



Deuteronomy Bible study guide

A clear 7-session guide for personal study, small groups, and churches

Read Deuteronomy as a whole before working through the sessions. Let its own structure set the agenda.

Every question sends you back to the biblical text. The guide helps you observe the passage, follow the author's argument, interpret it in context, and respond faithfully.

CHOOSE YOUR DEPTH

- Short: Read the book overview and discuss the first and final question in a session.
- Study: Work through all 7 sessions and answer each question from the passage.
- Deep: Open the free chapter commentary and dictionary links while you study.

protos-app.com/commentary/deuteronomy

Deuteronomy at a glance

BIG IDEA

God first revealed Israel's national "constitution" to Moses at Sinai (Exod 20-23). [1]

HISTORICAL SETTING

Author: Moses, according to tradition. Date: Likely either 1406 BC or 1230 BC. Setting: The Israelites are on the verge of entering the Promised Land, and Moses is nearing the end of his life. [1]

HOW TO READ THIS BOOK

Read this book as covenant instruction within Israel's story. Ask what the passage requires, why it requires it, and how its place in the wider canon shapes faithful reading today.

MAJOR THEMES

- To reiterate and expand on the covenant prior to Moses' death and the people's entry into the Promised Land
- The book's literary movement and central claims
- Faithful response within the people of God
- Hope, judgment, grace, and obedience in their proper context

INTERPRETIVE CARE

- Read commands in their covenant and narrative setting before applying them directly.
- Distinguish what the text describes, commands, and anticipates in the wider biblical story.

Deuteronomy 1-4

161 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Jordan · Amorites · Sihon · Bashan · Gilead · Esau

Questions

- Try to state the argument in one sentence before anyone reacts to it.
- What does the writer repeat? Repetition is usually the point, not a habit.
- What surprised you, or what did you have to read twice?
- Why does the writer bring Esau into this argument, and what claim does the example support?
- The word cities is doing real work here. What did you assume it meant, and does the passage agree?
- What problem was this letter written to solve, and does knowing that change how the instruction lands?
- Where does this cut against something you already believe or already do?

[Stuck on a word or name? Open the free Bible dictionary.](#)

NOTES AND PRAYER

Deuteronomy 5-9

133 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Egypt · LORD · Pharaoh · Abraham · Isaac · Anak

Questions

- What is the writer trying to get these readers to do or stop doing?
- Who is being addressed here, and what do they already know that we do not?
- What is assumed rather than argued? Those assumptions are often the real claim.
- What does the writer assume the readers know about Anak, and how is that knowledge being used?
- Define covenant from this passage alone, without reaching for what you already know.
- Is this a command, a description, or an argument? They are not read the same way.
- What would actually be different this week if you took this seriously?

[Stuck on a word or name? Open the free Bible dictionary.](#)

NOTES AND PRAYER

Deuteronomy 10-14

133 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Egypt · Jordan · Aaron · Abiram · Arabah · Asherah

Questions

- What has the writer already established that this section is building on?
- Which single verse carries the weight of this section?
- What is left unsaid that you expected to be said?
- Which detail about Abiram matters to the argument here, and which familiar details do not?
- Where else have you heard idol used, and is it being used that way here?
- What did the first readers face that we do not, and what does that change?
- Who do you know who needs to hear this, and what stops you saying it?

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NOTES AND PRAYER

Deuteronomy 15-20

128 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Egypt · Passover · Weeks · Abib · Amorites · Asherah

Questions

- Where does the writer expect pushback, and how do you know?
- Where does the tone shift, and what causes it?
- What question does this section answer that you had not thought to ask?
- Trace the sentence or paragraph that mentions Asherah. What conclusion does the writer want the readers to reach?
- The word cities is doing real work here. What did you assume it meant, and does the passage agree?
- Where does the writer move from what God has done to what we should do?
- What is the hardest thing in this passage to accept, and why that one?

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NOTES AND PRAYER

Deuteronomy 21-26

138 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Elders · Egypt · Balaam · Amalek · Beor · Miriam

Questions

- If you disagreed with this, where would you push first?
- What does the writer repeat? Repetition is usually the point, not a habit.
- What surprised you, or what did you have to read twice?
- Why does the writer bring Balaam into this argument, and what claim does the example support?
- Define brother from this passage alone, without reaching for what you already know.
- What problem was this letter written to solve, and does knowing that change how the instruction lands?
- If this is true, what have you been getting wrong?

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NOTES AND PRAYER

Deuteronomy 27-29

123 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Egypt · Moses · Jordan · Elders · Abraham · Dan

Questions

- What would be missing from the letter if this section were cut?
- Who is being addressed here, and what do they already know that we do not?
- What is assumed rather than argued? Those assumptions are often the real claim.
- What does the writer assume the readers know about Dan, and how is that knowledge being used?
- Where else have you heard amen used, and is it being used that way here?
- Is this a command, a description, or an argument? They are not read the same way.
- What would you want to be reminded of from this section in six months?

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NOTES AND PRAYER

Deuteronomy 30-34

143 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Moses · Joshua · Jordan · Elders · Jericho · Thummim

Questions

- Try to state the argument in one sentence before anyone reacts to it.
- Which single verse carries the weight of this section?
- What is left unsaid that you expected to be said?
- Which detail about Thummim matters to the argument here, and which familiar details do not?
- The word idol is doing real work here. What did you assume it meant, and does the passage agree?
- What did the first readers face that we do not, and what does that change?
- Where does this cut against something you already believe or already do?

[Stuck on a word or name? Open the free Bible dictionary.](#)

NOTES AND PRAYER

Sources, method, and reuse

Protos created this guide to help readers understand Deuteronomy in its literary and historical context. Questions are designed to be answered from the passage, not from guesswork or personal opinion alone.

REFERENCES

[1] Tyndale Open Study Notes

Tyndale House Publishers. Book background, purpose, setting, and structural orientation. CC BY-SA 4.0.

<https://tyndaleopenresources.com/>

[2] Protos study guide editorial

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A Bible dictionary, 1,129 entries [_protos-app.com/bible-dictionary](https://protos-app.com/bible-dictionary)

Printable Bible reading plans [_protos-app.com/reading-plans](https://protos-app.com/reading-plans)

Protos is also available on iPhone and Android, with verse-by-verse study help beside the passage you are reading.

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