

Psalms Book 5: Deuteronomy

The Book of Deuteronomy

1. Historical Review (Chs. 1–4)

Chapters 1-4 review the history of Israel in the wilderness, how God provided for them despite their unfaithfulness, and a strong reminder to obey His Word.

Deut. 4:6–9

⁶Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’

⁷“For what great nation is there that has God^[b] so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? ⁸And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?

2. Covenant Restated (Chs. 5–26)

Chapters 5-26 restate God’s law, the priesthood instructions, the Ten commandments, and give us the Shema, the greatest commandment.

Deut. 6:4–9 –

⁴“Hear, O Israel: ^[b]The Lord our God, the Lord is one! ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

In chapter 8 Moses reminds them the reason for their trials and suffering; God is teaching them to trust him

Deut. 8:3 –

“Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the Lord ^[c]swore to your fathers. ²And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. ³So He humbled you, allowed you to

hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

- The phrase “bread alone” implies human made bread, not the manna God had provided. Manmade bread was the ultimate symbol of human self-sufficiency, the ability to till, plant, harvest, and bake your own bread.
- But in the wilderness, this was impossible. The only way they were getting bread was if God provided it.
- God uses the manna from heaven to teach them that their true source of life is the Word of His Promise.

3. Blessings and Curses (Chs. 27–30)

Chapters 27-30 sets up a dichotomy of choice, blessing or curse, life or death. Moses gives them instructions for a ceremony they are to perform when they get to the promised land on two mountains symbolizing their choice between obeying God or disobeying Him.

Ceremony on Mount Gerizim (blessings) and Mount Ebal (curses) (ch. 27).

Deut. 27:11-13

¹¹And Moses commanded the people on the same day, saying, ¹²“These shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people, when you have crossed over the Jordan: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin; ¹³and these shall stand on Mount Ebal to curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.

Moses gives instructions for the Israelites to be carried out when they enter the promised land at Shechem. This ceremony is carried out in Joshua 8.

Moses instructs the tribes to divide between two mountains that were facing each other. Mount Gerizim was a green, fertile and well watered mountain that represented blessings and life. Mount Ebal was a dry and rocky mountain that represented curses and death.

Why were the tribes divided the way they were?

- Leah and Rachel’s children, the descendants of promise on the mountain of life
- handmaids, Bilhah and Zilpah’s children, on the mountain of death (including Reuban who forfeited his birthright- Genesis 35:22)

This separation isn't to suggest that the tribes on the mountain Ebal were cursed or doomed to die outside of God's promise; it is only to strengthen the connection between God's promise and covenant obedience with life and blessing.

Deut. 30:15-19

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, ¹⁶ in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

4. Succession & Final Words of Moses (Chs. 31–34)

The Book closes with Moses final instructions to Joshua and the Israelites, to trust God and obey His Words.

Deut. 31:6 –

⁶ Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

Deut. 32:4 –

He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

Book 5 of the Psalms

1. God's Faithfulness & Deliverance (Psalm 107–110)

These psalms sing of God's deliverance and faithfulness despite rebellion.

Psalm 107

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His ^[a]mercy endures forever.

² Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

³And gathered out of the lands, From the east and from the west, From the north and from the south.

Psalm 108

O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. ²Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn. ³I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples, And I will sing praises to You among the nations. ⁴For Your mercy is great above the ^[a]heavens, And Your truth reaches to the clouds.

Where do we see Christ?

Psalm 110

The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

²*The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!*

³*Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth.*

⁴*The Lord has sworn And will not relent, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”*

- Declares the Messiah seated at God’s right hand, ruling as King and serving as a Priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.
 - **Matthew 22:44; Mark 12:36; Luke 20:42–43** – Jesus applies this to Himself.
 - **Acts 2:34–35** – Peter’s Pentecost sermon.
 - **Hebrews 1:13; 5:6; 7:17, 21** – Jesus as High Priest after Melchizedek.

