

**Text: Dt 8.1-20**

**THEOLOGICAL OUTLINE OF DEUTERONOMY<sup>1</sup>**

1. **Consider:** a review of God’s faithfulness (1.6–4.40)
2. **Covenant:** an exposition of the law (5–26)

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3. **Commence:** preparations for renewing the covenant (27.1–28.68)
4. **Commit:** an exhortation to obedience (29.2–30.20)

Chapter 5 gave us the Ten Commandments, one writer<sup>2</sup> thinks that the rest of the “Covenant” sermon is a meditation on each of the Commandments in succession:

Major Issues	Godward	Manward
Authority	Commandment 1 Expounded in Dt 6-11	Commandment 5 Expounded in Dt 16.18-18.22
Dignity	Commandment 2 Expounded in Dt 12	Commandments 6, 7, 8 Expounded in Dt 19-21, 22.1-23.14, and 23.15-24.7
Commitment	Commandment 3 Expounded in 13.1-14.21	Commandment 9 Expounded in 24.8-16
Rights and Privileges	Commandment 4 Expounded in 14.22-16.17	Commandment 10 Expounded in 24.19-26.15

We turn to Deuteronomy 8. Our title is “Don’t Forget Your Good God”

Dt 5.7 ¶ ‘You shall have no other gods before Me.

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from an outline in Lawrence O Richards, *The Bible Readers Companion*, electronic ed. (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1991), 117.

<sup>2</sup> John H. Walton, “Deuteronomy: An Exposition of the Spirit of the Law,” *Grace Theological Journal* 8, no. 2 (1987): 214ff.

## The Divisions of Chapter 8

The NAU translators put a paragraph marker at v. 1 and v. 11.

### Remember the Lord your God (1-10, note v. 2)

Remember what God did (1-6)

Remember what God is going to do (7-10)

### Do not forget the Lord your God (11-20)

Forgetting fails to remember God (11-18)

Forgetting earns the wrath of God (19-20)

(Some of these points may seem odd, but we will see how they make sense as we look at the chapter.)

**Constable:** "The Israelites were not only in danger of compromising with the Canaanites (ch. 7), but they were also in danger of becoming too self-reliant when they entered the land (ch. 8). Note the two double themes, of remembering and forgetting, and the wilderness and the Promised Land, in this chapter."<sup>3</sup>

### Remember the Lord Your God (1-10)

Verse 1 is a kind of preface to the rest of the chapter. What is the focus of this general statement? **Keeping all the commandments of God, so that you can live and multiply in the land.**

What kind of life follows keeping the commandments? Is it eternal or material? **Material, that is, life on this earth in this age.**

What three things are the people told to remember in vv. 2-4? **The Lord's 40 yr leadership in the wilderness; the hunger and the manna; the preservation of clothing.**

What lesson should they draw from this memory? (5) **The Lord was disciplining the nation as a father does his children.**

What conclusion should they make from the lesson? (6) **Keep the commandments.**

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<sup>3</sup> Tom Constable, *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003), Dt 8.1.

What good things does God announce he will do for the people in the days to come? (7-9) **Bringing them into a well-watered good land; bringing them into a fruitful land full of good food; bringing them into a resourceful land full of natural resources.**

What should they do (remember) when they get into that land? (10) **Bless (remember) the Lord who gave all these good things.**

### **Do not forget the Lord your God (11-20)**

Verse 11 gives a warning against forgetfulness. When might forgetfulness arise? (12-13) **When they are full of good things.**

What is forgetfulness? How is it manifested? **By failing to keep God's commandments.**

What is the consequence of forgetfulness? (14-17) **They would think that they got all these good things for themselves, by their own efforts.**

What word do we use to describe this kind of sin, this forgetfulness? **Pride.**

In verse 18, God again demands that they remember who gave them their wealth, once they are in the land. What is the consequence of remembrance in this verse? **God will confirm the covenant with them.**

What will happen to Israel if they forget that God gave them all these good things? (19-20) **They will perish from the good land, just as the Canaanites were going to do.**

### **Thinking through the passage:**

What covenant did God promise to renew, the Abrahamic covenant or the Mosaic covenant? (18) **It has to be the Mosaic covenant, the Abrahamic covenant is unconditional.**

What implications does this have for the current state of Israel? **They can only secure God's promises if they are faithful to give God the glory for their position.**

What implications does this have for Christians as we try to pass our faith on to succeeding generations? **Each generation must come to faith for itself.**

Does God's promises of life in the land mean Christians have a guarantee of a life free of fear wherever they might live? **No, this is a promise to Israel, as a group, and not to Christians either as a group or individually. Nevertheless, Christians always need to remember their God as fervently as God called ancient Israel to do.**

“Always remember to forget  
The troubles that passed your way,  
But never forget to remember  
The blessings that come each day.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> anonymous poem quoted in Constable, Dt 8.1.