

Deuteronomy 30

Choose Life!



Introduction

1. What different reactions is the concept of “obedience” likely to get from people? Think about Christians and non-Christians.

Thinking about Deuteronomy 30

2. Think about the structure of Deuteronomy (summarised below). Where does Chapter 30 fit into the whole book?

Preamble (1:1–5)

Moses First Address: Historical Prologue (1:6—4:43)

Moses Second Address: The Law of the Covenant (4:44—26:19)

 The Great Commandment and the Ten commandments: Absolute Allegiance (4:44—11:32)

 Detailed Requirements (chs. 12–26)

Covenant ceremony: Curses and Blessings (chs 27–28)

Moses Third Address: the future and final appeal (chs 29-30)

Leadership Handover (chs. 31–34)

 Change of Leadership (31:1–29)

 The Song of Moses (31:30—32:47)

 Moses’ Blessing on Israle (32:48—33:29)

 Death of Moses and Succession of Joshua (ch. 34)

3. How does that help to explain what Moses is doing in this chapter?
4. Look over Deuteronomy 29. What does Moses expect will happen to Israel in the future? (How do you think he knows this?)
5. In light of chapter 29, what does Moses promise in 30:1-10? What will change for Israel? What does that suggest is their current problem?
6. What is the background to circumcision? (See Gen 17:9-14)
7. What is the connection between verse 6 and Lev 26:41 and Deut 10:16? How do they relate to Jer 4:4; 9:25, 26; Eze 44:7, 9; Ac 7:51. How do those passages relate to Jer 31:31-33; Rom 2:28-29; Heb 8:7-13.
8. Go back to Deuteronomy 30. Moses tells Israel that the commands are “not too difficult”, nor “beyond your reach” (Deut 30:11). How does that fit with the predicted (and actual) history of Israel? What is Moses point verses 11-14? How has that changed for Christians? (You could think about John 1:1-4, 14, 17; Eph 1:9-10; 3:2-6).

9. Imagine being in the crowd of the people of Israel listening to Moses final words (vv15-20). What might the conversation have been after he finished?

Wrapping up

10. “Obedience is dry and dusty, love is life”. How would Moses reply to a statement like that?

11. What are main points we can take from Deuteronomy 30 as we follow Jesus?