

Deuteronomy in the New Testament



SABBATH—DECEMBER 11

READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Matthew 4:1–11; Deuteronomy 10:17–19; Galatians 3:1–14; Deuteronomy 18:15–19.

MEMORY VERSE: “But Jesus answered him, ‘The holy writings say, “Man cannot live on bread only. He needs to live by every word that God says” ’ ” (Matthew 4:4, WE).



Jesus met two of His followers on the road to Emmaus.

THE NEW TESTAMENT is filled with Old Testament verses. New Testament writers often used quotes from the Old Testament to show that their writings came from God. Jesus Himself answered questions by saying, “ ‘The holy writings say . . . ’ ” (Matthew 4:4, WE) and “ ‘What the holy writings say will come true [happen]’ ” (Mark 14:49, WE). Jesus said these words to show that His message came from the Old Testament. When Jesus met two of His followers on the road to Emmaus, how did Jesus show them who He was? Did He do a miracle? No. “Jesus explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures [Old Testament]” (Luke 24:27, NIV).

The New Testament writers used stories, quotes, and special messages from the Old Testament to explain their writings. Many of the New Testament writers often used quotes from Deuteronomy, Psalms, and Isaiah. The writers of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Romans, Galatians, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Hebrews, some of the New Testament letters, and Revelation all use quotes from Deuteronomy.

This week, we will look at some New Testament examples of quotes from Deuteronomy. We will ask, What present truth do these verses teach us? You will remember that present truth is the Bible truth we need most for our time.

“ ‘THE HOLY WRITINGS SAY’ ” (Matthew 4:1–11, WE)

Read Matthew 4:1–11. How does Jesus answer Satan in the desert? What important lesson does His answer teach us?

Jesus does not argue with Satan. Jesus answers Satan with Bible verses. Jesus knows that “God’s word is living and full of power. It is more sharp than any sword” (Hebrews 4:12, WE). All the answers Jesus gives Satan come from Deuteronomy. Do you see that Jesus in the desert answers Satan with verses given to Israel when they were in the desert, too?

Look at the first time Satan tries to get Jesus to sin. Jesus is upset that Satan tries to get Him to doubt God and His words. So, Jesus answers Satan with sharp words from Deuteronomy 8:3. In this verse, Moses tells the Israelites to remember everything the Lord did for them in the desert. God gave them manna. Manna was special food that fell from the sky each morning. “ ‘Why did the Lord do this? Because he wanted you to know that it is not just bread that keeps people alive. People’s lives depend on what the LORD says’ ” (Deuteronomy 8:3, ERV).

What happens when Satan tries a second time to get Jesus to sin? Again, Jesus answers Satan with Deuteronomy 6:16. In this verse, Moses tells the people to remember how they turned against God at Massah (read Exodus 17:1–7). Moses says, “ ‘Do not test the Lord your God [demand that God show you that He is good], as you put Him to the test at Massah’ ” (Deuteronomy 6:16, NIV). The word written as “test” also can mean “prove” or “put something to the test.” The Lord already showed His people again and again His power and love. He showed them how much He wanted to take care of them. But when trouble came, the people cried, “ ‘Is the LORD among us or not?’ ” (Exodus 17:7, NIV).

What happens the third time Satan tries to get Jesus to sin? Satan wants Jesus to bow down and worship him. Does Jesus argue with Satan this time? Not at all. Again, Jesus answers Satan with a verse from Deuteronomy. This verse warns Israel not to turn away from God and worship false gods. Israel should “ ‘worship the LORD your God. He is the only one you should serve’ ” (Deuteronomy 6:13, NIV).

How can our study of the Bible help us to show Jesus and His love more fully to people? How can the Bible give us more strength to say No to Satan?



Jesus is upset that Satan tries to get Him to doubt God and His words.

GOD LOVES EVERYONE THE SAME (Deuteronomy 10:17–19)

In Deuteronomy 10, Moses wants the people to see why they should show faith in God and obey Him. So, Moses tells the people their history again. What does Moses say next?



God is fair to everyone.

Read Deuteronomy 10:17–19. What important message does Moses give to the people in these verses? Why is this message important to the church today?

Moses tells the people about the God who loves them. Do you see the words “ ‘to him everyone is the same’ ” (Deuteronomy 10:17, ERV)? This saying comes from a word picture in the Hebrew language. The word picture really means “lift up faces.” What does that saying mean? In Bible times, sometimes kings and judges were not fair. They judged people because of the way they looked. Deuteronomy shows us that God does not judge people that way. God is fair to everyone. Jesus showed us this important truth about God when He came to this earth. Jesus always was nice to everyone. Jesus also was nice to people that nobody thought were important.

Read Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11; Galatians 2:6; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:25; and 1 Peter 1:17. How do these verses show us the Bible truth in Deuteronomy 10:17?

Paul talks about many different things in these verses. In Ephesians, Paul warns masters to be nice to their slaves. In Romans, Paul says God saves both Jews and non-Jews alike. But one thing is the same in all these verses. The verses talk about the idea in Deuteronomy that God loves everyone the same. God is fair to everyone. This is good news. If God behaves this way, then we should, too.

