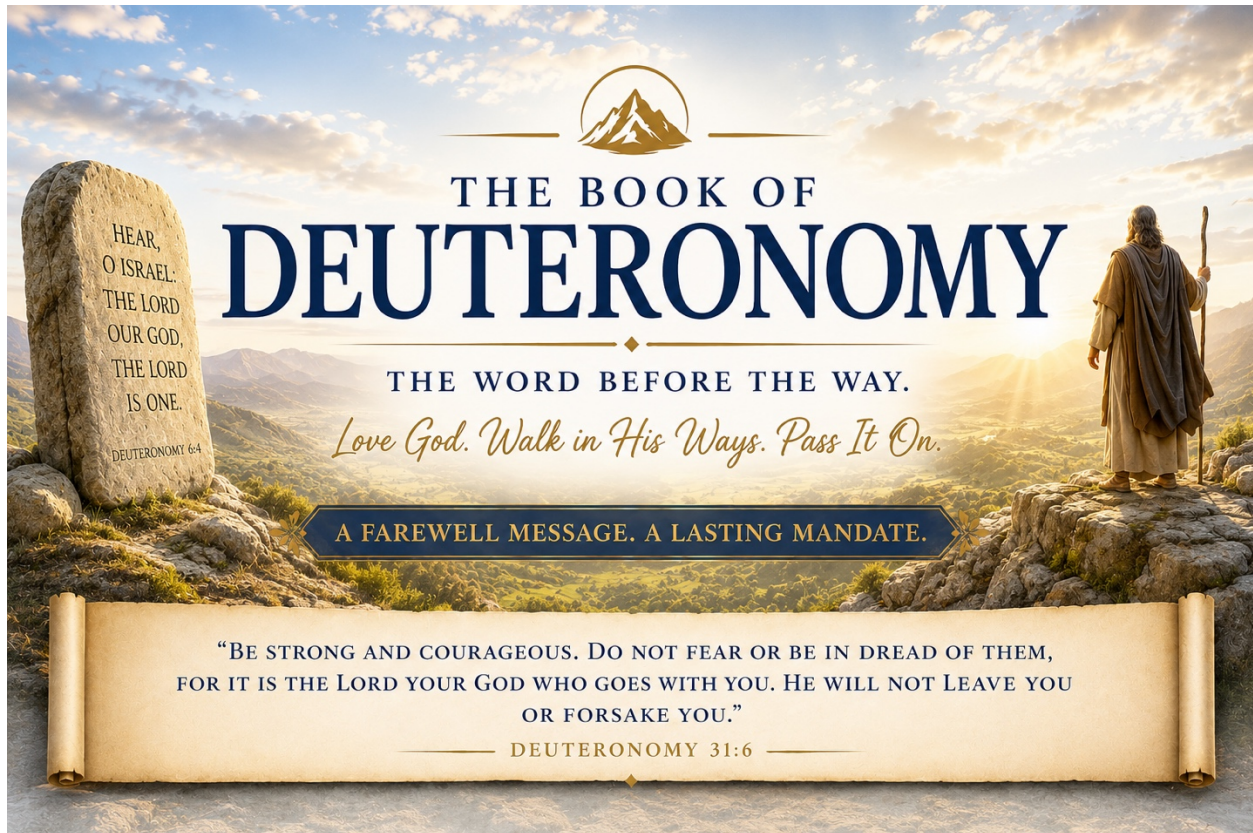




Theme: Deuteronomy shows that God advances His glory through His covenant faithfulness, calling His people to love and obey Him while anticipating Christ, the faithful Son who perfectly fulfills His purposes.

There are certain things in life that we must never allow ourselves to forget. We may forget where we put our keys. We may forget an appointment. We may walk into a room and forget why we went there. But there are some things that are simply too important to forget.

And one of them is **the faithfulness of God.**

In fact, one of the great dangers of the Christian life is not that God will cease to be faithful to us, but that **we will forget how faithful He has been.**

- We forget the prayers He has answered.
- We forget the dangers from which He has protected us.
- We forget the needs He has supplied.
- We forget the sins He has forgiven.
- We forget the trials through which He has carried us.
- We forget the promises He has kept.

And when we forget His faithfulness, our worship grows cold, our obedience becomes burdensome, and our confidence in Him begins to weaken. That is precisely the danger facing Israel as we come to the book of Deuteronomy.

