

S T U D Y   G U I D E



DISCOVERING  
**DEUTERONOMY**

W. ROBERT GODFREY

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# Discovering Deuteronomy

W. Robert Godfrey



LIGONIER MINISTRIES

*Renew your Mind.*

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# Introduction

Deuteronomy is one of the most frequently quoted Old Testament books in the New Testament. So, why do modern Christians often overlook it? In this twenty-one-part teaching series, Dr. W. Robert Godfrey reveals the importance and value of studying Deuteronomy. Through an examination of the book's structure and context, this series will help students better understand Deuteronomy's coherent message. *Discovering Deuteronomy* connects the history, land, leaders, laws, and warnings of Deuteronomy to the New Testament and to modern life. In doing so, it highlights the relevance and usefulness of this foundational book.

This study guide is a companion to the video teaching series. Whether you are using the DVDs, streaming the videos on Ligonier.org, or going through the course in Ligonier Connect, this resource is designed to help you make the most of the learning experience. For each message in the series, there is a corresponding lesson in this guide. Here is what you will find in each lesson:

INTRODUCTION	<p>The introduction is a brief paragraph that summarizes the content covered in the lecture and considered in the study guide lesson.</p> <p><b>How to use:</b> Use the introduction to each lesson to get a sense of the big picture before watching the video. Refer to these statements as you work through the study guide to remind you of what you have already covered and where you are headed.</p>
LEARNING GOALS	<p>The learning goals are the knowledge and skills the study guide lesson will endeavor to equip you with as you work through the lecture content.</p> <p><b>How to use:</b> Familiarize yourself with the goals of each lesson before engaging its contents. Keeping the overall purpose in mind as you watch each video and reflect on or discuss the questions will help you get the most out of each lesson.</p>
KEY IDEAS	<p>The key ideas are the major points or takeaways from the lecture.</p> <p><b>How to use:</b> Use these ideas to prepare yourself for each lesson and to review previous lessons. They describe specifically the knowledge each lecture is communicating.</p>

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	<p>The questions are the guided reflection and/or discussion component of the lesson that are intended to help you prepare for, process, and organize what you are learning.</p> <p><b>How to use:</b> Reflect on individually or discuss in a group the questions in the order in which they appear in the lesson. The timestamps in the right margin indicate where the answers to questions during the video can be found.</p>
PRAYER	<p>The prayer section offers suggestions for how to close the lesson in prayer with respect to what was taught in the lecture.</p> <p><b>How to use:</b> Consider using each lesson's prayer section as a guide to personal or group prayer. These sections follow the ACTS prayer model, which you can learn more about in R.C. Sproul's Crucial Questions booklet <i>Does Prayer Change Things?</i> This helpful guide is available as a free e-book at <a href="http://Ligonier.org">Ligonier.org</a>.</p>
REVIEW QUIZ	<p>The review quiz is a set of six multiple-choice questions that appears at the end of each lesson.</p> <p><b>How to use:</b> Use each quiz to check your comprehension and memory of the major points covered in each lecture. It will be most beneficial to your learning if you take a lesson's quiz either sometime between lessons or just before you begin the next lesson in the study guide.</p>
ANSWER KEY	<p>The answer key provides explanations for the reflection and discussion questions and answers to the multiple-choice questions in the review quiz.</p> <p><b>How to use:</b> Use the answer key to check your own answers or when you do not know the answer. Note: Do not give in too quickly; struggling for a few moments to recall an answer reinforces it in your mind.</p>

# Study Schedules

The following table suggests four plans for working through the *Discovering Deuteronomy* video teaching series and this companion study guide. Whether you are going through this series on your own or with a group, these schedules should help you plan your study path.

