

A Covenant People : Deuteronomy

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Lesson 1

What is Deuteronomy?

Deuteronomy – “the second law”

The second book of Moses called “The Book of the Law”

The book consists of three or four addresses or speech – 1-3, 4-30, 31-34 or 1-3, 4-26, 27-30, 31-34

The following is copied:

“Deuteronomy is located at an important place in the Old Testament. It is the fifth and concluding book in the section of the Bible known as The Law, or Torah, which means ‘teaching.’ Deuteronomy continues the story of God's people that began in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. The LORD chose the people of Israel, brought them out of slavery in Egypt, and at Sinai gave to them and their leader Moses the laws and commandments that they were to live by. In this way, Deuteronomy looks backward, emphasizing what the Lord has already done. But the words of Moses also look forward and are meant to be the teaching that will guide his generation of Israelites in their new life in Canaan and future generations as well. God's agreement with the people of Israel, as presented in Deuteronomy, forms the basis of and provides an introduction to the history of Israel found in the books of Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, and 1 and 2 Kings.

Deuteronomy is presented as Moses' last words to the generation of Israelites who are ready to enter the promised land of Canaan. Though Moses has traditionally been seen as the book's author, the final form of the book also applies the traditions of Moses and the Law to the religious and political situations of a later time. This is done in two ways. First, Israel can use the message of Deuteronomy to judge its national successes and failures: Obeying the terms of God's agreement with Israel will result in good fortune; disobedience will bring death and destruction. Second, Deuteronomy repeats this key point throughout the book: God has chosen Israel out of love, so Israel should respond to this love by loving God in return and by remaining faithful to the terms of God's agreement with Israel.

The book of 2 Kings tells the story of a great reform in Israel in 621 B.C. (2 Kings 22,23). While workers were repairing the temple in Jerusalem, they found a book of the Law. When King Josiah of Judah heard what it had to say, he tore his clothes in sorrow and called together the older leaders of the people. Josiah realized that the people had not been following the Law, so he ordered reforms suggested by the law book. These reforms included breaking down and burning all the altars, shrines, and high places honoring gods other than the LORD God of Israel.

Most biblical scholars believe that Josiah's law book was the book we know as Deuteronomy, or at least its middle section (Deuteronomy 12-26).

Where did the law book come from, and how did it end up in storage in the temple? This is not clear. Some scholars think that the ancient writings were brought to Jerusalem by Levite priests who were running away from Assyrian persecution in the north sometime during the reign of King Manasseh (687-642 B.C.). What does this have to say about when Deuteronomy was written? Though much of the material in Deuteronomy may date back to the time of Moses, it was likely put in its present form by scribes and editors who lived centuries later.

Events recorded in the Book of Deuteronomy occurred while Israel was encamped on the Plains of Moab and poised to cross the River Jordan in order to enter and take possession of the Land of Promise. These events took place over about a two month period of time (see, for example, 1:3; 34:5, 8; Josh 4:19; and see Introduction to the Pentateuch for a discussion of the chronology of the Pentateuch in general), ending with the death of Moses and a 30 day period of mourning for him. Assuming a date for the Exodus of 1446 B.C. (see Introduction to the Pentateuch for arguments supporting this date), that would place the events of Deuteronomy in the year 1406 B.C.

Dating of the composition of the Book of Deuteronomy has been disputed by critical scholars who assert that Moses did not write the book. Instead, they attribute Deuteronomy to other writers who lived at a later date—either to Samuel in the eleventh century B.C. or religious leaders during the seventh century B.C., and even possibly to the postexilic period by the so-called 'Deuteronomist.'

However, in addition to the evidence already presented for Mosaic authorship, support also comes from the similarities between the structure of Deuteronomy and the Middle Eastern suzerainty treaties. It has been suggested by some (Craigie 1983:25) that Deuteronomy is a covenant renewal document which in its total structure exhibits the classical legal form of the suzerainty treaties of the Mosaic age. The contention is that when one recognizes that a biblical document reflects the historical and cultural context of a specific period, it is reasonable to date it where it will not be out of harmony with the age in which it is purported to have been written. It is reasonable, therefore, to assign a date of composition to the Book of Deuteronomy to the time period just prior to Israel's crossing of the Jordan. Since Moses died before Israel crossed the Jordan, the composition of Deuteronomy could not have taken place any later than 1406 B.C."