In Romans, Paul tells us more about this Good News. God views us all the same. We all are sinners. We all need God to show us His mercy and save us. The Good News is that God offers every one of us His saving mercy in Jesus.

Do you show more love to some people than to other people? Why does the Cross show us this behavior is wrong?

HUNG ON A TREE (Galatians 3:1–14)

Read Galatians 3:1–14. What does Paul say in these verses? Why is this message important for us today? How does Paul use Deuteronomy 27:26 and Deuteronomy 21:22, 23 to help us understand his message?

Sad to say, many Christians use Galatians as an excuse to say we do not need to keep the law. Of course, we know what this excuse really is about. These Christians want an excuse not to keep the Sabbath. They think that keeping the Sabbath holy shows you are trying to save yourself by keeping the law. Paul is against this false idea. Paul does not believe that our keeping the Sabbath shows we are trying to earn the good favor of God or His mercy.

So, Paul does not talk against the law in Galatians 3:1–14. Then why do people use these verses to try to show we no longer need to keep the Sabbath? Galatians 3:10 shows us the answer. Paul says, “But people who depend on following the law to make them right are under a curse” (Galatians 3:10, ERV). Then Paul uses a quote from Deuteronomy 27:26. So, what do these verses show us? The problem is not our obedience to the law. The problem we have is when we try to save ourselves by our obedience.

Paul wants us to understand this important idea. So, he uses another quote from Deuteronomy. This time, Paul uses Deuteronomy 21:23 about a guilty man who should die for his crime. As punishment, the man is hung on a tree.

Paul uses this example as a word picture for what Jesus does for us. We are under a curse for breaking the law. “But Christ took away that curse. He changed places with us and put himself under that curse” (Galatians 3:13, ERV). What is that curse? Death. All humans face this death because we all have broken the law. The Good News is that Jesus died this death for us on the cross. “Christ died so that by believing in him we could have the Spirit that God promised” (Galatians 3:14, ERV).

“No one but Jesus Christ can save sinners from the curse of the law. Only Jesus can make our lives right. Jesus took upon Himself our guilt. He accepted the shame of our sin. This sin was so awful to God because He is holy. Our sin separated the Father and the Son from each other.”—Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 63, adapted.

How should you feel about what Jesus did for you?



Jesus took upon Himself our guilt. He accepted the shame of our sin.

A MAN FROM GOD (Deuteronomy 18:15–19)

Read Deuteronomy 18:15–19. What does Moses tell the people in these verses? Compare these verses in Deuteronomy with Acts 3:22 and Acts 7:37. What do Peter and Stephen say about Deuteronomy 18:18?



The Jews accused Stephen of saying “bad things against Moses and against God!” (Acts 6:11, ERV).

Twice, Moses promises the people that the Lord will send them a very special messenger in the future (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18). This special messenger will be much the same as Moses. This special messenger also will stand between God and His people, the same as Moses did (Exodus 20:18–21).

Hundreds of years later, both Peter and Stephen use Deuteronomy 18:15, 18 to talk about Jesus. Peter believed that Jesus was the Savior that the holy writers in the Old Testament talked about (Acts 3:21). So, Peter told the Jews that Jesus was the special messenger that God promised in Deuteronomy 18:15, 18 to send to the Jews. The Jews knew these verses very well. That is why Peter says these verses to the Jews. Peter wants to help the Jews see who Jesus really is. Then the Jews will see why they need to confess the wrong they did to Jesus (Acts 3:19).

Next, in Acts 7:37, we look at how Stephen uses Deuteronomy 18:15, 18. Stephen says that these verses in Deuteronomy are about Jesus. Stephen also announces that Jesus is the promised Savior. For sure, Jesus was the Promised One that God told Moses about. Stephen also says that Moses was an example of the Leader that Jesus came to this earth to be. So, the Jews needed to obey Jesus and everything He had to say to them. But the Jews did not want to hear what Stephen had to say. The Jews accused Stephen of saying “bad things against Moses and against God!” (Acts 6:11, ERV). But that was a lie.

How does Deuteronomy 18:15, 18 show us Jesus and how important He is to the whole Bible? Why must Jesus be at the center of our understanding about the Bible?

AN AWFUL THING (Hebrews 10:28–31)

The book of Hebrews in many ways is one long invitation to Jewish Christians. What is Paul, who wrote Hebrews, inviting his readers to do? Paul asks them to stay loyal and obedient to the Lord!

Of course, our obedience comes from our love for God. We obey Him because He is good and loves us. We see His love shown in a most powerful way at the cross of Jesus. We must always remember His love for us. But sometimes, as humans, we also need to remember what will happen to us if we turn away from that love. If we do not accept that Jesus paid the price for our sins, we will need to pay for our sins ourselves. People who pay for their own sins “ ‘will cry and grind [make a noise with] their teeth’ ” (Matthew 22:13, WE) on the day when God judges every person who ever lived on this earth.