David recognizes that God’s covenant is one that ends with the Messiah seated at the right hand of God. God said his covenant was one where “they would be His people, and he would be their God.” But the people couldn’t keep their side of the covenant.

So Christ, rich in mercy, stepped down from heaven, upheld our end of the covenant, paid the penalty for their trespass or broken covenant, and now sits at the right hand of the father.

He is the Covenant Keeping (Promise Keeping) Redeemer

- **We worship God because he is faithful. He keeps his promises.**

2. God’s Word (Psalm 111–119)

These Psalms sing of finding Joy and Peace in God’s Word

Psalm 111–112

The works of the Lord are great, Studied by all who have pleasure in them.

³*His work is honorable and glorious, And His righteousness endures forever. ⁴He has made His wonderful works to be remembered;*

- Emphasizes the importance of studying God’s Word and remembering his works.

Psalm 119

The longest psalm, meditating on God’s Word in every verse (22 stanzas, one for each Hebrew letter). Reflects Deut.’s insistence on meditating on and obeying God’s Law.

⁴¹*Let Your mercies come also to me, O Lord—
Your salvation according to Your word.*

⁴²*So shall I have an answer for him who [□]reproaches me,
For I trust in Your word.*

⁹⁷*Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.*

¹⁰³*How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

¹⁰⁵*Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.*

- David emphasizes a relationship with God’s Word where it is a delight and a comfort to him. So much of David’s Joy comes from being in the Word.

Where do we see Christ?

Psalm 118:22-23-

The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.

²³*This was the Lord’s doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.*

²⁴*This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.*

²⁵*Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity.*

²⁶*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.*

David’s Life Context: David, an unlikely candidate for kingship (youngest son, shepherd, overlooked by his own family, rejected by Saul), may have written this reflecting on how he was once “rejected” by men but chosen by God to be king.

Prophetic / Messianic Fulfillment in Jesus: The New Testament explicitly applies these verses to Christ, both as the rejected cornerstone, and the one who comes in the name of the Lord. (Matthew 21:42, Mark 12:10–11, Luke 20:17, Acts 4:11, 1 Peter 2:7).

- **Jesus was the Rejected Stone:** Rejected by the religious leaders (scribes, Pharisees, priests), and rejected by the nation (John 1:11: “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him”).
- **Jesus is the Cornerstone:** Crucifixion looked like ultimate rejection, but in resurrection God exalted Him as the foundation of salvation and the Church (Eph. 2:19-20).

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you (the Church) are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone

This ties into the broader biblical theme: God chooses what is despised and weak in the world to shame the wise (1 Cor. 1:27).

1 Peter 2 ties this into our identity as the church, saying that we are now living stones, built on the cornerstone that is Christ, if we are built on the Word of God.

Jesus is the *Word made flesh* (John 1:14), the rejected Cornerstone, and the perfect Law-keeper.

- **We worship God because he has given us His Word**

3. Songs of Ascent – Pilgrimage & Worship (Psalm 120–134)

These Psalms sing of God’s protection for his pilgrims, unity of his people, and Joy in His presence. They were sung on pilgrimages or “ascensions” to Jerusalem.

Psalm 121

I will lift up my eyes to the hills— From whence comes my help?

² My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

³ He will not allow your foot to ^[a]be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The Lord is your ^[b]keeper; The Lord is your shade at your right hand.

⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day, Nor the moon by night.

⁷ The Lord shall ^[c]preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul.

⁸ The Lord shall preserve^[d] your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore.

Psalm 122

*I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go into the house of the Lord.”
2 Our feet have been standing
Within your gates, O Jerusalem!*

The “Song of Ascents” are 15 psalms written for pilgrims going up to Jerusalem for the annual feasts. No matter where one came from, Scripture describes traveling to Jerusalem as “ascending” because Jerusalem sat on a mountain (Mount Zion). It wasn’t only a physical climb but also a spiritual ascent toward God’s dwelling.

The Psalms comfort Pilgrims on their journey by reminding them that God is protecting them and watching over them.

