

WEEK ELEVEN INTRODUCTION

In Week 11 we finish the first major section of the Bible called the *Pentateuch* or the *Torah*. *Pentateuch* means “five books,” referring to Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. *Torah* is the Jewish designation of the same books meaning “law” or “instruction.” These five books form an essential foundation for the story of God revealed in the rest of Scripture. The second half of Deuteronomy gives instructions for festivals, officials, civil law as well as other laws of God’s covenant with Israel. Deuteronomy then closes with the curses and blessings of the covenant (27:1-29:1), a historical review (29:2-30:20), the Song of Moses (31:30-32:44), Moses’ blessings upon the tribes (33:1-29), and the death of Moses (34:1-12). (This outline is adapted from *Deuteronomy* by Eugen Merrill in the New American Commentary series)

ACT II SCENE FOUR INTRODUCTION

Week 11 also introduces a new scene in Act II. Scene four sees the land promise of God, given so long ago now to Abraham, realized as Joshua leads the people of Israel across the Jordan river into the land of Canaan. The Lord commits Himself to seeing the people planted in the land. He says to Joshua in 1:3, “I have given you every place where the sole of your foot treads, just as I promised Moses.”

KEY SCRIPTURE

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

– Joshua 1:9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What three feasts are described in Deuteronomy 16? What does each signify? Why do you think each contains remembrance and rejoicing? What celebrations do Christians have, commanded in Scripture, that help us remember and rejoice in Christ?

Deut. 18:9-14 describes the customs and practices of the nations then living in Canaan as well as Israel’s standard. What are some of “the detestable customs” practiced by the people of the land? Can you see

some of those practices, or ones similar, in our culture today? Name some of them. Look at Deut. 18:13. How was Israel to live? How are we, as followers of Jesus Christ, called to live in this world? Read Phil. 2:14-16; Eph. 4:17-32; 1 Peter 1:13-17, 2:11-12.

What principle of justice do you see in Deut. 22:1-4? How does that principle still work in just societies today?

Deut. 24:10-22 orders justice for the poor and vulnerable. How do God's commands here protect and provide for the poor? How should Christians pursue the same ends?

Consider Deut. 25:4. What does the verse explicitly say? What two places in the New Testament does the Apostle Paul quote this verse? How does he use this law?

What are the blessings for obedience in Deut. 28? Curses for disobedience? Look carefully at verses 36-37; 45-52. Read 2 Chron. 7:19-22. From what you know, can you point to how these blessings and, particularly, these curses come upon the people of Israel in the events recorded in the Old Testament? What's a lesson we should learn? Read Romans 10:11-12.

What choice does Moses leave with the people of Israel in Deut. 30:11-20? How is this similar yet dissimilar to the choice before us today? Read Romans 10:1-13

How does God equip Joshua (Deut. 34:9)? Read Matt. 3:16-17. What parallels do you see between Joshua and Jesus? How is Jesus the *true* and *better* Joshua?

Read Joshua 1:6-9 in the context of Joshua's leadership. What is the most crucial element of his leadership of the people of Israel? How can we apply this principle in the areas of our own influence?

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

“Choose life...love the LORD your God, obey him, and remain faithful to him.” -**Deuteronomy 30:19b-20a**

How will you choose life and love the Lord this week? Who needs to hear the news of your life in Jesus Christ?