



CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT THE RELIGION

BIBLE SURVEY

THE UN-DEVOTIONAL

DEUTERONOMY

Week 1

Before You Begin Your Journey...

Israel is camped on the plains and pastures of Moab. To the west west they can see the Jordan River and the Promised Land beyond. This is the setting for the book of Deuteronomy. Moses reminded the Israelites what the past 40 years meant to them, he rehearsed goals and objectives with them and he instructed them to remember their calling and mission.

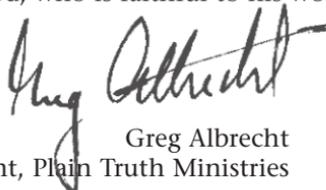
One author suggests that the theme of Deuteronomy is given in chapter 6, verse 23. "But he brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land that he promised on oath to our forefathers."

As you read and study Deuteronomy, remember that God brought you out that he might bring you in. Remember that he is faithful and will never forsake you. He has rescued us that we might live the new life in Christ, as Jesus tells us in John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

God's kingdom is *already, but not yet*. The kingdom of God came to us in the person of Jesus, and he is still here. Christians experience the kingdom now as Jesus lives his life within us (Gal 2:20).

But the kingdom of God is also *not yet*—it is not yet here in its fullness. As Christian pilgrims we live in this world and within our body of flesh, constantly dealing with the trials and difficulties of this temporary existence we now experience. All the while we look forward to the fullness of the kingdom and the second coming of our Lord and Savior, when we will cross the River Jordan into the eternal kingdom and the new Jerusalem.

Enjoy your trip through Deuteronomy and cherish your relationship with the one true God, who is faithful to his word.



Greg Albrecht
President, Plain Truth Ministries

How to Use the CWR Bible Survey...

1—Read and study at your own pace. This is a devotional. It is designed to help you consider and ponder the great truths of God's written revelation. It is designed to help you worship and come to know God. If you get behind, you can always catch up.

2—We suggest you set aside a special time for the *CWR Bible Survey* every day. We recommend allowing 30-45 minutes, but even if you can only spare 15 minutes, try to make it part of your regular schedule.

3—You will need a good Bible. This might be an excellent time for you to consider purchasing a new Bible. Plain Truth Ministries recommends the *New King James Study Bible* published by Thomas Nelson and the *New International Version Study Bible* published by Zondervan.

4—Always read the assigned passage of the daily lesson in your Bible first. Each daily lesson builds upon the portion of the Bible being covered that day. You may want to begin by praying about what God has in store for you as you read, and then look at the questions and background information.

5—Consider the format of each daily lesson. Almost every daily lesson will include:

• **Opening Up to the Word** —a section designed to help you open your mind to the teaching God has inspired.

• **Digging Into the Word**—this section will encourage you to get your nose into the Bible and think deeply about what it says.

• **Living Out the Word**—here you will be challenged to consider the practical implications for your life. How does this passage help you live?

• **Window On the Word**—will offer key insights to help you more clearly understand the daily Bible passage.

6—After you finish the daily lesson, take some quiet time. You may simply think, look out the window, take a walk, or even get down on your knees. But use this time to let this daily lesson sink in. Ask God to show you what he wants you to understand from your reading and study.

7—Consider the *CWR Bible Survey* for small groups in which you may be involved. Tell your friends about it. If you are involved in a small group that meets for prayer and Bible study, introduce your group to it. Many are seeking an easy-to-read guide to help them understand the Bible and to help them know God. the *CWR Bible Survey* can do that!

8—Remember that while we may refer to the Bible as the word of God—the Eternal Word of God is noneother than Jesus, who inspired the Scriptures to be written by human instruments. Words on paper may tell us about him—but it is not the words that we worship—it is Jesus Christ, the Eternal Word.

