

WEEK TEN INTRODUCTION

Week 10 vaults us from the end of Numbers into the heart of Deuteronomy. Numbers closes with a new generation of Israelites poised to enter the promised land. The previous generation died in the wilderness because of their unbelieving disobedience. The picture is clear as Tom Schreiner notes, “Only an obedient people who live under his [the LORD’s] lordship will enter the land.” Despite their unbelief in the wilderness, the formation of a new generation demonstrates that the Lord keeps His covenant promises.

In Deuteronomy, which means “second law,” progresses along Moses’ last three speeches to the people. Peter Vogt states, “At the heart of the Deuteronomic world view is the supremacy of Yahweh. One of the primary goals of the book is to inculcate a sense of total loyalty to him.” James Hamilton succinctly outlines Deuteronomy in this way:

1. Deuteronomy chapters 1-3 reviews Israel’s history from Sinai to the plains of Moab.
2. Chapters 4-11 is motivation for Israel to keep the law.
3. 12-28 states the requirements and conditions of the covenant.
4. In chapters 29-34 Moses gives his last will and testament.

KEY SCRIPTURE

Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

– Deuteronomy 6:4-5

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Numbers 28-29 repeats the offerings and the days of “sacred assembly.” Why do you think this repetition is given here on the cusp of entering the promised land? What does this mean for life ahead? Would you see God’s commandment about the future hopeful or discouraging? Why?

Why is Moses upset with the Reubenites and Gadites in Numbers 32:6-15? What is at stake in “discouraging the Israelites” (vv. 7, 9)? What event is Moses referring to? Notice that the phrase “discouraging the Israelites” occurs twice matching the repetition of “they did not/did remain loyal...” in verses 11 and 12. Discouraging God’s people is equated with disloyalty to God. How are the Reubenites and Gadites different? (see Num. 32:17-18) Take a moment and consider how absence discourages and presence encourages. Apply those thoughts to your life with your church family.

Look at Numbers 33:52. Why do you think God instructs the people this way? Compare/contrast these thoughts as you read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.

Read Deuteronomy 1:8. What does this verse say about God in relation to the activity of the people of Israel? Which is first, God's promise or the people's action? What is the relationship between grace and obedience?

In Deut. 1:29-31, what is Moses' response to the people's refusal to enter the land upon the report of the spies? How does he seek to build courage and faith in them? What encouragements about God can you find in these verses?

What does Moses say to Joshua in Deut. 3:21-22? Moses notes God's past action, the promise of God's future action, and the response in Joshua that ought to arise from the reality of who God is and what He does. How can you apply this principle? Who brings us into the promised land of the Kingdom of God? How does He do that? What promises has He given to get us there? How, then, should we live now?

Parents, spend focused time on Deut. 4:9; 6:4-9; and 11:18-21. What are some immediate applications of these verses to your homes?

According to Deut. 7:7-8, the Lord loves His people because He loves His people. What type of people and action should flow from His unmerited love? Spend time examining verses 9-11.

Deuteronomy 12 is bookended in verses 4 and 31 with "You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way." Why is it significant that God tells Israel not just *to* worship Him but also *how* to worship him?

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

“Therefore, love the LORD your God and always keep his mandate and his statutes, ordinances, and commands.” -**Deuteronomy 11:1**

Take an inventory of your obedience to Jesus. Are there areas of your life that are not marked by the lordship of Jesus Christ? Surrender them to Him today. He loves you because He loves you, not *because* of your obedience. We obey *because* He loves us and we love Him.