

GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME ONE
BEGINNINGS—A SURVEY OF GENESIS–DEUTERONOMY
A SYMPHONY FOR THE SOUL
SELECTED SCRIPTURES



The Heart of the Matter

The Book of books is indeed unique. In its survival, history, continuity, influence, and popularity, the Bible stands alone. Like a rock of priceless value, this eternal, universal library of inspired information possesses the very authority and validity of almighty God—as though He were speaking in audible terms and tones. Not only does Scripture *contain* His truth, it is His Word, for His Spirit is the author, making the Bible an infallible and inerrant document to guide us in both faith and practice. We begin, in this study, a general examination of the books in the Bible—Genesis through Revelation. As the Lord reveals Himself through each book we study, may your love for and reliance upon Him be enhanced.



Discovering the Way

1. General Information

The word *Bible* comes from the Greek term *biblia*, and the book itself is divided into two main sections called the Old Testament and the New Testament. It covers a lengthy history of people, events, and places, and it traces the theme of salvation through Jesus Christ.

2. Crucial Doctrines

There are four crucial doctrines of Scripture: revelation, inspiration, illumination, and application.

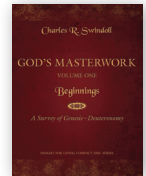


Starting Your Journey

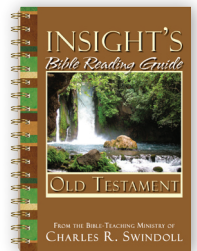
The Bible will have little lasting significance in our lives unless we make it a priority to apply it to our lives. Through God's Word, we receive specific purpose, meaning, and direction for our lives.



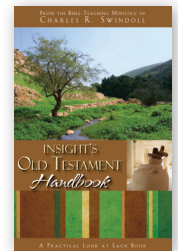
Tools for Digging Deeper



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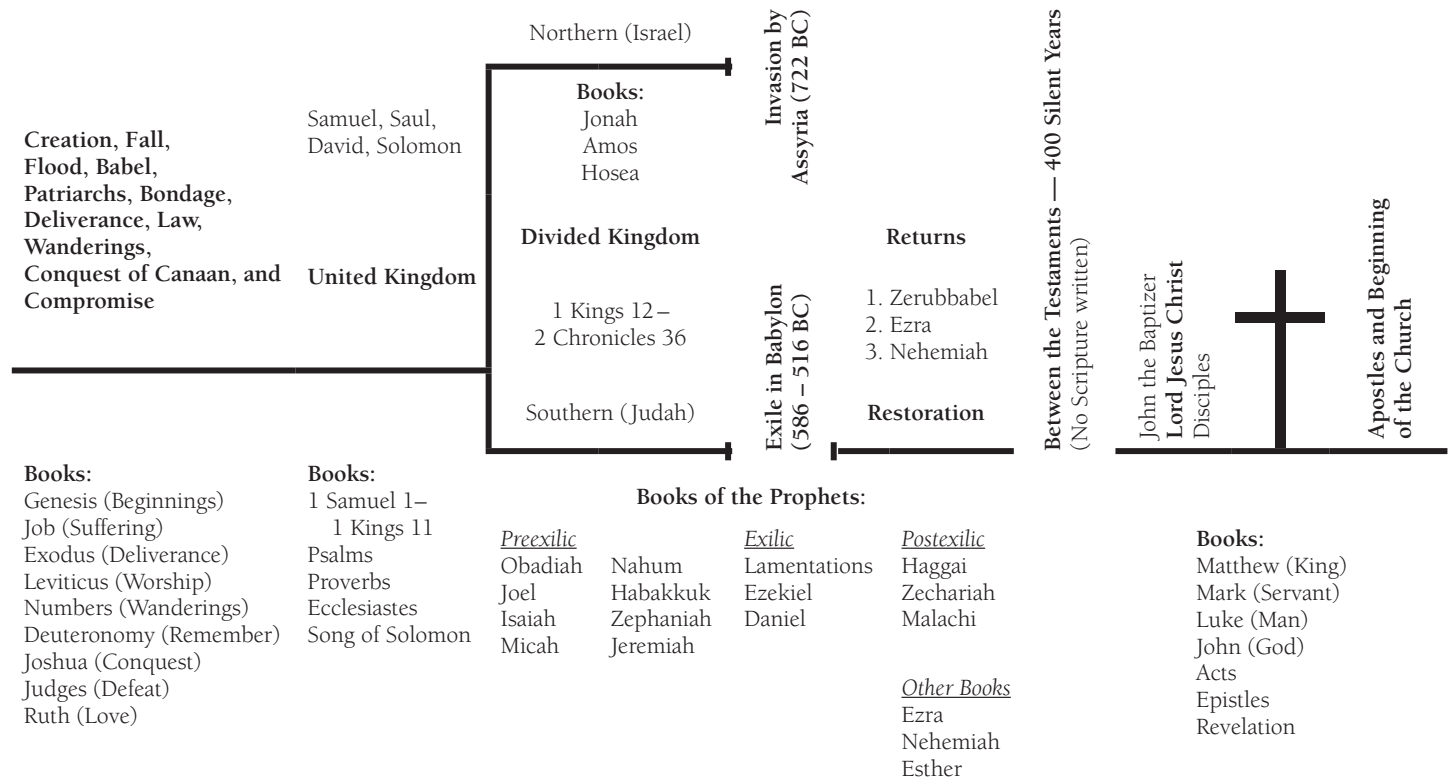