The Purpose of God

Israel is standing on the plains of Moab, just east of the Jordan River. Behind them are forty years of wandering in the wilderness. Behind them are graves scattered across the desert—the remains of a generation that refused to believe God. Behind them are stories of complaining, rebellion, idolatry, judgment, and failure.

But behind them lies something else as well: **forty years of God's relentless faithfulness**. They had rebelled—but God remained faithful. They had wandered—but God guided them. They had hungered—but God fed them. Their clothes had not worn out. Their enemies had not destroyed them. And now God had brought a new generation to the edge of the land He had promised centuries earlier.

Moses is now an old man. His ministry is nearly finished, and he knows he will not cross the Jordan with them. So he gathers the people together and essentially says:

Before you go forward, you need to look backward.

Remember who God is. Remember what God has done. Remember what God has said. Remember how God carried you. And having remembered—**love Him, trust Him, worship Him, and obey Him.**

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

Deuteronomy 6:5

But Deuteronomy also exposes a serious problem. **Israel will not do it**. God is faithful—but Israel is unfaithful. God keeps His covenant—but Israel breaks it. God gives His law—but Israel lacks the heart necessary to keep it. That tension ultimately points us beyond Israel and beyond Moses to **Jesus Christ**.

Israel failed in the wilderness; Christ obeyed there. Israel failed to love God wholeheartedly; Jesus loved His Father perfectly. Moses mediated the covenant; Jesus is the greater Mediator. Moses promised another Prophet; Jesus is that Prophet. The law pronounced a curse on sinners; Jesus bore that curse on the cross.

So, Deuteronomy is far more than an ancient collection of laws. It reveals a God whose faithfulness survives the failures of His people, whose promises cannot be frustrated, and whose purposes ultimately find their fulfillment in His Son.

Deuteronomy shows that God advances His glory through His covenant faithfulness, calling His people to love and obey Him while anticipating Christ, the faithful Son who perfectly fulfills His purposes.

And perhaps the great question Deuteronomy leaves before every generation of God's people is this: **If our God has been this faithful to us, how can we respond with anything less than wholehearted love, worship, trust, and obedience?**

I. An Overview of Deuteronomy

A. **Remembering God's Faithfulness** – **1:1-4:49** – God displays His glory for the purpose of producing worship and obedience among His people.

1. **The Recounting of Israel's Failure at Kadesh** – **1:1-46** – Israel's failure does not thwart God's faithfulness - **Deuteronomy 1:31-32**.

2. **The Recounting of God's Guidance – 2:1-23** – God governs geography, nations, circumstances, and history to accomplish His purposes – **Deuteronomy 2:7.**
 3. **The Recounting of God's Victories East of the Jordan – 2:24-3:22** – Israel's successes demonstrated God's power rather than Israel's military superiority – **Deuteronomy 3:21-22.**
 4. **The Recounting of God's Vindication of His Holiness – 3:23-29** – No human leader is indispensable to God's purposes – **Deuteronomy 3:26.**
 5. **The Recounting of God's Demand for Obedience – 4:1-14** - Israel's obedience was intended to become a public testimony to the greatness of Yahweh – **Deuteronomy 4:6.**
 6. **The Recounting of God's Warnings against Idolatry – 4:15-40** – Idolatry will bring a jealous God's discipline as He remembers His covenant – **Deuteronomy 4:24, 39.**
- B. **Rehearsing God's Faithfulness** – **5:1-11:32** – God displays His glory by rehearsing His worthiness to be deeply loved.
1. **The Reaffirmation of the Covenant – 5:1-33** – Israel possesses God's law, but needs a heart capable of faithfully loving God – **Deuteronomy 5:29.**
 2. **The Responses to God's Commands – 6:1-25** – Israel ought to love the Lord with all their hearts - **Deuteronomy 6:4-5.**
 3. **The Regard for God's Faithfulness – 7:1-26** – God has uniquely chosen Israel by a sovereign choice – **Deuteronomy 7:7-8.**
 4. **The Recalling of God's Care – 8:1-20** – God alone is responsible for Israel's care throughout the entirety of their wandering – **Deuteronomy 8:17-18.**
 5. **The Realization of Unworthiness – 9:1-10:22** - Israel must remember that possessing the land is not a reward for their righteousness, but an expression of God's covenant grace and faithfulness, calling them to humble, wholehearted fear, love, and obedience – **Deuteronomy 9:6.**
 6. **The Resolve of God's People – 11:1-32** – In light of what Israel has seen God do, do not neglect hearing the Lord and seeking obedience over curses – **Deuteronomy 11:26-28.**
- C. **Restating God's Law** – **12:1-26:19** – God displays His glory by requiring Israel to display His holy character.
1. **The Principles of Covenant Loyalty – 12:1-16:17** - Israel was to

