

Sample Responses for Deuteronomy 29:2–30:20 | Betsy Wepfer and Mary Hannah

From Betsy:

STRUCTURE

1. **Remember** the Lord's faithfulness in: (29:1–8)
 - a. Bringing you out of Egypt (v. 2)
 - b. Provisions in the wilderness (v. 5–6)
 - c. Defeating kings in battle (v. 7–8)
2. **Command:** obey the covenant (29: 9–15)
 - a. Why?
 - i. In response to the Lord's faithfulness
 - ii. So that "you may prosper in all you do." (v. 9)
 - iii. To establish you as his people and be your God (v. 13)
 - b. Who? ALL PEOPLE (v. 10–11, 14–15)
 - i. Elders, officers, men
 - ii. Women, children
 - iii. Sojourners
 - c. When? TODAY. (v. 12, 13)
3. **Warning** (29:16–28)
 - a. Against idol worship after hearing the covenant (v. 17–19)
 - b. Consequences for ignoring the covenant (v. 20–28)
 - i. Anger of the Lord (v. 20)
 - ii. Curses will come upon you and future generations (v. 20–22)
 1. Afflictions of the land (v. 22–27)
 2. Uprooting the people from their land (v. 28)
 - c. God has chosen to reveal his covenant to us, so be careful to abide by it (v. 29)
4. **Promise of hope** (30:1–10)
 - a. Return to the Lord and obey his commandments
 - b. Then He will...
 - i. have mercy on you and restore your fortunes (v. 3)
 - ii. gather all that were scattered (v. 3–4)
 - iii. bring you into the land to possess it (v. 5)
 - iv. make you more prosperous than your fathers (v. 5, 9)
 - v. "Circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live" (v. 6)
 - vi. Curse those who persecute you (v. 7)
5. **Final choices: life or death?** (30:11–14)
 - a. No excuses: the Lord has made his covenant accessible to us (v. 11–14)
 - b. Life: If you choose to follow the Lord, love Him and keep his commandments, then you will live and receive blessing (v. 16)
 - c. Death: If you choose to turn away from the Lord and follow other gods then you will die and receive his curse (v. 17–18)
 - d. "Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live" (v. 19)

UNIFYING THEME

Moses calls all people to hear and renew their covenant with the Lord, so that they may live and receive blessing for themselves and future generations. However, he clearly warns against following other gods and presents the people with their ultimate choice of life or death, blessing or curse.

AUTHOR'S AIM

Moses uses a sense of urgency to provide the Israelites with all the evidence they need to follow the Lord, but he makes it clear that the choice is theirs: will you follow the Lord and receive life or turn away from him and receive death?

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From Mary:

STRUCTURE

29:2a | Moses Summons the Assembly for Covenant Renewal on Moab's Plains

- **29:2b–15** | Moses Rehearses the LORD's Mighty Acts of Saving Grace Experienced by Israel as the Basis for Obedience in Perpetuity (TODAY)
- **29:16–29** | Moses Warns of Idolatry's/Treason's Danger and Destructiveness and Confirms the LORD's Clear Revelation to Enable Israel's Obedience
- **30:1–10** | Moses Announces End-Time Restoration and Transformation Beyond Israel's Incurring of the Curse through the LORD's Merciful Circumcision of Israel's Heart (see 10:16)
- **30:11–20** | Moses Sets Before Israel the Choice of Blessing or Curse and Exhorts Them to Choose Life, Not Death

UNIFYING THEME

Israelites, as those who have experienced and are experiencing God's mighty saving acts toward you personally and corporately—and *who will experience God's ultimate mighty saving act of heart transformation after your nation incurs the covenant's curse—choose life today* by renewing the covenant, rather than choosing death by abandoning the LORD.

AUTHOR'S AIM

Moses aims to clarify what is involved and what is at stake in the Israelites' choice of life or death so that they will choose life and blessing by heeding the LORD's voice, and not choose death and curse by worshiping other gods.

Five Core Commitments for Spiritual Renewal

1. **Rally** (29:1–2a)
2. **Rehearse** God's Saving Acts (29:2b–15)
3. **Resist** Every Temptation to Abandon the Lord (29:16–29)
4. **Rest** in God's Transforming Grace for Rebels, Announced in the Gospel (30:1–10)
5. **Resolve** to Choose Life, Eternal and Abundant (30:11–20)