

Titus Women Bible Study

Keeping Covenant – A Look at Deuteronomy

Week 4 Homework – The Seal of the Covenant

“You have declared this day that YHWH is your God and that you will walk in obedience to Him and you will keep his decrees, commands and laws – that you will listen to Him. And YHWH has declared this day that you are his people, his treasured possession as he promised and that you are to keep all his commands. He has declared that he will set you in praise, fame, and honor high above all the nations he has made and that you will be a people holy to YHWH your God, as He promised.” Deuteronomy 26:17-19

In our homework this week, we want to examine the third sermon 12-26. Chapters 12 and 13 set the stage for the sermon, and then 14-26 give the Lord’s instructions for how His people are to live in covenant with Him and with one another. As you work your way through these passages, ask yourself two questions.

1. What do these instructions teach us about the nature of the Covenant Keeping God?
2. What do these instructions teach us about covenant community?

You may not know the answer to those questions for each chapter, but keep those questions in mind and ask the Lord of the Covenant to make His heart known to you as you read Moses’ third sermon.

Day 1 - Read Deuteronomy Chapter 12

Outline chapter 12, looking for repeated themes and repeated words. Moses was a highly educated person, and the way he preaches reflects this.

What are the commands given in the first part of the chapter? Write out an explanation of each instruction given in these verses.

12:2

12:4

12:8

In verses 8-19, what specific instructions are given about how they are to worship YHWH? He is very particular in His commands. Why does the physical place of worship matter so much to YHWH?

In verses 20-28, what warnings and instructions does He give? And what promises accompany those warnings?

In verses 29-32, what clear warning and instruction does He give? Write these out one by one

Day 2 – Read Chapter 13

Outline this chapter, looking for warnings and promises.

Four different scenarios are given in these chapters. What are the possible scenarios? Why is Moses trying to warn the people of these possibilities? How is he trying to prepare them? Explain each situation and apply it to your own life.

12:29

13:1

13:6

13:12

Day 3 – Read chapters 14-16

Chapter 14 begins with the Gospel story – a record of God’s faithfulness. Look for these reminders of His goodness and faithfulness and make a record of them. Why do these occur before the instructions?

Chapter 14 begins with instructions on diet – clean and unclean. What observations do you make about the character of YHWH from verses 1-21?

Chapter 14:22-29 – Instructions on the Tithes

Read this carefully and make note of anything that impresses you. To set aside a tithe for worship is a mark of the people of the covenant, why do you think this is?

Chapter 15:1-18 – I love this chapter. This is revolutionary community ethics. Read it carefully and answer the questions, What does this say about our Redeemer God? What does He value?

Chapter 15:19-16:17 – Read about the celebrations and festivals. What do these celebrations say about the character of God? What impresses you in these regular scheduled celebrations?

Day 4 – Read chapters 17-19

Chapter 16:18-17:20 – This section is on the judges and law courts in Israel as well as the system of earthly authority. What impresses you about the character of YHWH in these passages? What applies to our own society?

Chapter 18 – This chapter deals with the Priests & Levites and gives a promise of the Messiah – the prophet like Moses who will come and speak in the name of YHWH. What impresses you about the character of YHWH in these passages?

Chapter 19 – This chapter deals with the cities of refuge and witnesses in a criminal trial. What impresses you about the character of YHWH? What matters to the heart of God for justice?

Day 5 – Read 20-23

Chapter 20 – This chapter speaks of warfare. What are the principles applied here, and what do we learn about YHWH? This is an incredibly interesting chapter, full of surprises.

Chapter 21-22 – Outline these two chapters and look for any signs of what God is interested in for His people. What surprises do you find in these chapters?

Chapter 23 - This chapter deals with those excluded from worship. Write out the reasons for the inclusion. What do you think God is trying to communicate? In verses 15-24, what specific laws do you see reflected in the New Testament.

Bonus Day – Day 6 😊

Read chapters 24-26

Chapter 24-25 are a series of miscellaneous laws. Write them out generally and look for signs of God's character in them.

Chapter 26 – This is the last chapter in sermon 3 and in the list of instructions. Moses ends with tithes and first fruits, and he also ends by telling again the story of Israel. Outline chapter 26 and notice how he retells Israel's story and then commands them to follow the covenant. What impresses you about this ending?

Sermon 3 ends in verses 16-19 with the actual seal of the covenant. Here are the words that ratify this covenant. Sounds very much like marriage vows. Write your reflections on this covenant with YHWH.

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