

The Book of Deuteronomy

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Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we begin our study of the book of **Deuteronomy**. This is the fifth book of Moses, closing what we call the Pentateuch and what the Jews call "the Torah" or the Law of Moses.

The name "Deuteronomy" is Latin and means "the second law," because in this book the Law is given a second time. The book's purpose is to instruct the second generation of Israelites, those who had been born during the wilderness wanderings and had not been present for the giving of the original Law at Mount Sinai.

The book of **Deuteronomy** is both **backward-looking** (reminding the new generation of what God had already said and how the previous generation had rebelled against God's commands) and **forward-looking**, preparing the new generation for their entry into the Promised Land. The backward-looking aspect of the message of **Deuteronomy** is summarized in **9:7**: "Remember this and never forget..." The forward-looking aspect of the message of **Deuteronomy** is summarized in **9:1**: "Hear, O Israel. You are now about to cross the Jordan and go in..."

We will study the book of **Deuteronomy** over three morning studies, divided up as follows:

- ➔ **Chapters 1-12**
- ➔ **Chapters 13-26**
- ➔ **Chapters 27-34**

So pull up a comfortable chair, read **Deuteronomy 1-12** and answer for yourself the following questions:

- ➔ Why does **Deuteronomy** repeat much of history and commandments already recorded in **Exodus, Leviticus** and **Numbers**?
- ➔ Why do you think God did not allow Moses to enter the Promised Land? (**3:23-28**).
- ➔ Under the Law of Moses, what is the source of blessing and curse? (**11:26-28**).
- ➔ How do you think this has changed for us under the New Covenant? (**Ephesians 1:3**).

Memory Verse

For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.

Hebrews 4:2

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!