

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"THE RENEWAL OF THE COVENANT"

For individual study or group discussion

DATE: April 7, 2024

SPEAKER: Frank/Aaron

SERIES: Deuteronomy

PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 29:1-15

Family Dinner Table

Roadmap to Renewal

In the CCEF counseling book *How People Change*, authors Timothy Lane and Paul Tripp share a practical roadmap toward personal, spiritual renewal: a lifestyle of faith and repentance which embraces the cross of Christ: "The Bible candidly depicts us as people who stray from God. Obedience requires radical change. Jeremiah 31 and Ezekiel 36 are filled with wonderful promises of an obedience that flows from the hearts recaptured by the living God. These verses ring with the optimism of the new covenant and heart renewal. Notice how both passages connect God's law and the heart. Ezekiel 36:27 is particularly powerful in its description of a new heart compelled by the Spirit to obedience. It is a voluntary obedience springing from a heart that has been transformed and captivated by the Redeemer."³

- Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. God demonstrated unimaginable mercy by offering a fresh start to his people. How does this inform our own need to respond with grace towards others?
- Read Ezekiel 36:24-28. What hope of renewal do we have today? How can renewal come to you? (See also Hebrews 9:11-15 and I John 1:9.)

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Covenant Theological Seminary,
strategic partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Gini and Dan, supported
missionary partners

Recall from our previous studies in the book of Deuteronomy that this final book of the Pentateuch is a solemn appeal from Moses to the second generation of Israelites, encouraging them to enter into the covenant that God made with their fathers at Horeb. In a series of three sermons, Moses conveys the importance of **the renewal of the covenant**. As the generational guidebook for covenant renewal, Deuteronomy teaches God's people that renewal involves remembering God's redemptive story. Chapters 29-30 unfold the third and final sermon given by Moses as he calls the people of God to "keep the words of this covenant and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do" (v. 9).

Faithfulness as God's covenant people involves remembering God's covenant faithfulness. (vv. 1-8)

Moses' third sermon begins with a narrative of God's covenant faithfulness. He delivered the Israelites from Egypt, he cared for them during their wilderness journey, and he defeated their enemies. As 19th century scholars Carl Keil and Franz Delitzsch summarize, "The obligation binding upon the people to fulfill the covenant is introduced by Moses with an appeal to all that the Lord had done for Israel; and this is followed by a summons to enter into the covenant which the Lord was concluding with them now, that He might be their God, and fulfill His promises concerning them."¹

- Most of what we read in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers is repeated in Deuteronomy. Why the repetition? Why does this new generation of Israelites need to be reminded?
- God's people never outgrow their need to be reminded. Read 2 Peter 1:3-15. What reasons does Peter give as to why the church needs to be reminded of God's promises?
- We too often forget the everyday blessings of God's faithfulness in our lives. As a result, we allow doubt and anxiety creep in. Read Luke 12:22-31. Describe the level of God's care for you and for his creation.

Faithfulness as God's covenant people involves acting on God's covenant promises (vv. 9-15)

Being witness to the great works of God (vv. 1-8), there is but one logical response, "keep the words of this covenant and do them" (v. 9). In his book *The Christ of the Covenants*, O. Palmer Robertson outlines the importance of renewal for each generation of believers, emphasizing our response to be "doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22): "Under the new covenant, the Holy Spirit works in a most vital way to bring Christians into conformity with the will of God. But the believer is responsible actively to make use of the means of grace available to him. If he does not obey God's law, he will not live in the fullest state of God's blessing."²

- The current generation of Israel were just children when God delivered them from Egypt (Numbers 14:26-33). And these events had not penetrated their hearts in such a way that they could grasp the significance of what God was doing for them. Verse 4 indicates that this was because the Lord had not given them this capacity to understand divine truth. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14, Isaiah 6:9-10, Proverbs 8:17, Jeremiah 29:13, Matthew 7:7-8, James 1:5, and 2 Chronicles 7:14. If one does not have "a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear," how do we approach God?
- Read Psalm 78:1-8. According to the psalmist, why is it important for us to keep God's commands and to teach them to our children? How does Psalm 78 serve as a warning to God's people? What did the psalmist want future generations to avoid?

¹Keil, Carl and Delitzsch, Franz. *Keil and Delitzsch Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament, Volume 1*. 1960 Grand Rapids, MI. Associated Publishers & Authors Inc. 1101

²Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Christ of the Covenants*. 1980, Phillipsburg, NJ. Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing. 184

³Lane, Timothy and Tripp, Paul. *How People Change*. Greensboro. New Growth Press, 2006. 174-75