

# Deuteronomy: God's Covenant People

[#1] Covenant Renewal – Deuteronomy 1:1–5

**Sermon Outline – July 16, 2017**

## Children's Sermon: The Best Spiritual Gift

What kinds of gifts does the Holy Spirit give to us?  
Do you know what gift He has given every true Christian?

### **1 Corinthians 12:3 (NLT)**

So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say *Jesus is Lord*, except by the Holy Spirit.

What does it mean to say, 'Jesus is Lord?'  
Is Jesus your Lord?

When you get baptized you are saying that 'Jesus is Lord.'  
Only the Holy Spirit can make you mean it!

## *What's a Covenant & Why does it Matter?*

Notes:

### *Today's Clear Biblical Bullet...*

Moses is reminding Israel to stay true to their covenant with Yahweh. Only he can secure the Promised Land.



### **Personal love & intimacy - Binding legal force of Law**

"A covenant is a relationship... more loving and intimate than a merely legal relationship. Yet, more binding, enduring and accountable than a merely personal relationship. ...it's a stunning blend of law and love."<sup>1</sup>

## The Structure of Deuteronomy

### **The Lord's Service**

Covenant renewal is the best way to understand our weekly worship services.

The book of Deuteronomy is structured according to a **suzerain/vassal treaty** of the second millennium B.C.:

1. Deuteronomy 1:1–5 is a preamble. "These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel...<sup>5</sup>...Moses undertook to *explain this law*, saying..."

<sup>1</sup> Tim Keller. 2009 Sermon, "A Covenant Relationship"

2. **Deuteronomy 1:6–4:43** reviews the history of the relationship between Yahweh and Israel.
3. **Deuteronomy 4:44–26:19** are the stipulations of the covenant (10 Commandments). (Cf. **John 14:15-17**)
4. **Deuteronomy 27:1–4** is a statement of display. When the Israelites cross the Jordan River into the promised land, then they are to erect a series of large stones, coat them with lime plaster and write on them the words of the covenant document that has been given to them. These are to serve as a symbol and a reminder of the covenant promises and duties.
5. **Deuteronomy 27:5–29:1** are the blessings and curses of the covenant.
6. **Deuteronomy 29:2–30:20** is an oath of allegiance on the part of the vassal to the covenant.
7. **Deuteronomy 31:1–32:47** define the witnesses to the covenant.

## The Preamble: Who, When, Where & Why

### **Deuteronomy 1:1–5**

<sup>1</sup> **These are the words** that **Moses spoke** to **all Israel** beyond the Jordan in the wilderness, in the Arabah opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab. <sup>2</sup> It is eleven days' journey from **Horeb** by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea. <sup>3</sup> **In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses spoke to the people of Israel according to all that the Lord had given him in commandment to them,** <sup>4</sup> **after** he had defeated **Sihon** the king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, and **Og** the king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth and in Edrei. <sup>5</sup> **Beyond the Jordan,** in the land of Moab, **Moses** undertook to **explain** this law, saying...

### **Deuteronomy 4:39–40**

<sup>39</sup> know therefore today, and **lay it to your heart, that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.** <sup>40</sup> Therefore you shall **keep his statutes** and his commandments, which I command you today,

*that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land that the Lord your God is giving you for all time.”*

Success in possessing the promised land lay not in military prowess and strength, but in an unbroken covenant relationship with the Lord, who alone could bring further victories like those over Sihon and Og (1:4).<sup>2</sup>

## *A People Zealous for Obedience*

*...Fired at our Life & Heart*

Do you want to be great in God's kingdom?

Trust, obey and give yourself away!



### **Titus 2:11–14**

<sup>11</sup> *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,* <sup>12</sup> **training us** to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> *waiting for our blessed hope,* the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> *who gave himself for us to redeem us* from all lawlessness and to purify for himself **a people for his own possession** who are *zealous for good works.*

### **Our Covenant Obedience to Jesus is Motivated by...**

- Faith in God
- Hope for God
- Love of God

### **Our Covenant Obedience to Jesus Declares...**

- Only Jesus can defeat the enemy
- Only Jesus can protect his people
- Only Jesus can bring us home

**We are bound by covenant to Jesus. Find out what he wants us to do and do that!**

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<sup>2</sup> Craigie, P. C. (1976). *The Book of Deuteronomy* (p. 92). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.