

# RENEW

## *a study of Deuteronomy*

Westfield Church of Christ  
2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2020  
Sunday AM

Deuteronomy is a book of renewal. As the second generation of Israelites prepare to enter the land promised to their fathers, Moses delivers an extensive sermon to renew their faithfulness to God's covenant. Every generation of God's people must similarly renew their own commitment to God. This quarter we will explore this inspiring book and apply its message to our covenant with God through Jesus. May our study renew your love for God.

*Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*

*Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NASB)*

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## Outlines and Schedule

### **Outline of Deuteronomy as a Covenant Document**

*this format is found in other covenant documents of the ancient Near East*

- Introduction / Preamble (1:1-5)
- Historical Prologue (1:6-3:29)
- Covenant Stipulations (4:1-26:19)
- Curses and Blessings (27:1-30:20)
- Provisions for Remembering (31:1-34:12)

### **Outline of Deuteronomy as an Exposition of the 10 Commandments**

*these divisions are very approximate and only highlight the general flow of the book*

- First – worship no other gods (6:1-11:32)
- Second – make no image or likeness (12:1-32)
- Third – reverence God’s name (13:1-14:21)
- Fourth – keep the Sabbath Day (14:22-16:17)
- Fifth – honor father and mother (16:18-18:22)
- Sixth – do not murder (19:1-22:12)
- Seventh – do not commit adultery (22:13-24:5)
- Eighth – do not steal (23:15-24:7)
- Ninth – do not bear false witness (24:8-16)
- Tenth – do not covet (24:17-26:15)

### **Schedule of Lessons**

- April 5 – Lesson 1 (Deut. 1-3)
- April 12 – Lesson 2 (Deut. 4-5)
- April 19 – Lesson 3 (Deut. 6-7)
- April 26 – Lesson 4 (Deut. 8-10:11)
- May 3 – Lesson 5 (Deut. 10:12-11:32)
- May 10 – Lesson 6 (Deut. 12-14)
- May 17 – Lesson 7 (Deut. 14:22-16:17)
- May 24 – Lesson 8 (Deut. 16:18-18:22)
- May 31 – Lesson 9 (Deut. 19-22)
- June 7 – Lesson 10 (Deut. 23-26)
- June 14 – Lesson 11 (Deut. 27-28)
- June 21 – Lesson 12 (Deut. 29-31)
- June 28 – Lesson 13 (Deut. 32-34)

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## Lesson 1: Introduction & Deuteronomy 1-3

1. What does the title Deuteronomy mean and indicate about the purpose of this book?
2. How many years has it been since the Israelites left Egypt (1:3)? Where were the Israelites when Moses delivered this message (1:5)?
3. Why did God not allow them to enter Canaan initially (1:32)? How important is trust in our relationship with God?
4. How long did it take for Israel to travel from Kadesh-barnea to the brook Zered (2:14-15)? Should it have taken this long?
5. What major events in Israel's wanderings does Moses highlight in:
  - a. 2:26-37
  - b. 3:1-7
6. How did the victories against Sihon and Og prepare the people to enter Canaan (3:21-22)?
7. Jesus quoted Deuteronomy more often than any Old Testament book other than Psalms. Can you find three of his Deuteronomy quotations?

## **RENEW** *your remembrance*

Deuteronomy 1-3 is a review of Israel's history from the exodus to the present. Why do you think Moses reviewed this as they prepared to enter the land? What has God done for you that he wants you to remember? How does this remembrance prepare you to serve God in the future?

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## Lesson 2: Deuteronomy 4-5 (God's Covenant Commands)

1. What attitudes did Moses command the nation to have regarding God's word (4:1-2)? Why should we not add to or take away from what God says (Deut. 12:32; Prov. 30:6; Rev. 22:18-19)?
2. What was special about Israel's covenant and their God (4:5-8,32-38)? How was this to impact their hearts (4:39-40)?
3. Why did God not reveal himself in any visible form on Mt. Sinai (4:15-20)?
4. What do you learn about the relevance and personal nature of God's covenant commands in 5:3? Had God not made a covenant with the previous generation (Ex. 24:3-8)?
5. What was different about the way God communicated the 10 Commandments versus the rest of the covenant stipulations (4:10-14; 5:4,22-33; also Exodus 20:18-21)?
6. Review the 10 Commandments. On what relationship do the first four focus? The last six? Do you see a connection to what Jesus says in Matthew 22:34-40?
7. How does our experience at "Mt. Zion" compare with that of Israel at Mt. Sinai (Heb. 12:18-29)?

## **RENEW** *your reverence*

God revealed himself so that the people would learn to "fear" him (4:10; 5:29). How would you define this fear? Give some reasons we should fear God. Where is the proper place for this fear to motivate us in our relationship with God? Do you fear God the way he desires?

