

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

*“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .*

*And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”*

# Let’s Worship God

19th-24th August 2013  
Deuteronomy



Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

[airdrierpcs.org](http://airdrierpcs.org), 01236 620107  
Part of the RFCS - [rpcscotland.org](http://rpcscotland.org)

**Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!**



Mon.  
19th Aug.

# Let's Worship God

## Verse To Learn

Hear, O Israel:  
The Lord our God,  
the Lord is one.  
Deuteronomy 6:4

**reading** Deuteronomy 1:1-3 - The Voice of God

**notes** The English title of this book seems to have come from the Greek which means a copy of this law (Deut 17:18). The Jewish title means words, and this comes from Deut 1:1 which reads the words which Moses spake. It was with similar words that international treaties were drawn up in the ancient world. This indicates to us that Deuteronomy is a covenant document, containing the terms that govern God's relationship with His people.

Chapters 1 to 4 provide an introduction to Deuteronomy, with 1:1-5 serving as the Preamble and 1:6-4:49 making up the Historical Prologue. This was the form followed in ancient treaty documents.

Verse 1 indicates that these are the words of Moses. But verse 3 makes clear that it is God who is the ultimate Speaker. Moses then is God's covenant representative, and the covenant relationship is between God and His ancient Church. Beyond the human voice, there was the divine Lord. Soon Deuteronomy will give details of this ceremony of covenant renewal between Jehovah and Israel.

How important it is for us to notice that whenever we come to church for worship, we are engaged in a service of covenant renewal. We may hear a man speaking human words. But let us be careful! Behind every true minister, properly called by God and His Church, there is the voice of the Living God speaking to His people. It behoves us then to come with expectant hearts, and to return from the house of God with obedient and submissive spirits.

**questions**

1. What does the word Deuteronomy mean?
2. Who was telling Moses what to write in this book?

**praise pray**

Ps. 73C:all

1. Pray for your minister as he prepares to preach God's Word.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Sat.  
24th Aug.

# Let's Worship God

## Verse To Learn

Hear, O Israel:  
The Lord our God,  
the Lord is one.  
Deuteronomy 6:4

**reading** Deuteronomy 1:41-2:1 - Forgiveness and Consequences

**notes** Terrified at God's words of judgement, the children of Israel promised to go forward and fight and take possession of the Promised Land. The Lord warned them against it, for He was not going to go with them into battle. Refusing the word of God through the lips of Moses, the people went and were defeated by the Amorites. The children of Israel returned and wept before the Lord; but He refused to hear them. The experience of judgement was bitter.

We must notice here that there is a distinction between the forgiveness of sin and the consequences of sin. Moses cried on behalf of His people and God forgave their sin; they were not cast off as a people. But that generation died in the wilderness, save Caleb and Joshua. God does not always remove the consequences of sin when He forgives. His gracious dealings were within the limits that their sin imposed upon Him. He blessed them as much as they allowed Him to do.

**questions**

1. What is the difference between forgiveness and consequences?
2. What were the consequences for the people's sin?

**praise pray**

Ps. 75:all

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Fri.  
23rd Aug.

# Let's Worship God

## Verse To Learn

Hear, O Israel:  
The Lord our God,  
the Lord is one.  
Deuteronomy 6:4

**reading** Deuteronomy 1:34-40 - Our Perfect Mediator

**notes** Israel's unbelief had provoked the divine verdict, sealed by an oath, sentencing them to exile from the Promised Land which they had refused to enter. This was to be exile unto death in the wilderness (v34-40). Yet God is gracious and merciful, and within this announcement of judgement was manifest the lovingkindness of the covenant God. The faithful spies, Caleb and Joshua, were to be spared. But notice, the whole second generation of rebellious Israel were to be saved as well. Contained in the terrifying words of divine judgement was the seed of the promise of a gracious new beginning. And the story of Deuteronomy is the fulfilling of this promise, and the renewal of this covenant.

According to verse 37, Moses too had failed to properly fulfill his high mediatorial calling as a type of the messianic Mediator who is always perfectly submissive to the Father's will (3:26, 4:21, 32:50ff.). Consequently, Moses was to share the judgement with the older generation, in their exclusion from the Promised Land. It was the disqualification of Moses that made it necessary to appoint Joshua as Israel's new leader (v39). How thankful we ought to be as Christians that we have a Mediator Who was perfectly obedient, even to the point of experiencing a cursed death on a cruel Roman cross. Even in the hour of fiercest conflict and fiery trial in the garden of Gethsamane, He cried 'Not my will, but Thy will be done'. When we bring our guilt and shame to Jesus Christ, God forgives us in Christ, and gives us the perfect righteousness of Jesus so that we now stand before the Holy God as if we are sinless creatures!

**questions**

1. Which two men were the only ones in their generation not to die in the wilderness?
2. How did Christ perfectly submit to God the Father?