demonstrate exclusive loyalty to the LORD by rejecting idolatry, worshiping God according to His commands, caring for the needy, and faithfully observing the appointed feasts – **Deuteronomy 13:4**.

2. **The Priorities of Covenant Leadership – 16:18-18:22** - God established righteous standards for Israel's leaders, requiring judges, kings, priests, and prophets to exercise their responsibilities under the authority of His Word rather than for personal power or advantage – **Deuteronomy 17:19**.
3. **The Practices of Covenant Living – 19:1-21:23** - Covenant faithfulness was to govern Israel's administration of justice and protection of human life, demonstrating God's righteousness in matters of crime, testimony, warfare, family responsibility, and civil order – **Deuteronomy 19:21**.
4. **The Prudence of Covenant Living – 22:1-25:19** - Israel was to apply God's holiness and righteousness to the ordinary details of daily life, showing that covenant obedience extended to relationships, sexuality, property, marriage, business, compassion, and treatment of one's neighbor – **Deuteronomy 23:14**.
5. **The Preservation of Covenant Legacy – 26:1-19** - Israel was to remember and confess God's gracious acts of redemption and provision, faithfully passing on a covenant identity in which they acknowledged themselves as His treasured people and committed themselves anew to obey His Word – **Deuteronomy 26:18-19**.

D. Renewing God's Covenant – 27:1-30:20

1. **Covenant Ratification – 27:1-26** – Israel publicly affirms its covenant relationship with God, acknowledging His Word as authoritative and His judgment against disobedience as righteous – **Deuteronomy 27:26**.
2. **Covenant Ramifications – 28:1-68** – God establishes the consequences of Israel's covenant response – obedience brings blessing while rebellion brings escalating judgment – **Deuteronomy 28:1-2**.
3. **Covenant Renewal – 29:1-29** - Israel formally renews its commitment to the covenant, while Moses warns that outward identification with God's people cannot substitute for a heart that truly knows and follows Him – **Deuteronomy 29:9**.
4. **Covenant Restoration – 30:1-10** - Following Israel's future rebellion, judgment, and dispersion, God promises to regather His people, transform their hearts, and restore them to covenant blessing – **Deuteronomy 30:6**.

5. **Covenant Response – 30:11-20** - Having revealed His covenant Word, God calls Israel to choose life by loving Him, obeying His voice, and holding fast to Him – **Deuteronomy 30:19-20**.
- E. **Replacing God's Servant – 31:1-34:12**
1. **The Succession of God's Servant – 31:1-30** – Moses commissions Joshua, demonstrating that God's word continues through His presence and Word - **Deuteronomy 31:8**.
 2. **The Song of God's Servant – 32:1-47** – God's perfect faithfulness stands in stark contrast to Israel's rebellion and vindicates His judgment - **Deuteronomy 32:4**.
 3. **The Salutation by God's Servant – 33:1-29** – Moses blesses Israel as a people uniquely privileged because they belong to the incomparable God - **Deuteronomy 33:27**
 4. **The Silence of God's Servant – 34:1-12** – Moses dies as God's unparalleled servant, but God's program continues while Israel awaits the promised greater Prophet - **Deuteronomy 34:10**.