The theology of Deuteronomy is in its covenant form and structure. Covenant by its very definition demands at least three elements:

- the two contracting parties -- Yahweh, the Great King and covenant initiator and Israel, the vassal and covenant recipient
- the document that describes and outlines the purpose, nature, and requirements of the relationship -- the book itself, the covenant organ, complete with the essentials of standard treaty documents.

"This means that all the revelation of the book must be seen through the prism of covenant and not abstractly removed from the peculiar historical and ideological context in which it

originated...The theological values of Deuteronomy can hardly be exaggerated. It stands as the wellspring of biblical historical revelation. It is a prime source for the ideas of:

- covenant,
- the holiness of God
- the concept of the people of God

This study will take a look at the law of Moses and the law of Christ, what was then and what is now.

Here, we will examine the contrast and nature and purpose of the two laws.

1. Both laws were written and given by God and are from God.
 - Deuteronomy 4-5 (Exodus 20)
 - Matthew 5 (John 1)
2. The law of Moses was administered by men:
 - Deuteronomy (Legal code) – the civil law/code; oversee and administered by the elders and judges
 - Leviticus (Levitical code) – the religious law/code; overseen and administered by the priestly order
 - This was the order as ordained and commanded by God and set forth in his law, nothing more or less
3. The law of Christ is administered by the Son of God:
 - Teachings of Christ – given by Christ and the Holy Spirit to the apostles, or the teachings of Christ and the teachings of the (His) Apostles.
 - Administered solely by Christ because he is our Lord and Savior.
4. The law of Christ to replace the law of Moses:
 - We will see the two natures in function and the relationship between them more clearly throughout these lessons
 - Nature (Jeremiah 31:31-34, John 1:17)
 - Fulfillment (Matthew 5:17-20):
5. What did the law of Christ change?
 - Galatians 2:16-20 – not saved by the law and my obedience to its every commandment but by what Jesus did, sinless obedience to the law – fulfilled the moral and levitical law
 - Galatians 3:23-29 – the saved live by their faith in Jesus Christ and not their own ability to keep the law
6. What the law of Moses (“the law” as referred to in the NT) is not:
 - It was the moral code of Deuteronomy and the priestly code of Leviticus – nothing more or less
 - It is not the doctrines of men (Matthew 5:17-20, Colossians 2, Matthew 15:1-20, Colossians 2)
7. Final thought from the teachings of Christ (Matthew 5-7 --- the Sermon on the Mount):
 - Matthew 5 – the moral code; the true nature of the moral law of God
 - Matthew 6 – the levitical code; the true nature of religion and worship of God
 - Matthew 7 – the true measure of obedience to God

Lesson 2

Sovereignty

Deuteronomy 1-3

Moses rehearses Israel's history with God. He reminds them of their successes and failures. He reminds them what God did and their actions and then God's response to what they did. He rehearses God's blessings when they were faithful to obey him and faithful to him. He rehearses their God's judgments when they were not. Moses wants to exhort them to obedience as they go and take the new home God has made ready to give them. From that we learn some vital lessons.