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## Lesson 3: Deuteronomy 6-7 (The Heart of it All)

1. What does “the LORD is one” teach about the identity and nature of God (6:4; 4:35,39; 5:7)? How does this relate to God describing himself as “jealous” (6:13-15)?
2. Why is “love God” the greatest command, according to Jesus (Matt. 22:36-37)? How would you define this love? What does “heart, soul, might, mind” involve?
3. How should a whole-hearted love for God affect our daily activities (6:6-9; 11:18-20; Prov. 6:20-22)?
4. This section warns of several dangers Israel would face entering the land. Explain how these can undermine our exclusive love for God today:
  - a. Luxury and wealth (6:10-12)
  - b. Associations with other gods (7:1-6)
  - c. Fear of people (7:17-21)
5. How does Moses say the Law and love for God should be passed down from generation to generation (6:7, 20-25)? What instruction do Christian parents take from this?
6. What promises did God make regarding the land, its inhabitants, and Israel’s future in it (7:12-26)?

## **RENEW** *your love*

The Shema (Deut. 6:4-5; *shema* is the Hebrew word for “hear”) is recited daily by Jews to this day. Is this passage and its meaning constantly in your mind and on your mouth? What reasons does Moses give for Israel to love God (6:20-25; 7:7-11)? Why do you love God? What idols in your heart may have diminished or even entirely quenched your love for God?

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## Lesson 4: Deuteronomy 8-10:11 (Preparing Hearts for Canaan)

1. Contrast Israel's experience in the desert with what they would experience in Canaan (8:1-10). How did 40 years of the wilderness' discipline prepare the people for Canaan's prosperity?
2. Explain the instructional purpose of the manna (8:3). How did Jesus use this lesson in his own life and teaching (Matt. 4:1-4; John 4:28-34; John 6:26-35)?
3. What warning does Moses give in 8:11-20? Describe how the riches of the land could become a stumbling block. Note especially the sinful attitudes in verses 14 and 17.
4. What warning does Moses give in 9:4-6? Describe how Israel's victory over the Canaanites could become another stumbling block. Is this another form of the same sin in question 3?
5. Why does Moses remind Israel of their sinful and rebellious past in 9:7-29? How does remembering our sin and God's grace keep us from self-righteousness (Luke 7:36-50)?
6. How do you see God's grace working in these chapters? Review Moses' intercession on Israel's behalf as described here and in Exodus 32-34. Do you see any shadows of God's grace in Christ?

## **RENEW** *your dependence*

It was a great blessing to be part of Israel, given God's righteous laws and promised a successful conquest in prosperous Canaan. The warnings here reminded Israel these blessings were not earned by righteousness but given by grace. In what ways are you tempted to feel self-sufficient as a Christian? In what ways are you tempted to feel self-righteous?

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## Lesson 5: Deuteronomy 10:12-11:32 (What Does God Require?)

1. What is at the bottom of all God's expectations? What does he want from us (10:12-13)? What are the implications from this text about how we should read God's commands?
2. Read Micah 6:1-8. How does Micah's message compare with Moses' message in 10:12-13? How would you apply it today?
3. In what way are God's commands "for our good" (10:13; 6:24)? How might this change the way you view the Bible and God?
4. What does it mean to "circumcise your heart" and not "stiffen your neck" (10:16)? Research other places in Scripture that use similar language (e.g. Jer. 4:3-4; Acts 7:51; Rom. 2:28-29).
5. What does God say about his character in 10:17-19?
6. In what ways had this generation of Israel witnessed the "discipline" (NASB) of God? (11:2-7) How should seeing God's work in our lives shape our hearts?
7. What would be the reward if Israel kept God's commandments – or didn't (11:8-17,22-25)? How does this relate to the promises God made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

## **RENEW** *your obedience*

Why do you obey God? Is it because you are just accustomed to going through certain motions? What motivates you to obey him? Should there be a deeper motivation? Are there times you do not want to obey? What causes stubbornness in your heart? What softens your heart to obey?

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## Lesson 6: Deuteronomy 12-14:21 (Reverence for God)

1. How do the instructions in 12:2-4 relate to the second of the 10 Commandments?
2. Why was it important for the people to have only one established place of worship (12:5-14)? What lesson can we learn about how God expects us to worship?
3. Moses warns of four deceptive influences that may entice Israel to worship other gods. What are they?
  - a. 12:29-32
  - b. 13:1-5
  - c. 13:6-11
  - d. 13:12-18
4. Are miracles that come true a fail-proof way to determine truth (13:1-3)? In what way are false prophets a test of our love for God?
5. What was to be done to a close friend or relative that entices you to serve other gods (13:6-11)? Why would God require such severe action?
6. What was the purpose for the dietary restrictions of 14:1-21? Note the repetition of the words “unclean/clean” and “holy.”

