

The Bible Jesus Used

A Gospel-Centered Glance at the Old Testament

Bethlehem Baptist Church, 2011–2012
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Deuteronomy at a Glance

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Deuteronomy's View of Israel's History

Blessing	4:25 When you father children and children's children, and have grown old in the land, and [not if] you act corruptly by making a carved image in the form of anything, and by doing what is evil in the sight of Yahweh your God, so as to provoke him to anger,
Curse (cf. 31:16–17)	26 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will soon utterly perish from the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess. You will not live long in it, but will be utterly destroyed. 27 And Yahweh will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where Yahweh will drive you. 28 And there you will serve gods of wood and stone, the work of human hands, that neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.
Restoration Blessing	29 And [not but] from there you will seek Yahweh your God and you will find him, when [not if] you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.

❖ **The Basis for Restoration: God's Merciful Initiative!**

- ❖ Deut. 4:30–31. When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to Yahweh your God and obey his voice. ³¹**For Yahweh your God is a merciful God.** He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.

The Old Covenant Problem

❖ **A Good Call: Respond to God from the Heart**

❖ Deut. 31:11–13. (Teach/Read > Hear > Learn to Fear > Obey) = Life

❖ **A Bad Result: Rebellion and Curse**

❖ Deut. 31:16–17. Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers. Then this people will rise and whore after the foreign gods among them in the land that they are entering, and they will forsake me and break my covenant that I have made with them.
¹⁷Then my anger will be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them and hide my face from them, and they will be devoured. And many evils and troubles will come upon them.

❖ The Basis for Israel's Badness

- ❖ Deut. 29:4. But to this day Yahweh has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or *ears to hear*.
- ❖ Rom. 11:7–8. Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, ⁸as it is written, “**God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day.**”

❖ The Short-Range Purpose of the Law

- ❖ Gal. 3:12. The law is not of faith. (Cf. Num. 14:11; Deut. 1:32; 9:23.)
- ❖ Rom. 3:20. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in [God's] sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.
- ❖ Rom. 5:20. Now the law came in to increase the trespass.

❖ The New Covenant Hope

- ❖ John 6:44–45. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the Prophets, “And they will all be **taught** by God.” Everyone who has **heard** and **learned** from the Father **comes** to me.

New Covenant Hope Built into the Old Covenant

- ❖ **The New Covenant will ...**
 - ❖ **Follow both the period of blessing and curse (30:1)**
 - ❖ **Include a full return to Yahweh (30:2)**
 - ❖ **Include a full return of Yahweh (30:3)**
 - ❖ **Include a full restoration to the land (30:4–5)**
 - ❖ **Include an internal heart change that will enable love for God with all (30:6)**
 - ❖ **Include complete curse of God's enemies (30:7)**

- ❖ **Result in obedience to the commands in Deuteronomy (30:8)**
- ❖ **Result in productivity and fruitfulness in life and ministry (30:9)**
- ❖ **Be grounded in God's delight in his people (30:9)**

❖ New Covenant Mercy

❖ All comes from God's mercy:

❖ Deut. 4:30–31. When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to Yahweh your God and obey his voice. ³¹**For Yahweh your God is a merciful God.** He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.

❖ All is sustained by God's mercy.

❖ Deut. 30:3. Then Yahweh your God will restore your fortunes and **have compassion on you**, and he will gather you again....

- ❖ All is for magnifying the greatness of God's mercy:
 - ❖ Eph. 1:5–6. He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

❖ Deuteronomy is about magnifying God

- ❖ Yahweh alone is God—a rock (32:4, 15, 18, 30–31), a great (5:24, 7:21, 10:17; 11:2; 32:3) and consuming presence (4:24; 9:3; 33:2) that stands unique in his perfections.
- ❖ With respect to his *character* (32:3–4), Yahweh is perfectly merciful (4:31; 13:17; 30:3), loving (5:10; 7:8, 13; 10:15, 18; 23:5), loyal (5:10; 7:9, 12), faithful (7:9; 32:4), holy (26:15; 32:51), eternal (33:27), impartial (10:17–18), and just (32:4). He is fully distinct from his creation (7:21; 10:17) yet fully present and active in it (4:7; 6:15; 7:21; cf. 1:45; 31:17).

- ❖ With respect to his *power* (3:24; 32:39), he is the creator of humanity (4:32), the overseer of nations (32:8), the universal judge (9:4; 18:12; 32:41, 43), and the sole controller of all things in heaven and on earth (4:39; 10:14; cf. Heb. 1:3). “See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand” (Deut. 32:39).

- ❖ **Yahweh alone is Israel’s “father” (32:6)**—their redeemer (4:20; 4:34; etc.), covenant maker (29:1), warrior (1:30; 3:22), protector (33:26–29), guide (1:33; 8:2; 32:12), instructor (1:3; 4:2; 6:1–2), prayer answerer (4:7; 9:19; 10:10), provider (2:7; 8:16–18), disciplinarian (8:3, 5; 11:2), tester (13:3), judge (1:17; 5:9; 7:10), restorer (4:40–31; 30:1–10; 32:34), and savior (4:31; 33:29). Because he is God, he is jealous for his people’s love (4:24; 5:9; 32:16, 21) and deserves their life-encompassing, community-embracing, exclusive commitment (6:4–5).

