

Andrew Wilson

Deuteronomy

Ten Words to Live By



 8-Session Bible Study

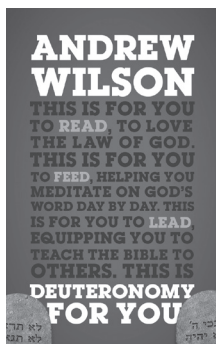
Andrew Wilson

Deuteronomy

Ten Words to Live By



✓ 8-Session Bible Study



Deuteronomy For You

These studies are adapted from *Deuteronomy For You*.

If you are reading *Deuteronomy For You* alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of *Deuteronomy For You*:

Study 1 > Ch 1

Study 6 > Ch 9

Study 2 > Ch 2

Study 7 > Ch 10

Study 3 > Ch 3-4

Study 8 > Ch 11

Study 4 > Ch 5-6

Study 5 > Ch 7-8

Find out more about *Deuteronomy For You* at:
www.thegoodbook.com/for-you

Deuteronomy: Ten Words to Live By

A Good Book Guide

© Andrew Wilson/The Good Book Company, 2027.

Published by The Good Book Company

thegoodbook.com | thegoodbook.co.uk

thegoodbook.com.au | thegoodbook.co.nz



Unless indicated, all Scripture references are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright © 2011 Biblica, Inc. Used by permission.

Every book published by The Good Book Company has been written by a human author and edited by a human editor. While AI tools are sometimes used to assist with research and support certain processes, all content has been created by a human author and thoroughly checked by our editorial team to ensure it is biblically faithful and pastorally wise.

Titles published by The Good Book Company may be purchased in bulk for educational, business, fundraising or sales promotional use. For information and bespoke pricing, please email specialmarkets@thegoodbook.com.

Andrew Wilson has asserted his right under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 to be identified as author of this work.

All rights reserved. Except as may be permitted by the Copyright Act, no part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without prior permission from the publisher.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Design by André Parker and Drew McCall

ISBN: 9781802544848 | JOB-008936 | Printed in Turkey

Contents

Introduction	4
Why Study Deuteronomy?	5
1. Two Promises <i>Deuteronomy 1 – 3</i>	7
2. The Ten Words <i>Deuteronomy 4 – 5</i>	15
3. The First Word <i>Deuteronomy 6 – 11</i>	23
4. The Second to Fifth Words <i>Deuteronomy 12 – 18</i>	29
5. The Sixth to Tenth Words <i>Deuteronomy 19 – 26</i>	35
6. Blessings and Curses <i>Deuteronomy 27 – 29</i>	43
7. Return and Restoration <i>Deuteronomy 30 – 31</i>	49
8. Rock and Refuge <i>Deuteronomy 32 – 34</i>	55
Leader's Guide	61



Introduction

One of the Bible writers described God's word as "a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105, NIV). God gave us the Bible to tell us about who he is and what he wants for us. He speaks through it by his Spirit and lights our way through life.

That means that we need to look carefully at the Bible and uncover its meaning—but we also need to apply what we've discovered to our lives.

Good Book Guides are designed to help you do just that. The sessions in this book are interactive and easy to lead. They're perfect for use in groups or for personal study.

Let's take a look at what is included in each session.

Talkabout: Every session starts with an ice-breaker question, designed to get people talking around a subject that links to the Bible study.

Investigate: These questions help you explore what the passage is about.

Apply: These questions are designed to get you thinking practically: what does this Bible teaching mean for you and your church?

Explore More: These optional sections help you to go deeper or to explore another part of the Bible which connects with the main passage.

Getting Personal: These sections are a chance for personal reflection. Some groups may feel comfortable discussing these, but you may prefer to look at them quietly as individuals instead—or leave them out.

Pray: Here, you're invited to pray in the light of the truths and challenges you've seen in the study.

Each session is also designed to be easily split into two! Watch out for the **Apply** section that comes halfway through, and stop there if you haven't got time to do the whole thing in one go.

In the back of the book, you'll find a **Leader's Guide**, which provides helpful notes on every question, along with everything else that group leaders need in order to facilitate a great session and help the group uncover the riches of God's light-giving word.

Why Study Deuteronomy?

Imagine being asked to design a book of the Bible from scratch. What would you include?

You'd probably want to begin with the basics: who God is. But you could also explain the gospel, making clear our problem and God's solution. You could start with the person and work of Jesus, showing how he is our prophet, priest and king. A Bible overview would be helpful, too. As would teaching on how God's people should live. You might start with some instruction on the life and mission of the church. How do we become part of God's people? Who should lead us? What should happen when we meet?

I'm sure you can see the punchline of this thought experiment. Nonetheless, here it is: if you were designing a book of the Bible from scratch, you might well write something very similar to the book of Deuteronomy.

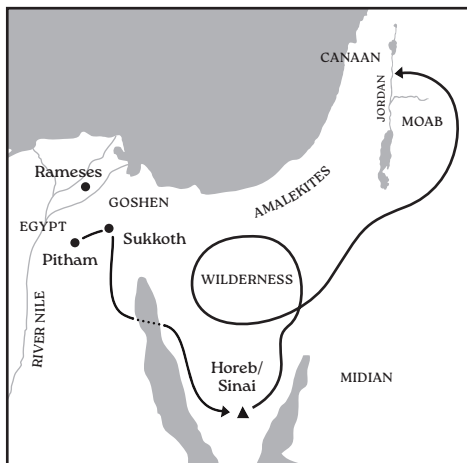
However, Christians generally do not think of Deuteronomy in that way. One of the great puzzles of Deuteronomy is that it is a foundational book of the Bible—without it, we fail to fully grasp the teaching of the prophets, psalms, apostles and even the Lord Jesus—and, yet, many believers have not read it. Take Peter's evangelistic message about Jesus in Acts 3, which is based on Deuteronomy 18:15. Or Paul's famous promise in Romans 10:9, which draws on Deuteronomy 30:14. Even more striking is the fact that Jesus quoted almost exclusively from Deuteronomy in his confrontation with Satan in Matthew 4:1-10 and later on in his ministry, again, in Matthew 22:37-38 when asked what the greatest commandment was. Why have many Christians not read Deuteronomy? In short, it is because it initially seems hard to understand. This Good Book Guide exists to help with that.

