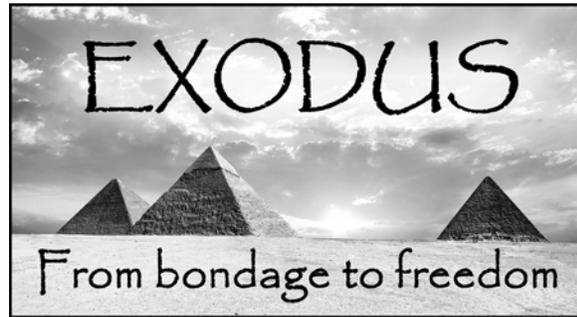


STUDY GUIDE

Week 7: Deuteronomy 29 & 30

Choose Life, that You May Live

October 30, 2016



Before you begin this study, ask the Holy Spirit to show you what God is saying in these scriptures

Day 1: Read Deuteronomy 29

1. Where are Moses and the Israelites as this chapter begins? (see map from the first week)
2. Moses is instructed to convey the terms of the covenant in Moab. The wording reflects the renewal of the Mosaic covenant and also indicates an addition to it. What is the covenant that God made with them at Horeb?
3. What is the point that Moses is making in verses 2-8? Most all the people who left Egypt have died at this point. What do you think Moses meant in verse 3 when he says "With your own eyes you saw those great trials..."?
4. In verses 9-15, it is clear that this covenant is unconditional, but that they will prosper, or be able to enjoy the full benefits of the covenant through obedience. Have you ever repented of sin to find that your life was fuller and more enjoyable once you gave up that which you thought you needed or wanted?
5. Verses 22-28 are prophetic. Do you think that these verses apply to the Babylonian Exile or to the Assyrian and Babylonian invasions and captivity? Why or why not? (See 2 Kings 17: 1-8; 2 Kings 25: 8-12; Isaiah 1: 7, Isaiah 8: 4; Isaiah 9: 19; Isaiah 10: 5-6; Jeremiah 44: 2-6; Micah 5: 10-15.)

Digging deeper: Why are some people able to hear and understand? Study Deuteronomy 29:4, Matthew 13:11-15 and Romans 11:7-10.

Day 2: Read Deuteronomy 30: 1-10

1. This passage begins with the word "When", not "If". How certain can we be that these things will come to pass?
2. God makes some wonderful promises to Israel in this passage. What is the promise of verse 1? Verse 2? Verses 3 and 5? Verses 3-5? Verse 6? Verse 7? Verse 9?
3. In verse 6, what is meant by "God will circumcise your hearts"? (See also Genesis 17: 11 and Deuteronomy 10: 16.)
4. Look at Ezekiel 36:24-28. Compare and contrast this to Deuteronomy 30:1-10.
5. Compare the covenant described in Deuteronomy 30: 1-10 with the covenant described in Exodus 19: 3-6. What similarities and differences do you see?

Day 3: Read Deuteronomy 30: 11-14

1. Who is the speaker of this passage? What is the commandment discussed here? What does God say about what He is commanding?
2. In verses 12 and 13, where is God's command not to be found? What is the significance of using these phrases? How might we say the same thing today?
3. Read Isaiah 45:19. Does this passage illuminate the Deuteronomy passage more fully? What precisely is God communicating to His people? What challenge or responsibility is inherent in each of the passages?
4. Look at Romans 10: 6-10. In this passage, Paul gives us an application of the Deuteronomy passage: he applies the passage to Christ. Do you see Christ clearly in Deuteronomy 30:14?

Day 4: Read Deuteronomy 30: 11-18

1. In verse 15, what choices is God setting before the Israelites?
2. In verse 16, what is involved in choosing life and prosperity? What are the people to do? What will God do?
3. In verse 17, what behaviors are described? In verse 18, what will happen if people choose these behaviors? Do you agree with Deuteronomy 30: 11 that these commands are not too difficult or beyond their reach?
4. In John 14: 15-21, Jesus speaks to us too about obedience. What does He promise us? What assistance will He provide?
5. Read Jeremiah 24. Jeremiah warned God's people that an exile was coming. In this chapter, he tells them that God will work on the hearts of the exiles that they might turn back to Him. In Deuteronomy 30:14, Moses tells Israel that the word was very near to them. Have there been times in your life when you turned away, but through the estrangement you see that God prepared you to once again have a heart to know Him?

Day 5: Read Deuteronomy 30: 19-20

1. In verse 19, God calls heaven and earth to witness against the people. What impact do you think this statement had on the people? (See Deuteronomy 31: 28 and 32; Joshua 24: 22; Psalm 50: 4; Isaiah 1: 2.)
2. In verse 19, God asks His people to choose life. What will this allow? What blessings does this bring?
3. In verse 19, note the pairings: life and death; blessing and curse. See Deuteronomy 11: 26-32. What is the blessing? What is it dependent on? What is the curse? What is it dependent on?
4. Verse 20 says that the Lord is our life. Read Deuteronomy 32: 46-47; Deuteronomy 30: 20; and John 11:25 and 14:6. In all of these verses, what does life refer to?

Day 6

(If you have the book Leaving Egypt, read chapters 13 and 14. If you do not have the book, consider how you might respond to these questions based on your own experiences and understanding.)

1. On page 175, DeGroat states that “like the Israelites, we can leave Egypt but it takes a long time for Egypt to leave us. We carry around our hurts and resentments like weapons.” How do you effectively let go of hard feelings, anger and bitterness? Do you resent being told to let go of things? Jesus teaches that not holding on to things brings us closer to God. Look at Matthew 19:21 and 5:44. Do these passages help you to progress or do you find them discouraging?

2. Look at page 186. The theologian Nouwen teaches: “Each time you dare to let go and to surrender one of those many fears, your hand opens a little and your palms spread out in a gesture of receiving.” Do you ever look back at something you hung on to emotionally to find that when giving it up you received grace? He believes we need several things in order to relinquish the things which possess us. These are:
 - a. We need trusted friends, others who are on the same journey.
 - b. We need the spiritual practices of the church for strength and an understanding of our true needs.
 - c. We need scripture in order to live faithfully.

How have your friends, your church family and practices, and your Bible study equipped you to let go of things that hold you in bondage? Do you find all of these to be of equal value in your struggles?

3. On page 193, DeGroat says “Entering the promised land, however, requires us to become unburdened, freed from the many false selves that hold us captive. While the wilderness exposes false selves, it is difficult to live honestly, to live consistently, to live wholly. This is why we need community.” Where do you find community? What does it offer you? What has helped you to see your false selves? (Note: a false self is an identity we create to protect us from further pain, to gain acceptance and approval: this usually results from difficult things we experienced early in life.)