1. "Remember and do not ever forget how we got here!"
 - the covenant setting (1:1-5)
 - a review of God's faithfulness (1:6-3:29)
2. Sovereignty of Jehovah, the Lord our God!
 - Jehovah declares and reminds them that "I am the Lord your God!" (Deuteronomy 1-2 w/Exodus 5-20)
 - Consider the nature of Israel's behavior here – they lived 430 years in bondage as slaves of an immoral, idolatrous, materialistic, and impure society! and Israel lost her way because of rebellion and idolatry on the journey; but do not judge them too harshly (Hebrews 12)
 - So Deuteronomy is a declaration of God's law and repeated earnest calls (exhortations) to love and obey God. What does Christ teach us his disciples about the sovereignty of God in our lives? What is the work of the rule of God in the believer's life? (Colossians 3:15-17)
3. Lessons to be learned from Israel's history of the Sovereignty of our God:
 - The constant temptation and bombardment from our world to turn from God – that we can easily lose our attention to God and his way, to turn our eyes from God and turn away from God; if our faith is weak our devotion will fail!
 - We need law
 - The Lord our God is faithful and his steadfast love will never stop and his mercies will never end!
 - Trust in the Lord and you will not fail, you will be faithful:
 - God chose us to be his people and he will make us his people!
 - God hates rebellion but forgives repentance (Deuteronomy 3:24-29)

Lesson 3

Exhortation to Faithfulness

Deuteronomy 4

1. To head and obey (1-8)

- Listen, take heed, to and obey the laws from God that Moses would teach to them (1-2)
- Learn the lesson of your history (3-4)
- The influence or impact of your obedience (5-8)

2. The divine source of the law (9-14)

- Sacred memories -He specially impresses upon their hearts the remembrance of the majestic and solemn scenes amid which the law was given to them at Horeb with His living voice, and graven with His fingers on tables of stone, that they might be forever impressed upon their memory and hearts with lasting solemnity.
- Do not forget to teach the children of every generation so every generation learns of God and their faith will not die and they will not become rebellious!
(Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Ephesians 6:1-4)

3. Idolatry is forbidden (15-24)

- It is the greatest evil in the world – it is the devotion and adoration of an idol:
- Why is it such a problem for Israel? Why is it such a problem today for our world and the disciple of Christ and his church?
- “So, then, be careful! Do not sin and destroy yourselves by making...” (verse 16)
How will idolatry destroy us”!?
- “Be careful that you are not tempted to worship and serve them” (verse 19)
- It was God who “redeemed and saved and delivered you by pulling you from the hot furnace and you his special people, his possession” (1 Peter 2:1-12)
- However, he can be the fire of judgment that will destroy you if you rebel and turn to idols (Hebrews 12:25-29, 10:26-31)
- So , be careful how you live to obey God’s command

4. Consequences of idolatry (25-31)

- God’s Judgement Of Israel and her future restoration -- He next warns them in the most solemn manner of the judgment which shall come upon them and their posterity if they disobey and apostatize from Jehovah; at the same time he lights up even this dark future with the gracious promise that if, even in the lands of the enemy they shall repent and turn to God, He will mercifully forgive and even yet restore; the words are almost a literal prophecy of the trials that have actually come to these people.
- The greatest threat to God’s people while living in this world:
- But with every act of God’s judgment God sent them mercy – he said that he would not leave them alone and forsaken and condemned forever but that he would save them if they turn back to him with all of their heart and soul; he heard their repentance and restored them to the land he gave them to be home.
- “Behold, the goodness and severity of God”
(Matthew 25:37-39, Romans 11:33-36)

5. Unique relationship between Jehovah and Israel (32-40)
 - Because we are God's chosen people – the relationship that exists between God and Israel does not exist anywhere else with anyone else
 - He is faithful so be loyal and true to him – trust him no matter what is going on around you!!!!!!
 - So, do not fail to obey his commands; do not fail to be faithful to him (Matthew 7:21-28, Luke 6:20-26)
 6. God provided refuge from the judgment of the law and the justice it requires (41-43)
 - Cities of mercy in the face of judgment
 - law does not and cannot provide your salvation/redemption requirements
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Lesson 4

Essence of God's Law and its Fulfillment – Foundation of God's Law Deuteronomy 5, 12-25

PART 1: The Foundation Commandments

After we discuss the opening remarks, we will examine the foundation of God's law in this format:

- state the foundation commandment (from chapter 5)
- state the statues regarding those foundation commandments (from Chapters 12-25)
- lessons learned from those commandments
- the teachings of the new law of Christ

1. The agreement (5:1-6)

- The Lord God is calling them to their commitment
- Because the Lord God Jehovah made a covenant with them
- The preface of the law (5:6)

The difficulty in understanding these is not in the commandments themselves but in our unwillingness to accept them and in our unwillingness to obey because we want to do the sin the they condemn. So, the world wants to redefine what these and make every kind of justification for them in an effort to make them acceptable or appear to be not what the

commands teach us to do. We do the same when sell the truth and buy into it so we can practice these sins without guilt in our own minds.

