society has built against Christian culture is only going to allow more pressure to build, and in the long run will make it to where anything we will want to talk about,



from a transcendent point of view, will no longer be permissible in the open arena.

4. **Strengthen...** Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, **do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion**, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.' As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'" Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. *But **exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today,"** that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. Hebrews 3:7-14 ESV*

## PREVIOUS GENERATION

1. The Gospel of the Kingdom must go forth! It is imperative for each one of us to find where we fit in order to "Pass on the baton!" Our Next Generation is facing unprecedented challenges. With the advent of the Internet, there is a total assault on the mind of our Youth. Keeping them "totally" in the dark as a means to protect them will only yield rebellion and

lack of open communication (that has been my experience, and many others I know).

2. What I would suggest is to engage in conversation with your young ones about what they are seeing and hearing.
  - (a) Ask them questions that force them to think beyond the obvious.
  - (b) Have them come up with solutions for the challenges they are facing when they don't feel accepted by their peers.
  - (c) Present them with a Biblical worldview that directly flows from your everyday living instead of lip service contradicted by your behavior.
  - (d) And each time such a subject arises they can draw from a "living well", instead of a "stagnant swamp"!

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. **When Moses was talking with Joshua and he blamed him for not being able to bring the Nation of Israel into the promised land...**
  - A. Did you sympathize or disagree with him?
2. **Do you feel that when you do something outside God's character, it is other people's fault for making you do so?**

- 3. What do you feel is your involvement in “Passing on the Baton?”**
  - A. How important do you believe your participation is?
  - B. How can you Charge, Encourage and Strengthen the Next Generation?
- 4. What are some ways of “Soul Keeping”?**
  - A. How often are you taking inventory of your walk?
- 5. How ardent is your commitment of Keeping and Doing Yahweh’s statutes?**
  - A. By what source of strength are you able to do this?