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SURVEY OF THE BIBLE BOOKS



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GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME ONE
BEGINNINGS—A SURVEY OF GENESIS–DEUTERONOMY
GENESIS: WHERE IT ALL BEGINS
A SURVEY OF GENESIS



The Heart of the Matter

Serving as God's introduction to His Word, Genesis holds a significant place in the canon of Scripture. The events Genesis describes and the themes it develops set the stage for everything that comes after. Remove it, and we are immediately confused, completely at a loss to understand the direction God is going. It is clear, therefore, why this book (more than any other in the Bible) is the target of constant criticism and attack. Disprove its validity, and we are well on our way to the destruction of our faith. But Genesis still stands! In this overview, we want to get a grasp on what the book is saying, how it fits together, and where it leads us in the next scriptural scene.



Discovering the Way

1. The Name: Genesis

Genesis means "the beginning" of something, an idea picked up from Genesis 1:1 but also in the repeated phrase, "the generations of . . ."

2. The Content: A Survey

The first eleven chapters of Genesis cover the beginnings of the human race, while chapters 12–50 cover the beginnings of the chosen race.

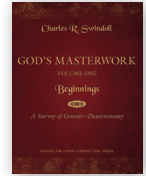


Starting Your Journey

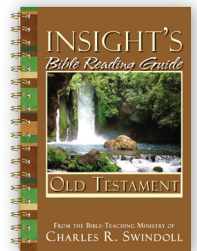
Genesis reveals five truths about human beings. First, we have been created by God. Second, we have fallen out of His favor because of sin. Third, divine judgment has fallen on us. Fourth, many continue to choose human good over God's good purposes. And, finally, God is still at work, using people of His choosing to bring others into His plan.



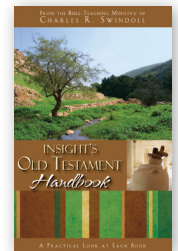
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GENESIS

	Creation	Fall	Flood	Nations		Abraham	Isaac	Jacob	Joseph
	CHAPTERS 1–2	CHAPTERS 3–5	CHAPTERS 6–9	CHAPTERS 10–11		CHAPTERS 12–25	CHAPTERS 26–27	CHAPTERS 28–36	CHAPTERS 37–50
Beginnings	Beginning of the human race					Beginning of the chosen race			
Result	Confusion and scattering					Bondage in Egypt			
History	Primeval history					Patriarchal history			
Chronology	Over 2,000 years					Approximately 300 years			
Emphasis	Four major events					Four important people			
Key Words and Phrases	“In the beginning” (1:1) “Generations” (5:1; 6:9; 10:1; 11:10; 11:27; 25:12; 25:19; 36:1; 37:2)								
Theme	God promises to redeem and bless His people.								
Key Verses	3:15; 12:3								
Christ in Genesis	Pictured in the seed of the woman (3:15); Melchizedek, the high priest (14:18); the humiliation and exaltation of Joseph (chapters 37–50)								

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GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME ONE
BEGINNINGS—A SURVEY OF GENESIS–DEUTERONOMY
BASIC BIBLE STUDY TOOLS
CHARLES R. SWINDOLL

The more serious you become about personal Bible study, the more you will be aware of the importance of owning some good study tools. Numerous books are available today, some of which are listed below. You should form the habit of purchasing at least one study aid per month for your own library.