- ❖ **Because he is God and is by nature both good and just (32:4), he must hate and punish sin (7:4; 8:19–20; 9:8, 19, 20, 22; 29:20; 31:17). He must detest all influences that subvert his rule and all satisfactions that do not ultimately result in humility, gratitude, and praise (7:25–26; 12:31; 32:16).**
- ❖ **God’s people must tenaciously battle against all forms of idolatry (5:7; 6:14), for the preeminent one from whom, through whom, and to whom all things exist demands respect (Rom. 11:36; Col. 1:16).**
- ❖ **May we today magnify God for his greatness shown us in mercy!**

❖ **Commandment Keeping and Life**

❖ **The Old Covenant:**

- ❖ **Deut. 8:1. The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live....**
- ❖ **Rom. 7:10–12. The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. ¹¹For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. ¹²So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. ¹³Did that which is good, then bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. ¹⁴For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.**

❖ **New Covenant:**

- ❖ **Deut. 30:6, 8. And Yahweh your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that **you will love** Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul, **for the sake of your life**.... ⁸And you shall obey the voice of Yahweh and keep all his commandments that I command you today.**
- ❖ **Jer. 31:31, 33–34. I will make a new covenant....
³³**I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.** And I will be their God, and they shall be people. ³⁴And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, “Know Yahweh,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.**

❖ Ezek. 36:23, 27. And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am Yahweh, declares the Lord Yahweh, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes....²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and **cause you to walk in my statutes** and be careful to obey my rules.

Who Performs this New Covenant Love Overflowing in Obedience that Results in Life?

❖ Overview:

- ❖ **Old Covenant Call: Deut. 4:1. And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes (*dikaioma*) and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live.**
- ❖ **New Covenant Promise: Ezek. 36:27. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes (*dikaioma*) and be careful to obey my rules.**

- ❖ **New Covenant Fulfillment by Christ:**
- ❖ **Rom. 5:18. As one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness (*dikaioma*) leads to justification of life for all men.**
- ❖ **2 Cor. 5:21. For our sake [the Father God] made [Christ] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

❖ **New Covenant Fulfillment in Us by the Spirit of Christ:**

- ❖ **Rom. 8:3–4, 13. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the just requirement (*dikaioma*) of law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.... ¹³If you live according to the flesh you will die, but if you by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**
- ❖ **Rom. 6:7, 22–23. One who has died has been justified from sin.... ²²But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

❖ **What is Fulfilled in Us is Not Specifically the Written Code Given to Israel But the Law of Love that the Code Embodies**

- ❖ **Rom. 8:4. ... in order that the just requirement (*dikaionoma*) of law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**
- ❖ **Rom 13:8–10. Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who love another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does not wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.**

- ❖ **Deut. 30:6, 8. And Yahweh your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live....⁸And you shall return and obey the voice of Yahweh and keep all his commandments that I command you today.**

❖ **This law keeping is empowered from within by the Spirit and is the same law kept by Abraham before the Mosaic law was ever given and the same law broken.**

❖ **Rom. 2:26–29. So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts (*dikaioma*) of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? ²⁷Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. ²⁸For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart by the Spirit, not the letter....**

- ❖ **Gen. 26:5. Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes (*dikaioma*), and my laws.**
- ❖ **Isa. 24:5–6. The earth lies defiled under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed the law, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. ⁶Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt.**

Summary

- ❖ **The Mosaic law was given for a specific purpose in redemptive history—namely, to condemn Israel in order to show their need for Jesus.**
- ❖ **Moses saw both the temporary nature of the Old Covenant and the lasting significance of the call to love God overflowing in love of neighbor.**
- ❖ **The life promised by the law was, by Christ's perfect obedience, secured for all identified with Jesus by faith alone.**
- ❖ **The faith that alone justifies is never alone, but always overflows in a life of love for neighbor, which is itself the fulfillment of the law.**

- ❖ **While the Mosaic law is obsolete and we are not under it, the written code provides a lasting blueprint for wise living (an expression of God's eternal law) that provides us an example of how love for God is to overflow in love for neighbor.**
- ❖ **While our Spirit-empowered life of love is real, it is not perfect; Christ's work alone provides the ground for our eternal justification, and the fruit of love that he alone produces in us is only proof of our justification en route to eternal life.**

The Law at a Glance

Genesis	Prologue to God's Universal Kingdom
Exodus	King Yahweh & His Global Purposes through Israel
Leviticus	Holy Yahweh & the Necessity for Holiness
Numbers	Faithful Yahweh & His Unfaithful People
Deuteronomy	Israel's Constitution