

## Life-Study of Deuteronomy Summary - Messages 1—5

### Introduction

Deuteronomy means “second law” and thus signifies a **respeaking**, a repeated speaking, a speaking again of the divine law. Deuteronomy is not only a conclusion of the Pentateuch; it is also a **concluding word of the law**. Christ is first our life and then our life supply. For both our life and life supply, Christ is the word.

The general sketch of Deuteronomy is the renewed training given to the new generation of the children of Israel after their long wandering, **to prepare them to enter into the good land promised by God and inherit it as their possession**. Throughout the years, God has been carrying us. God carries us even when our daily living is not pleasing to Him; He does not cast us aside. As He is carrying us, He needs us to have a Deuteronomy, a **respeaking**, again and again.

The central thought of Deuteronomy is that **Christ is the Instructor and Leader of the people of God that they may be able to enter into the heavenly territory and participate in His riches**. The key words in Deuteronomy are **loving God, obeying His commandments** (His words), and **receiving His blessing**.

### Review of the Past

Reviewing the past has a threefold benefit. First, reviewing the past **brings us new light and new revelation**. If we would have this light and revelation, we need to be in the presence of the Lord as we are reviewing our past. Reviewing the past also helps us to **know God’s heart and God’s hand**. God’s heart is loving and His hand is righteous. Finally, reviewing the past helps us to **know ourselves, to condemn the flesh, and to learn to reject the self and the flesh**.

Concerning reviewing the past, there is a governing thought. **Our review of the past must be governed by the thought that God’s heart is loving and that His governmental dealing is righteous**. Next, **obedience and faithfulness are the two conditions that must be fulfilled if we are to be qualified to receive God’s blessing**. Finally, **the turning away of man’s heart from God results in serious tragedy**. To turn away from God and from His word, which is Christ, is to lose all the blessings and to suffer the curse. These three points should govern us whenever we intend to have a review of our condition.

The New Testament ministry is a ministry of faith, and the New Testament word is a word of faith. Thus we begin our Christian life and church life by faith. Without faith we cannot live either the Christian life or the church life. Unbelief damages us and leads to tragedy. With respect to believing in God we should forget our past, but with respect to knowing God and ourselves we should remember our past. A proper review of our past will help us to no longer trust ourselves but to put our trust absolutely in God.

### A Book Concerning Christ

The book of Deuteronomy unveils Christ mainly in two aspects. First, this book shows us **Christ as the goal, the aim, prepared for us by God**. As this goal, Christ is the all-inclusive good land. Second, the book of Deuteronomy unveils **Christ as the life with the strength and ability to reach the God-appointed goal**. Therefore, Christ is both our goal and the way, the life, the strength, and the ability for us to reach the goal. In the book of Deuteronomy, as in the Bible as a whole, God is manifested, man is exposed, and Christ is unveiled. In His eternal economy God has planned to have Himself expressed, manifested, through man. Since man became fallen, God in His economy also planned to redeem man and bring man back to Himself. God also intends to annul man, to bring man to nothing through crucifying us in Christ and with Christ. Finally, in His economy, God has planned that man should do everything God requires of him by Christ, in Christ, with Christ, through Christ, and by being one with Christ.

**The crucial matter that we need to realize is that God wants us to live, act, behave, work, and have our being in Christ, by Christ, with Christ, through Christ, and in oneness with Christ.**

## **The Crucial Points**

- (1) Moses as the spokesman of God was like an aged, loving father speaking to his children with much love and concern.
- (2) The book of Deuteronomy speaks about the love of God and the governmental administration of God.
- (3) The children of Israel as the audience were also experienced in God's dealing with them.
- (4) This book is a speaking supplementary to the book of Numbers, concerning what kind of man one should be to inherit the promised land as the good land. He should be one who loves God, fears God, subjects himself to God's ruling, minds the bowels of God, and lives in the presence of God.
- (5) This book speaks of God as a God of love and righteousness.
- (6) Because of the foregoing, it is required that God's people respond to God with their love in a way that fits in with God's governmental administration.
- (7) With a review of the past, on the one hand, this book points out God's leading that man may know the heart and the hand of God, so that man may trust in God and fear God.
- (8) With a view of the future, this book expects that, on the one hand, man may know the love and government of God and that, on the other hand, man may know his real condition, so that he will not trust himself. Hence, the intention of the book of Deuteronomy is that we would know God and also know ourselves.
- (9) Ultimately this book shows us that the love of God consummately works for His people that they may enjoy His full blessing according to His will and foreknowledge. The nine crucial points in the book of Deuteronomy reveal God, man, and Christ as the word. In these nine points God is manifested, man is exposed, and Christ is presented.

The nine crucial points in the book of Deuteronomy reveal three persons: God, man, and Christ as the word. In these nine points God is manifested, man is exposed, and Christ is presented. According to this book, with God there are love, righteousness, faithfulness, and blessing. Concerning man, Deuteronomy reveals that man is nothing. Deuteronomy also reveals Christ as the word. We cannot do anything for God, but we can receive the word as our life and life supply. Learn to inhale the breath of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. If we breathe the processed Triune God, the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Spirit will be with us.

(Life-Study of Deuteronomy – Messages 1-5).