These commands are self-explanatory. So, look at the spirit of this law as you see the teachings of Jesus and his apostles:

2. You must not worship any other gods but Jehovah (5:7; 12; 23:1-8 and 17-18)
 - 1 Timothy 6:11-16
 - Acts 17
 - Romans 1:18-31
3. You must not make any idols (5:8-10; 13; 16:21-22; 17:2-7)
 - Acts 17
 - Matthew 6:24
 - Romans 1:18-31
4. You must not use (take) the Lord's name in vain (5:11, 23:21-23)
 - Matthew 22:34-37, 40
 - Matthew 5:33-34
5. You must keep the Sabbath a holy day like the Lord your God commanded (5:12-15)
 - Hebrews 10:19-25
6. You must honor your father and mother (5:16; 21:15-21, 24:16-22)
 - Ephesians 6:1-4
 - How does this work?
7. You must not murder anyone (5:17, 21:1-9, 22:8)
 - Matthew 5:21-26
 - Matthew 5:44-48
 - Matthew 5:38-43
 - Matthew 22:38-40
 - Romans 12:17-21
8. You must not commit the sin of adultery (5:18, 22:13-30, 24:1-5)
 - Matthew 5:27-32
 - Matthew 19:1-11
 - Romans 1:18-31
 - 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
 - 9. You must not steal (5:19, 22:1-4, 23:19-20 and 24-25, 24:6-7 and 10-15, 25:4 and 13-16)
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15, 1 Thessalonians 4:7-12
 - What do the Proverbs teach us about these?
 - What do Christ and his apostles teach us about compassion? benevolence? stewardship?
10. You must not (tell lies about other people) bear false witness (5:20, 19:15-21)
 - Proverbs 6:16-19
 - Matthew 5:44-48

11. You must not want (covet) another man's wife, property, possessions, anything that belongs to him (5:21, 19:14, 23:15-16)
 - Luke 12:16-21
 - Mark 10:17-31
 - Matthew 22:39-40
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PART 2: Laws Concerning Other Selected Matters

1. Israel is God special people (14:1-2, 18:9-13, 25:17-19; 20; 21:10-14, 22:6-7)
 - humility and respect before God to obey the most insignificant of God's laws (22:6-7)
 - God's chosen people are a treasure to him; they are the people of all the peoples on the earth that God chose to be dedicated to him and his will (14:1-2) – so it is your obligation to not become dirty and filthy and contaminated by the world.
 - do not, you must not, allow yourself to become contaminated by, to trapped and allured to follow, the idolatry and all of its practices of the world (18:9-13)
 - the sin – the wickedness, rebellion, idolatry, unbelief – is your enemy and they will be many (20:1ff)
2. The unclean things (14:3-21, 21:22-23, 22:5 and 9-12, 23:9-14, 24:8-9, 25:5-12)
 - unclean is personal defilement – spiritual, moral, and physical
 - do not defile yourself because God is in your midst!!! God is with you!!!
 - stay clear of leprosy – sin is like a leprosy
3. Giving one-tenth (14:22-29)
 - 2 Corinthians 8-9
 - Mark 12:41-42
 - Philippians 25-30
4. Year of cancelling debts (15:1-11)
 - owe no one anything but love because it resolves all matters and it seeks the well-being of all and to give the best treatment to all (Romans 13:8-10)
5. Year of giving slaves their freedom (15:12-18)
 - every 7th year give your slaves their freedom and send them on their way with generous provisions as God did for you when you were slaves – remember te exodus!
 - but if the slave chose to stay you mark him as a sign of his lifetime commitment to you! (Galatians 2:16-20 and 6:14-18)
6. Statutes regarding firstborn animals (15:19-23; 17:1)
 - sacrifice for forgiveness one without blemish
 - dedicate it to the Lord your God
7. Passover (16:1-8)
 - death angel (Exodus) – redeemed by lamb's to save from death
 - the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26)
8. Harvest Festival (16:9-12)
 - God will always provide for own (Matthew 6:25-34)

