Sample Responses for Deuteronomy 27:1–29:1 | Laurin Maddux and Mary Hannah

STRUCTURE

From Laurin (Deut 27):

27:1–8: Instructions for a *future* covenantal renewal ceremony at Shechem

27:9–10: *Present*-day covenantal renewal ceremony at Moab

27:11–26: Instructions for a *future* covenantal renewal ceremony at Mounts Ebal and Gerizim

From Mary (Deut 27–28):

27	Moses & Leaders Charge the Israelites about Keeping & Renewing the Covenant

- **Vv. 1–8** | Moses and elders instruct Israelites to keep the whole law always and, when they cross the Jordan, to renew the covenant at Shechem

> *Keep covenant instruction*
> *Renew the covenant*

- o **V. 1** Keep the whole commandment!
- o **Vv. 2–8** Renew the covenant at Shechem with these ceremonies (with an emphasis on how to inscribe the commandment on stones)

- **Vv. 9–26** | Moses and priests warn Israelites to keep the whole law always and Moses instructs the Israelites, when they cross the Jordan, to renew the covenant at Shechem

> *Keep covenant instruction*
> *Renew the covenant*

- o **Vv. 9–10** Because you're the LORD's people, obey his voice by keeping his commandment!
- o **Vv. 11–26** Renew the covenant at Shechem with these ceremonies, that emphasize the Levites' proclamation of the curse for specific covenant transgressions

28	Moses Elaborates on Blessing & Curse to Inspire Covenant Keeping & Renewing

> *Consider how these blessings restore what sin has ravaged since Gen 3 and advance what God promised Abram in Gen 12!*

- **Vv. 1–14** | Moses declares the blessing that will come to Israel if they keep the covenant (principally through spiritual fidelity to the LORD in worship):
national blessing with respect to other nations; blessing with respect to the earth/ground; blessed fruitfulness among one another (including in womb); blessing with respect to their military enemies; corporate blessing with respect to special relationship with the LORD

- **Vv. 5–68** | Moses declares the curse that will come to Israel if they forsake the covenant (principally through spiritual infidelity to the LORD in idolatry):
national curse with respect to other nations; curse with respect to the earth/ground; cursed among one another (including in womb); curse with respect to military enemies; corporate curse with respect to relationship with the LORD, who will abandon you to idolatry and to slavery in Egypt

29:1	Narrator Marks the Conclusion of Moses's Second Sermon (Deut 5:1–28:68)

UNIFYING THEME

From Laurin (Deut 27):

The Lord demonstrates his faithfulness to Israel by:

- **His grace** (giving the Law and land), requiring gratitude and worship centered on His Law
- **His renewal of the covenant,** requiring unequivocal obedience to His Law
- **His justice and judgement** requiring humble acceptance of His Law (Amen)

From Mary (Deut 27–28):

Israel: In his kind sovereignty, the LORD has made plain his instruction to you, his special people, so—WARNING!—**do not incur** devasting curse by forsaking the covenant in Canaan, but instead **enjoy** his abundant blessing by keeping and renewing the covenant in Canaan.

AUTHOR'S AIM

From Laurin (Deut 27):

Moses aims to instruct Israel on both present-day and future responses to the depth of our human sin in transgressing God's law and the Lord's faithful and gracious renewal of the covenant despite that sin.

From Mary (Deut 27–28):

Moses aims to motivate the Israelites to keep the LORD's whole instruction and to keep his particular instructions about covenant renewal at Shechem (and, implicitly, in an ongoing way) by detailing the proper ceremonies for covenant renewal and declaring what is at stake in Israel's choice of obedience or disobedience: blessing or curse, respectively.

Laurin's Teaching Outline:

1. (vv. 1–8) Word-centered worship is the right response to the grace of the Lord.

2. (vv. 9–10) Singular, all-embracing devotion is the right response to the renewed covenant of the Lord.

3. (vv. 11–26) Humble acceptance ("amen") is the right response to justice and judgment of the Lord.