

CHANGING WANDERERS INTO WORSHIPERS

From the Exodus to the Promised Land

Almost Home

Deuteronomy 6:1–13

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

STUDY



LET'S BEGIN HERE

When Sandy kneeled over yet again to show her young daughter how to tie a shoe, she said, “Honey, begin by grabbing one shoelace with each hand so you can. . . .” Likewise, legendary football coach Vince Lombardi took his team to practice late one night after an embarrassing loss and told them, “Now, gentlemen, this is a football,” as he showed them the leather ball.

Whether tying a shoe or competing for the national championship, a mastery of the basics fosters the freedom to grow, to excel, to succeed—to do what we mean to do. More importantly, this same truth reigns supreme in our spiritual lives. As Chuck Swindoll said in his message,

There's something reassuring about coming back to basics. And every once in a while, we need to do it as Christians.

Today, we'll join Chuck Swindoll in our study of Deuteronomy 6, the charter of the nation of Israel, as it reflects God's heart for His people and His plan for our world. In doing so, we'll revisit the basics of our faith.



YOUR TURN IN THE SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy contains sermons from Moses to the second generation of Israelites, delivered around 1407 BC, while they encamped in Moab. In short, Moses rehearsed and theologically framed what God had done for the Israelites—from the time of Abraham to the Exodus—to fuel their confidence in what God would do for them in Canaan just across the Jordan. Moses stipulated what it meant for Israel to be in a covenant relationship with the living God.

Quotable

Jesus Christ is first. He's our top priority. He is the focus of our worship and the foundation of our life.

— Charles R. Swindoll



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Before you read this passage, take a moment to look over Chuck’s helpful chart of Deuteronomy, which offers a big picture of the book.

DEUTERONOMY

	Looking Back	Looking Up	Looking Ahead
	WILDERNESS WANDERING	<p><u>REMEMBER!</u></p> <p>Failure at Kadesh-barnea</p> <p>Faithfulness of God</p> <p>CHAPTERS 1–4</p>	<p><u>REMEMBER!</u></p> <p>Blessings accompany obedience</p> <p>Compromises weaken distinctives</p> <p>Consequences follow disobedience</p> <p>CHAPTERS 5–26</p>
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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Now that you have the big picture, look up the entry *Deuteronomy* in your Bible dictionary, and jot down a few key notes to help you understand the richness of this majestic work.



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Prior to perusing Deuteronomy 6, take a moment to still your mind and write a prayer asking God to bless you as you seek Him through His Word.



Observation: Reading Slowly

During our first *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study step—observation—we reference only the Bible. We simply read it. We examine it thoroughly. We do this to see all the details of the scene and characters the author painted.

The Lord Our God, the Lord Is One—Deuteronomy 6:1–13

Slowly read *Deuteronomy 6:1–13*. Consider reading it multiple times in different translations. Chuck's favorite Bible versions are the New Living Translation and the New American Standard Bible. Note your top ten observations.



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According to Deuteronomy 6:1–3, what three promises did God give Israel?

How does Deuteronomy 6:6 logically connect with Deuteronomy 6:4–5?

Summarize Deuteronomy 6:7–9 in one sentence.

According to Deuteronomy 6:10–13, list the good things the Lord would give the Israelites. What was the risk they faced once they received these blessings?

Moses has a great skeleton in his thoughts of verses 1 to 13. . . . Verse 4: Hear the truth continually. . . . Verse 5: Love the Lord fervently. . . . Verse 7: Teach the young diligently. . . . And finally, fear the Lord greatly. . . . What a splendid outline: hear, love, teach, fear. He starts very personally within as you hear and as you love. And he turns to the expression of it as you teach and as you fear.

—Chuck Swindoll



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Do What Is Right and Good in the Lord's Sight—Deuteronomy 6:14–25

Now slowly read *Deuteronomy 6:14–25* using multiple translations. Record the top ten observations you make.

Moses restated and expanded upon what he said in Deuteronomy 6:1–13. What three subjects did he revisit in Deuteronomy 6:14–25 that he had already mentioned? In what way did he expand upon these topics?



Interpretation: Understanding Clearly

Sometimes, the original languages of the Bible or the cultural context of the writing distances us from fully understanding the text, even after a thorough reading of the passage. Thus, we must rely on historians, philologists, and theologians to help us grasp the specific meaning of the text more quickly. We do this during interpretation, the second step in our *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study method.



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If you don't own a commentary, we recommend you purchase *The Swindoll Study Bible*, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, or *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*. If you want a single-volume commentary on Deuteronomy, we recommend *Deuteronomy* by Eugene H. Merrill in the New American Commentary series. Dr. Constable has provided a wonderful, free online commentary called *Constable's Notes* at the NET Bible website. Now let's go deep!

What did Moses mean when he told the Israelites to “fear” the Lord in Deuteronomy 6:2, 6:13, and 6:24?