At the outset, it's important to remember the overall shape of Deuteronomy. First, it is a covenant treaty between God and his people, in which God commits to certain things (blessings and curses) in response to the people's obedience or disobedience. Second, the book is structured around Moses' sermon to the people on the Ten Commandments (or Ten Words). The chapters in the core of the book (chapters 6 – 26) find their basis in one of those commands. Finally, the book ends with Moses' death when he hands leadership over to Joshua as the people cross into the promised land.

It is time to start. Introductions are important, but there is only so much waiting around a person can stand before the journey begins. As Moses puts it, "You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Break camp and advance..." (Deuteronomy 1:6-7).



Deuteronomy



1

Two Promises

Deuteronomy 1 - 3

Talk about

1. Have you ever experienced someone giving you a gift when you felt you didn't deserve it? What made them give it to you? Did you ever worry that it might be taken away?

Investigate

 Read Deuteronomy 1:1-8

DICTIONARY

Horeb (v 2): also called Mount Sinai.

Kadesh Barnea (v 2): an area bordering the promised land.

2. Who is speaking in these verses? Who is he addressing and when?

3. What notes of hope are there in the opening of Deuteronomy?

- v 4

- v 8

Moses starts his sermon by recounting the process by which leaders were selected for the people. It may seem like a puzzling place to start but it reveals that leadership development is at the heart of Deuteronomy. Remember, Moses is addressing a generation who he knows will no longer have him to lead them once they enter the land. How will they be governed? In many ways, Deuteronomy is a manual to help answer that question.

Moses then begins to recall the story of Israel's wandering in the desert.

 **Read Deuteronomy 1:19-38**

DICTIONARY

Anakites (v 28): an ancient, giant-like people.

4. What did the spies report (v 25)? What confidence should this have given the Israelites?

5. But what was the people's response? What is particularly devastating about it (v 26-28)?

6. What was the result?

Apply

7. What does the opening of Deuteronomy teach us about...

- the danger of disbelieving God's promises?
- God's grace and mercy towards the sin of his people?
- How should this encourage us as God's people today?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

Despite his clear command, God's people rebelled against him and, as a result, God turned a "deaf ear" towards them (v 45). Do you find it easy to forget God's power and goodness when faced with challenging situations? Are you tempted to doubt God's promises? Or are there areas of your life where you are actively rebelling against God?

Deuteronomy offers hope for God's people, which is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus' death and resurrection, but the opening chapter offers us a sombre warning against deliberate disobedience.

Investigate

The first chapter brought us the bad news: through rebellion and unbelief, the Exodus generation forfeited the promised land. The next two chapters present a more encouraging story. God's promise to Israel still stands, and the second generation will inherit it.

 **Read Deuteronomy 2:14-15, 24-25; 3:1-2**

DICTIONARY

Sihon (2:24): king of the Amorites, who opposed God's people.

Og (3:1): king of Bashan; his name means "long-necked".

8. What has happened in the 38 years of wandering?

9. How are God's promises starting to be fulfilled and who is it that is giving Israel the victory (2:24)?

Explore More | OPTIONAL

Read Deuteronomy 2:26 – 3:11

- The defeats of Sihon and Og are detailed in this section but also mentioned in chapter 1. Why do you think these military victories are significant for God's people?

Read Psalm 136:18-20

- Why does Scripture note these victories multiple times?
- What is the significance of the repeated refrain "His love endures for ever"? Does it surprise you to read it in relation to the defeat of other nations?

Many readers are understandably troubled by the violence in this section, especially the references to complete destruction. However, there are two things that help us understand these verses: first, the cities spoken of are fortified military garrisons rather than population centres; second, the use of hyperbole was a common feature of ancient battle narratives from this time, and people knew that "men, women and children, leaving no survivors" referred to a comprehensive victory rather than a literal obliteration of every last person—Moses himself suggests this when he tells us the cities were "destroyed" on the one hand, but "captured" and "given" to the Israelites on the other (3:12). This makes it likely that he was describing a crushing defeat rather than total annihilation.

Read Deuteronomy 3:21-29

10. What three encouragements does Moses give?

- v 21-22

- v 24

- v 28

11. How do we see God's mercy in his interaction with Moses?

- How does God's track record give us encouragement today?

Apply

The opening chapters of Deuteronomy remind us that, despite their sin, God blesses his people and fulfils his promises to them.

12. How have these chapters given you a greater sense of God's grace in your life? Think of some examples and thank him for them.

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

Moses has taken Israel as far as he can. It will fall to Joshua to cross the Jordan when the people move on. Given their failures so far, and the challenges ahead of them, Israel are in desperate need of a Joshua who is courageous, faithful and obedient. So are we.

Praise God for the Lord Jesus, who is the fulfilment of this Old Testament shadow. How will remembering this truth impact you today?

Pray

Praise Jesus that he fulfils the Old Testament shadows and that he redeemed us by becoming a curse for us (Galatians 3:13).

Ask for God's help to live for him in light of his grace towards you.

Pray that those in your local church community would also come to a deeper understanding of God's mercy in their lives and live more wholeheartedly for him day by day.