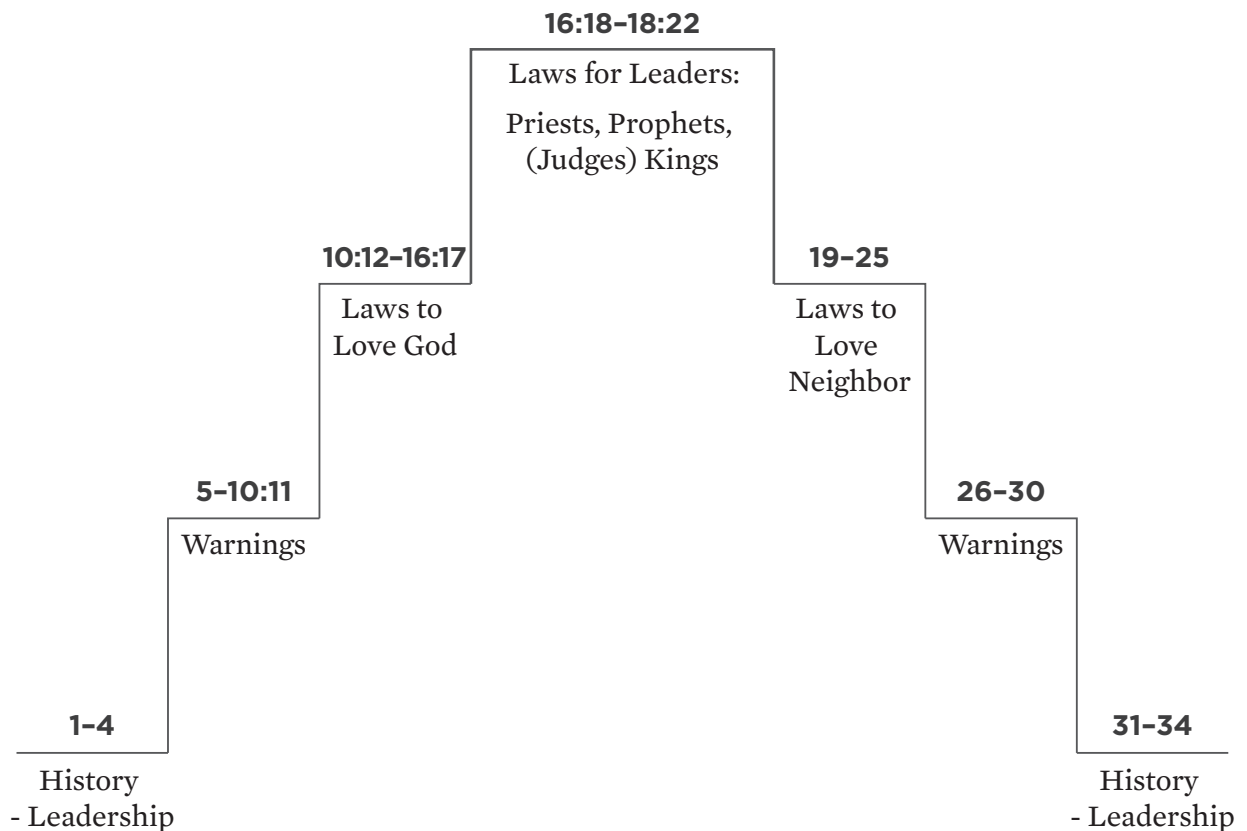
	Extended 23-Week Plan	Standard 21-Week Plan	Abbreviated 10-Week Plan	Intensive 8-Week Plan
Week	Lesson			
1	*	1	1–3	1–3
2	1	2	4 & 5	4–6
3	2	3	6 & 7	7 & 8
4	3	4	8 & 9	9–11
5	4	5	10 & 11	12 & 13
6	5	6	12 & 13	14–16
7	6	7	14 & 15	17 & 18
8	7	8	16 & 17	19–21
9	8	9	18 & 19	
10	9	10	20 & 21	
11	10	11		
12	11	12		
13	12	13		
14	13	14		

	Extended 23-Week Plan	Standard 21-Week Plan	Abbreviated 10-Week Plan	Intensive 8-Week Plan
Week	Lesson			
15	14	15		
16	15	16		
17	16	17		
18	17	18		
19	18	19		
20	19	20		
21	20	21		
22	21			
23	*			

\* For these weeks, rather than completing lessons, spend your time discussing and praying about your learning goals for the study (the first week) and the most valuable takeaways from the study (the last week).

# The Structure of Deuteronomy

Throughout this teaching series, Dr. Godfrey makes reference to the literary structure of Deuteronomy. Please use the diagram below as a reference point as you work your way through this study guide. This will help you see where the passage you are studying fits into the book of Deuteronomy as a whole.





# The Shape of Deuteronomy

## INTRODUCTION

The book of Deuteronomy, though often overlooked, is important for Christians today. In its own right, it contains the law and the history of God's people. In light of the New Testament, it provides continuity from the law of Moses to its fulfillment through Jesus. Closely examining the structure of Deuteronomy will help the meaning become clearer and more relevant.

## LEARNING GOALS

When you have finished this lesson, you should be able to:

- Know why it is important to study Deuteronomy
- Understand how the book is structured and why
- Recognize the continuity between the Old Testament and the New Testament

## KEY IDEAS

- Deuteronomy speaks to Christians today about a big picture of what the life of God's people ought to be in light of His great saving work for them.
- The history of the Israelites is the history of every Christian.
- By understanding Moses' role, we better understand the role of Jesus.
- Deuteronomy has a distinct structure that explores concepts about history, law, love, and leadership.

## REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Video

*What Do You Think?*

Take a moment to answer the following questions. They will prepare you for the lecture.

- Have you studied Deuteronomy before? Why do you think this book is often overlooked?
- What is the structure of a typical story? How does following this general format help with understanding the story?

### *Scripture Reading*

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

—John 1:14–17

- How does this passage relate Jesus to Moses?

### *During the Video*

Answer the following questions while you watch the video. They will guide you through the lecture.

### *Foundations of Deuteronomy*

0:00–18:00

- What are some general elements that can be found in the book of Deuteronomy?
- What are some examples of the continuity between the Old and New Testaments?
- What role does Moses play in Deuteronomy and our study of it?

### *Meaning from Structure*

18:00–24:53

- As Dr. Godfrey describes and draws the structure of Deuteronomy, draw it yourself, along with labels.
- How was the book of Deuteronomy originally delivered and why?

### After the Video

Answer the following questions after you have finished the lecture. They will help you identify and summarize the major points.

- What are some reasons that Christians today might overlook or dismiss the study of Deuteronomy?

If you are in a group, have the members discuss how they might persuade a skeptical Christian to study Deuteronomy.

- Summarize the analogy that compares the history of Israel to the history of the America. What was the purpose of this analogy?

If you are in a group, have the members discuss the idea that Deuteronomy has much to teach us about Jesus Christ. Do Christians naturally equate the study of Deuteronomy and the life of Moses with the study of Jesus? Why or why not?

- Why are you undertaking this study on the book of Deuteronomy? Has this first lesson helped you see the significance of studying Deuteronomy? How so?

If you are in a group, have the members discuss what they hope to get out of this teaching series.

### PRAYER

Commit to prayer what you have learned from God's Word in this lesson.

- Praise Jesus for the grace and truth He brought to fulfill the law.
- Confess any prejudice you've held against studying the Old Testament.
- Thank God for the prophets, priests, and kings who pointed toward the ultimate Prophet, Priest, and King.
- Ask God to open your heart and mind to understand and apply the lessons of Deuteronomy throughout this study.

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REVIEW QUIZ

Use these multiple-choice questions to measure what you learned from this lesson.

1. Which of these is a common prejudice Christians have about Deuteronomy?
  - a. It is about places and people that no longer exist.
  - b. It is just a hodgepodge of strange laws.
  - c. No one can prove that it was written by Moses.
  - d. It contradicts laws found in other books of the Bible.
2. The lecture refers to three types of God's law distinguished by Reformed theology. Which of these is *not* one of those three categories?
  - a. The civil law of God that governed Israel in the land
  - b. The ceremonial law that governed Israel's holiness
  - c. The moral law of God for all times and for all people
  - d. The redemptive law of God that is only available to Jews
3. Which of these best describes the continuity between Israel and the church?
  - a. The church replaces Israel.
  - b. The church displaces Israel.
  - c. The church and Israel share a history but not a purpose.
  - d. The church fulfills what God was doing in Israel.
4. The overall structure of Deuteronomy is like a mountain range, with alternating ups and downs.
  - a. True
  - b. False
5. Which is the best definition of a *chiasm*?
  - a. A structure of corresponding ideas
  - b. A contradiction in Scripture
  - c. An Old Testament practice
  - d. A law that has been fulfilled
6. Which of these is the pinnacle of the structure of Deuteronomy?
  - a. Dietary laws
  - b. Moses
  - c. Leadership
  - d. Warnings

# Answer Key—The Shape of Deuteronomy

## REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Before the Video

#### *What Do You Think?*

*These are personal questions. The answers should be based on your own knowledge and experience.*

#### *Scripture Reading*

- How does this passage relate Jesus to Moses?

*The passage seems to contrast Jesus with Moses. Moses brought the law; Jesus brought grace and truth. In this lecture, you will see that one is actually the fulfillment of the other.*

### During the Video

#### *Foundations of Deuteronomy*

- What are some general elements that can be found in the book of Deuteronomy?

*In general, the book of Deuteronomy contains laws, places, people, historical events, warnings, the idea of a nation, discussion of land, points about leadership, and information about the religious practices and beliefs of the people of Israel.*

- What are some examples of the continuity between the Old and New Testaments?

*The Old Testament prepared people to understand Jesus when He came. Understanding Jesus' roles as Prophet, Priest, and King depends on a firm sense of what those roles meant in the Old Testament. Old Testament concepts of sin and sacrifice help us appreciate Jesus' sacrifice and forgiveness. There is also a strong continuity between Israel and the church as God's people.*

- What role does Moses play in Deuteronomy and our study of it?

