

The End of the Pentateuch, but Not the End of the Story

Deuteronomy 32:48-34:12

I. Review of Deuteronomy

- A. Setting: The people are about to enter the land, and they will face a host of temptations to live like the pagans in the land.
- B. Outline:
 - 1. Moses reminds the people of the Lord's dealings with them – their relationship with God (Deut. 1-3).
 - 2. He calls them to loyalty to the Lord: to love God with all their heart and their neighbor as themselves and to teach their children these things (Deut. 4-11).
 - 3. He tells them what all this will look like through specific laws and key institutions that will govern their daily life in the land (Deut. 12-26).
 - 4. He calls them to respond. To follow the Lord leads to life; to rebel leads to death (Deut. 27-28).
 - 5. He sketches Israel's future (Deut. 29-34).

II. Moses Blesses Israel (Deut. 33)

- A. A reminder of the nation's relationship to God (33:1-4)
- B. Moses blesses Israel (33:5-25; cp. Gen 1:28, 12:3, 49; Num. 24)
- C. God's unique power and care applied to His people (33:26-29)

III. Moses' Legacy (32:48-52; 34:1-12)

- A. Moses is a sinner saved by grace (32:48-52)
- B. Moses was a servant of the Lord (34:5-8)
- C. Moses was a unique prophet (Deut. 34:10-12, cp. John 6:14-15)

IV. The Pentateuch and the Storyline of the Bible

- A. Genesis
 - 1. God's people rebel against his rule and are removed from His place (Gen 1-3).
 - 2. But, God will redeem them and judge His enemies through an offspring of the woman (Gen 3:15, 12:1-3, 15, 49:10).
- B. Exodus
 - 1. God's people are enslaved in a land not their own, and He redeems them and judges Egypt.
 - 2. He gives Israel His law – they are His people.
- C. Leviticus
 - 1. Israel must be able to live in the presence of the *holy God*, but they are sinful.
 - 2. So, we have laws and atonement via sacrifice and the priesthood (see esp. Lev. 16).

D. Numbers

1. The people fail to trust God, yet He remains faithful.

E. Deuteronomy

1. God is preparing the new generation to enter the land.
2. What they need most is a new heart that is able to love God and obey Him.

F. How This Points to Jesus & the New Covenant

1. Jesus is the **offspring** – born of a woman.
2. He is the **king** in the line of Judah / David.
3. He is the **priest** who is able to make atonement for all who trust Him.
4. He is the **prophet**, the Word of God made flesh.
5. God gives **a new heart** to those whom He calls to salvation, and the Holy Spirit now indwells Christians who are the temple of God.

V. Reflection and Personal Application

- A. How has your understanding of the nature and character of God been deepened by this study?
- B. What does it teach you about the human condition?
- C. What contributions has it made to your understanding of who Jesus is and what He did?