## **RENEW** *your conviction*

Some of the things God commanded in these chapters required serious conviction. What would the same level of conviction look like in our culture of pluralism and relative truth? Are you firm in your conviction of God’s established way of salvation and worship? How can you grow?

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## Lesson 7: Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17 (Festivals and Feasts)

1. What was the tithe and its purpose (14:22-29)? Who was to eat it? Why was it important that the people not neglect this offering (Neh. 13:10-11)?
2. What happened every 7 years in Israel (15:1-17)? How does this (and the Year of Jubilee every 50 years) foreshadow Christ (see Luke 4:18-21)?
3. How do you reconcile 15:4 with 15:11? Will there be poverty in Israel or not?
4. What lessons do you learn from what Moses says about giving to the poor (15:7-11)? What “base thoughts” (NASB) keep us from being as generous as God expects?
5. Describe the procedure for a servant being marked as permanently belonging to his or her master.
6. What three feasts/festivals are prescribed in chapter 16? What significant number is included in instruction for all three?
  - a. 16:1-8
  - b. 16:9-12
  - c. 16:13-15
7. What do you learn about worship from the statement that the people should not appear before the LORD “empty-handed” (16:16)? What is worship about?

## **RENEW** *your worship*

Two themes are prevalent in Moses’ instructions for worship: *rejoicing* in God’s blessing (14:26; 16:11,14-15) and *remembering* God’s work (15:15; 16:3,12). Are these part of your worship? How can you engage your heart to rejoice and remember in worship?

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## Lesson 8: Deuteronomy 16:18-18:22 (Honoring Authority)

7. This section establishes the structure of the nation's authority and government. What offices are addressed in these sections?
  - a. 16:18-17:7
  - b. 17:8-13
  - c. 17:14-20
  - d. 18:15-22
8. What principles of legal justice are established in 16:18-20 and 17:6-7? How do these apply to discipline within the local church (Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Tim. 5:19-20)?
9. What role did the priests have in deciding difficult civil or criminal cases?
10. Moses anticipates the later request of the people for a king (1 Sam. 8). What restrictions are placed on the conduct of these future kings and why?
11. What is the role of a prophet according to 18:16-18? How does God feel about prophets who speak falsely in His name? (see Ezek. 13:1-16; Jer. 28:1-17 for examples)
12. Do you see any hints of Jesus and the roles he fulfills anywhere in this section of Deuteronomy? (hint – see Acts 3:22; John 7:40; Heb. 1:1-3)

## **RENEW** *your submission*

God established a government for keeping order and enforcing covenant faithfulness within Israel. While we do not live in a theocracy today, what do you learn about the role of authority in God's design for society and the church? What is your attitude toward those in authority over you? Consider passages like Rom. 13:1-7, 1 Pet. 2:13-17, 5:5, 1 Thess. 5:12-13, Heb. 13:17.

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## Lesson 9: Deuteronomy 19-22 (Justice and the Dignity of Human Life)

1. This section emphasizes God's protection of the innocent, vulnerable, and voiceless people in Israel's community. Who is being protected in the following passages?
  - a. Chapter 19
  - b. 21:10-14
  - c. 21:15-17
  - d. 22:13-19,25-29
2. What is the purpose of the "eye for eye" principle (19:21)? Does it justify personal vengeance? (see Lev. 24:17-23; Prov. 20:22; Matt. 5:38-42)
3. Do the instructions in 20:1-9 make sense as a war strategy? Why send soldiers home before engaging a stronger army in battle?
4. How was Israel to treat a far-away city? A nearby city? Why the difference? (20:10-18)
5. From Galatians 3:13 and context, explain how Jesus fulfills the "curse" of Deut. 21:22-23.
6. The Bible is often called sexist and prejudiced against women. How do the laws in 21:10-14 and 22:13-29 show the inherent dignity of women? (we will discuss in class)

## **RENEW** *your justice*

God stands up for the lowest and helpless of society. What kinds of people are often overlooked or devalued in our community? Are you guilty of neglecting or even mistreating them? What is your responsibility to them? Consider Deut. 11:18-19, Matt. 25:31-46, 1 Tim. 5:3-16, James 1:27.