•Abbreviations Used in the *CWR Bible Survey*—

Genesis	Ge	Nahum	Na
Exodus	Ex	Habakkuk	Hab
Leviticus	Lev	Zephaniah	Zep
Numbers	Nu	Haggai	Hag
Deuteronomy	Dt	Zechariah	Zec
Joshua	Jos	Malachi	Mal
Judges	Jdg	Matthew	Mt
Ruth	Ru	Mark	Mk
1 Samuel	1Sa	Luke	Lk
2 Samuel	2Sa	John	Jn
1 Kings	1Ki	Acts	Ac
2 Kings	2Ki	Romans	Ro
1 Chronicles	1Ch	1 Corinthians	1Co
2 Chronicles	2Ch	2 Corinthians	2Co
Ezra	Ezr	Galatians	Gal
Nehemiah	Ne	Ephesians	Eph
Esther	Est	Philippians	Php
Job	Job	Colossians	Col
Psalms	Ps	1 Thessalonians	1Th
Proverbs	Pr	2 Thessalonians	2Th
Ecclesiastes	Ecc	1 Timothy	1Ti
Song of Songs	SS	2 Timothy	2Ti
Isaiah	Isa	Titus	Tit
Jeremiah	Jer	Philemon	Phm
Lamentations	La	Hebrews	Heb
Ezekiel	Eze	James	Jas
Daniel	Da	1 Peter	1Pe
Hosea	Hos	2 Peter	2Pe
Joel	Joel	1 John	1Jn
Amos	Am	2 John	2Jn
Obadiah	Ob	3 John	3Jn
Jonah	Jnh	Jude	Jude
Micah	Mic	Revelation	Rev

DEUTERONOMY

Renewing
the
Covenant

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Introduction to Deuteronomy

Authorship: According to Jewish and Christian tradition, Moses compiled or authored the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. However, many parts of the text may have been edited or added later. For example, Deuteronomy 34 records Moses' own death. It's possible that this final chapter was written by Joshua. Regardless of one's position on authorship, this much is clear: the book of Deuteronomy represents the teaching and words of Moses.

Date: Deuteronomy takes place after the Exodus from Egypt, while the Israelites were in the wilderness, before they entered the Promised Land (Canaan). Thus the time frame for this book could be as early as 1400 B.C., or later (see the introduction to Exodus in this series for a discussion of the dating of the Exodus event). The powerful nations of that time were the Egyptians to the south and the Hittites to the north of Canaan.

Setting and purpose: The very name *Deuteronomy* identifies the purpose of this writing. The title is made up of two Greek words: *deuteros* meaning "second" and *nomos* meaning "law." The combined words suggest a "second law" or a "repetition of the law." Deuteronomy is a restating of the laws found in the earlier four books. The book records Moses' final words to the people of Israel just before they enter the Promised Land. Moses restates the Law because a new generation of Israelites was about to enter the Promised Land. The challenge issued by Moses to this new generation was to renew the earlier covenant with God which their parents had violated.

Distinctive features: Unlike the previous four books of the Bible, Deuteronomy is not made up of events but of speeches by Moses. First there is a review of history in which Moses emphasizes God's great acts on behalf of his people. Next there is a review of God's laws. Finally, there is a review of the covenant between God and his people.

In this book, we are given some of the major themes of Judaism. For example, Israelite concepts of sin, punishment and reward

are discussed. This book describes a God who is actively involved with his people. It is in Deuteronomy that we read what has become a major tenet of Judaism: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one" (6:4).

