

Deuteronomy is second reading of God's laws

If you have kept up with the schedule in my column in the Tuesday, Dec. 27, issue of *The Goodland Star-News*, you would have started reading the book of Deuteronomy this week.

Some of what you are reading likely sounds very familiar. The name Deuteronomy comes from words meaning "second" and "law." The book is a second reading, or repetition, of God's laws to the nation of Israel.

Moses is appealing to the nation to be obedient to God and faithful. They had just spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness due to their lack of faith when God was trying to lead them into the Promised Land. He sentenced them to the time in the wilderness, and at the time of Deuteronomy, a new gen-



sharon corcoran

- use it or lose it

eration was ready to enter the land.

Why are the lessons in the book, recorded millenniums ago, important today?

Many laws today are based on God's laws, recorded in the book.

Deuteronomy 16:19, 20 says, "You must not pervert judgment. You must not be partial or accept a bribe, for the bribe blinds the eyes of righteous ones. Justice — justice you should pursue in order that you may keep alive and may indeed take possession of the land that God is

practical value of God's laws was seen by those who wrote many U.S. laws, as well as laws in other countries. And God's sense of justice was implanted in mankind.

Genesis 1:27 says, "And God proceeded to create the man in his image, in God's image he created him; male and female he created them."

Many people seem by nature to recognize some of God's laws; one regarding property rights is respected by many today.

Deuteronomy 22:1, 2 says, "You

giving you."

Chapter 5, verse 20, says, "Neither must you testify to a falsehood against your fellowman."

Bribery and perjury are crimes today. The

must not see the bull of your brother or his sheep straying about and deliberately withdraw from them. You should by all means lead them back to your brother. And if your brother is not near you and you have not got to know him, you must also bring it home into the midst of your house, and it must continue with you until your brother has searched for it. And you must return it to him."

The apostle Paul recognized that even those unfamiliar with God's laws may respect and perform some aspects of those laws due to conscience.

Romans 2:14, 15 says, "For whenever people of the nations that do not have law do by nature the things of the law, these people, although not having law, are a law to themselves. They are the very ones

who demonstrate the matter of the law to be written in their hearts, while their conscience is bearing witness with them and between their own thoughts, they are being accused or even excused."

Deuteronomy 25:4 says, "You must not muzzle a bull while it is threshing."

That law was given to encourage the humane treatment of animals. A Goodland couple has been arrested for allegedly breaking laws requiring such treatment, after their horses were found starving, at least four of them to death.

The idea of debts being uncollectible after seven years is not a recent invention. Deuteronomy 15:1, 2 says, "At the end of every seven years you should make a release. And this is the manner of release: there will be a re-

leasing by every creditor of the debt that he may let his fellow incur. He should not press his fellow or his brother for payment, because a release to God must be called."

This prevented those of modest financial means from just digging a deeper and deeper hole with no way out. Laws provide the same means of relief today.

People often forget the value of the Bible. Deuteronomy 6:6, 7 encourages all of us to take God's word to heart and parents to teach it to their children: "And these words that I am commanding you today must prove to be on your heart; and you must inculcate them into your son and speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up."

School investment plans proposed

Parents, teachers and business leaders have all told me of the importance of first-rate schools for the success of their children, their students and the Kansas economy.

That's why I'm very happy legislators and I are moving forward together on the next step in our continued investment in our children's schools.

There is a spirit of cooperation in Topeka this year when it comes to investing in schools. That's good news for Kansas students and their parents, as well as for businesses looking for well-trained workers.

After several weeks of productive discussions between myself and legislative leaders, we're seeing school plans emerge that would ensure first-class schools for all Kansas students. This is great progress, and I commend these leaders for their willingness to work with me and with their colleagues



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- governor

on how we best invest in the future of Kansas.

The school investment plans being proposed would put \$500 million into our schools over the next three years. This investment would help lower class sizes, train teachers and ensure our children are ready to enter the workforce.

I fully support these efforts, particularly because they achieve my main goal, which is to provide extra help for students who need it without cutting support for rural schools.

We all realize students from low-

income families need extra help if they're going to have the same opportunity to succeed, but I want to make sure that opportunity doesn't come at the expense of students in small schools.

I also want to make sure local communities are able to provide extra support to their schools if they choose. I've long been a supporter of local option budgets, and the school plans we see emerging continue to give communities that option.

We're still early in the process, but if this spirit of cooperation continues — and I believe it will — I'm confident we'll take a big step forward in our continuing effort to ensure every Kansas child has the opportunity to attend a first-class school.

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We will soon be conducting a mail canvass of Goodland, KS to compile information for your new 2006 City Directory. Your cooperation in answering the questionnaire will be greatly appreciated and will help make the Directory accurate and complete.

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