

Preaching Outline for CTR Fall 2006

Covenant Renewal on the Eve of Entering the Promised Land

God is our Covenant-keeping King

Sermon Title	Passage	Theme	Date
1 Judgment Belongs to God (1:17)	Deut 1:1-18 <i>1:19-2:23</i>	Justice	9/3
2 The People Belong to the Lord (4:20)	Deut 4:1-40	Inheritance	9/10
3 Obeying the King of the Covenant (5:32)	Deut 5:1-33	Fidelity	9/17
4 Loving the King of the Covenant (6:4-9)	Deut 6:1-25	Passion	9/24
5 The Lord –A Devouring Fire (9:3)	Deut 9:1-6	Holiness & Grace	10/1
6 The Whole Earth Belongs to the Lord (10:14)	Deut 10:12-22	God's Power and Affection	10/8
7 Covenant Blessings and Curses (11:26-8)	Deut 11:1-32	Obedience out of love	10/15
			10/20 Presbytery Service
8 Living as Children of the Lord (14:1-2)	Deut 14:1-29	Reverence and Rejoicing	10/22
9 Doing Business as People blessed by the Lord (15:6)	Deut 15:1-23	Blessing	10/29
10 Purging Evil from God's People (17:7)	Deut 17:1-23	Collective Purity	10/29 pm
11 Waging War as the Army of God (20:1)	Deut 20:1-20	Justice	11/5
12 Giving God the Firstfruits (26:10)	Deut 26:1-15	Devotion	11/12
13 A People Holy to the Lord our God (19)	Deut 26:16-19	His treasured possession	11/19
14 Renewal of the Covenant (29:9)	Deut 29:1-30:20	Repentance	11/26
15 Great Isn't Good Enough (3:26)	Deut 3:21-29	Perfection	12/3 Advent
16 Immanuel (31:6)	Deut 31:1-8	God with us	12/10
17 A Witness Against Us (31:19)	Deut 31:9-29; 32:1-43 (Song)	Rebellion	12/17
18 Hope for a Savior (34:12)	Deut 34:1-12	Mighty Power	12/24 am
Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Service			12/24 pm

Prayer and Discussion

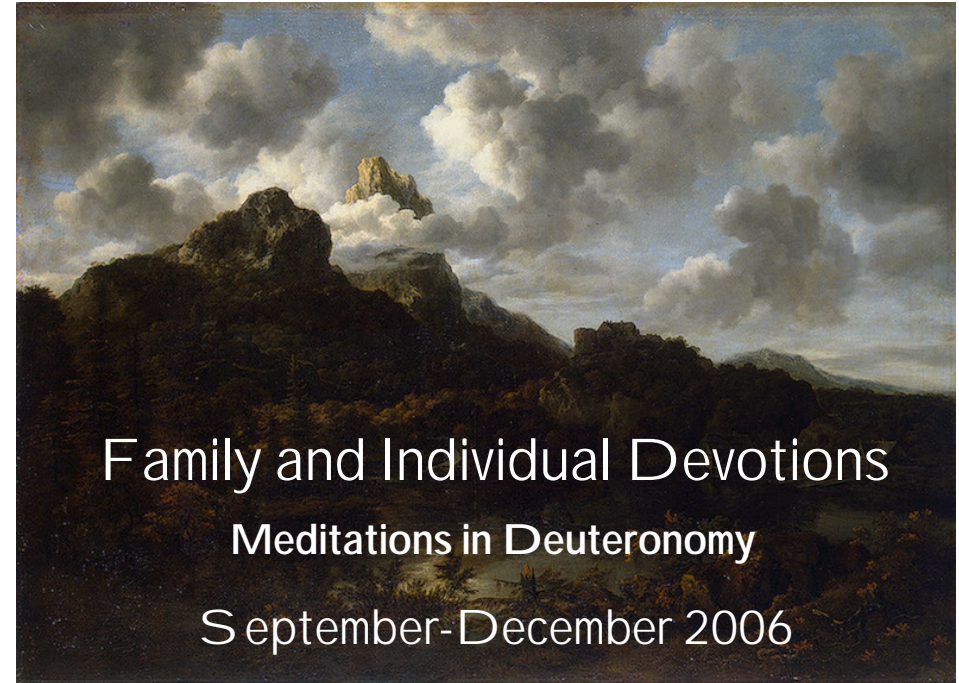
Sermons are not meant to be applied alone!