- God Himself is our provision and greatest blessing
9. Shelters festival (16:13-17)
 - God will not leave his people defenseless
 - God is our refuge
 10. Judges and officers for the people (16:18-20, 25:1-3)
 - godly men of wise and holy judgment, blameless and devoted, must lead God's people because their matters cannot be judged by the world
 11. Difficult court decisions (17:8-13)
 - keep their hearts pure of entanglements with sin so his heart wont be turned from God in the natters of law, obedience, and righteousness
 12. How to choose a king (17:14-20)
 - devoted to God to not be corrupted by the power and politics, etc.
 13. How to support the priests and Levites (18:1-8)
 - not corrupted by the material concerns
 - not pressured by the cares of life
 14. The Lord's special prophet and how to know the world's false prophets (18:14-19)
 - God's prophet would not fail
 - false prophet will not succeed because he will not have the truth
 15. Refuge cities (19:1-14)
 - grace of God – he has always given mercy to his people
 - law cannot give grace or mercy – it can only punish
 - the lawgiver must give mercy and grace – law commands and punishes; his law teaches and commands but law cannot give save and forgive so the cities of mercy and the sacrificial system.
 - Forgiveness is at the heart of Christianity (Luke 17:1-10)
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PART 3: The Response Of The People

1. The people were afraid of God (5:22-27)
 - The Lord God gave us these commands with a great and fearful power (22)
 - You hear the voice of God (23-25)
 - Philippians 2:12-18, Matthew 7:21-28
 2. The Lord speaks to Moses (5:28-33)
 - God will change the heart (28-29)
 - We must learn his way (30-31)
 - We must live this way (32-33)
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PART 4: Reflections

Christ teaches the spirit of his law that was always in the old law but not understood and it is the spirit of the life of a holy people; to live a life of:

1. The Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12, 5:44-48 w/Romans 12:17-21)

God's law teaches us how we are to treat each other; the basis of that treatment is how we want to be treated; no one wants any one to hurt them, misuse them, abuse them, otherwise wrong them or take advantage of them; a general principle to guide in every situation or circumstance, decision or choice, relationship or responsibility; this even includes our enemies – we love them in that we always seek their good and salvation, we do not seek vengeance

2. Love (Romans 13:8-10, 1 John 4:7-21)

The obligation of all of us is to love one another because we cannot love God if we do not love each other – and because God loves each one of us and has loved before we were born and ever knew him; everything we do is to express the love of God to one another; everything we do is because we love God; we treat one another the way we because we love God more than ourselves.

3. Light (Romans 13:11-14, Ephesians 5:1-11)

The spirit of Christ's law is the light of God; it is the light of truth and righteous morality, the light of all that is right and good, and true; it is a life that separates itself from the world because it actually shows the world the way of Christ, the heart and mind of and will of God.

4. Purity (Matthew 5:8, Titus 1:15)

A man is what he thinks; he becomes what his mind desires and devours; we cannot produce a strawberry from a pinto bean or a a tomato from an okra seed; righteousness will not be produced when it is contaminated and polluted by sin.

5. Righteousness (Matthew 5:17-20, w/in context of Matthew 5-7; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Christ's law is planted in the heart of the man and not scribed on chunks of stone. it is intended to produce a living righteousness and will not produce a righteousness that is does not change the person; then once it is planted it will change the person and life that person lives because it trains him in living a righteous life that follows the truth of God

6. Separation from the world (1 John 2:15-17)

Christ law teaches and trains us not to love the world so we can love God; it teaches us to love God only and we will not love the world; Chris's law teaches and trains us to not love anything that does not love God.