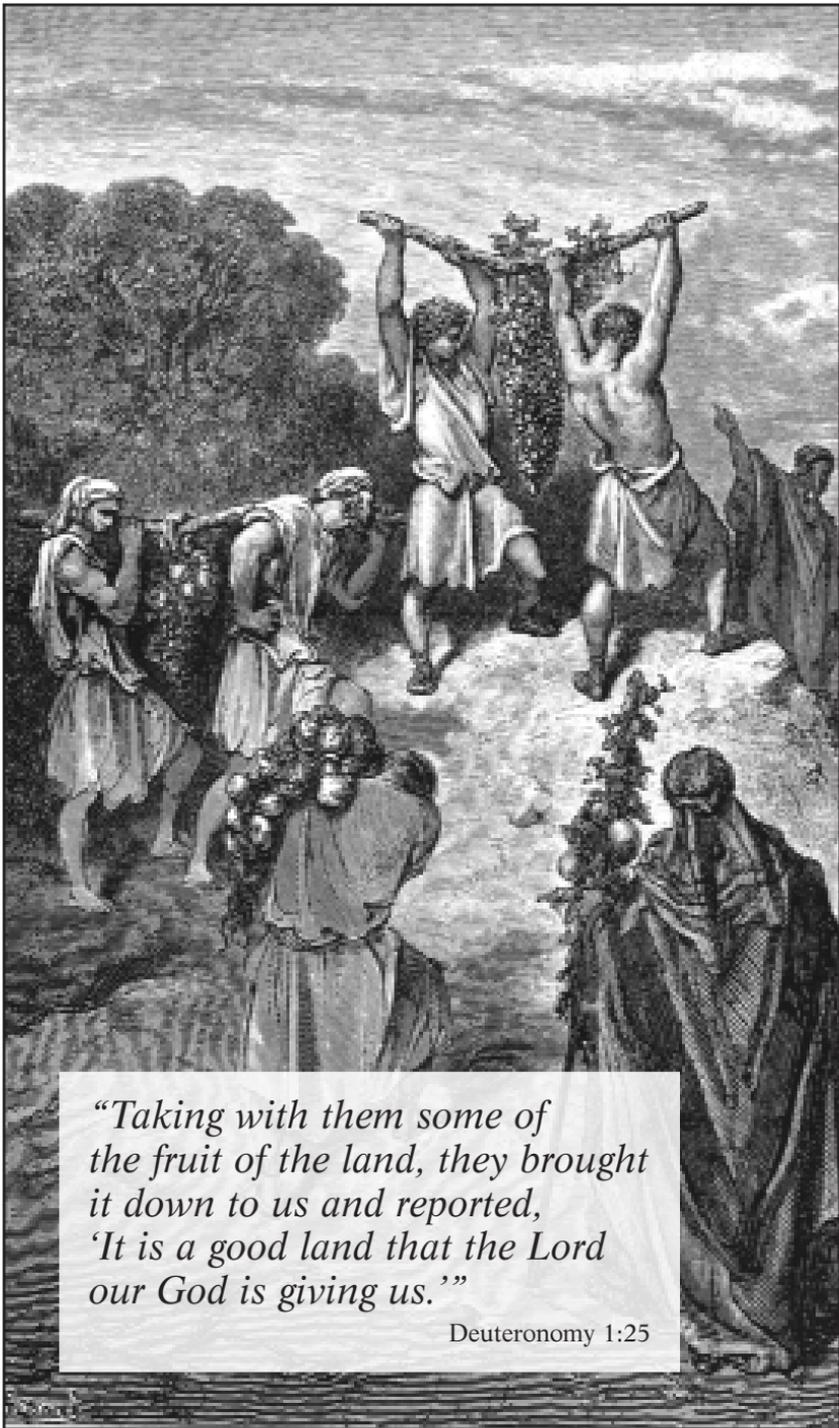
Social involvement and responsibility toward others are important themes in Deuteronomy. Kindness toward people as well as animals is demanded (10:19; 22:6); the poor are not to be taken advantage of (15:7; 24:14); "aliens," strangers and minorities are to be respected and treated kindly (27:19); periodically, debts are to be canceled and loans forgiven (15:1-11).

Key verses:

- Deuteronomy 6:4— "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."
- Deuteronomy 7:9— "Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands."
- Deuteronomy 11:1— "Love the Lord your God and keep his requirements, his decrees, his laws and his commands always."
- Deuteronomy 33:27— "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."

Reading Outline:

Day	Text	Theme
1-5	Deuteronomy 1-6	Moses' first address to Israel
6-13	Deuteronomy 7-14	Moses' second address
14-25	Deuteronomy 15-28	Continuation of Moses' second address, including the laws
26	Deuteronomy 29:1-30:20	Moses' third address
27-28	Deuteronomy 31:1-32:43	Joshua to succeed Moses, Israel's rebellion predicted, The Song of Moses
29-30	Deuteronomy 32:44-34:12	The blessing of Moses and passing the mantle of leadership to Joshua



*“Taking with them some of
the fruit of the land, they brought
it down to us and reported,
‘It is a good land that the Lord
our God is giving us.’”*

Deuteronomy 1:25

Answering God's Call

DAY 1

Deuteronomy 1:1-46

Have you ever received what you thought was a call from God to “break camp” and move on? If so, what were your feelings and how did you respond?

1. In the first five verses we learn about the speaker, the audience, the location, the time frame and the situation. Why was all this information provided?
2. Why do you believe the comments are addressed to “all Israel” (1:1)?
3. How did Moses organize Israel? Why?
4. What initially discouraged the Israelites about the Promised Land (v. 28)?
5. Why did it take the people of Israel 40 years to make a journey that could have been completed in a matter of weeks?