1. Bibles

It is best if you have a study Bible that has paragraphic notations or divisions. You will also want to get some of the modern translations, versions, and paraphrases—preferably in hardcover. There are several excellent versions of the Bible. For casual reading, the *New International Version* is my preference. However, for serious study with accuracy in mind, I recommend the *New American Standard Bible*.

2. Concordances

A concordance is a must. It is an alphabetical listing of all the words in the Bible and of all the verses in which they appear.

- *Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible* or *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* are my preferences.
- Acquire an *exhaustive* concordance of the translation you use for study.
- Most good computer programs for Bible study (see reverse) allow for multiple-word searches, including lexical searches in the original languages.

3. Dictionaries and Encyclopedias

- English—*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* or *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*
- Bible—*The New Unger's Bible Dictionary* is the best.
- Theological—*Baker's Dictionary of Practical Theology* is a good tool.
- Greek and Hebrew—*Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*
- Encyclopedia—*The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible* (five volumes) and *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* (four volumes) are excellent.

4. Geographical and Cultural Helps

- A good atlas is indispensable for understanding context. *The Moody Atlas of Bible Lands* is highly recommended. (Also, if you have not yet been to Israel, you should go!)
- Bible backgrounds—*The New Unger's Bible Handbook*, *Halley's Bible Handbook*, Merrill Tenney's *New Testament Times: Understanding the World of the First Century*, or Alfred Edersheim's *Bible History: Old Testament*

5. Bible Doctrine Books

- *Systematic Theology* by Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology* by Charles Hodge, or *Systematic Theology* by Augustus H. Strong
- *Biblical Theology of the New Testament* by Charles C. Ryrie
- *Major Bible Themes* by Lewis Sperry Chafer—a good, concise book

6. Commentaries

- Surveys of the entire Bible—*The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty* (in two volumes, Old and New Testaments) is outstanding. *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary* is my preferred one-volume commentary.



GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME ONE
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BASIC BIBLE STUDY TOOLS, CONTINUED
CHARLES R. SWINDOLL

- Expository (verse by verse)—some of the best are by Donald G. Barnhouse, Kenneth S. Wuest, William R. Newell, R. C. H. Lenski, H. C. Leupold, William Barclay, John F. Walvoord, Arthur W. Pink, and Tyndale House
- Devotional—books by G. Campbell Morgan, F. B. Meyer, Alan Redpath, H. A. Ironside, and Charles R. Swindoll
- Analytical—books by W. Graham Scroggie and Merrill Tenney, as well as the I. C. C. (International Critical Commentary) series (critical and tends toward the liberal side)

Concerning Commentaries

- Best to purchase one of the entire Bible first
- Best to use different types in your study
- Best to consult them *after* your own personal study
- Best to read with discernment; don't be afraid to challenge or disagree
- An excellent volume by John Glynn, *Commentary & Reference Survey*, lists and explains the most popular and recommended commentaries (from various perspectives—evangelical, liberal, etc.) on every book of the Bible. It is helpful when you're looking for which commentary to buy . . . and which one not to buy.

7. Bible Study Computer Programs

- BibleWorks (for PC)—see www.bibleworks.com
Designed for analysis of the biblical text, BibleWorks is the best program for the PC platform—for all levels of users. It offers search tools, lexicons, and dictionaries for Bible study, sermon preparation, and detailed Bible research.
- Libronix Digital Library System (for PC)—see www.logos.com
An astounding assortment of commentaries, books, dictionaries, and tools allows for quick research on any passage or topic. Many of the recommended resources on this handout are in the Libronix Library.
- Accordance (for Macintosh)—see www.accordancebible.com
From basic Bible study helps to advanced research tools, Accordance is the best program for the Mac environment. Accordance offers Bibles, commentaries, lexicons, and a comprehensive library of materials and tools that can grow with your needs.