7. Obedience (Matthew 7:21-28, Titus 2:11-14)

The purpose of the law of Christ is life, a life that is lived – that denies anything that is sin and to base life on the brevity of sin and righteousness and godliness; any law is useless without obedience, if it does not direct behavior (followed)

Lesson 5

Essence of God's Law and its Fulfillment – Nature of the Law Deuteronomy 6

Moses began by exhorting to them to obedience with a reminder of who their God is and his Sovereignty, and reminding them that faithfulness is not to be taken for granted. Then he discussed with them that faithfulness, prosperity, and a good life, that the strength and power of a nation and its people is their obedience to God – the nature of obedience. In chapter 5, with chapters 12-25, Moses laid down the foundation of the law of God by which they are to live faithfully to God as they obey it. Here Moses discusses the nature of that law, its heart and soul. It is a declaration of the intent of the law.

A constant through the book, throughout this record of the law of God for his people – there is only one God and you are his possession. He is Jehovah the Lord your God and you are Israel the precious people of God. God's law is how you must live. Do not forsake God and you will live well.

- This was so with the law of Moses (Deuteronomy 6:1-9)
- This is so with the law of Christ

This section of Moses declaration on God's law whose teaching is to make it their law talks of two threads of the spirit of obedience – the thread of fear for God and the thread of love for God.

1. Always Obey God (1-3)

- Obey his authority (1) – this is how they are to live
- Fear his authority (2) – understand what God's authority is and humble yourself before him
- Listen to his authority (3) – make it your desire to submit to God's authority and to obey his law
- Understand and remember that Christ is the standard of our obedience to God and not any one of us; that if you are to gain an entrance into the kingdom that is God's, this is the only way (Matthew 5:19-20)

2. Always Love God (4-5)

- The Lord is your only true and living God (4) – there is no other God to love:
- So, you must love the Lord your God (5)
- There is no other love that you live to serve (Matthew 6:24):

3. Always Remember the Commandments of God (6-9)

- Always remember the teachings of God's law (6)
- So, always teach them to our children (7-8)

4. Always Remember the Promise of God (10-11)

- God's promise to Israel's ancestors (Genesis 12, 15, 17) -- that Abraham's descendants (whom they are) would be given by God a homeland to live; it was the reason for their deliverance from Egypt.
 - We are that promise – the part of that promise not mentioned here; that of Abraham's seed through Israel (Galatians 3)
 - So, God's promise to his people today, the church – that on the witness of our redemption, we will be delivered home and in God's presence forever.
5. Never forget the Lord your God (12-15)
- "Be careful not to forget" (12)
that once you were slaves but God delivered you to this land he promised to give you; and so with us today, that once we were slaves to sin but in Christ God delivered us saved from its hold and end and put us into his kingdom (Colossians 1:13-14)
 - How are we to be careful? (12-14)
6. Never test the Lord your God (16-19)
- "You must never test the Lord your God" (16) – do not rebel against him
 - How do we "make sure" that we are not testing God?
7. Always Teach Your Children what the Lord your God did (20-25)
- Do not just tell them God's laws and teachings but teach your children what they mean (20)
 - The foundation of our obedient way of life is not only the law of God but also what God did to deliver his people (21-23)
 - The promise and reward of obedience (24-25) – God's glory and your well-being

Lesson 6

Essence of God's Law and its Fulfillment – Principles Deuteronomy 7-11

We are God's possession!

