

ONE STORY | ONE SAVIOR - UNIT 1 | LESSON 13

The Pentateuch – The Promise Given Through the Royal Gift Covenant

God is a PROMISE Making God

God 1) **CREATES** a place where 2) He will **MEET** with his People 3) for their **JOY**. 4) His People reject Him. 5) God binds Himself through **PROMISE (i.e. The Royal Gift Covenant)** to 6) **RESCUE** His people from their sin and 7) **RESTORE** them to Himself for their **JOY**.

ILLUSTRATION – "The Lion King": Simba, a young lion cub, is destined to be king but runs away after his father Mufasa's death. He forgets his true identity until he is reminded of his past. The story teaches the importance of remembering who you are and where you come from, as well as the value of family and responsibility.

"The Polar Express" by Chris Van Allsburg. A young boy takes a magical train ride to the North Pole and receives a special gift that helps him remember the magic of Christmas. The story highlights the power of believing and the importance of keeping the magic of childhood and the spirit of Christmas alive.

Israel needed to REMEMBER who they were and who God was. It is only in remembering, we live free lives in Christ.

OBJECT LESSON – As you age, it is easy to forget. Often, we look for our glasses only to find them on top of our heads! As a result of this, you begin to write things down so you don't forget. You also might begin putting things in the same place so that you know where it is.

VIDEO - Love the Lord your God | Deuteronomy 6:1-12 | Kids Bible Story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J46OJ1AIYEE>




"The Repeating of the LAW"

"Hear, O Israel"

A Summary of the Book of Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ 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. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

	<p>THE HEAD - To Know how God is faithful to His promises even when His people are unfaithful to Him. Q – Why do you think God is faithful even when you are unfaithful?</p>
	<p>THE HEART - To Choose to listen to the Word of God even while the world around you says something else. Q – What are some falsehoods the world teaches that the Bible says are not true?</p>
	<p>THE HAND - To Pray we will obey all that God has said even when everyone else does otherwise. Q – What are some ways you can remember God in your daily activities?</p>

EMPHASIS

Just as the Law was given to Israel as they left Egypt, so also the Law is reiterated to Israel as they enter Canaan. In Egypt, they were under a pagan rule. In Canaan, they are facing an ungodly people.

Deuteronomy stands as the headstone of the first five books of the Bible, called the Pentateuch. Its name comes from the Greek translation of the Old Testament which literally means, “Second” (deutero) “law” (nomos). Even though Deuteronomy is far more than law, Biblical writers often speak of it as “the book of the law” (Deut. 31:26, Neh. 9:3).¹

"Deuteronomy is the fifth book of the Pentateuch. It is something of a bridge between the earlier events of Israel's existence, and what follows after Israel's entrance into the Promised Land of Canaan."²

In Deuteronomy, Moses gives five “sermons” explaining the TORAH and calling the people of Israel to covenant faithfulness.³

Perhaps the most prominent theme is, “A Reminder to Remember.” Our structure will be built around the word “remember.”

LITERARY CONTEXT

“Deuteronomy follows the pattern of the vassal treaties typical of the second millennium BC when a king (a suzerain) made a treaty with a vassal country. Though Deuteronomy follows the vassal treaty form, in general it is more sermonistic in nature.”⁴

"The book is couched in homiletical or sermonistic terms."⁵

Repeatedly Moses calls the children back to the Law.

"In Deuteronomy we are given his final words to the nation of Israel. In a series of speeches Moses challenged **the new generation to obey the terms of the Sinai Covenant and to follow the Lord wholeheartedly.**"⁶

"His goal was to get the people to renew the covenant made at Sinai, that is, to make a fresh commitment to the Lord."⁷

A series of five "sermons." At the center of Deuteronomy [12-26] are a collection of Laws. Some are new [based on their current circumstances].

1-11 Moses' Opening Speech

1-3 Reviews their history and past failure [Historical Prologue]

4-11 Moses' call to covenant faithfulness

12-26 Collection of Laws

12-16a Israel's Worship

16b-18 Israel's Leaders under the authority of the LAW and the Prophets

19-26 Civil Laws and Social Justice

27-34 Moses' Final Speech and Death

27-28 Blessing and Cursing

The third sermon took place between two mountains. The mount of blessing was Mt. Gerizim (v.12) and the mount of cursing was Mt. Ebal (v.13).

29-30 A Concluding Charge

31-34 From Moses to Joshua

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Moses led the Hebrews for 40 years in the desert. He is at the end of his life and speaks to the people about their journey since God brought them out of Egypt. Standing where they were 40 years before he explains the TORAH and reminds them of their failure. He challenges them to take up the promises of God and take the land God has given them. This will not be under the leadership of Moses but Joshua.

Let us review the time markers by noticing the following verses.

Numbers 1:1 "1st day 2nd month 2nd year after the Exodus"

Exodus 40:17 "1st day 1st month 2nd year"

Remember; wedged in between these two passages is the book of Leviticus.

Deut. 1:3 "1st day 11th month 40th year"

Numbers 33:38 "1st day 5th month 40th year (Aaron dies)"

Our current book (Deuteronomy) covers a six-month period of time. Numbers, a 40-year period (Numbers 14:26-39; Joshua 5:12). In the book of Deuteronomy reference is made back to the forty years of wilderness wandering (Deut. 2:7,14; 8:2,4; 29:5).

