

TRANSFORMATION

2020 → Year of Transformation

Deuteronomy

Introduction to Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy is a series of farewell messages by Israel's 120-year-old leader Moses. It addresses a new generation destined to possess the Promised Land (those who survived the 40 years of wandering).

The Hebrew title of Deuteronomy is *Haddebbharim*, "The Words" taken from the opening phrase in 1:1. The Jewish people have also called it *Mishneh Hattorah*, "repetition of the Law" which translated in the Septuagint as *To Deuteronomion Touto*, "This Second Law". However, it is not a second law but an adaptation and expansion of much of the original law. It has also been appropriately called the "Book of Remembrance".

Timeline



Theme and Purpose

Deuteronomy is the final book in the Pentateuch, which contains Moses' last three sermons and two prophetic poems about Israel's future. Reflecting on the nation's past mistakes, Moses urges the people not to repeat those errors when they enter the Promised Land.

This book is a reminder of God's law, the covenant, and living in obedience to the law as God's people. Moses reassures the Israelites of God's power and faithfulness. God is still faithful, despite Israel's persistent sin. He is merciful to his sinful people, for the sake of his promises to Abraham. He reminds the people that God promised the land, that God's gift of the land is undeserved, and that the land is full of good things.

Moses emphasizes the importance of God's law, given at Sinai. The law is wide-ranging, incorporating all areas of life (economics, family and sexual relationships, religious observance, leadership, justice, guidance, food, property, and warfare). The central theme of the book is found in Deuteronomy 6:4-8, *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord 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. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*

Moses was emphasizing the importance of following God's law, and how that law should be taught to the next generation.

Outline

- I. Prologue (1:1-5)
- II. Moses' First Speech: Historical Prologue (1:6-4:43)
- III. Moses' Second Speech: General Covenant Stipulations (4:44-11:32)
- IV. Moses' Second Speech: Specific Covenant Stipulations (12:1-26:19)
- V. Moses' Third Speech: Blessings and Curses (27:1-28:68)
- VI. Moses' Third Speech: Final Exhortation (29:1-30:20)
- VII. Succession of Leadership (31:1-34:12)

Christ in Deuteronomy

We see Jesus in multiple ways in the book of Deuteronomy. Jesus is seen as the One true God that Moses often reminded the people to worship, He is the mediator between God and Man, just as Moses was. Moses reminded Israel that God would raise up another prophet, and that prophet would be Jesus. Jesus is seen as the one who would hang on the tree and be cursed for all mankind (Deut 21:22-23), Jesus is the fulfillment of all the law.

Week 9: “Total Eclipse of the Heart”

[Deuteronomy 10:12-22 & Romans 2:12-29](#)

Teacher notes: This guide is meant to be used as a resource to help you go deeper in your small group discussion. While it is not exhaustive, it is a guide to help you. Think of it as a launching pad to help you facilitate discussion. Please feel free to go deeper, study on your own, pull in other scripture, share your personal story, or bring in other illustrations. It is just a resource to help you take your group on a journey with God.

Introduction:

In 1983, Bonnie Tyler released the song entitled, *A Total Eclipse of the Heart*, on her album, *Faster Than the Speed of Night*. This song became an instant hit and rocketed to number 1 on international music charts.

Tyler was born Gaynor Hopkins in Skewen, Wales, to coal miner. Her father, Glyndwr and housewife mother, Elsie Hopkins tried their best to bring their kids up right. She grew up in a four-bedroom council house with three sisters and two brothers. Hopkins and her family were deeply religious Protestants. Her first public performance took place in a chapel as a child, singing the Anglican hymn, “All Things Bright & Beautiful”.

Leaving school with no formal qualifications, Hopkins began working in a grocery shop. In 1969, she entered a local talent contest, and after coming in second place, was inspired to pursue a career in singing. Responding to a newspaper advertisement, she found work as a backing singer for Bobby Wayne & the Dixies before forming her own soul band called *Imagination*.

In 1975, Davis was spotted singing with her band in the Townsman Club, Swansea, by talent scout Roger Bell, who invited her to London to record a demo track. After many months had passed, she received a phone call from RCA Records, offering her a recording contract. They also recommended that she change her name. After compiling a list of surnames and Christian names from a newspaper, Davis found a new name in “Bonnie Tyler”. This recording contract was the big ticket she was looking for, which allowed her to shoot to fame. This changed Bonnie Tyler from the poor daughter of coal miner, to an internationally known singer.

