



MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 27-28

Plug In...

Chapter 27 – Israel, on the Plains of Moab, are about to renew their covenant commitment (27:1 and then more in chap. 29). Because of this renewed commitment, they are to respond with tangible actions as soon as they cross over into the Land by making the altar, the plaster stones, and proclaiming the curses and blessings from the mountain peaks. This location will be the first place in the Land where Israel expresses obedience.

Chapter 28 – After explaining what to do immediately in the Land, Moses comes back to detail the blessings and the curses associated with the covenant renewal. There are six blessings given, then Moses gives a sermon on them. Then, six curses followed by a sermon on them. 28:68 shows that the curses are essentially an undoing of the exodus. The language of the curses also is an undoing of the promise of blessing to Abraham. It even sounds like the undoing of creation and one's very life (e.g. 28:66 "Your life will hang in doubt before you").

Chew It Over...

Although a larger chunk, hopefully you read it all. This part of God's Word is designed as a sizable portion in order to have an effect. What is that effect?

27:9-10 calls Israel to "be silent and listen". Then to "obey". Our primary mode of relating to God is to stop and listen, then to respond. Here we have the most practical piece of advice to getting into God's Word. Stop and listen. If we are too busy to be with God's Word, then stop something. What do you need to stop to be able to listen?

If you find it hard to stop and listen, it may be that you are aiming for the wrong things. Don't just aim to read more of the Bible, or be more regular in your commitment. These aims won't last for long and you will weary. Instead, pray that God would unearth in your heart the desire to stop and hear Him speak, to discover and know Him. Reading Scripture not as 'Bible-reading' but as experiencing the voice of God is the place from where you become inspired to be in God's Word.

Prayer Suggestion

Awaken our desire to hear your voice, the voice to your people, for all ages. Help us to come close and listen, to pray, and to respond to your invitations, encouragements, directions. Create in us this practice from the depths of our being.



TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 29

Plug In...

We are reaching the climax of this big sermon from Moses. Moses rehearsed with his audience how God redeemed them from Egypt and entered into a covenant with them at Mount Horeb/Sinai (e.g. [Deuteronomy 5:1-6](#)). He's reminded them that they broke that covenant before it had finished being made ([Deuteronomy 9:7-19](#)).

[*Cf.* Moses is still up the mountain receiving the instructions – [Exodus 32:15-20](#); Moses intercedes ([Exodus 32:30-32](#)); God reveals His compassionate and forgiving nature ([Exodus 34:5-7](#)); and on that basis Moses quickly appeals to God's newly revealed character ([Exodus 34:8-9](#)). So, God *continues making* the Horeb/Sinai covenant with Israel ([Exodus 34:10](#)).]

Here on the Plains of Moab, God makes a new covenant with Israel. It is not new in the sense that it replaces the Horeb/Sinai covenant, but new in that it *extends* and *supplements* it for the new conditions in the Land (29:1). So, this new covenant also *renews* the Horeb/Sinai covenant. It is an exciting moment, for Israel have come to the climax of the story of the Torah (= first five books of the Bible). Israel are about to step into the *Promised-by-God* Land.

Chew It Over...

As exciting as this moment is for Israel, this new covenant at Moab is actually a renewal of the covenant that neither the current nor past Israelites have been able to keep (the Apostle Peter points this out, see: [Acts 15:10](#)). Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy all show that Israel's heart is stuck in rebellion. And here in the midst of the covenant renewal, Moses himself points out that God has the power to change Israel, but has not done so yet (verse 3).

This is the grand setup to tomorrow's chapter 30 of a completely 'new' covenant which *replaces* this one from Moses. The Horeb/Sinai-Moab covenant shows within itself that this covenant cannot be kept by human power alone.

Prayer Suggestion

We who know Jesus, as we experience sin today, have learnt through Deuteronomy that the law (although good and wonderful) doesn't save us, can't save us, from ourselves. Admitting this, we can turn and pray in praise the wonderful words of [Romans 8:1-4](#).



WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 30

Plug In...

Israel are told that it is after blessing and cursing, in the midst of the deep pain and distress of exile, that there will be a turning point in the whole program. Deuteronomy 30:1-10 is the clearest statement of Israel's inability to keep the requirements of the covenant in their own strength. They will need outside help and God will provide that critical need in their heart (v.6). Future blessing is still contingent on obedience; obedience that bubbles up from a deep love for God.

Chew It Over...