8. Web Sites

- www.bible.org—“In the last decade bible.org has grown to serve millions of individuals around the world through providing thousands of trustworthy resources for Bible study—including an exciting new translation of the Bible (the NET Bible).”
—from their Web site
- www.bibleplaces.com—“BiblePlaces.com features photographs and descriptions of sites in Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey and Greece with an emphasis on biblical archaeology, geography and history.”
—from their Web site

9. Bible Study Methods

- *Living by the Book* by Howard G. Hendricks and William D. Hendricks
- *Independent Bible Study* by Irving L. Jensen
- *How to Study the Bible for Yourself* by Tim LaHaye
- *Methodical Bible Study* by Robert A. Traina



GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME ONE
BEGINNINGS—A SURVEY OF GENESIS–DEUTERONOMY
EXODUS: STORY OF MIRACULOUS FREEDOM
A SURVEY OF EXODUS



The Heart of the Matter

At the close of Genesis, the Hebrews were in Egypt. A famine in Canaan had forced them to make this journey, and Joseph's assistance had made it possible. For a full generation, nothing changed. Joseph and all his brothers passed away, but the Hebrews continued to increase in Egypt, which threatened the new Pharaoh, who had never known Joseph or his brothers. For the Hebrews, this resulted in their mistreatment, murder, forced labor, and misery; they had become victims of bondage rather than visitors in Egypt as they once had been. Exodus is an account of how God miraculously delivered His people and then began to train them to walk in faith through His provision of a set of written instructions (the Mosaic Law) and a place of meeting for worship (the tabernacle). Exodus begins with a groan and ends in glory.



Discovering the Way

1. The Name: Exodus

The book name *Exodus* comes from a Greek word meaning “departure” or “going out” and refers to the Israelites going out from Egypt—the defining event in the book of Exodus.

2. The Content: A Survey

The book of Exodus is broken into five major sections, each describing a significant event or element in the life of the Israelites: bondage, deliverance, journey, law, and tabernacle.

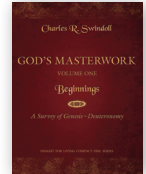


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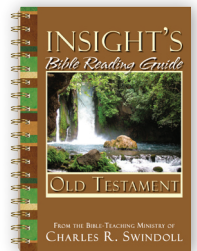
Exodus teaches us that lasting freedom is a direct result of God's intervention. When God brings deliverance, He uses choice instruments in the process, and freedom must be balanced with submission to God's authority.



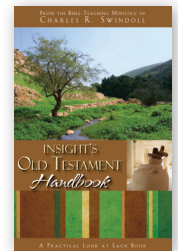
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EXODUS

GENESIS	350 Years	Groan of the Israelites	Bondage	Deliverance		Journey	Law	Tabernacle	Glory of the Lord	
			Israelites became numerous	Blood	Boils	Cloud and fire	Moral	Outer court 150 feet x 75 feet		
			New Pharaoh	Frogs	Hail	Red Sea	Civil			
			Plan to destroy Israelites	Gnats	Locusts	Grumbling	Social	Inner court 45 feet x 15 feet		
			Moses	Flies	Darkness					
			Livestock	Death						
			Passover							
			Exodus							
			CHAPTERS 1–2	CHAPTERS 3–12	CHAPTERS 13–18	CHAPTERS 19–24	CHAPTERS 25–40			
			Location		Egypt		En route	Mount Sinai		
			Time		430 years		3 months	1 year		
			Theme		Suffering and liberation of people of God		Guidance of God	Worship of God		
			Key Verses		6:6; 12:40–42; 19:5–6					
			Christ in Exodus							
			Passover lamb (chapter 12); sacrificial offering, tabernacle, articles of worship (chapters 25–40); His leadership and deliverance are pictured in Moses; His purity and intercession are pictured in the high priest.							