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## Lesson 10: Deuteronomy 23-26 (A Holy People for a Holy God)

1. List the groups of people excluded from the worship assembly (23:1-6). Is this unfair of God (remember Ruth and the eunuch of Acts 8)? What point is God emphasizing?
2. What is the purpose of the law regarding divorce (24:1-4)? Did it permit divorce for any reason? Consider Gen. 2:24, Mal. 2:14-16, Matt. 5:31-32, 19:3-9.
3. While the law regarding beatings may seem cruel to us, how does it actually preserve the dignity of the wrong-doer (25:1-3)?
4. What does 25:4 say about treating animals? According to Paul in 1 Cor. 9:9-10 and 1 Tim. 5:18 what does this verse say about treating people?
5. What did God require Israel to do to Amalek after becoming established in the land, and why (25:17-19)? Which king failed to do so?
6. In what areas in life do the following sections teach God's people to have integrity?
  - a. 23:21-23
  - b. 24:6,10-13
  - c. 24:16
  - d. 24:17-22
  - e. 25:13-16

## **RENEW** *your holiness*

A people must be holy for a holy God to dwell among them (23:14). To what extent did this fact dictate daily life in Israel, and what lessons do you learn from this? Is there a compartment of your life you have not given over to God's holiness (1 Pet. 1:14-16)?

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## Lesson 11: Deuteronomy 27-28 (Blessings and Curses)

1. Summarize the instructions in 27:1-8. Where in the Bible did Israel fulfill this?
2. What sins or unfaithful acts warrant God's curse in 27:15-26? Why are these singled out in this brief list?
3. Explain how the "curse of the Law" (27:26) is removed through Christ (Gal. 3:10-14).
4. Do the blessings of 28:1-14 promise material wealth and physical comfort for us today? Are these the greatest blessings God can ever provide?
5. List the parallels and contrast in the blessing and curses of Deuteronomy 28.
  - a. Verses 2-6 and 15-19
  - b. 7 and 25
  - c. 8,11-12 and 38-42
  - d. 9-10 and 36-37
  - e. 13 and 43-44
6. Note the details regarding the siege, captivity, and exile in 28:36-37,47-68. Which ones are most striking to you? Why does God describe them in such graphic detail?

## **RENEW** *your commitment*

Israel was to take their commitment seriously. It was a matter of life and death. How would you rate your current level of commitment to God? Why? What are the blessings of keeping your commitment to Jesus (Matt. 5:3-12, James 1:12, 1 Pet. 1:3-9)? The consequences of turning your back on this commitment (Gal. 1:6-9, Heb. 10:26-31)?

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## Lesson 12: Deuteronomy 29-31 (Final Exhortations)

1. Who was involved in entering the covenant with God (29:10-13, 31:12-13)? Why was it crucial that every individual participate and be committed?
2. What does 29:18-21 teach about the power of one person's influence, secret hypocrisy, and God's judgment? How can Christians be a "root of bitterness" (Heb. 12:14-17)?
3. This section seems so pessimistic about Israel's future unfaithfulness (29:22-28, 31:16-18). Why? Is God setting Israel up for failure by creating a self-fulfilling prophecy?
4. What does God promise for the people who repented in captivity (30:1-10)? What depth of repentance would be involved? (compare 30:6,10 with 6:4 and 10:16)
5. Should we read Old Testament commands as demanding the impossible, sinless perfection? Were they too difficult to understand or keep (31:11-14; see Rom. 10:6-10)?
6. Ancient covenant documents in the Near East often included a list of witnesses at the end. What are the "witnesses" to God's covenant with Israel? (see 30:19, 31:19-21,26)
7. How often were the people to assemble and read the law collectively (31:10-13)? Is there significance to this frequency and its correlation to the reading of God's word?

## **RENEW** *your courage*

Alongside the warning of Israel's future unfaithfulness Moses tells both the people and Joshua, "Be strong and courageous" (31:6-8). Where do God's people find courage, even when we fear the future? Why is courage so important in your service to God? How does a failure of courage often lead to a failure of faithfulness? What areas of your courage need work?

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## Lesson 13: Deuteronomy 32-34 (Song, Blessing, and Death of Moses)

1. As background for chapter 32, review God's instructions for Moses to compose this song (31:19-22). What was its purpose (32:2)? How was it to be used in future generations?
2. How would you outline the Song based on these sections (or come up with your own)?
  - a. 32:1-14
  - b. 32:15-33
  - c. 32:34-43
3. Fill in the blank: God is referred to as a \_\_\_\_\_ at least five times in the Song (vv. 4,15,18,30,31). Why?
4. In contrast to God, how is Israel described in the Song (vv. 5-6,15,28-29,32-33).
5. How does God distinguish Himself from false gods in the Song (vv. 12,16-18,21,31,37-39)? How does God's salvation, judgment, and forgiveness set Him apart from idols?
6. Summarize one of the tribes' blessings in chapter 33 (suggestion: Levi). Who is the focus at the end (33:26-29)? How is this end a message of hope and trust?
7. Deuteronomy 34:5-12 is Moses' epitaph. What is said about his service to and relationship with God, as well as his leadership and physical condition at death?

## **RENEW** *your covenant*

Deuteronomy is a renewal of Israel's covenant with God. Think about your relationship with God in terms of a covenant – does it need renewing? What factors, temptations, or distractions may have taken your focus away from this covenant? What do you need to do to renew it in Jesus?