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Assignment 6: Deuteronomy

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1. Discuss at least five individual characters you chose include the following in your discussion: who, what he/she did to contribute to the development of the nation of Israel.

There are five characters I chose from the book of Deuteronomy because of their unique contribution to the development of the nation of Israel. Moses was a leader and mediator to the people of God. He was an important figure not only in the book of Deuteronomy, but in the Old testament period.

Moses-Through covenants with God and the Israelites, Moses contributed the Law of God; the Ten commandments, and God's requirements of His People. This set the nation of Israel on a higher standard compared to other nations, because society at that time was not moral and ethically right. The Law that God created through Moses was something new and gave the people guidance on how to treat themselves and others. Moses desperately taught the Israelites how to live an obedient life so that they could uphold that standard. Moses contributed to the nation of Israel's worship and marriage practices, how to be devotional to God, and how to love God. Moses also helped prepare Joshua and the nation for Canaan. He outlined their future lands where each of the twelve tribes would stay and how they would conduct themselves. In the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses speaks of a second covenant between God and the nation of Israel.

Joshua- Joshua assisted Moses throughout his ministry but became his successor. At the end of Deuteronomy, he is appointed by Moses to lead the Israelites in the promised land and contributed to Israel claiming Canaan for theirs. Joshua encouraged them to stand up and act.

Caleb – Caleb was one of the twelve spies that Moses sent to survey Canaan. He is mentioned to of followed God wholeheartedly (1:36). Caleb is only mentioned once in Deuteronomy but he significant to the nation of Israel's success.

2. List and describe the main events covered in each book.

In Exodus, one of the main events of the book is Israel's departure from the land of bondage, Egypt. Exodus describes slavery in Egypt, the Israelites journey through the wilderness to reach Mt. Sinai, and the Mosaic Covenant given by God on Mt. Sinai.

In Leviticus, Moses explains how to make and offer certain offerings to God like burnt and grain, he went over priestly duties concerning sin offerings, Aaron's line is ordained, Moses provides the laws of clean and unclean foods, he explains the Day of atonement and how it is conducted, and he even went over punishments for law breakers. Moses set special rules for priests and explained how certain feasts like the Passover and feast of trumpets were performed for the Lord.

In Numbers, Moses creates the first ever census of Israel. This was a record of the number of Israelites in the wilderness and on the plains of Moab. Moses performed offerings at the dedication of the Tabernacle, the Israelites leave Mt. Sinai, Miriam and Aaron were against Moses, the Israelites didn't want to advance toward Canaan so God punishes them by letting the Israelites wander in the desert for 40 years. Joshua is appointed by God as Moses's successor.

In Deuteronomy, Moses gives three sermons – Moses gives his final speeches to Israel while they were in the desert land of Moab. He reviews the first covenant, God's commands and reminds Israel of God's Laws, he appoint leaders, and send spies to explore the hill country. Moses goes over the importance of not giving in to Idolatry, he details sacrifice, tithing, releasing slaves, marriage and family life, etc.

Israel goes farther into the desert to defeat Sihon – Moses lead Israel to defeat King Sihon of Heshbon gaining his territory while also defeating King Og of Bashan. Israel begins disobeying God by not wanting to advance into the land. They complained and wrestled with their faith. Moses was telling them to trust in the Lord, because He did miracles before and will again. Moses goes on Mt. Sinai again to modify the Ten Commandments. Joshua is appointed as Moses' successor. Moses passes away and Joshua becomes leader of the Israelites.

3. List and explain the chronological period of history covered in each book.

Exodus is set from 1800 BC to 1445 BC. This 355-year period lasted during the Twelfth-Eighteenth dynasties of Egypt, which places the Middle, Second Intermediate, and New Kingdoms within this period.

Leviticus is set in the year of 1445 BC. This 1-year period was within the Eighteenth Dynasty of Egypt. The New Kingdom was the peak of Egypt's power.

Numbers is set from 1445 BC to 1407 BC. This 38-year period would place the Israelites within the Eighteenth Dynasty of Egypt under the possible reign of Amenhotep II. The Eighteenth Dynasty was part of the New Kingdom.

Deuteronomy is set from 1407 to 1406. This period was still within the New Kingdom and within the Eighteenth Dynasty of Egypt.