Read Hebrews 10:28–31. What does Paul say in these verses? What meaning does this message have for our lives today?

Paul uses Deuteronomy 17:6 to help his readers see that they need to stay loyal and obedient to God. Deuteronomy 17:6 is a law about punishment. The verse explains what the people should do with someone who is guilty of an awful crime. First, at least two or three witnesses must give a report that shows the man is guilty. Then, and only then, can the man be killed for his crime.

Paul uses this verse from Deuteronomy to teach an important Bible truth about the New Agreement. Under the Old Agreement a man who was not obedient to God was killed. “But the person who should have much bigger punishment is the one who turns against the Son of God. That person was made holy by the blood of the new agreement and then calls it nothing. He no longer honours [loves] and respects the Spirit who has been so kind to him” (Hebrews 10:29, WE). In other words, Paul tells his readers they have a lot more knowledge about God than the Jews did who lived under the Old Agreement. If the Christians under the New Agreement turn away from God, their punishment will be far worse than anything the Israelites suffered. So, be careful.

What is our only hope in the time when God judges everyone who ever lived on this earth?



Two or three witnesses must give a report that shows the man is guilty.



New Testament writers never doubted that the Old Testament writings came from God.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHT: As we have learned this week, many Old Testament writers used quotes from other Old Testament writers. In the same way, the New Testament is filled with quotes, ideas, history, messages, and stories from the Old Testament. The New Testament writers used verses from Psalms, Isaiah, and Deuteronomy more than they used verses from any other Old Testament books. Often, the New Testament writers used quotes from the Septuagint, which also is named the “Greek Old Testament.” The Septuagint is the earliest known copy of the Hebrew Bible that was written in the Greek language.

We can learn a lot about how to understand the Bible by how the New Testament writers used verses from the Old Testament. One lesson we can learn is that the New Testament writers never doubted that the Old Testament writings came from God. The New Testament writers also did not doubt any history or stories from the Old Testament. The New Testament writers believed that all these stories and history were true. The New Testament writers believed in Adam and Eve, the Fall, the Flood, the story of Abraham, and more. The Bible “experts” today who question these Old Testament stories show the ugly doubt deep in their hearts. This doubt does not belong at all in the hearts and minds of Seventh-day Adventists.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① Think about all the Bible truth God gave us as Seventh-day Adventists. Why is it so important that we live what we believe?
- ② Read Deuteronomy 18:9–14. What are some modern examples of the “ ‘terrible [evil] things’ ” (Deuteronomy 18:9, ERV) that God hates? What can we do to avoid them?
- ③ Why should we never show favor to one person more than another person? Why does the Cross show us that this behavior is wrong? How can the Cross heal us of this wrong behavior?

THE BIRTHDAY JI-YUL WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER

Everyone at school likes nine-year-old Ji-yul. His teacher likes him, too, because Ji-yul helps clean the classroom.

But Ji-yul has a problem. His friends do not want to come to his house to play after school. Ji-yul often goes to their homes. He sees their new toys, aquariums, and pets. But no one wants to come to his house. Ji-yul does not understand why.

Not long after, Ji-yul invites a friend to play at his house after school. The boy says, "Mother says I can play with you at school. But I cannot come to your house."

"Why did your mother say that?" Ji-yul asks.

"Because your house is a church," the friend answers.

Ji-yul is the son of a Seventh-day Adventist pastor. His home is part of a Seventh-day Adventist church building. Most of the people in the town go to three large churches in the town center. These churches are not Adventist. So, the parents of the friends of Ji-yul do not want their kids going to the house inside the Adventist church.

Ji-yul tells his parents about the conversation he had with his friend at school. The parents of Ji-yul wonder what they can do to help Ji-yul. Soon Ji-yul will have his birthday. So, his parents decide to celebrate at home for the first time. Ji-yul prays, "Please let my friends come to the birthday party and have a good time. Give their parents a kind heart. Help them to feel good about my church."

Ji-yul makes birthday invitations with the name and the location of the church. Then Ji-yul gives the cards to all his classmates. Ji-yul gives his classmates small gifts, too.

Finally, his birthday comes. When the party starts at 11:00 A.M., 10 friends show up to celebrate with Ji-yul. Ji-yul is so happy. For the first time, he can play with friends at home.

Ever since that time, whenever there is a music concert or special program at the church, Ji-yul makes invitations and gives them to his classmates. Ji-yul learns that the more often his friends come to church, the more fun he has at home. Now he has three friends who come to his house to play. He prays that someday his friends will worship with him at the church, too.

This story shows Spiritual Growth Teaching number 6 of the "I Will Go" plan for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Spiritual Growth Teaching number 6 says: "We will help children, youth, and young adults to be a strong part of the church. We will do everything we can to keep them strong in the faith. We also will do everything we can to bring back our young members who have left the church." Learn more at IWillGo2020.org. This quarter, your 13th Sabbath offering will support work in South Korea.

INSIDE
Story
by OH DONGJUN



Ten friends show up to celebrate with Ji-yul. Ji-yul is so happy.

