

THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

LESSON FROM DEUTERONOMY

SUNDAY MORNINGS

MARCH-APRIL 2023

TEACHER PREPARATION

Adult Bible Classes
All-Church Study



THE WORD OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

LESSON FROM DEUTERONOMY

TEACHER
PREPARATION
GATHERING
SCHEDULE

Wednesday Nights, 7-8 p.m. / Gathering

- 1/4 Introduction
- 1/11 Lesson 1 Review
- 1/18 Lesson 2 Review
- 1/25 Lessons 3/4 Review
- 2/1 Lesson 5 Review
- 2/8 Lesson 6/7 Review
- 2/15 Lesson 8 Review
- 2/22 Lesson 9/10 Review
- 3/1 Lesson 1 Prep Review



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TEACHING
SCHEDULE

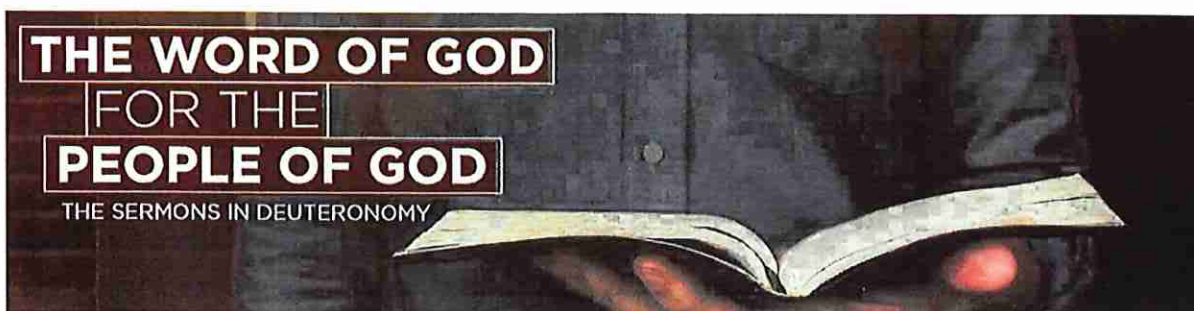
Sunday Mornings 9:15 a.m. / March-April 2023

1	3/5	Lesson 1	Those Who Went Before Us	De 23
2	3/12	Lesson 2	Learn from the Past	De 1-3
3	3/19	Lesson 3	Work at Remembering	De 4:1-20, 23:31, 9:7-8, 22-24
4	3/26	Lesson 4	How to Love God	De 5:1-15
5	4/2	Lesson 5	How to Love Others	De 5:16-21
6	4/9	Lesson 6/7	Pass on the Message The Basic Message: Love God	De 6:4-9 11:1-28
7	4/16	Lesson 8	Watch Out!	De 7-8; 13
8	4/23	Lesson 9	Bless You! Curse You!	De 28
9	4/30	Lesson 10	Sing the Message	De 32



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Series Background and Objectives

Purpose of the Series

Big Questions

These are some of the “big questions” this series aims to address:

- How do we remain faithful to God in the midst of pressure to forget God?
- How do God’s people live in harmony in the midst of changing surroundings?
- How do we serve God in abundance and in loss?
- What does God expect of his people?
- What does collective obedience to God look like?
- How does our past affect our future?
- How do the Ten Commandments apply to Christians today?

Learning Outcomes

Here is what we hope people will be able to understand and do after this series. Each lesson addresses a few of these outcomes, and those are specified at the beginning of each lesson.

- Participants can explain the covenant between God and his people.
- Participants can explain the relationship between love/fait h/obedience.
- Participants can describe the proper role of the past in determining our choices for the future.
- Participants can identify with the ancient Israelites and the issues they faced.
- Participants can evaluate the importance of individual vs. communal responsibility to God.
- Participants can discuss Moses’ list of blessings for staying faithful and how they might apply to us.
- Participants can discuss with clarity what it means to be the people of God.

Lesson Scope & Sequence

This study is not a “front-to-back” exhaustive treatment of Deuteronomy. Rather, the focus is narrowed to particular *sermons* and their content. The lessons aim to hear these sermons afresh for today’s context and make appropriate application.

Background to Deuteronomy

The Name of the Book

In the original Hebrew, the name for Deuteronomy is *Eleh ha-devarim*, which means “these are the words.” This makes sense, since the opening line of the book is “These are the words Moses spoke...” (1:1).¹

When the Hebrew got translated to Greek, the book got (mis)named “Deuteronomy,” which means “second law” instead of the more accurate “copy of the law.” Deuteronomy is very similar to Exodus, where the law was given, so the phrase “copy of the law” makes sense. “Second law,” however, does not.

Author and Date

Deuteronomy deals with the time between 1) the escape from Egypt and subsequent wilderness wanderings and 2) the Israelites’ entry into the Promised Land of Canaan. Because this book deals with very ancient history, it is not surprising that scholars differ over the dates of 1) the events it covers and 2) its actual authorship.

The voice of Moses is very strong in the book, and certainly Moses is associated with much of the book. The epilogue that deals with Moses’ death, however, was likely written by someone else. Moses’ death is not only described in the past, but in the *distant* past: “Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, who did all those signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel” (34:10-12).

Purpose

Deuteronomy is presented primarily as a collection of sermons from Moses, the leader of Israel, as the people of Israel prepare to enter a new phase in their life. Ever since the time of Abraham, God had been promising the people of Israel a new land (Gen 12:1-3). Now, many years later, it is time to take that land.

But how should they act in this new land? What must be different as they embark on this new journey? Deuteronomy begins to address that. The book includes quite a bit of reflection on the past for the sake of determining what should be different going forward. In short, Deuteronomy seems to be written to address this question: What does it mean to be the people of God in a new era?

Further Exploration

Books

Brueggemann, Walter. *Deuteronomy*. Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2001.

Miller, Patrick D. *Deuteronomy*. Interpretation. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1990.

Wright, Christopher J.H. *Deuteronomy*. Understanding the Bible Commentary Series. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996.

Posters

The Bible Project’s Deuteronomy Poster: <https://bibleproject.com/view-resource/217/>

Teachers could print this in poster size and hang it in the classroom during this series.

¹ Many of the Hebrew names of Old Testament books are just the first phrase of the actual content of the book. Deuteronomy’s Hebrew name fits that convention.

Videos

The Bible Project. "The Book of Deuteronomy." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMhmDPWefw>

The Bible Project. "Read Scripture: The Book of Deuteronomy."
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5QEH9bH8AU>