



## Deuteronomy



## Reading the Bible Together **JANUARY 2016**

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### What is 'In Sync' Bible Reading?

'In Sync' encourages us to read together through the Bible, and then reflect together on what we have read from God's Word. We consider the main message and the key themes of a whole book (or books) of the Bible, and then we can share with others what we have learnt through our Bible reading.

*'I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.'* (Psalm 119:16)

### Questions to consider

Reading the Bible does not have to be an intellectual study. Anyone can read the Bible and by God's grace understand it. The main thing is that we pray for God's help as we read.

Here are some questions to help you think through what you are reading:

1. What have I learnt about God and about Jesus?
2. What does this teach me about humanity and myself?
3. What has most encouraged me from this book?
4. How does this teach me to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul and mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
5. How does this teach me to love my neighbour as myself? (Matt 22:37-40)
6. Is there anything else I should learn here to be 'equipped for every good work' (2 Tim 3:17)

### What to expect?

The title 'Deuteronomy' literally means the second law or a repetition of the law, and indeed the book does contain a second version of the law as delivered to Moses on Mount Sinai. The book is a series of farewell addresses made by Moses to the Israelites as they assemble on the plains of Moab before crossing the River Jordan to take possession of the Promised Land of Canaan, and before Moses' death. In the course of his addresses, Moses reminds the people of their covenantal responsibilities towards God. The book ends with the nation renewing their covenant with God and an account of the death of Moses.

Deuteronomy is almost a written constitution to govern the nation Israel defining social order, legal principles, judicial procedures and responsibilities under God. Obedience is the key to enjoying God's blessings.

### Approaching the New Testament

Deuteronomy is the fourth most-quoted Old Testament book in the New Testament. The book's promise of a prophet like Moses (Deut 18:18) fuelled messianic expectation. Peter (in Acts 3:22) and Stephen (in Acts 7:37) make reference to this promise and see its fulfilment in Jesus. Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy in his responses to Satan's temptations in the wilderness after his baptism, and quotes from Deuteronomy when defining the greatest commandment.

Jesus is the embodiment of what Israel ought to have been, and many of the functions of the New Testament church find a parallel in the instructions given to the nation Israel.

### How to read Deuteronomy in a month

There are 34 chapters so roughly a chapter a day will see the whole book read in a month.

**In-Sync for February 2016**

**2 Kings**