What was a future promise by Moses, we have received in Jesus. Deuteronomy 30 paints a composite picture of a people now with a heart that loves God. In the New Testament we see this comes about through two things:

- (1) All our sins are pardoned through Jesus on the cross;
- (2) The perfect obedience of Christ earned Him acceptance and favour before God, thereby allowing the cross to pardon us.

Paul tells us this is righteousness *imputed*, which means counted as ours / credited to our account ([Romans 4:1-8](#); [2 Corinthians 5:21](#)). From this transaction, the Spirit bears to us all the benefits, which includes delivery of a new heart that loves God.

Understanding this will help us recognise that our heart manifesting faith is not our righteousness – our heart doesn't do a work that earns righteousness. Rather, we are credited with Christ's righteousness from outside of us. It is after this transaction that all the benefits of Christ's Spirit flow. One of the benefits is that the Spirit gives us a

heart that manifests faith. Faith *unites* us to Christ and God pours Christ's righteousness into our account.

Prayer Suggestion

Praise God for this transaction for us. May God cause us to live today in assurance that we are righteous before God. May the full benefits of a new heart be ever appearing each day. Amen!



THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 31:1-15

Plug In...

The passage mentions Moses' age. This is not to say he's too old, but to underscore God has deliberately called to an end Moses' role as leader (*cf.* [Deuteronomy 34:5-7](#)). God will not allow Moses to enter the Land (remember [Deuteronomy 3:21-29](#)). He commissions Joshua to be the one to lead Israel across the border. He calls on the warriors to fix their minds on God, not their own fighting ability or apparent lack of, for victory comes from God. In their heart, they must believe that God will never leave them or forsake them.

Chew It Over...

What can you point to that shows Christians are in a spiritual battle here in Australia? This may have got you worried, fearful, distressed. This battle entails that we physically speak about Jesus and share with our society God's best way to live. We may physically cop abuse, slander, be pushed around, maligned, called evil – all of which can shake our confidence. The principle God wanted Israel to hold in battle is the same for us: although physically having to live in this world, fix our minds not on the threats, or our lack of ability, but on God. Our confidence comes from God. He will never leave you nor forsake you.

The author to the Hebrews sees that our temptations arise from fearing other things more than God and so siding with them ([Hebrews 13:1-6](#)). Look to Jesus and draw strength and courage knowing He has won the end battle.

Prayer Suggestion

Say in confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?'



FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 31:16 – 32:52

Plug In...

Leadership has transitioned to Joshua. Next, God tells Moses that without-a-doubt, Israel will commit adultery with foreign gods. Israel is positive at the moment, but hidden in their hearts is wanton rejection of God's covenant. So, God gives Moses one last job, which is to teach the Israelites this song.

The song is bleak! The song prosecutes future Israel, it mounts evidence against Israel. Then the song turns a corner. Israel are being taught a song that gives a blueprint of the future; one that reminds them that on the other side of judgement there is hope.

The prophets of the Old Testament virtually announce their lawsuits against Israel in the poetic language of Deuteronomy 32. They announce the good news from this song too. In many ways, Deuteronomy 32 is the major sermon text of the Old Testament prophets. They call on Israel, like we call on people today, to notice the beginning of God's judgement to discern that the end is near. God does not hide His coming judgement. Mini judgements occur now as warning to wake people up ([Romans 1:18-32](#)).

Chew It Over...

At what verse do you see the song turn a corner and where can you see the gospel promise announced?

Prayer Suggestion

God, if it wasn't for your compassion we would be in darkness, despair, and lost to death. Thank you for this song. We look forward to singing in heaven along with the song of the Lamb ([Revelation 15:3-4](#)).



WEEKEND 16-17 SEPTEMBER 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 33-34

Plug In...

Moses is about to die. Like the great patriarchs, he gives a blessing before his passing. There is a massive blessing by Jacob at the close of Genesis (Genesis 49:1-27). Now at the close of the Torah (Pentateuch) there is a blessing to conclude.

Chew It Over...

The finishing lines of this blessing poem are beautiful. Verse 27:

The eternal God is your refuge (literally 'dwelling place'), and underneath are the everlasting arms.

In Jesus, we dwell in the bosom of God. We dwell between His loving arms. The safest place in the world. We are untroubled (33:28; cf. [John 14:1-4](#)).

Prayer Suggestion

Read the prayer of blessing Jesus gave before His death ([John 17:1-26](#)). Let it create words for your own prayer of praise and thanks to God today.