

Why Deuteronomy?

June 4, 2023 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

Jesus liked it. (It's useable and applicable.)

It demonstrates the importance of teaching God's ways to the coming generations.

It inspires obedience as a right response to God's love.

¹ And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴ And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" ⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ And Jesus answered him, "It is written,

"'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'"

⁹ And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

"'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,'"

¹¹ and

"'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

¹² And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time. (*Luke 4:1-13*)

¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them." (*Deuteronomy 30:19-20*)

"Therefore you shall love the Lord your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always." (*Deuteronomy 11:1*)

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (*John 14:15*)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What has been your experience with the book of Deuteronomy?

Read and Discuss: Luke 4:1-13

1. Looking over this passage, what can we learn about Satan? Although Satan is interacting with Jesus here, can we expect Satan to engage with us in similar ways? Explain.
2. Every time Jesus responds to Satan (vv. 4, 8, 12), He quotes from Deuteronomy (*Specifically Deut. 8:3, 6:16, 16:13*). Looking at these verses in Deuteronomy and Jesus' use of them in Luke, what principles might we learn in applying this book in our own context? What might be an example of improperly applying Deuteronomy to our context?

Read and Discuss: Deuteronomy 30:19-20

3. According to these verses, what does God want for His people? How are these desires consistent with what God accomplishes in the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
4. This verse speaks of God's desire for not only that generation, but their descendants (v. 19). What have you learned about passing down God's truth to the next generation? How do we do this effectively?
5. These verses also indicate that God is a promise-keeping God (v. 20b). Why is it so essential that we think of God in this way? What are some promises of God that inspire you to walk closely with Him?

Read and Discuss: Deuteronomy 11:11 and John 14:15

6. Why would God expect obedience from those who claim to love Him? In your life, what effect has your obedience had on your relationship with God? Have you observed any other effects of obedience?

Apply: What are you looking forward to as we work our way through Deuteronomy?

Pray: Pray God would use our time in Deuteronomy to cause our joy and faith in Him to deepen greatly.