1. Imagine you are present when “Moses spoke to all Israel in the desert east of the Jordan” (1:1). Are you (a) nervous, (b) excited, (c) disappointed, (d) eager to get moving, (e) dragging your feet?
2. God blessed Moses with helpers. Has God sent anyone to help you? If so, how have they helped?
3. Have any situations intimidated you recently? Are you afraid of going forward?
4. Verses 26-29 describe attitudes which hinder faith. How have you experienced these? How has Jesus overcome those attitudes for you?

The Amorites cited in 1:44 were a Canaanite tribe living in what would today be identified as part of Syria and Palestine. Some scholars believe that Jerusalem was originally a small Amorite town.

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

into the Word

LIVING

out the Word

WINDOW

on the Word

DAY 2

Wandering in the Desert

Deuteronomy 2:1–3:29

OPENING
up to the Word

Have you ever had a time of “wandering in the desert”? What brought it on? How did it end—or has it?

DIGGING
into the Word

1. How were the Israelites to treat the descendants of Esau as they moved through their land?
2. Israel’s first military victory is reported in 2:24-37. What impresses you most about Israel’s first victory in battle (2:24-37)? How far did it go?
3. Deuteronomy 3:11 describes the world’s earliest “king-sized bed.” What did it look like and whose was it? Why was it important to the Israelites?

LIVING
out the Word

1. Deuteronomy 2:7 says “The Lord your God has blessed you... and you have not lacked anything.” Do God’s people ever lack anything (Heb 11:37-38)? What has been your experience?
2. Sihon, King of Heshbon, could have avoided defeat if he had been reasonable (2:30-37). Have you ever found yourself in trouble because of failure to compromise and cooperate?
4. Deuteronomy 3:22 says: “Do not be afraid... the Lord your God himself will fight for you.” Have you experienced this? How did Jesus fight for Stephen in Acts 7?
5. Moses was urged to “encourage and strengthen” Joshua (3:28). Has someone ever encouraged and strengthened you at a time when you needed it? When has Jesus enabled you to encourage and strengthened another person?

WINDOW
on the Word

*Why did the people of Israel **annihilate entire cities** (2:34 and 3:6)? While such conduct was common to armies of the ancient near east, this pattern of brutal, systematic extermination was not in concert with Jesus’ teaching (Matthew 5:43-47).*

*“Let me go over and see
the good land beyond
the Jordan—that fine hill
country and Lebanon.”*