II. **The Purpose of God in Deuteronomy**

- A. **Creation:** Although Deuteronomy is not primarily a creation narrative, Moses repeatedly grounds God's authority over Israel and the nations in His universal ownership and sovereign lordship over creation.
1. God owns the heaven & earth – **Deuteronomy 10:14**.
 2. God is the Creator and Father of Israel – **Deuteronomy 32:6**.
 3. God controls creation for His purposes – **Deuteronomy 11:10-15**.
- B. **Providence:** God glorifies Himself through providence by demonstrating that His sovereign hand directs Israel's journey, supplies its needs, controls nations, grants prosperity, and accomplishes His purposes.
1. God carried Israel through the wilderness – **Deuteronomy 1:30-31**.
 2. God directed Israel's wilderness journey – **Deuteronomy 2:7**.
 3. God preserved their clothing and physical welfare – **Deuteronomy 8:4**.
- C. **Redemption:** God glorifies Himself in redemption by rescuing an undeserving people through sovereign love, mighty power, and covenant faithfulness—anticipating the greater redemption accomplished in Christ.
1. God redeemed Israel from slavery – **Deuteronomy 5:6**.
 2. God redeemed Israel because of covenant faithfulness –

Deuteronomy 7:8-9.

3. The Exodus anticipates the greater redemption in Christ – **Deuteronomy 7:8.**
- D. **Righteous judgment:** God glorifies Himself in judgment by vindicating His holiness, punishing rebellion, judging wicked nations, disciplining His covenant people, and demonstrating that no sinner can defy His authority with impunity.
 1. God judged the unbelieving generation in the wilderness – **Deuteronomy 1:34-35.**
 2. God judged the Canaanites for wickedness – **Deuteronomy 9:4-5.**
 3. The covenant curses reveal God's justice – **Deuteronomy 28:15.**
- E. **Sanctification:** God glorifies Himself in sanctification by setting apart a people for Himself, shaping them through His Word and providential discipline, and ultimately transforming their hearts so that their lives display His holiness before the nations.
 1. Israel is set apart by God as holy – **Deuteronomy 7:6.**
 2. Sanctification begins with wholehearted love for God – **Deuteronomy 6:4-5.**
 3. God will sanctify His people through grace – **Deuteronomy 30:6.**
- F. **Consummation:** God glorifies Himself in consummation by remaining faithful despite Israel's failure, promising their future regathering and heart transformation, judging His enemies, fulfilling His covenant promises, and bringing His redemptive purposes to their culmination through Christ.
 1. God guarantees the continuation of His covenant promises until they are fulfilled – **Deuteronomy 4:31.**
 2. God promises to ultimately restore the Nation of Israel after He judges them for their disobedience – **Deuteronomy 30:1-6.**
 3. God promises to restore Israel to their land – **Deuteronomy 30:5.**

III. The Anticipation of Christ

- A. The Law that exposes man's failure also anticipates the Christ who will perfectly obey its demands, bear its curse, give life to His people, and fulfill God's covenant purposes—all to the glory of God – **2 Corinthians 1:20.**
- B. Ways we see Jesus glorified through Deuteronomy:
 1. We listen to Him because He is the Greater Prophet –

Deuteronomy 18:15-19 → **Acts 3:20-23**. *(We don't fit Jesus into our plans – we sit under His instruction!)*

2. We come to God through Christ because He is the Greater Covenant Mediator – **Deuteronomy 5:5** → **1 Timothy 2:5**.
3. We rest in Christ because He is the Cursed One Hung on a Tree – **Deuteronomy 21:22-23** → **Galatians 3:13**. *(Jesus did not merely help us escape the curse – He became a curse for us!)*
4. We obey Christ because He is the One Who Perfectly Obeyed the Law – **Deuteronomy 6:4-5** → **John 14:31**. *(Jesus didn't merely die the death we deserved; He lived the obedient life we are required to live!)*
5. We rely on Christ because He is the Living Bread come down from the Father – **Deuteronomy 8:3** → **John 6:35**. *(We don't live a Christian life through our own efforts, but we are dependent upon the Gospel of Christ every day every moment!)*
6. We submit to Christ because He is the Coming King – **Deuteronomy 17:14-15** → **Matthew 21:5**. *(We do not merely come to Christ for forgiveness and then retain sovereignty over the rest of life. Our marriages, money, sexuality, ambitions, relationships, ministries, schedules, and priorities belong under His authority!)*

- C. The Law that exposes man's failure also anticipates the Christ who will perfectly obey its demands, bear its curse, give life to His people, and fulfill God's covenant purposes—all to the glory of God.

Deuteronomy shows that God advances His glory through His covenant faithfulness, calling His people to love and obey Him while anticipating Christ, the faithful Son who perfectly fulfills His purposes.