If you want to really understand and apply what God says in Deuteronomy then you need to do more than just listen to the sermons. Read through the book with us. Come to a Home Fellowship Group and discuss it. Come to prayer meeting and join others in this community praying for God to work out His covenant faithfulness in us. His covenant is intended for His community.

¹ Cover artwork: **Mountainous Landscape**, 1670s *Ruisdael, Jacob Isaaksz van* Copyright ©2003 State Hermitage Museum

Taking Gathered Worship Home

God is our Covenant-Keeping King



And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

“To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. Yet the LORD set his affection on your forefathers and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations, as it is today. Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt.

“Fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. He is your praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes. Your forefathers who went down into Egypt were seventy in all, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky.”

Deuteronomy 10:12-22

Introduction

The conquest of Christ over all the world (John 16-17) is rooted in His promises to redeem His people from slavery and settle them in a land flowing with milk and honey. Perhaps nowhere in Scripture do we see the relationship of Christ's rule and the role of His people in advancing His kingdom more clearly than in Deuteronomy. This book is a rich treasury of our heritage as God's people. Again and again God proclaims His great love for His people, for no other reason than His grace, and calls us to love and serve Him in all of life. The covenant, or sacred agreement between God and His people, is the framework within which we are to understand our responsibilities and privileges as children of the Lord. It is here that we see God's faithfulness as our covenant-keeping King.

Major Themes

- *God's sovereignty is recounted as the basis for the people's obedience.*
- *Explanation is given for why God is judging the inhabitants of the Promised Land.*
- *God's people are called to live as the holy people He is setting them apart in the land to be.*
- *The blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience are reiterated.*
- *The totality of life before the Lord is expounded.*
- *The need for a perfect covenant mediator is demonstrated.*

Outline

The book has six major sections:

1. Judgment Belongs to the Lord, our God. *Chapters 1-3*
2. The People Belong to the Lord, our God. *4-6*
3. The Whole Earth Belongs to the Lord, our God. *7-10*
4. God joins with His people through a Covenant containing both blessings and curses. *11-25*
5. God formalizes this Covenant with His people. *26-30*
6. Hope in our Covenant-Keeping God despite our certain failure. *31-34*

History

Israel on the **E**ve of **E**ntering the Promised Land

After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness the people are brought to the Jordan and prepared to go into the land God promised to their forefathers. Moses, who has led them, is denied entry and must pass his mantle of leadership to Joshua. Deuteronomy is the last of Moses' five books (Pentateuch) and God uses him to call the people to covenant fidelity as they go into the land. This call to renewal is of great significance as those hearing it have seen with their own eyes the great deliverance of God from Egypt and now must pass on that testimony to the next generation who will live in the land and be tempted to forget God amidst all their blessings.

The Shema

These five verses (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) are called the "Shema" for the Hebrew word that starts the passage meaning "hear" or listen. It has been the primary confession of Judaism for millennia. Its proclamation of Israel's one God as the only god and call to worship Him exclusively is a summary of the whole law given through Moses.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, When you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Revealing God

Scripture teaches us about who God is.

Genesis—God as King of Creation

Exodus—God as the King Who Delivers His People

Deuteronomy—God as our Covenant-Keeping King

Revealing Us

It also exposes who we really are.

Deuteronomy reveals that all those who are in Christ are God's "treasured possession" while also showing us to be a "stiff-necked people." The answer provided in this renewing of the law is that we need to love God with all our being while waiting for the One greater than Moses who will keep the covenant fully. This requires faith and repentance. We must believe that God really is our covenant-keeping King and admit our failures in obeying His law. If our remorse is sincere we will endeavor to live righteously in the joy of His great love for us.

Covenant

A Covenant is a blood-oath between two parties.

In the time of Moses there were certain cultural forms that God made use of to communicate with His people. When a great king won wars against lesser nations it was common for that king to make an agreement with his new protectorate. This binding contract was called a covenant. Standard in these covenants were the following: prologue, stipulations, blessings and curses, an offer for allegiance, and witnesses.

The framework in Deuteronomy for calling God's people to faithful service of her King is this kind of covenant. God had already made this agreement with His people at Sinai (Horeb). Deuteronomy's renewal of that covenant promises God's protection and many blessings for obedience and threatens curses for infidelity. Throughout the book God warns His people that they will in fact forsake Him and be disciplined. Moses himself is kept from the land to force us to yearn for the One greater than Moses.