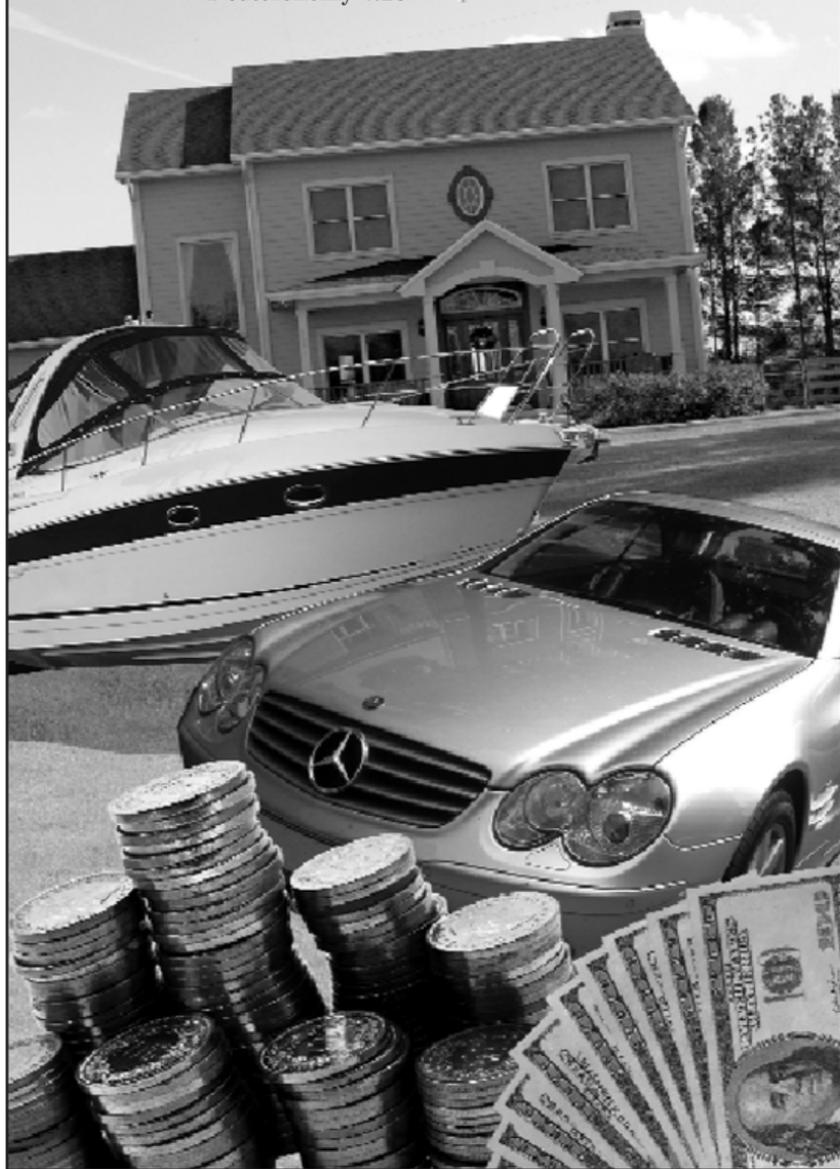
Deuteronomy 3:25



Photo of Lower Jordan by Barry Stahl—PTM

“...do not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything...”

Deuteronomy 4:23



Out of Sight, Out of Mind?

DAY 3

Deuteronomy 4:1-49

Is the prohibition against idolatry relevant today? It's easy to trust what we can see while neglecting the unseen. But Christ-followers are called to live by faith, not by sight (2Co 5:7).

1. Why the warning against adding to or deleting from the "commands of the Lord your God" (4:2)? How might the Israelites have subtracted from these now obsolete commands?
2. What was Israel's God-assigned role as they entered the promised land (4:3-8)?
3. How was the history and faith experience of Israel to be passed on to future generations?
4. How is a review of spiritual history helpful for daily living (4:32)? Have you done such a review?

1. How have you extended and shared God's grace in your home, neighborhood and community?
2. How do you convey faith in God to your children, grandchildren and others?
3. What are some of the "idols" of today's culture?
4. Deuteronomy 4:29 offers the glorious promise that God will reward those who pursue a relationship with him. Is the reward physical or spiritual? Have you been rewarded because of your relationship with God? Or is the relationship its own reward?