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GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME ONE
BEGINNINGS—A SURVEY OF GENESIS–DEUTERONOMY
LEVITICUS: GOD'S PICTURE BOOK ON WORSHIP
A SURVEY OF LEVITICUS



The Heart of the Matter

In Genesis, we see humanity ruined by the fall. In Exodus, God's people were redeemed from bondage. In Leviticus, those people were revived through worship. Being the least popular of the first five Bible books, Leviticus is frequently passed off as an unimportant document of out-of-date details. Because the book is directly related to Israelites under the Mosaic Law, many Christians today choose to ignore its contents. But God has preserved Leviticus for a particular purpose. As is the case with other Old Testament books, it is filled with pictures of the Lord Jesus Christ. Without exception, every offering and every feast provides a vivid portrait of Christ, God's sacrificial Lamb, "who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). To study Leviticus apart from these portraits painted by the Spirit is to be bored with an ancient series of regulations. But when we see all of this in light of Christ's provision at Calvary, it becomes both interesting and enlightening.



Discovering the Way

1. General Facts about Leviticus

The name *Leviticus* means "pertaining to the Levites," and Leviticus was given as an instructional book for Israel's priests, all of whom were to come from the tribe of Levi.

2. The Way to God

The book of Leviticus describes five types of offerings that the Israelites were to use as a means of atonement and reconciliation with God: burnt, grain, peace, sin, and guilt offerings.

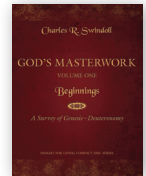


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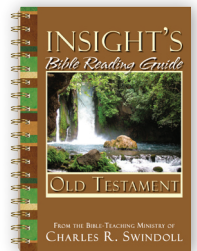
Leviticus also offers specifics for how an Israelite was to walk with God and focuses on three particular areas: holy living, holy times, and holy vows.



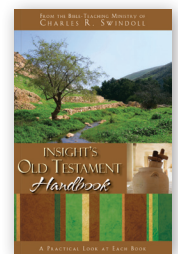
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LEVITICUS

	<p>The Way to God Access</p> <p><u>The approach: offerings</u></p> <p><u>The representative: priest</u></p> <p>The laws: cleansing</p> <p><i>Physically</i></p> <p><u><i>Spiritually</i></u></p> <p>CHAPTERS 1–17</p>	<p>The Walk with God Lifestyle</p> <p><u>Practical guidelines</u></p> <p><u>Chronological observances</u></p> <p><u>Severe consequences</u></p> <p><u>Verbal promises</u></p> <p>CHAPTERS 18–27</p>
Emphasis	Ritual (for worship)	Practical (for living)
Location	Mount Sinai . . . one full year	
Key Word	“Holy” (appears 90 times)	
Theme	How sinful humanity should worship a holy God	
Key Verses	17:11; 19:2; 20:7–8	
Christ in Leviticus	Pictured in each sacrifice and ritual	

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GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME ONE
BEGINNINGS—A SURVEY OF GENESIS—DEUTERONOMY
NUMBERS: A TRAGIC PILGRIMAGE
A SURVEY OF NUMBERS



The Heart of the Matter

The Promised Land! If it was mentioned once, it must have been mentioned a dozen times a day as the time grew closer for the Hebrews to leave Mount Sinai. By then, there was no doubt of God's blessing: the heaven-sent cloud by day and the fire by night, Moses's reliable leadership, as well as divine protection from enemy attack and other hindrances. But tragedy struck. At a crucial juncture, the people doubted God's promise and retreated into unbelief. The result? Monotonous wandering in circles for almost forty years as all individuals twenty years and older died off, leaving a new generation to enter Canaan, the land of promise. The Old Testament book of Numbers is a historical account of those events surrounding the tragic pilgrimage experienced by the Hebrews between Sinai and Canaan.



Discovering the Way

1. The Name of the Book

Why is the story of a people's journey called Numbers? Because God requested that the people be counted both near the beginning (Numbers 1:2) and at the end (26:2) of the book.

2. A Survey of the Book

As the Israelites travel from Sinai to Canaan over the course of the book of Numbers, pay special attention to four key questions: Where are they? How long does it take? What are they doing? And how does it apply?

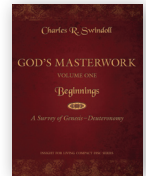


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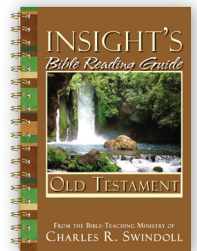
We find three major lessons in the book of Numbers. Complaining is contagious, doubting can be disastrous, and wandering is always humbling.