Today, we will look at how God used Moses in the book of Deuteronomy to remind the children of Israel, this new generation, to Love God with all their heart, with all their soul, with all their mind, and with all their strength. Moses was reminding the people that they too needed a heart change, and that they would be successful if they followed God’s laws. Moses was urging the people to follow God alone, to not be distracted or mingle with people of pagan culture, and to have a total circumcision of their hearts. God has always wanted more from His people than just external conformity to a set of rules. He has always wanted them to possess a heart to love, know and follow Him.

Today, we will look at Deuteronomy 10:12-24 & Romans 2

Read Deuteronomy 10:12-24

Discussion Questions

Question 1: In verse 12, what does God require of his people?

- Describe the difference in fearing God and the fear of the Lord?
- Should we be afraid of God? Explain!
- Which of these 5 things in verse 12-13 are the hardest for you to live out each day? Why?

Question 2: How does serving the Lord with all your heart affect the way you walk each day?

- How should this change your perspective as you approach each day?
- What are some ways you can serve the Lord?
- Describe the relationship between serving the Lord with your whole heart and obeying His commands! Can you do one without the other?

Question 3: In verses 14-15, Moses declares that the heavens belong to God, the earth and everything in it. But he set his affection on us. How should this help your confidence in God?

- Explain why God would set his affection on Israel. How does this change the way you view God?
- How does this apply to us today?
- Explain how you have experienced God's love for you personally.

Question 4: In verse 16, Moses tells the people to circumcise their hearts. What does this mean?

- How would one circumcise their heart? What is Moses reminding the people to do?
- How is this a reminder for us today? Explain!

(Leader Insight) God gave Abraham and his descendants the mark of circumcision as a physical reminder that they were cut out from the world, that is, set apart to serve the one, true Lord (Gen. 17:1-14). Every male that was circumcised under the administration of the covenant was, along with his family, “branded” by Yahweh. Even though God, owns everything He has made, He revealed that He owns the covenant community in a unique way by His mark of circumcision. Keeping the covenant has never been the means by which God’s people earn a righteous standing in His eyes. Instead, it demonstrates the delight they have in belonging to Him and their consent to His ownership of them by faith in His goodness and promises; faith is the only way those who have been marked can enjoy the full benefits that come with belonging to Him (Rom. 4). Circumcision, as the mark of the old covenant, never guaranteed that the Israelites would rejoice by faith in God’s special ownership of them, but the sign pointed to their need for their hearts to be set apart to love Him. This type of circumcision, by definition a circumcision of the spirit and not the flesh, goes to the heart of a man, to his soul, his essence, his attitudes and relationship with God. Because this theme of an inner circumcision is so important, God repeats and stresses it.

The children of Israel temporarily stopped this practice of circumcision while wandering in the wilderness. Some authorities believe God demanded this generation die out because of their refusal to believe Him when He told them to enter the promised land. And so, a rejected generation no longer practiced circumcision. The disobedient nation of Israel, roaming like lost sheep in the wilderness, were momentarily taken out of the covenant. They had refused to believe God’s promise when He told them to take the land, and now they were paying for their rebellion

Question 5: How do you know if someone has been circumcised in their heart?

- What are some ways we can tell people are believers?
- Can people tell that you are a believer by the way you live and interact with people?

Read Romans 2:12-29

Question 6: How does this passage relate to Deuteronomy 10?

- What is Paul trying to tell us in Romans 2?
- How can we show “the work of the law” is written on our hearts?

Question 7: In verses 17-24, how is the name of God blasphemed when we don’t walk according to his law?

- Is Paul asking us to be perfect?
- How does obedience help bring glory to God?

Question 8: How is circumcision worthless if you continue to break the law? (17-24)

- Discuss how people who claim to be Christians, yet live in direct opposition to what the Bible says hurts the body of Christ.
- Have you ever seen this? How does it make you feel?

Question 9: What is Paul asking us to do in verses 25-29? Is Paul asking us to do something that is impossible?

- What are some ways you can walk with integrity?
- How does walking by the spirit and not by the flesh help us to glorify God as believers?
- What does walking by the Spirit mean?
- What ways can you show others that you have had a “*eclipse of the heart*”? Should you have to show them or will it come out naturally? Explain!

Next Steps:

1. Write down something you learned from this week’s study? (Beginner)
2. Pray and ask God to show you where you are not being obedient to His plan! (Beginner)
3. Share with someone in the group where you are not being obedient to God. (intermediate)
4. Write down action steps to help you in your walk(Intermediate)
5. Write down 5 verses that will help you when you get discouraged.(Next level)