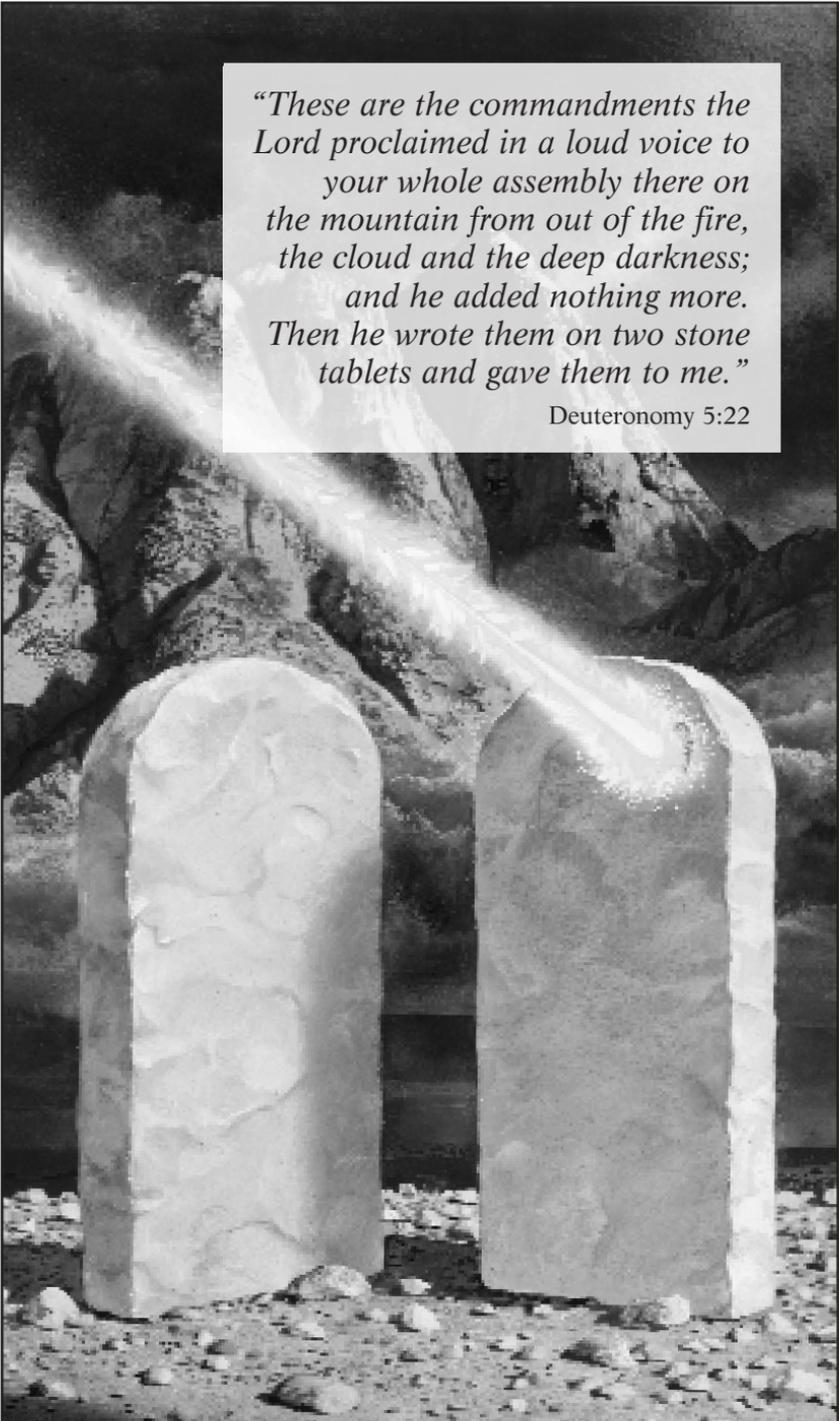
*The description of God as a **consuming fire** and a **jealous God** (4:24) is an attempt to describe the depth of God's feelings when people turn their backs on him in favor of other gods. The Hebrew word for "jealous" comes from a root meaning "fiery red." God is passionate about his people and will not give up on them. **Cities of refuge** functioned as jails without bars for those who had committed involuntary manslaughter. They provided protection from revenge.*

OPENING
up to the Word

DIGGING
into the Word

LIVING
out the Word

WINDOW
on the Word



*“These are the commandments the
Lord proclaimed in a loud voice to
your whole assembly there on
the mountain from out of the fire,
the cloud and the deep darkness;
and he added nothing more.
Then he wrote them on two stone
tablets and gave them to me.”*

Deuteronomy 5:22

Deuteronomy 5:1-33

What were some basic values in your family when you were a child? If you have children, have you tried to pass them on?

1. How do the commandments listed here differ from the list in Exodus 20:1-17? Why the difference?
2. What do the Ten Commandments—the heart of the old covenant with Israel—reveal about God? What do these commandments tell us about human nature?
3. What is the long-term effect of sin under the old covenant (Dt 5:9)? What is the long term effect of obedience (5:29)?
4. Is verse 32 talking about the Ten Commandments, or does it also include all the ritual and civil laws?

1. Are the Ten Commandments all equal, or are some commandments more important than others (Jas 2:10)?
2. What relevance, if any, do the Ten Commandments have for Christians?
3. Have you ever been affected by the sin of a family member from an earlier generation (5:9)? Have you benefited by the goodness of a family member from an earlier generation (5:29)?

*The **Ten Commandments** were the core of the old covenant. They were publicly repeated here so that a new generation could understand and follow. 5:9 troubles some people because it sounds as though God **punishes children for the sins of their parents**. However, this verse refers to the consequences of sin rather than judgment for sin. For example, the children had to wander in the desert for 40 years because the parents were disobedient. Much later, when the nation was taken into captivity, the children suffered because of the parents' sins.*

OPENING
up to the Word

DIGGING
into the Word

LIVING
out the Word

WINDOW
on the Word

DAY 5

How Much Is Too Much?

Deuteronomy 6:1-25

OPENING
up to the Word

Do you love God because of who he is, or do you love him merely because of the gifts he gives you?

DIGGING
into the Word

1. This chapter identifies some benefits of serving God. What are they?
2. What does it mean that “the Lord is one” (6:4)?
3. Was it fair that Israel received property that other people had worked for (6:10-11)? Remember—the Israelites later lost their property and land just as the Amorites were about to lose theirs.