BIBLICAL CONTEXT

The book of Deuteronomy makes a particular appeal at this point since it shares with Genesis, Psalms, and Isaiah the distinction of most frequent citation by New Testament writers. In fact, only six of the New Testament books fail to allude to Deuteronomy directly (John, Col., I Thess., II Tim., and I and II Peter), and total references number more than eighty.⁸

"Deuteronomy is quoted some eighty times in the New Testament and is cited in all books except for John, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Timothy, and 1 and 2 Peter. Of these, the most famous are the *Shema* in 6:4-5 and the verses quoted by Jesus during His temptation (6:13,16; 8:3)."⁹

STRUCTURE

The purpose of Deuteronomy is to call the people back to the Law.

The word LAW (Torah) in the Pentateuch
Genesis 10 times
Exodus 19 times [12 times in chapter 18]
Leviticus 18 times
Numbers 11 times
Deuteronomy 24 times [4:1-20]

It is also interesting to see the various words used that relate to the Law in the book of Deuteronomy. The word *Torah* is used 24 times, *testimonies* is used only 3 times, *commandments* is used 42 times, *statutes* is used 29 times, and *judgements* is used 34 times.

A key word found throughout the book is *remember*. "The characteristic admonition is: "Remember, and forget not!" Rather than embarking on some quest for 'new truth' to replace the old, Israel is to retain and to obey the revealed truth which it has once and for all received from the absolute and unchanging Source of truth."¹⁰

The Hebrew is **Zakar** and means "to mark (so as to recognize)." It is found 14 times in Deuteronomy. The nation is told to remember specific events. We will note eight of them.

- A. Remember the Exodus from Egypt (5:15; 7:18; 15:15; 16:3, 12; 24:18,22)
- B. Remember God's Provision in The Wilderness (8:2)
- C. Remember God's Power in Prosperity (8:18)

- D. Remember Your Rebellion in The Wilderness (9:7)
- E. Remember the Covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (9:27)
- F. Remember the Consequences Of Sin (24:9)
- G. Remember Your Enemies and Their Sins (25:17)
- H. Remember Your Past (32:7)

Each of the above calls are excellent for us as well. We need to remember YHWH. A means of remembering was the daily reciting of the SHEMA as noted in Deuteronomy 6:4.

- ⁴“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You 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. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

JESUS IN THE TEXT

Deuteronomy is Jesus’ favorite book to quote in the gospels.

Like all disobedience, we rob ourselves of the joy that is only known and experienced in His presence. Fortunately, God’s faithfulness to fulfill His promises are not based on our obedience. He does what He promises for our joy. Jesus as the fulfillment of the SEED PROMISE is able to complete the BLOOD PICTURE. As the new Israel, Jesus does what the Nation could never do. In fulfilling the ROYAL GIFT COVENANT [SEED PROMISE], He was able to perfectly keep the VASSAL TREATY. In so doing, all of the blessings fell upon Him. When He died as a substitutionary sacrifice, He bore our sins and became the recipient of all the curses brought out by sin and the broken VASSAL TREATY. In Christ, His people will never face condemnation. This is the PROMISE and this is the GOOD NEWS.

Moses reminded the people of their failures. He also reminded them of God’s promises. We know that Jesus is the fulfillment of those promises and we live in that truth.

In the PENTATEUCH [TORAH], the Story takes us to the brink of the Nation entering into the Promised Land through the leadership of Joshua. God will do for the Nation, what the Nation could never do for itself. Joshua [salvation] as a type of Jesus, will lead his people into the place of rest.

The Book of Deuteronomy leaves the reader asking four questions.¹¹

- First, when will the descendant of the woman come to defeat evil (Gen. 3)?
- Second, how is God going to rescue the world through Abraham's family (Gen. 12)?
- Third, how can a holy God be reconciled to a rebellious people (Exod.-Numbers)?
- Finally, how will God transform the hearts of His people (Deuteronomy 30)?

We have to keep reading the STORY to find out.

APPLICATION

1. Despite the continued failure of God's people, God is faithful to do all He promises for His people.
2. What the Nation fails to do, God will do. He will keep the Law perfectly and as a consequence of His obedience all of His people who accept His kingship shall enjoy the blessing.
3. God has graciously and wisely put in play reminders of His ongoing faithfulness. Things like going to church and learning of Him act as reminders of God's faithfulness to do what He promises. Partaking in the Lord's Table is a reminder of God's faithfulness. What else can you think of that acts as a reminder of God's faithfulness to do what He promises?
4. Although your obedience does not change God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises, your believing in Him does enable you to participate in those promises.
5. Do you believe Jesus is the fulfillment of the SEED PROMISE and the completion of the BLOOD PICTURE? If you do, then you can joy in His joy.
6. Learn to think of His Story and how your days are a part of that Story.

MEMORY VERSE

Deuteronomy 6:4

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

ENDNOTES

¹ <https://sovereignhope.church/articles/five-things-i-learned-preaching-deuteronomy>

² *The Shaw Pocket Bible Handbook*, p. 164.

³ BIBLEPROJECT, Overview: Deuteronomy. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5QEH9bH8AU>

⁴ *BKC*, OT, p. 260.

⁵ Archer, *Survey OTI*, p. 252.

⁶ Herbert Wolf, *An Introduction to the Old Testament Pentateuch* [Chicago: Moody Press, 1991], p. 207.

⁷ *BKC*, OT, p. 260.

⁸ <https://preachingsource.com/journal/preaching-values-in-deuteronomy/>

⁹ Herbert Wolf, *An Introduction to the Old Testament Pentateuch* [Chicago: Moody Press, 1991], p. 208.

¹⁰ Gleason Archer, *Survey of OT Introduction*, p. 253.

¹¹ BIBLEPROJECT, Overview: Deuteronomy [7:41Minutes]. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5QEH9bH8AU>