

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

“HOPE FOR FUTURE FAILURES”

For individual study or group discussion

In Moses' final sermon to the children of Israel (Deuteronomy 30:1-10), he foresees future failure for the people of God. They will not remain true to God, and the curses of the covenant, including exile, will ultimately come to pass (v. 1). But Moses also prophesies that God's people will eventually repent and be restored (vv. 2-10), because the hope for future failures will come from God himself! Under the new covenant, what God commands from us in his law he himself will perform, *“The LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live (v. 6).”*

The invitation for future failures: repent and return (vv. 1-5, 7-10)

Chapter 30 opens with Moses urging Israel to repent and return, so that the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you (v. 3).

Moses foresees future failure and disobedience on the part of God's people, disobedience a holy God must punish. However, there is tension in today's text. On the one hand, because God is holy, he must punish sin. But he also wants to forgive. He is a covenant keeping God, full of endless love, endless faithfulness for his people. The tension found in Deuteronomy 30 sets the metanarrative arch for all of Scripture that culminates at the cross.

- Moses describes the act of repentance with phrases such as *“return to the Lord”* and *“obey His voice”* and obeying with *“all your heart and with all your soul.”* Are you familiar with the [Children's Catechism](#)? Read Q&A 56 and discuss what it means to repent.
- Read Psalm 32. How does David model repentance for us (v. 5)?
- God promises to freely bestow all his blessings on us when we repent. Read Matthew 18:21-35. Based on God's forgiving character, how should we act towards those who sin against us?

The hope for future failures: new hearts and new life (v. 6)

The hope for our future failures is found within Deuteronomy chapter 30. According to one commentator, *“In these verses are foreshadowed the attaining and losing of the promised land, the scattering of the exile, and the requirement for ‘pure-hearted return’ that is ultimately met only in Jesus Christ.”*¹ As Paul states in Romans 10:4, *“Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”* Only the Gospel gives us hope for our future failures because *“the LORD your God will circumcise your heart...so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live”* (v. 6).

- Read Luke 10:25-28 and Matthew 22:34-40. Note that Jesus is quoting the *Shema* found in Deuteronomy 6:4-5 when he answers the question, *“What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”* In today's passage, Moses repeats the *Shema* in verses 2 and 6. Who are we dependent upon for our salvation?
- The Lord promises he will circumcise the hearts of his people and their offspring (v. 6). Read Deut. 10:15-16, Jeremiah 4:4, and Romans 2:28-29. Discuss how OT circumcision, a bloody and painful ritual that points to “sin removal,” relates to the Spirit's work of salvation.

DATE: April 28, 2024

SPEAKER: Brian/Wil

SERIES: Deuteronomy

PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 30:1-10

Family Dinner Table

The New Covenant

The new covenant prophesied by Moses in Deuteronomy 30:1-10 is later echoed by the prophet Jeremiah (31:31-40). Moses' prophecy of hope is accentuated by Jeremiah's prophecy, a fact reinforced by the author of Hebrews (8:1-13). The significance of the new covenant is that it is graciously initiated by God and results in obedience by Israel to the will of God. The new covenant establishes a new relationship with God and his people that results in the universal knowledge of God (Jeremiah 31:33-34). The new covenant in the New Testament gets its name from Jeremiah's text. In fact, Jesus and the New Testament writers view their time as “in those days” foretold by Jeremiah, as Jesus announces its fulfillment in the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25; 2 Corinthians 3:6) and the author of Hebrews announces its fulfillment in Christ (8:6-13; 10:16-17). Finally, the book of Revelation looks forward to the final, universal eschatological fulfillment of the new covenant in Revelation 21:3.²

- For further study of how God promises a grand and glorious restoration of his people to himself, read Isaiah 25; 40:1-4; 65:17-25; Jeremiah 31:31-34; and Micah 4:1-5.
- Read Romans 2:28-29; Colossians 2:11-13; and 2 Corinthians 5:17. Testify to your family how the Holy Spirit has renovated your heart.

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Maggie and Jonathan, supported
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¹Campbell, P. (2016, July 10). *The Heart of the Matter-Deuteronomy 30:1-6*. The Gospel Coalition | Australia. <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-heart-of-the-matter-deuteronomy-301-6/>

²Block, Daniel. (2017, February 18). *The Mystery of Divine Grace: Out of Mordor!* Veritas Class, College Church. <https://college-church.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Block-2017-02-19-2929-3010-Notes.pdf>