

The central requirement of the Law is to respond to God's grace with wholehearted obedience:

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!
You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, and with all your strength.

And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (Deut 6:4-9)

We must also seek to respond to God's grace with undivided and unceasing obedience, through faith in Jesus Christ and with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Sermon Series on Deuteronomy

**Zetland Evangelical Church
(August - October 2011)**

As they stood on the edge of the Promised Land, Moses urged the Israelites to remember God's grace and to obey him wholeheartedly.

Background

The Israelites were slaves in Egypt but God graciously rescued them through the hand of Moses, their leader. God brought the Israelites out of Egypt so that they could worship him and God made a covenant with them at Mount Sinai. A covenant is a solemn and enduring promise. God promised to be their God and the Israelites promised to be his people.

God also promised to give them a good land but, after sending spies and hearing of the size of their enemies, the Israelites refused to enter the land. So, as a punishment for their sin, they were forced to wander in the wilderness for forty years, until the whole generation that had rebelled against God had died. Now, as Moses speaks to the Israelites again, a new generation stands on the edge of the Promised Land.

These are the last words that Moses spoke to the Israelites before his death.

10:12-22 Love the Stranger

What does it mean to love God with all our heart and soul and strength? One important aspect of loving God is that we should show practical concern for the most vulnerable in our society.

11:1-32 Blessing and Curse

Obedience brings blessing; disobedience brings a curse. Jesus died to take the curse that we deserved. If we have faith in him, and if we remain obedient to him, we will receive a blessing.

Conclusion

God graciously rescued the Israelites from Egypt and he graciously entered into a covenant with them. The covenant explains God's promises to his people and what he required of them.

We too, if we are Christians, have been graciously rescued by God; we, too, have entered into a covenant with him through Jesus Christ. Although the Law of Moses has been fulfilled in Jesus, it is still a relevant guide for us if it is interpreted through him.

7:1-26 Holy War, The Nations and Our Sin

God told the Israelites to wage war against the seven nations that lived in the Promised Land. Now that Jesus Christ has come, we are called to wage war against our sin and to take the gospel to the nations, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

8:1-20 Times of Testing and the Living Bread

God tested his people for forty years in the wilderness. As they stood on the edge of the Promised Land, he called them to remember and not to forget. Are there certain things that God has taught you in the past that you need to remember now? Remember times of testing. Remember Jesus Christ.

9:1-10:11 The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

As Moses reminds the Israelites about their repeated rebellion, we also learn about God's abounding grace. God's grace came to Israel through Moses. God's grace comes to us through Jesus Christ.

Outline

Deuteronomy contains four farewell speeches by Moses (1:6-4:40, 5:1-26:19, 27:1-28:68; 29:1-30:20), followed by an epilogue (31:1-34:12). The speeches include a review of Israel's history, a great exhortation, detailed regulations and instructions about a covenant ceremony. The detailed regulations are contained in the central core of the book:

1:1-3:29	Historical Prologue
4:1-11:32	Great Exhortation
12:1-26:19	Detailed Regulations
27:1-30:20	Covenant Ceremony
31:1-34:12	Historical Epilogue

The structure of Deuteronomy resembles ancient treaties that were made between kings and subject nations: preamble (1:1-5); historical prologue (1:6-3:29); general regulations (4:1-40, 5:1-11:32); specific regulations (12-26); the covenant document (27:1-26); blessing for obedience and curse for disobedience (28:1-68).

The blessing and curse of the covenant shaped the whole of Israel's history. At first, they obeyed and they were

blessed; then they disobeyed and they were cursed. Finally, they fell under the ultimate covenant curse and they were exiled from the Promised Land.

On the cross, Jesus Christ took this curse upon himself (Gal 3:13). If we have faith in him, and if we seek to wholeheartedly obey him, we will be blessed.

Sermons

The sermons preached on Deuteronomy aimed: to declare the grace of God that is evident in the Old Testament and that is fully displayed in Jesus Christ; to show what a privilege it is to be in a covenant relationship with God and to highlight our responsibility to obey him; and to provide a basis for further Old and New Testament studies.

Recordings of these sermons can be downloaded from our website: www.zetlandchurch.org.uk. A brief outline of each sermon is given below:

4:44-5:22 God's Gracious Law

When was the law given? How was the law given? Why was the law given? If we want to benefit from studying Deuteronomy, we must understand that the law is an expression of God's grace. Rejoice in God's grace to the Israelites. Rejoice all the more, in God's grace to you.

5:23-33 Our Great God Is To Be Feared

When the Israelites heard the voice of God speaking from Mount Sinai they were terrified. If we are Christians, we are under the new covenant rather than the old. We have a better mediator than Moses. But we should still fear our great God.

6:1-25 What Does God Require Of Us?

When the Israelites were slaves in Egypt they had to give undivided and unceasing obedience to Pharaoh. Once they had been rescued from Egypt, what did God require of them? What does God require of us? He requires our undivided and unceasing obedience.