

## Deuteronomy: Repeating the Law

### Listed Scriptures

Deut 4, 5, 6, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33

### Lesson Aim

To renew our covenant with God and pledge allegiance to Him through concrete actions

### Memory Verse

“That you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days.”  
(Deut 30:20a)

### Bible Reading For This Week (for students and teachers)

Deuteronomy 4-6, 28, 29, 31

## B I B L E B A C K G R O U N D



Deuteronomy means “repetition of the law.” In this final book of the Pentateuch, Moses delivered a number of speeches, mostly to reaffirm Israel’s covenant with God. Assembled on the plains of Moab, which bordered Canaan, Moses went over God’s laws and decrees once again as well as all the things the people had experienced during the past 40 years in the desert. By repeating God’s commandments, Moses stressed how the obedient would be blessed and the disobedient cursed. He knew he was not permitted into the promised land and wanted the Israelites to fear, love and submit to God so that they could be established as a holy nation. He did not want them to repeat the sad mistakes of the generation before. The speeches Moses gave can be divided into two major segments. The first part (Deut 1-11) is reflections of the past. The second section (Deut 12-30) discusses future expectations and the promises in Canaan. The epilogue (Deut 31-34) concludes with the death of Moses. In this lesson, we will not focus on the laws too much since they were dealt with in previous lessons. Rather, we will highlight some of the unique aspects of the book of Deuteronomy.

Section	Subdivision	Highlights of Each Chapter	Chapter(s)	
Looking Back Deut 1-11	Historical Reflections	Mt. Horeb to Kadesh	1	
	Reminiscing God's Grace	Wandering in Kadesh	2	
	Ch. 1 to 3	Kadesh to the Plains of Moab	3	
Looking Forward Deut 12-34	Review of the Laws	Distinguishing Between the True God & False Gods	4	
		The Spirit of the Ten Commandments	5	
	Ch. 4 to 11	Keeping God's Decrees & Commands	6-11	
		Religious Regulations	12-16	
	Keeping of the Laws	Political Regulations	17-20	
		Ch. 12-26	Social & Familial Regulations	21-26
	Curses and Blessings	Ch. 27-30	Obedience & Disobedience	27-28
			Renewal of Covenants	29-30
	Final Counsel	Ch. 31-34	Dying Words	31-33
			The Death of Moses	34

W A R M U P



If you knew you were going to leave this world soon, what would be the top three things you would do? Do any of these things have to do with God and salvation? When Moses knew he was about to die, the only thing on his mind was God. He wanted the people around him to understand, love, fear and submit to the Lord and he spent a great deal of time telling them about God's commands.



Part 1  
*Reiteration of the Laws*

In this section, Moses repeated the covenant and commandments that God had established with His people on Mount Sinai. One reason why Moses did this was that he knew he was not going to enter Canaan and wanted the Israelites to remember God and His power. Also, these people were those who had grown up in the desert and had not known or experienced God first hand. Moses hoped to strengthen and build up the faith of the people. Below are some important truths he reminded the Israelites of.

- a. Moses wanted the Israelites to be able to distinguish between the True God and other false gods (Deut 4:15-40). This was vital because there were many idols in Canaan and Moses worried that the people might turn to false gods once they conquered the land.
- b. Moses repeated the Ten Commandments (Deut 5). Again this was to remind the younger generation of God's commandments and the spirit behind them. Moses also stressed the greatest commandment of all. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might" (Deut 6:5). And more importantly, he urged the Israelites to bring up their children in the ways of God (Deut 6:7-9).



Part 2  
*Renewal and Covenant*

By renewing the covenant given at Mount Sinai, Moses reminded the people that it bound them to the Lord as their God. In addition, without exception, His laws and decrees were their way of life. The covenant in brief:

- a. They were to never worship idols or depart from God once they entered Canaan (Deut 29:25-27). Disobedience would result in God's curses and exile to a foreign land (Deut 29:14-21, 28).
- b. If the people sinned but repented and turned back to God, He would show them mercy and restore their fortunes (Deut 30:1-5).
- c. The Lord wished to circumcise Israel's heart so that the people would become fully devoted to God (Deut 30:6) and so that they may be saved

be saved (Rom 12:26-27).