Where do we see Christ?

Jesus fulfills the pilgrim journey as the One who leads His people to the New Jerusalem (Heb. 12:22). He is also the true Temple we worship in.

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels

Our pilgrimage is no longer to a place. It’s to a person.

- **We worship God because He is with us on our journey.**

4. Trust in God’s Deliverance (Psalm 135–145)

remember the section of Deuteronomy about blessings and curses? The Israelites continually disobeyed God and chose curses over blessings, ultimately leading to exile and captivity in Babylon. These psalms parallel by praising God for His steadfast love, lamenting their captivity in Babylon, and remembering the Hope they have in a future king to deliver them.

Psalm 136

*4 To Him who alone does great wonders,
For His mercy endures forever;
5 To Him who by wisdom made the heavens,
For His mercy endures forever;
6 To Him who laid out the earth above the waters,
For His mercy endures forever;*

Psalm 137

*By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down, yea, we wept
When we remembered Zion.*

²*We hung our harps Upon the willows in the midst of it.*

³*For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, And those who plundered us requested mirth, Saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"*

Psalm 139

⁷*Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?*

⁸*If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in ^[e]hell, behold, You are there.*

⁹*If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,*

¹⁰*Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.*

- David wrote this song while on the run from Saul, as an encouragement that God was still with him. It's applied here as an encouragement to the Jews in exile in Babylon.

Where do we see Christ?

In God's promise to the people that the son of David would sit on the throne of Jerusalem.

Psalm 132

¹¹*The Lord has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it:*

"I will set upon your throne the ^[e]fruit of your body.

¹⁷*There I will make the ^[f]horn of David grow; I will prepare a lamp for My ^[g]Anointed.*

¹⁸*His enemies I will clothe with shame, But upon Himself His crown shall flourish."*

- Remembers God's promise to David of an eternal throne, ultimately fulfilled in Christ, the Son of David.
- Luke 1:32–33 – Angel announces to Mary that Jesus will inherit "the throne of His father David" forever.
- Acts 2:30 – Peter links Christ's resurrection and Davidic covenant.
- Acts 13:22–23 – Paul preaches Christ as the promised descendant of David.
- **We worship God because The Lamb is on the Throne**

5. The Final Hallelujah (Psalm 146–150)

These closing psalms form a crescendo of worship, calling *all creation* to praise the LORD. They close the book of Psalms with pure doxology and praise to God, beginning and ending each Psalm with Hallelujah.

Psalm 146:5-6

⁵Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the Lord his God,

⁶Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever,

*⁸The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; The Lord raises those who are bowed down;
The Lord loves the righteous.*

⁹The Lord watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow;

Psalm 148:13

“Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven.”

Psalm 150:6

“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!”

Where do we see Christ?

Psalm 146- Jesus is the one who opens the eyes of the blind, lifts up those who are bowed down, comforts the orphan and widow. Luke 1:46–55; 1:68–79

the end of the psalms also point forward to a time when all of creation, everything that has breath, will praise Christ in his eternal kingdom.

Revelation 5:11–14

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹²saying with a loud voice:

*“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
To receive power and riches and wisdom,
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”*

¹³And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

*“Blessing and honor and glory and power
Be to Him who sits on the throne,
And to the Lamb, forever and ^[d]ever!”*

Philippians 2:9–11

⁹Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- **We worship God because one day everything will worship God, as he intended**

Summary: Where do we see Christ in Book 5 of Psalms?

- 110- He is the True High priest and King who will sit at the right hand of God
- 118- He is the stone that the builders rejected, and the one who comes in the name of the Lord
- 132- He will sit on the Throne of David forever
- 146- he opens the eyes of the blind and comforts the widow.
- 150- all of creation will bow down and worship Him

Takeaways: Why should we Worship?

- He is faithful/ He keeps His Promises
- He has given us His Word
- He is with us on the Journey
- He is on the Throne
- He has given us a choice/ One day every knee will bow