What does the Hebrew word for “heart” mean (Deuteronomy 6:5–6)?

Why would the commands of Deuteronomy 6:4–5 along with 6:14–15 have been radical in the ancient Near East?

Relationship lies at the heart of God's message to His people in Deuteronomy. From the days that Adam and Eve walked the garden (Genesis 2), to Moses' words at Moab (Deuteronomy), to Jesus' final words in the upper room (John 14–16), to God's final dwelling with His people in the eternal city (Revelation 21–22), God wants a relationship with us. He wants to bless us. He wants to do good to us and through us. Our Lord Jesus Christ looks upon you with the eyes of love.

May the truth that you have heard seep deep within your being so that as decisions are made, the decisions square with the truth, the triangles are congruent, and you can defend the decision based on truth. —Chuck Swindoll



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Correlation: Comparing Carefully

Our third step in our *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study method, correlation, stems from the motto, “Scripture interprets Scripture.” What God says in one passage often helps us interpret other passages because the Bible contains one story and, ultimately, has one Author.

Not long before the Roman emperor Nero martyred him, Peter wrote the epistle we know as Second Peter. He wrote it around AD 66, just over thirty years after Jesus resurrected. False teaching crept throughout Asia Minor into some of the churches whose members probably served as Peter’s recipients. In *2 Peter 1*, Peter told them to return to the basics, pairing well with our passage from Deuteronomy.

According to *2 Peter 1:1*, how does our faith compare with Peter and the other apostles’ faith?

According to *2 Peter 1:3–7*, what does God give us by His divine power, and how does it affect our life?

According to *2 Peter 1:8–11*, why did Peter want us to focus on these basics of the Christian faith, and what will be the outcome of our lives as we persevere in them?



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Can you sense Peter's mood as he instructed the church struggling with false-teaching? It's reminiscent of Moses preparing the Israelites to go on without him. In fact, according to 2 Peter 1:12–15, why did Peter write this epistle?

How does 2 Peter 1:16–21 undergird the authority of Peter's teaching?

Peter didn't want these churches to depend upon him for their faith. He wanted them to look to Jesus, to cultivate their relationship with Him, and to persist in the basics of their faith.

Application: Receiving Personally

During the fourth and final step of our *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study method, application, we want to adopt a new way of thinking, amend our attitude, adjust our affections, or alter our practices so that our lives better reflect what we believe about Jesus and how Jesus wants us to live as members of His family.

Throughout Deuteronomy 6, Moses told the Israelites to cultivate their relationship with God. In what ways do you already cultivate your relationship with Jesus? By the way, we applaud you for doing these studies which can be rigorous at times. We, too, pray that God would bless you through them.



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After studying Deuteronomy 6, in what ways do you need to grow in your relationship with God? Do you find yourself approaching God out of obligation or fear of punishment rather than adoration and gratitude? Do you obey to receive rather than obey out of love? Ask God to reveal any dark way in your heart and then to guide you in His everlasting way.

If you have a family, in what ways do you worship God together? Even adding prayer before eating or reading a passage from the Bible after eating can go a long way as you and your family seek to grow together spiritually.

I have found that it is virtually impossible for parents to convince children that truth is truly truth if they live a lie. —Chuck Swindoll

To end this study, write your own closing prayer below asking God to keep your mind and heart focused on the spiritual basics. Faith, hope, love—in these three abide—of which the greatest is love (1 Corinthians 13:13). The nails of Jesus' cross reveal it. His risen, new body confirms it.



A FINAL PRAYER



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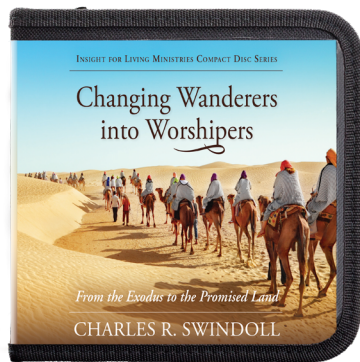
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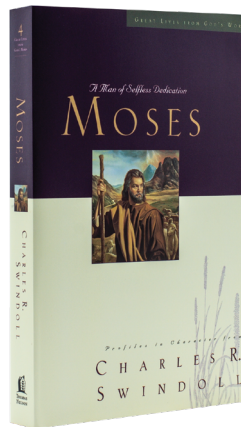
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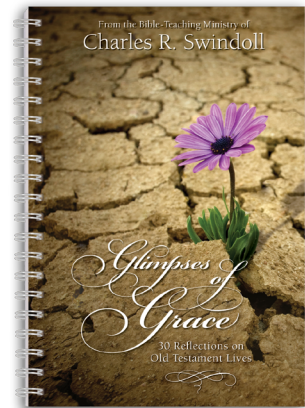
Tools for Digging Deeper



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For the 2018–2019 broadcast, this *Searching the Scriptures* study was developed by Aaron Massey in collaboration with Bryce Klabunde, executive vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages.



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