- d. God will judge Israel's enemies (Deut 30:7; Is 14:1-2; Joel 3:1-8).
- e. The Lord will make Israel prosperous when the people obey Him and keep His commands (Deut 30:9-10).

### Part 3 Final Preparations



As a part of the covenant between God and His people, it was clear that the Israelites had to keep their side of the agreement. It was not a one-way street. If they did not obey God, they would be severely punished, but if they chose to trust and follow Him, they would be abundantly blessed.

#### **A. Blessed if Obedient to the Lord (Deut 28:1-14)**

- \* God will set you high above all the nations on earth. (v. 1)
- \* You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. (v. 3)
- \* The fruit of your womb and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock will all be blessed. (v. 4)
- \* You will be blessed in your comings and goings. (v. 6)
- \* Your enemies will be defeated and they will flee from you. (v. 7)
- \* The Lord will bless everything you put your hand to. (v. 8)
- \* The Lord will establish you as His holy people. (v. 9)
- \* The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of His bounty. (v. 12)
- \* The Lord will send rain on your land in season. (v. 12)
- \* The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. You will always be at the top, never at the bottom. (v. 13)

#### **B. Cursed if Disobedient to the Lord (Deut 28:15-68)**

- \* You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country. (v. 16)
- \* The fruit of your womb will be cursed. (v. 18)
- \* You will be cursed in your comings and goings. (v.19)
- \* The Lord will plague you with diseases. (vv. 21, 27-35, 59)
- \* The Lord will strike you with scorching heat and drought, with blight and mildew. (vv. 22, 38-40)

- \* The Lord will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. (vv. 21, 27-35, 59)
- \* You will serve enemies in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and poverty. (v. 48)
- \* Your families will be broken up and you will eat the flesh of your own children. (vv. 53-57)



### Part 4 Moses' Final Encouragements

#### **A. Final Address**

In his final speech, Moses gave the people heartfelt advice. He wanted his successor, Joshua, as well as the elders and leaders of the community to remember God's laws and remain faithful to His people (Deut 31).

#### **B. The Song of Moses**

Although Moses had led a long and triumphant life, he did not sing to praise himself. Rather, near his death, he only wanted to praise the name of God. The song extolled God's faithfulness and justice as well as how He controls life and death. Through it all, He is compassionate to His people (Deut 32).

#### **C. Moses Blesses the Tribes**

Moses took time to bless each tribe and prophesied what the future held for them (Deut 33).

#### **D. The Death of Moses**

After he finished his words, he climbed Mount Nebo to get a glimpse of the land he was never going to enter. Then he died at the age of 120. It is recorded in Deuteronomy 34:6 that no one, to this day, knows where Moses' grave lies because God was the one to bury him. It is also possible that God did not want the people to idolize Moses after his death and did not disclose the whereabouts

of the burial site. Although Moses was not able to enter the earthly promised land, it was far better to be a part of the heavenly homeland (Mt 17:3).

## C H E C K F O R U N D E R S T A N D I N G



**1** List two reasons why Moses took the time to repeat many of the laws and commands of God just before his death.

**2**

What does it mean to keep the spirit of the law?

**3**

If you had to write down your own list of personal blessings (blessings you feel you have received from God in your lifetime so far), what would it include?

**4**

What do you think was going through Moses' mind as he stood high on Mount Nebo and looked over the land of Canaan, knowing he was about to die and not be able to step foot in it?

**5**

What made Moses a great leader? List five of his qualities.

