

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

Lessons from Deuteronomy

Good morning church and welcome to week 9 of our sermon series entitled...

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

Today we will be looking at the Book of Deuteronomy to see what we can learn. But before we do let's do a **quick flyover** and see what's in the book.

OVERVIEW OF DEUTERONOMY

FOCUS	MOSES' OPENING SPEECH		COLLECTION OF LAWS	MOSES' FINAL SPEECH
DIVISIONS	Chapters 1 - 3	Chapters 4 - 11	Chapters 12 - 26	Chapters 27 - 34
	Review of Israel's History and God's Faithfulness	10 Commandments <u>The Shema</u> Listen = Obedience One God = Worship Love = Devotion	<u>Israel's Worship</u> One Temple and One God <u>Israel's Leaders</u> Elders, Priests, Kings <u>Israel's Civil Life</u> Marriage, Family, Business <u>Israel's Social Justice</u> Widows, Orphans, Immigrants <u>More Worship Laws</u> Tithes & Offerings God's Special People	<u>Warnings & Ultimatum Given</u> Listen and Obey = Divine Blessings Don't Listen and Rebel = Destruction and Exile Moses' Altar Call <u>Moses' Prophecy</u> The People will Rebel God Will Give them a New Heart <u>Moses' Final Words and Death</u> Moses' Song Moses' Blessings Moses' Death on Mt. Nebo
PLACE	East Side of the Jordan River Across from the Promised Land			
KEY VERSE	6:4 -9; 10:12-14; 30:19-20			
THEME	Love God and Obey Him			

Following the pattern of the last few sermons we are going to look **at three key lessons** from Deuteronomy this morning. All three of them are taken from the **key verses** of the book. I want to see how they build on other.

1. The Priority of Loving God, 6:4-9

Deuteronomy 6:4–9 (NKJV) — 4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 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. 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.

These verses are referred to as the “**SHEMA**” and they bring all the themes of the book into focus. The “**SHEMA**” was fashioned into a **daily prayer** by the Jews and is **still recited daily today**. Let’s look at...

First, we get a **theological lesson** about God. Moses reminds the people that God is One. Unlike their neighbors who are **polytheistic**, worshipping multiple gods, the Israelites worship the **ONE TRUE GOD!**

But who is this ONE TRUE GOD? One of the beauties of the book is that it gives us some of the wonderful **attributes of God**. For example,

- ⇒ He is Jealous God, 4:24
- ⇒ He is A Merciful God, 4:31
- ⇒ He is Our Faithful God, 7:9
- ⇒ He is Our Loving God, 7:13

Secondly, we get a **three-fold exhortation**.

- ⇒ **To Hear**

To call to hear is a **call to obey**. As **parents we knew** well what Moses is trying to say. How many times have we said things to our children, and they heard us, but they didn’t hear us? They didn’t do what we said.

As followers of Christ, we too need to hear – obey. The writer of **Hebrew in chapter 5** wanted to teach his audience some theological truths about Jesus, but they were too “**dull of hearing**” to receive it.

Moses' exhortation is for us...we must HEAR!

⇒ **To Love**

Loving God is much **more that an emotional response**. But before we move on, I must say that there are times when my **emotions are engaged** in loving God. I don't know where we got this idea that we cannot express emotions in our walk with Christ. But all **throughout the bible** God's people have expressed emotions toward God.

But loving God is more than emotions. **Loving God is a commitment** we make to Him, it is our devotion to Him. There are many times when I am absolutely emotionally in love with Marina, but then there are times when I'm not feeling it...but I don't divorce her. I'm committed to her and I am committed to Him.

Moses said to love God with all our **heart, soul and strength**. Not so much categories as it speaks to **intensity, whole heartedness, or complete devotion**. There is not an area of my love that doesn't demonstrate my love for God.

⇒ **To Teach**

Finally, Moses says that we should pass this truth along to our children. If you want to homeschool...here is **your curriculum and your methodology**.

- Be persistent
- Be intentional
- Be creative

The Priority of Loving God, now let's see...

2. The Priority of Living for God, 10:12-13

Deuteronomy 10:12–13 (NKJV) — 12 “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good?”

Here Moses exhorts the people to live for God. We can love God but our love for Him is **expressed in our living for Him**. Moses give **5 exhortations**...

⇒ **Fear God**

Most of the time when we talk about fearing God we speak about **reverence, awe, and worship**. And all those are true. We should have a **reverential respect** for God. When we talk about Him, when we approach Him in prayer and when we worship, we should be **mindful of who He is and should be awe before Him**.

I'm going to be unpopular here for a minute. If we truly fear God, it **will instill in us a fear of God**. We should **tremble when we flippantly speak** about Him, when we **worship with half-heartedly** and **offer Him the leftovers** of our lives. He is God, High and Lifted up! Almighty!

I think we have talked so much about fear being worship, that we have lost a **healthy fear of God**. It seems to me that Christians today have attacked God's man, God's church and God's Word and don't seem to be afraid at all about it. Let me warn you, you should be afraid because one day you will **stand before Him and give an account**.

⇒ **Walk with God**

Walking with God is our daily **privilege and responsibility**. Walking refers to **daily living**. Are we living our lives by walking with God? Do I separate my secular life from my religious life?

Walking with Him **impacts every aspect of my life**.

⇒ **Love God (ALREADY COVERED SEE POINT 1)**

⇒ **Serve God**

To be in **service for the King of kings is a great joy**. We get to serve the One who died and rose again to give us life. Too many believers look at serving God as **a burden**, but in reality, what is a burden is all the **stipulations** we put on serving.

Sometimes in church we get things wrong. We have a **tendency to...**

- Put **unqualified or ungifted** people in the wrong places
- Let people off the hook and give them an easy out for not serving
- Not provide a place of service or be inclusive enough
- Talk about the joy of serving the Lord by serving others

Everyone should serve the Lord!

⇒ **Obey God**

Let me just say a quick word here...if **you love God you will obey Him.**

Just this weekend I read Jesus' words in...

John 14:15 (NKJV) — 15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.

We have seen...

- **The Priority of Loving God**
- **The Priority of Living for God**

3. The Priority of Clinging to God, 30:19-20

Deuteronomy 30:19–20 (NKJV) — 19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; 20 that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

Can you see how each of these key verses **are building on each other**? We moved from Loving God to Living for God and now here in this verse he adds Cling to God.

A **parent understands very well what it means for their children to cling** to them. I can remember a few years ago I was standing in the foyer of our

church and a little girl came up and grabbed my leg thinking I was her daddy. She held tight until she finally realized I wasn't who she thought I was and then she let go in a hurry.

Moses is telling us to **hold onto God tightly**, He is our Daddy, and we are His children!

Over the past few weeks, I have been **challenged to let go of things** that I have been holding on to too tightly as the expense of not clinging to God as I should have.

I am convinced that there **are some of you like me doing the same thing**. You are holding on tightly to things...careers, money, children, or dreams as the expense of not clinging to God.

What will you let go of today to cling to God? **Corrie Tin Boon said...**

"Hold everything in your hands lightly, otherwise it hurts when God pries your fingers open."

Moses said...CLING TO GOD! WHY?

"FOR HE IS YOUR LIFE"

The Lord Jesus in His high priestly prayer said...

John 17:3 (NKJV) — 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

And Paul reminds us in...

Colossians 3:4 (NKJV) — 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

HE IS OUR LIFE!!!!

CONCLUSION:

What one thing will you apply from the sermon today?

Is there anything to you need to repent of this morning?