LIVING
out the Word

1. Have you ever benefited from the labor of others (6:10-11)?
2. Does doing “what is right and good in the Lord’s sight” always result in things going well for us (6:18)? Have you experienced this? Have you ever done the right thing, with negative results?
3. Do you really want to love God or merely stay on God’s good side? What does it mean to love God with “all your *heart* and your *soul* and your *strength*” (6:5)?
4. Apart from God’s intervention in our lives, is it possible for us to love God?
5. Have you ever had the experience of Israel—wandering in a desert for a long time and then entering a land flowing with “milk and honey”? Is the “desert” experience always a result of sin?

WINDOW
on the Word

The name **Massah** (6:16) means “testing.” It refers to a location where a scarcity of water caused the Israelites to doubt God’s guidance and provision (Ex 17:7). This verse is a warning against doubting God’s goodness and implies God is disappointed by our lack of faith.

ISRAEL'S LAW OF LOVE—WHAT IT MEANS FOR CHRISTIANS

The new covenant, given to all humanity, is based upon two main commandments: to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mt 22:36-40; Dt 6:5; Lev 19:18). The Ten Commandments of the old covenant, given to the people of Israel (Dt 5:6-21), specified ten ways to love both God and other people.

The new covenant extends an invitation to God's grace, so that in and through Jesus Christ we are given God's love, enabling us to love both God and our neighbor.

The first four of the Ten Commandments applied to the Israelites' relationship with God.

GOD

1. Don't worship any gods besides the One Lord God.
2. Don't worship idols.
3. Don't take the Lord's name in vain.
4. Observe the Sabbath.

PEOPLE

The last six of the Ten Commandments applied to relationships between people.

5. Honor your parents.
6. Don't murder.
7. Don't commit adultery.
8. Don't steal.
9. Don't lie.
10. Don't covet.

PEOPLE

PEOPLE

DAY 6

You'll Never Walk Alone

Deuteronomy 7:1-26

OPENING
up to the Word

God's investment of love in us is so all-encompassing that there is no possibility that he will ever abandon us (7:9, 12-13). Have you experienced God's faithfulness? Have you ever *felt* abandoned by him?

DIGGING
into the Word

1. Why did God demand that the Israelites destroy their enemies completely (7:2)?
2. What reasons did God give for choosing the people of Israel (vs. 6-8)?
3. What did God promise to those who obey him (vs. 12-16)?
4. Why the warning to completely burn other nations' idols and not salvage the silver and gold from which the idols were made?

LIVING
out the Word

1. What kinds of enemies or adversaries have you encountered? Have you been able to separate yourself from such adversaries? How?
2. Deuteronomy teaches against murder (6:17), but under the old covenant the Israelites were not pacifists. Is war ever justified? Can people of faith take up arms?
3. Has God chosen or called you to do more or be more than you are? In what ways?
4. Moses says God will drive out Israel's enemies "little by little" (7:21-24). Although, obviously, God can act instantly, he chose to do this in stages. Has God helped, taught or led you gradually? In what ways?

WINDOW
on the Word

***Asherah** (v. 5) was a popular Semitic goddess. She was worshiped along with the god Baal. Every reference to Asherah in the Bible is a negative one in which such worship is condemned (for example, see 2Ki 23:6; 2Ch 19:3; 33:3). The frequency of the condemnations may indicate that Asherah worship was popular even among the Israelites.*

How Good Times Can Be Bad

DAY 7

Deuteronomy 8:1-19

Do you agree with Benjamin Franklin's statement: "Abundance, like want, ruins men"?

1. What major lessons did God intend for Israel to learn by their trial of wandering in the desert? One was quoted by Jesus when he was tempted by the devil in Matthew 4:4.

2. What made the Promised Land different from any other land? What natural resources are listed here?

3. The last half of this chapter contains a stern warning about the dangers of arrogance after achieving prosperity. What is the source of this arrogance and why is it denounced (vs. 10-18)?

1. Have you ever had the spiritual experience described in verse 5, "Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you"?

2. What is your "promised land"? Have you arrived or are you still on your journey (see Php 3:12-14)?

3. Verses 19-20 say that those who do not obey God "will be destroyed." How did God "destroy" the disobedient? Does he destroy the disobedient today?

4. Why is it easy to forget about God when things are going well? Are things going well for you?

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

into the Word

LIVING

out the Word