*Moses served as a mediator between God and His people. He helps us better understand Jesus, who is the greater Mediator. Through Moses, we can understand Jesus better. While Moses gave the people grace and truth through the law, Jesus brought that grace and truth to fulfillment.*

#### *Meaning from Structure*

- As Dr. Godfrey describes and draws the structure of Deuteronomy, draw it yourself, along with labels.

*Please reference "The Structure of Deuteronomy" on page 7.*

- How was the book of Deuteronomy originally delivered and why?

*Moses delivered it as a sermon of approximately five hours to the Israelites. He was about to die, and he was passing the leadership of Israel to Joshua. This sermon prepared the people for this change in leadership and Israel's future.*

#### After the Video

- What are some reasons that Christians today might overlook or dismiss the study of Deuteronomy?

*Those who don't understand the book's structure might find it to be a confusing hodgepodge of information. People might believe that Jesus has replaced Old Testament law, so there is no longer any relevance to it. Perhaps the cultural setting of Deuteronomy can be difficult to relate to.*

- Summarize the analogy that compares the history of Israel to the history of America. What was the purpose of this analogy?

*Dr. Godfrey argued that significant historical events like the Revolutionary War inform Americans of their history. The purpose of this analogy was to relate the importance of studying Deuteronomy because, though some people feel detached from the people, places, and events of Deuteronomy, its history is significant to the people of God today.*

- Why are you undertaking this study on the book of Deuteronomy? Has this first lesson helped you see the significance of studying Deuteronomy? How so?

*These are personal questions designed to help you focus on your goals for this study while also processing the scope of this series.*

#### REVIEW QUIZ

##### Lesson 1

1. **B.**

*Without understanding the background, structure, and culture of Deuteronomy, people often see the book as a random collection of strange laws. However, Dr. Godfrey will show how it “is really about a big picture of what the life of God's people ought to be in light of His great saving work for them.”*

2. **D.**

*The lecture introduces the concept of the moral, civil, and ceremonial dimensions of the law, all of which still have some relevance and usefulness to us today as God's people.*

3. **D.**

*The Old Testament and the New Testament are one continuous story of God's work, which was begun in Israel but fulfilled in the New Testament church. The history of Israel is the history of the church right up to the present day.*

4. **B.**

*The overall structure of Deuteronomy is like that of a step pyramid, with the steps on one side reflecting the steps on the opposite side.*

5. **A.**

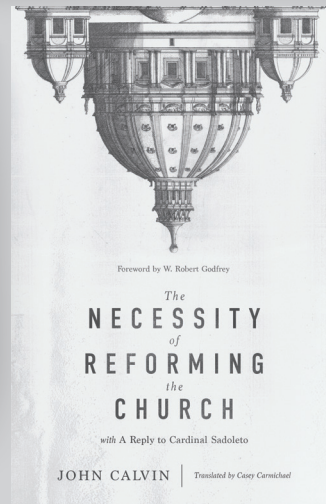
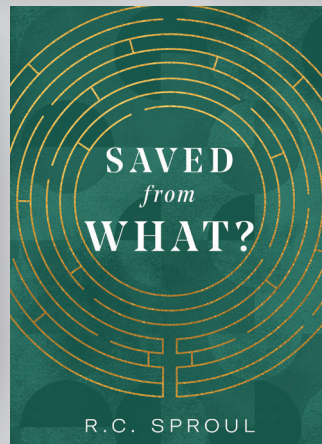
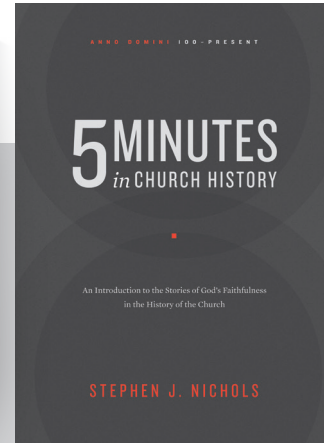
*A chiasm is a literary structure that reflects the shape of the Greek letter chi, which is the form of an X and has a focal point at the center. In a chiasm, the structure of the material draws attention to that which is in the center. Throughout this series, Dr. Godfrey uses a step pyramid to represent the structure of Deuteronomy.*

6. **C.**

*The pinnacle of the structure of Deuteronomy is leadership. In a way, the entire sermon of Deuteronomy is about leadership, as Moses is preparing the Israelites for their future in the promised land and the transfer of leadership to Joshua.*



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