

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"DEUTERONOMY: A GENERATIONAL GUIDEBOOK FOR COVENANT RENEWAL"

For individual study or group discussion

LMPC begins a new sermon series this week in the book of Deuteronomy. You might be wondering, "Out of all the books of the Bible, why study Deuteronomy?" Studying Deuteronomy will teach us that *Covenant renewal happens when God's people remember their identity and respond obediently to his graciously given law, thereby reaping the benefits of his enduring promises.* Deuteronomy is a generational guidebook for covenant renewal, as we will discover over the next few weeks. It is a retelling of the law to God's people by Moses and a reminder of the need for covenant renewal from generation to generation (vv. 1-5).

- Deuteronomy is a series of three sermons from Israel's beloved shepherd-leader, Moses. How does that framework affect your perception of the book's message?
- Most of what we read in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers is repeated in Deuteronomy. Why the repetition? Why does this new generation of Israelites need to be reminded?

The content of Moses' first sermon instructs God's people that renewal always involves remembering the redemptive story (vv. 6-8). As the Israelites are preparing to enter the Promised Land, Moses feels compelled to remind the people of God's Law given at Mount Sinai. The generation of Israelites who are about to enter the Promised Land were only children when the law was given to their parents. For that reason, Moses repeats the law to them. Deuteronomy means "second law" because it was the second communication of the Mosaic Law.

- God's people never outgrow their need to be reminded. Read 2 Peter 1:3-15. What reasons does Peter give as to why the church needs to be reminded of God's promises?
- The message of Deuteronomy is all about grace. Fulfilling his gracious promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (v. 8), God is about to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. As they near the Promised Land, note that the Israelites will be surrounded by pagan nations. Read Deuteronomy 4:5-9. Why is Moses' admonition in these verses important for us today? As a church living in the midst of a post-Christian culture, what defines us? Are we being defined by the central tenets of the Law of God?

Recall from our studies in the *Gospel of Luke* that Jesus saw himself as the continuation of the Old Testament redemptive story (Luke 24:26-27; 44-46). He came to fulfill the law (Deuteronomy 6:5; Luke 10:27) by faithfully obeying God even unto death (Philippians 2:8). Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy more than any other book of the Bible, demonstrating his faithfulness to and love for God's law. If you have listened to LMPC's most recent *Pillar and Ground* podcast, you might have heard Dr. Scott Jones asking the question, "What god comes into the world of the humans and covenants with them?" Only the Triune God has a "will to relationship" as characterized in the Old Testament covenant, a "will to relationship" that is defined by love, by covenant. According to Dr. Jones, "One of the things that is so central to the Old Testament is that they are the same thing: covenant is love and love is covenant."

- To "covenant" with someone is to define a relationship around certain promises or principles. Read John 14:15. How do we demonstrate our love?
- Jesus Christ gave his life that we might have life more abundantly (John 10:10). Read Matthew 19:28-29. The Greek word for "renewal" is *palingenesia* which means "genesis again" or "beginning again." How does this insight into "renewal" bring new meaning to the hope you have as a Christian?

As we continue our studies in Deuteronomy, pray that God will bring renewal to LMPC through the rediscovery of God's gracious covenant. As theologian R.C. Sproul once stated, "We need a new discovery of the law of God and the Word of God in our land. Yes, it needs to be rediscovered in the public square—but even more importantly it must be rediscovered in the house of God."¹

DATE: July 3, 2022

SPEAKER: Brian/Chad

SERIES: Deuteronomy

PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 1:1-8

Family Dinner Table

In the CCEF counseling book, *How People Change*, authors Timothy Lane and Paul Tripp share a practical roadmap toward personal, spiritual renewal through a lifestyle of faith and repentance which embraces the cross of Christ:

*"The Bible candidly depicts us as people who stray from God. Obedience requires radical change. Jeremiah 31 and Ezekiel 36 are filled with wonderful promises of an obedience that flows from the hearts recaptured by the living God. These verses ring with the optimism of the new covenant and heart renewal."*²

- Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. Broken relationships are hard to repair. God demonstrated unimaginable mercy by offering a fresh start to his people. How does this inform our own need to respond with grace towards others?

*"In the same way Ezekiel prophesies about the new covenant and the new heart."*³

- Read Ezekiel 36:24-28. What hope of renewal do we have today? How will renewal come to you? (See also Hebrews 9:11-15; I John 1:9.)

*"Notice how both passages connect God's law and the heart. Ezekiel 36:27 is particularly powerful in its description of a new heart compelled by the Spirit to obedience. It is a voluntary obedience springing from a heart that has been transformed and captivated by the Redeemer."*⁴

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Ridge Haven Conference Center,
denominational partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Gini and Dan, supported missionary
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¹Sproul, R.C. *Rediscovering the Law*. Ligonier.org. May 15, 2009. <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/rediscovering-law> June 28, 2022.

²⁻⁴Lane, Timothy and Tripp, Paul. *How People Change*. Greensboro. New Growth Press, 2006. 174-75