1. We are God's chosen people (7)
 - purity --- separation from the world (1-5)
 - holy – separated to God (1 Peter 1:13-17); Because we are separated to be God's people, we have good cause and reason to obey and be faithful: (2 Corinthians 4-5)
 - God has chosen you to be his people and we live and die by his will and power, his authority and strength (Ephesians 1:3-14, 1 Peter 2:1-11)
2. Do not forget who is sovereign (8)
 - past mercies (1-6)

- future prospects (7-20)
 - Remember the Lord your God (John 10:14, 17:3 Philippians 3)
3. Saved by God's grace (9)
- The Lord your God goes before you so remember your humility; you will possess this land but not by your own strength and power (1-6) – God has promised that his justice will strike hard at the wickedness of men and they will fall and be destroyed when God rides his judgment on them! Then his people will live in freedom from them and their wickedness; you will take this land only by the power of God that he gives you (Ephesians 6:11-18)
 - Their own unworthiness (7-21) – their own experience with weakness and failure, their own disobedience and rebellion!
 - God did not chose you because of your own righteousness (Isaiah 64:4-6, Matthew 5:17-20)
4. Now clean your heart (10)
- New tablets of stone (1-11) – there is nothing common about God's law!
 - What the Lord really wants (12-13)
 - Behold the Lord your God set his love on you (14-15) – he owns the entire creation and Heaven for he created it but he set his heart on you of all the people; and though God loves the world so much that he wants save all of it Christ holds God's people above the all the world today.
 - So, then, circumcise our heart (16-19) – to get rid of our stubborn will
 - Remember the greatness of The Lord your God (20-22)
 - No longer written on stone but on the heart (Colossians 2, Romans 2 Galatians 6:15, Matthew 15:10-20, Mark 7:14-23)
5. So that you will love and serve God (11)
- Remember The Lord your God (1-25)
 - Israel's choice: blessings or curses (26-32) – balance of hope and fear
 - So love and serve the Lord your God (Matthew 22:34-40, 1 Corinthians 15:50-58)

Lesson 7

Covenant Renewal

Deuteronomy 26-30

Once you have crossed Jordan and take the land that I have promised you and your ancestors to give for your home, remember that only I am the Lord your God who loves you and chose you to make his precious possession. I want you to serve and obey me

1. The First Harvest and the Year of Tithes (26:1-11)
 - This land is your inheritance for being my people. The church is God's people now, his chosen people now. What is the inheritance of God's people now?
 - Take possession of it and live in it. What is our inheritance now? How do we take possession of our inheritance and live today?
 - Every year they were to offer to God the first harvest as a celebration of the taking of their promised land and remember what God had done for them and had happened to them.
2. Exhortation to obey the Lord your God's commands (26:12-19)
 - Prayer to God and trust him to provide for and the land so that the "milk and honey" will not run dry. Promised blessing for service and obedience.
 - With this feast given as offering and the tithes, you are not to forget to care for the fatherless, widow, guest in the land, and the Levite who serves the Lord at his will and trust.
 - God does not want or seek ritualistic obedience and service; He wants the obedience that is the sincere and honest expression of true and loyal heart, and act of love that the life and breathe of all our heart and soul (compare in the context of Mathew 22:34-40).
 - Remember the commitment that we have made this day that you take the land:
3. A stone memorial (27:1-8)
 - The day you cross over the Jordan in to the promised land you are to build a stone memorial, offer sacrifice, and make a celebration of victory.
 - The memorial will be reminder to you and all the peoples who ask its meaning of who is Jehovah and who are his people who he has chosen and loved, what he has done for his people with such power and holiness, and that his people can and ought always to trust him for his always faithful.
 - This your dedication to the Lord your God who has first dedicated himself to you (compare 1 John 4:7-21)
4. The will to obey God (27:9-26)
 - With this dedication of yourself to God, you have become the people of God and so you have become a holy people. Now, you are to obey only his voice and keep only his commandments that he has already given you.
 - Obedience is given the idea of "keeping" God's commandments:
 - We must be silent and listen to God in order to hear his voice and obey him:
5. Blessings for obeying the law of God (28:1-14)

