

DEUTERONOMY 10-15

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

As the Israelites are gearing up to enter the Promised Land, Moses reviews Israel's history, the basics of the covenant, and instructions for possessing the land. This section of Deuteronomy covers the requirements for Israel's relationship with God. This book is structured like a vassal **treaty**. During this time, it was common for a stronger nation to make a treaty with a weaker nation. A treaty is a formal agreement between two or more groups. These treaties would provide the weaker nation with protection, but there were strings attached. In this case, God represented the stronger nation and Israel represented the weaker nation. These treaties have many parts to them. The book of Deuteronomy, ordered like these treaties, includes an opening, history, rules to follow, consequences for breaking the rules, a witness, and a conclusion.

The key word for Deuteronomy is review. It's a recap of some of the things we have seen in the Old Testament. God renews His covenant with Israel that He made on Mount Sinai. He starts fresh. He forgives and reminds them that He will keep His promises. They were to remember and obey the commands that God gave. The idea of **remembrance** is repeated all throughout the book. To remember something is to constantly bring it to mind or think of it again. Why did God instruct them to remember? Simply put, they were prone to forget and go their own way! As they remember God's faithfulness in the past, they will walk confidently into the Promised Land knowing that God will continue to be faithful in the future. As they remember God's laws, which are not burdensome but freedom and life giving, they can experience the blessings that come from obedience to them. Loving God and walking in obedience to Him aren't separate. They go hand in hand.

God knows that the best thing for us is to worship Him and Him alone. Israel must not worship other gods or commit any forms of idolatry. **Idolatry** means to worship someone or something other than God as though it were God. As the Israelites were to encounter other nations, they were warned not to adopt their "gods" or idols. There is also a warning about false prophets, which God used to test His people. If a prophet says, "Let us follow other gods and let us worship them," you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The Lord your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul." God doesn't test His people because He wants them to fail. The goal of testing is to strengthen their faith. James 1 tells us that God tests because He knows that it will produce something good in us. The most loving thing that God could do is warn against the things He knows won't satisfy. He is where true fulfillment and life is found.

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Israel was to obey God and only worship Him!
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Remember and Obey● Blessing and Curse● The False Prophet
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Deuteronomy 10:20<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “Fear the Lord your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name.”● Deuteronomy 11:26-28<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse—the blessing if you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the Lord your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.”● Deuteronomy 13:3<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “The Lord your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul.”
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Treaty<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A formal agreement between two or more groups.● Remember<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ To constantly bring it to mind or think of it again.● Idolatry<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ To worship someone or something other than God as though it were God

Reflection Questions

1.	What is the book of Deuteronomy structured like?
2.	What is the key word for the book of Deuteronomy?
3.	Why were the Israelites called to remember the past?
4.	What is idolatry? What is a time you put something in your live above God?