

*Titus Women Bible Study*

*Keeping Covenant – A Look at Deuteronomy*

Week 5 Homework – Deuteronomy 26-31

Day 1 – Read chapter 26.

This chapter is the end of Moses' third sermon, and it prescribes how the head of the household is to worship when God brings the Israelites into the land. After each family has been given their inheritance, they are to bring the firstfruit of the soil into the house of the Lord and give it to the priest. The priest places the gift on the altar, and then the worshipper declares in the story of God's deliverance and provision.

Outline this ceremony of bringing the first fruits into the house of the Lord (vs 1-11).

What does this ceremony signify? Why is it important that the firstfruit is brought into God's presence?

Why is it important that as part of the ceremony, the head of the household retells the story of God's redemption? The head of the household tells the story and not the priest.

What instructions are given in verse 11?

This was not a regularly scheduled festival – this was each individual family bringing the first tithe into the Lord's presence and remembering His faithfulness to keep His promises.

Apply this to your own family – Remember the goodness of God in your own life and offer to Him the sacrifice of thanksgiving.

Day 2 - Read chapter 27 and chapter 28

At the end of a covenant, curses are given for those who break faith. Most Ancient Near Eastern Covenants did not include blessings or only after the curses had been given. This covenant is different. We will see why in the next few verses. First of all, what were the people to do when they crossed the Jordan? Why is this ceremony significant?

In verses 9-10, Moses declares that the covenant has been re-established. What does he say?

What is the Levites responsibility in verse 14-26?

Look carefully at these curses. They reveal very important insights into the heart of God.

Which ones are secret sins?

Which ones deal with allegiance to YHWH?

Which ones deal with respect for family and community and caring for the vulnerable?

Which ones deal with sexual purity?

Which ones deal with violence?

You will find these themes occur repeatedly throughout Deuteronomy. Reflect briefly on each one. Hatred is not an emotional term in Deuteronomy; it means these sins involve breaking of the covenant. Deuteronomy makes it clear that these sins represent God's heart for His people and these actions involve breaking the covenant.

God hates idolatry (a divided heart)

God hates disrespect for family

God hates violation of property rights – taking what is not yours.

God hates mistreatment of the vulnerable

God hates sexual aberration and unfaithfulness

God hates violence against the innocent

In chapter 28, there are 199 words of blessing and 797 words of curses.

Reflect on verses 1-14 in light of John 10:10. The blessing covers all areas of life, and keeping covenant with YHWH involves all of life as well

In verses 15-68, the curses involve all of life as well. When covenant is broken with God, it affects the individual, the family, the community, and the land.

Confusion

Disease

Defeat

Blindness

Unsuccessful

Exile

Fruitlessness

Submission to Foreigners

Conquered

Desperation

Emotional Distress

Reflect on this chapter in light of the cross and Isaiah 53:1-6.

Day 3 – Read Matthew 23-25. This is Jesus' last word to the Israelites. He gives many warnings. Briefly outline these three chapters.

This is Jesus' last sermon to His people. What is He communicating in these chapters? What themes do you see reoccurring?

What similarities do you see with Deuteronomy?

What will it be like when the Master of the House (the God of the Covenant Returns)?

Day 4 – Read Chapters 29-30

Chapter 29 gives the official terms of the covenant. Outline this chapter.

What references are given to Israel's story and God's redemption?

What references are given to Israel's future and God's inheritance?

What admonitions are given about keeping covenant?

What warnings are given about giving covenant?

Day 5 – Read chapter 30

This is the final altar call of Deuteronomy. Outline this chapter.

What are the promises God gives to those who keep covenant with Him. Write out each promise.

Read verses 11-20 – this is the opportunity for the Israelites to “choose life or death,” write out the way of life and the way of death.

Moses calls on earth and heaven to witness against Israel. What is the blessing for the next generation?

What is the promise given at the close of the covenant ceremony?

What is Jesus speaking to your own heart this week? How can you apply what you have learned?