## L I F E A P P L I C A T I O N



### *Renewing Our Covenant*

In the book of Deuteronomy, the people renewed their covenant with God, or at least Moses did it on their behalf. It didn't mean that the first time wasn't binding. It was a way for the Israelites to remember their pledge to God. As we have seen, they often found ways to forget to honor their part of the covenant. When we got baptized, we also made a covenant with God. We know without a doubt that God always keeps His promises to bless us and take care of us. But like the Israelites of the past, we need to keep our side of the agreement too. What have we been doing for God, to act as His holy people? Take a moment and reflect on your covenant with God. Have you been keeping His laws and commands? Read the following case and answer the following questions:

Chris became a Christian at a SSC last year. He still remembers the feeling of that unbelievable summer night when he received the Holy Spirit. After he returned from the SSC, Chris continued to feel close to God for a while. He never missed youth study group on Friday nights, and he even began to talk to his friends at school about their need for a relationship with God.

But then it started. The battles with peer pressure, lust and other worldly things began to rage—just as they had before Chris became a Christian. In fact, the intensity of the battles seemed to be even greater than before. Then there were the demands of athletics, academics and other activities that seemed to totally dominate Chris' time and energy. God and church gradually became less and less important. Chris' victory in God quickly became a momentary retreat from the war. He realized that he had to start reading the Bible and praying again. Then, one night, he opened the Bible and he read this verse, "Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." Immediately, he knew he had to repent and ask God to fill him with the power of the Holy Spirit.

We will never live transformed lives until we have transformed minds. Spiritual renewal is losing your old perspective of life and gaining God' perspective so that you may think and act like Him. How do we experience intimacy with God and learn to see as He sees? Read Romans 12:2.

1. What do you think Paul means when he talks about the "pattern of this world"?
2. According to Paul, what is the key to transformation?
3. What does "the renewing of your mind" mean to you?
4. Think of one area in your life where you tend to continue to sin. What excuses do you make to rationalize that wrong behavior? What is the lie behind that justification?
5. Use this opportunity to renew your personal covenant with God. God has made many promises to you. Make a promise to do one thing for Him today.



*It would be hard to cross a river without getting wet. There would also be a chance of drowning. But if the river were paved with large stones that rose above the waters, it would make the attempt a little easier. Step by step, what was once a difficult journey is now possible. Like a fast moving river, the path to the heavenly kingdom is not an easy one to tread. It is paved with many obstacles, curves and steep hills. But God is like the large stones. As we walk, we can see God's hand reaching out to help us along the way. And if we grab hold onto His hand, we will slowly but surely make it to the end of the road. But in order to see His guiding hand, we need to take time to reflect on our relationship with the Lord. What do your reflections tell you about where you stand with God?*

## Lesson 13

### Review

#### Lesson Aim

- 1) To identify the main teachings found in the Pentateuch
- 2) To understand the spiritual significance behind the laws, offerings and feasts found in the Pentateuch
- 3) To be determined to lead a sanctified life and to demonstrate our faith through our speech and actions

#### R E V I E W

The book of Genesis covers many "beginnings," from the creation of light, to the first animals, to early human history. Most important is the beginning of faith in God. We come to learn about Israel and God's chosen people as well as their place in His master plan of salvation.

The main theme in the book of Exodus is freedom from bondage and obtaining salvation in God. In this book, we learn how the Israelites are freed from slavery and begin an extraordinary journey of faith. It is in this long journey that the people of God come to an important realization, that being truly free means the freedom to obey God and do His will.

In the books of Leviticus and Numbers, there are many laws and regulations, from how to prepare a burnt offering to specific rules about personal hygiene. The purpose of all these laws was not to burden the people of Israel, but to allow them to understand that they needed to serve in complete holiness, as they were set apart as a holy nation.

In the last book of the Pentateuch, Moses spends much of the time repeating the laws, hoping to ingrain them in the hearts of all of God's people, to help them learn from the past and continue to walk on the pathway to the heavenly kingdom.