

**Text: Dt 30.1-20**

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

Last week we mentioned that the last verse of ch. 29 really went with chapter 30, so we will treat it that way.

### Outline of Dt 30

1. The secret things of God: the eternal covenant (29.29-30.5)
2. The secret things of God: circumcising hearts (30.6-10)
3. The secret things of God: an approachable commandment (30.11-14)
4. Choose you this day (30.15-20)

### Observations from commentaries:

"The steps in Israel's experience, enumerated here only as possibilities, provide an outline of the history of Israel—since this is how things have happened and will happen for Israel. These steps are seven: **dispersion** for disobedience (v. 1), repentance in dispersion (v. 2), **regathering** (v. 3), **restoration** to the land (vv. 4–5), national **conversion** (vv. 6, 8), the **judgment** of Israel's oppressors (v. 7), and national **prosperity** (v. 9). Israel experienced dispersion for disobedience and went into captivity in Assyria and Babylonia, then repented (partially), and was restored to the land (partially) in Old Testament times. However, The Israelites were again dispersed for rejecting their Messiah, have been and still are dispersed throughout the world, and have yet to repent as a group. Thus we look for the fulfillment of most of these steps in the future."<sup>2</sup>

"the overall purpose of the author of the Pentateuch seems to be to show that the Sinai covenant failed for lack of an obedient heart on the part of God's people Israel. We have also seen that his intention in writing the Pentateuch is

<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> Tom Constable, *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003), Dt 30.1 (emphasis added).

not to look back in despair at the failure of man but to point in hope to the faithfulness of God.”<sup>3</sup>

## I. The secret things of God: the eternal covenant (29.29-30.5)

### A. Secret things: God reveals his will and truth (29)

In the NT, Paul speaks of “mysteries” – truths hidden until God reveals them.

We only gain insight into human nature, life, death, hope for the future by receiving God’s mysteries as he reveals them to us.

### B. A look to the future (1-3)

Disobedience and repentance are anticipated

Restoration is promised

### C. Divine assurance (4-5): The Lord will restore, no matter how dispersed

## II. The secret things of God: circumcising hearts (30.6-10)

### A. The key to full restoration, circumcised hearts (6)

This phrase occurs three times in the OT: here, Dt 10.16, Jer 4.4

Related to the concept of the New Covenant in Jer 31.31-34

Note: nationally, this is still a future event. Some Jews have been born again, but the nation as a whole has not. (Compare Rm 11.25-32)

### B. The restoration of Israel (7-8)

Enemies punished, Israeli transformation

### C. The prosperity of Israel (9-10)

There are two levels of fulfilment: as Israel obeyed the Lord in the land, he would prosper them, but after the ultimate redemption, they would obey from the hearts (circumcised hearts)

<sup>3</sup> John H. Sailhamer, “Exegetical Notes: Genesis 1:1–2:4a,” *Trinity Journal* 5, no. 1 (1984): 81.

### III. The secret things of God: an approachable commandment (30.11-14)

Obeying God is not impossible in this life, the word is right there for us to obey, not far away, and God will give grace where men are weak.

Obeying from the heart requires a personal commitment, however.

In the OT, these assurances were available to Israel

In the NT, similar assurances are aided by the indwelling Spirit

### IV. Choose you this day (30.15-20)

A. The choice outlined (15-18)

B. Heaven and earth as witnesses to God's commitment (19-20)

God made the same commitment to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

The only appropriate response is faith.