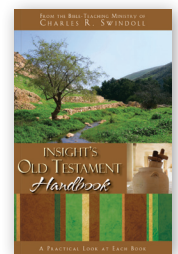
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NUMBERS

	Preparation Census Organization Sanctification <i>CHAPTERS</i> 1–9	Pessimism Complaining Doubting Promised Land rejected <i>CHAPTERS</i> 10–14	Punishment Wandering Old generation dies New census <i>CHAPTERS</i> 15–36
Location	Mount Sinai	En route to Kadesh-barnea	Wilderness wandering
Time	20 days	Several months	38 years
Key Word	Wilderness		
Theme	The price of disbelief and disobedience		
Key Verses	14:22–23		
Christ in Numbers	Pictured in manna (compare John 6:31–33); water from rock (compare 1 Corinthians 10:4); bronze serpent (compare John 3:14); in Balaam's prophecy (Numbers 24:17); pillar of cloud and of fire; cities of refuge		

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BEGINNINGS—A SURVEY OF GENESIS–DEUTERONOMY
DEUTERONOMY: REMEMBER! REMEMBER!
A SURVEY OF DEUTERONOMY



The Heart of the Matter

The wilderness wandering was, at last, over. A new generation was on the scene. Canaan—the Promised Land—was just beyond the border. The Hebrews were eager to invade and claim the territory. For almost 500 years they had lived away from home, like fugitives. They longed to settle down and deepen their roots. But a very strategic matter had to be settled beforehand. This vast multitude of people needed to be instructed and warned. Once they moved into Canaan, it would be easy for the people to forget those hard lessons from the wilderness. Becoming fat and presumptuous in Canaan, they could easily drift into moral compromise and, ultimately, direct disobedience. So God pulled them aside and directed Moses to speak, to challenge, to remind, to warn. Deuteronomy is mostly a collection of Moses's words just before the people entered the Promised Land.



Discovering the Way

1. Some Important Facts

The name *Deuteronomy* comes from two Greek words meaning “second law,” the idea being that Moses was restating the Law for the people once again, just before they entered the Promised Land.

2. Some Things to Remember

Moses encouraged the people to remember God's faithfulness in the past, the holiness of God today, and the warnings of God in the future.

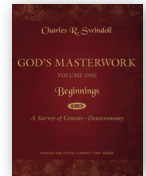


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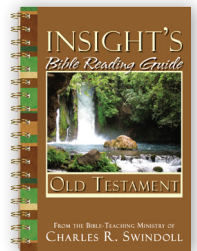
We can pull three overarching lessons from Deuteronomy: look back and thank God for His faithfulness, look at life today in light of God's holiness, and listen to His voice regarding tomorrow.



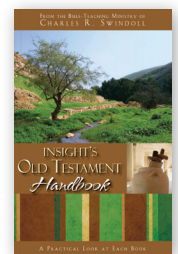
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Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application



DEUTERONOMY

WILDERNESS WANDERING	Looking Back <u>REMEMBER!</u> <u>Failure at Kadesh-barnea</u> <u>Faithfulness of God</u> CHAPTERS 1–4	Looking Up <u>REMEMBER!</u> <u>Blessings accompany obedience</u> <u>Compromises weaken distinctives</u> <u>Consequences follow disobedience</u> CHAPTERS 5–26	Looking Ahead <u>REMEMBER!</u> <u>The land is yours; possess it!</u> <u>The Lord is holy; obey Him!</u> CHAPTERS 27–34
	Location Everything occurs on the edge of the Promised Land of Canaan.		
	Leadership At the beginning of the book, MOSES is the leader (34:5) by the end of the book, JOSHUA is the leader (1:38; 34:9)		
Time	The sermons recorded in Deuteronomy were first spoken (1:6) then written (31:24) during a period of 40 days (compare Deuteronomy 1:3; 34:8; Joshua 4:19).		
Theme	Remember to love the Lord your God and keep His commandments.		
Key Verses	6:4–9; 10:12–13; 30:19–20		
Christ in Deuteronomy	“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him” (18:15); Moses himself is also a type of Christ.		

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