**praise pray** Ps. 74:19-22

1. Give thanks for Christ's death on the cross.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Tue.  
20th Aug.

# Let's Worship God

## Verse To Learn

Hear, O Israel:  
The Lord our God,  
the Lord is one.  
Deuteronomy 6:4

**reading** Deuteronomy 1:1-5 - The Consequences of Sin

**notes** The site of the covenant renewal ceremony of which Deuteronomy is the documentary witness was the Jordan area in the land of Moab. The time was the last month of the fortieth year after the Exodus when the rebellious generation had perished in the wilderness. It was also the time after the land on the east of the Jordan River had been conquered. Significantly, it was also the time of Moses' approaching death. This change in leadership partly necessitated the renewal of the covenant. Israel had to pledge her loyalty to God's new covenant appointee, Joshua and make a new vow of consecration to her Lord God. Verse 5 describes this as a declaration or exposition of this law. This too is what happens in Christian worship. God's law is declared especially in expository preaching, and God's people are called to consecrate themselves to Him. Notice also that ministers are not, in the final analysis, human appointees; they are called by God and ordained by Him. To dishonour them willfully is to dishonour the God whom they represent on earth.

These verses then orient the children of Israel both geographically and historically. We have noted the historical time-line. But notice now that Israel was presently at the boundaries of the promised land after forty years. Yet this journey should have only taken them eleven days! But sin robbed them of time and of blessing, and that rebellious generation returned to the wilderness to dig their own graves. Sin is nothing other than foolishness.

But how wonderful that this is the story of God's redemption. Deuteronomy opens by looking south from Moab, a reminder of past failure and the covenant curse. But towards the end of the book, Moses is looking north from Moab; there lay Israel's future and the fulfillment of God's covenant blessing. Even in wrath, God remembers mercy. This is why He is called the God of grace.

**questions**

1. How long had it taken them to make an 11 day journey?
2. Why had it taken them so long?

**praise pray** Ps. 74:1-6

1. Pray that you would put sin to death in your life.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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**reading** Deuteronomy 1:6-18 - Remembering and Moving Forward

**notes** From verse 6 onwards, Moses reminds the people of God's promises to their fathers and exhorts them to go, conquer and take possession of their inheritance.

Remembrance is a key part to true spirituality. As we recall the goodness of the Lord, so we shall thank Him for all His blessing upon us. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself instituted the Lord's Supper so that His church may remember His death until He comes again.

There is a small hint in verse 6 that Israel had become comfortable in Horeb and was not intent on moving into the Promised Land. For us too, there is always the temptation, through earth's pilgrimage, to settle down, to remain in our comfort zone, and refuse the far horizons that we might storm for God. The fear of the new, and the unexplored, can be very real, for God's people; but such fear is always baseless, if God is with us.

Spiritually too we can dwell at Sinai, with its thunderings of the law, when we should be advancing into the riches of divine grace. It is possible to be so bemused with the dark side that we never see the bright side of the gospel. This can be a psychological quirk of temperament and personality; it can also be a distortion and imbalance in spiritual life.

In verses 9-18, Moses concedes that his workload is too heavy for him since the children of Israel have been blessed by God and grown in number. He therefore seeks to delegate his work. The chosen men were to be wise and known. They were to hear causes between their peoples and were not to be respecter of persons but fearers of God. As presbyterians, we believe in decentralisation with good order and governance. Officebearers in the church should be spiritual wise and recognised.

**questions**

1. Why did the people need to remember what God had promised?
2. What is the danger with being too comfortable where we are?

**praise pray** Ps. 74:7-12

1. Pray for the ministers and elders in the Presbytery.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.

**reading** Deuteronomy 1:19-34 - The Heart Attitude

**notes** As Moses encourages the people to possess their inheritance, they prefer spies to be sent out to see the land and advise. Moses agrees and twelve men are despatched. These return with the news that the land is good. But the people refused to proceed with the conquest of the promised land. They murmured against God in their tents! And the Lord heard it. And he heard not just the words but 'the voice of your words', that is what their words were really saying. And according to v27, this was a voice of rebellion and revolt.

Sometimes we too speak to God in distress and bring our complaints before Him. There is nothing wrong with this; the psalms are full of such cries. But beware! It is possible to speak to God in prayer by saying one thing and meaning another. Behind our prayers there can be a hard core of resentment against God. We do not put it in so many words, but the voice is there. What turned God's anger upon Israel was not their terror and fear of the unknown but the heart-revolt against the good and perfect will of God.

God vowed to destroy all Israel except Caleb and Joshua. Instead of going forward, the people were going to go backwards for another forty years. Sin never takes us forward. Despite all its promises, it always takes us backwards!

**questions**

1. What was wrong in how the people reacted?
2. Where does sin always lead?

**praise pray** Ps. 74:13-18

1. Pray that we would trust in God's perfect control of all things.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.