- Faithfully obey God's law by being careful to do all of the commandments – the conviction, trust, and willful humble intent to do everything the law commands us to do
 - If they do, these blessings will follow in their fields and cities
 - "You will be the head and not the tail!"
 - "You will only go up and not down!"
 - All of this will come to you, be your reward, be yours
6. Curses for not obeying the law of God (28:15-37)
- All of the above blessings will be withheld and the opposite will occur
 - God will send on you confusion, curses, and frustrations in all that you do – not for a little while and then they go away but – until you are destroyed and quickly perish you forsake God when you disobey him and (replace it with) do the evil deeds instead.
 - God will send pestilence and strike you and pursue you with wasting disease and fever and inflammation and fiery heat and drought and blight and mildew and rain dust down on you until you are consumed, destroyed, perish off the land!
 - You will live in fear of your enemies until your dead bodies become the filthy food of the birds
 - God will strike you with boils, scabs, tumors, and itch that cannot be healed – plagues until they consume you to death
 - God will strike you with madness and blindness and no one will help you but you will become to prey to constant oppression and robbery
7. The curse of failure (28:38-68)
- There is no peace or safety for God's people who would disobey him!
 - God will make you slaves of a heathen and barbaric society and you will become a horror and proverb and a byword to your captures and your homeland will become a devastation and a wasteland and home to the wild and filthy beasts to defile the land that God promised to give you in which to live and live in holiness to Him!
 - Then the Lord will scatter you from end of the earth to the other but you will be hated!
8. Confession and commitment to obey (29:1-29)
- Moses rehearses all that God had done for them all that they saw him do for them
 - Moses reminds them of the covenant God had now established with them.
 - Moses warns against a stubborn heart that sets itself against God!
 - Moses warns them that God will kindle his anger and fiery wrath against them if they are disobedient (compare Romans 1:18-32)
9. Repentance and restoration (30:1-10)
- The nature and blessing of repentance
 - The Lord will then when you repent
10. Choose this day life or death (30:11-20)
- So choose you today to live or die! – God has placed before you good which is life and evil which is death (compare Matthew 6:24, 7:13-14)
 - God was clear and cure and certain!
11. What are we to do?!
- Can anyone keep all of God's law? No one, so will all perish to death in God's wrath!
 - So God has given his law to teach us and his sin sacrifice to forgive us!!!

- Leviticus explains their sacrifices for sins (see my study “A Holy People”)
- The New Testament explains our sacrifice today (Matthew 1:18-23, Matthew 27-28, Romans 1:14-3:29).

Lesson 8

New Beginning

Deuteronomy 31-33

1. New leadership (31)
 - Joshua presented (1-8)
 - 7th year covenant renewal (9-13)
 - Joshua commissioned (14-23)
 - Warning: Preserve God’s Word (24-29)
2. Song of Moses (32)
 - God’s teaching nourish life and the soul like a gentle rain refreshed and gives life to the ground
 - God is the righteous faithful father
 - Never forget who brought you here
 - Remember the Lord God’s great world of salvation in the wilderness
 - Remember his great anger against the disobedience
 - Remember your humility to obey and serve and worship Jehovah
 - Remember that you learn to trust Jehovah
 - Never forget that Jehovah alone is God and his throne cannot be refused
3. Exhortation to obedience (33)
 - Moses blesses the people as he prepares to say farewell (1-25)
 - Moses gives praise to God (26ff)

Lesson 9

A Faithful Life Comes to its End

Deuteronomy 34

Moses’ work is done, his service is complete and it’s time to go home!
 Celebrating a servant’s life!!

1. God chose Moses (Exodus 1-2)
2. God called Moses (Exodus 3-4)

3. God sent Moses (Exodus 5-14)

4. God lead Moses (Exodus 15- Deuteronomy 33)

5. God takes his servant to his reward (Deuteronomy 34)

- God laid his faithful servant to an honorable rest
- Did God actually bury his servant Moses?
- Moses was strong to serve God until he died
- Moses prepared the way for his successor.
- God highly honors his servant Moses (verse 10-12)

6. The lessons of this life of a servant

- They were intimate
- They shared mutual trust
- God empowered Moses for his serve and Moses did not hesitate.
- God taught Moses to trust him and he believed.