

ACT 1: REDEMPTION PREPARED: ISRAEL**Scene 2: Formation of a Nation: Israel
Second Giving of the Law (Deuteronomy)**

Memory Verse: *Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength* (Deut. 6:5 NIV). *Love your neighbor as yourself* (Lev. 19:18b).

Background Helps:

In a previous Forecast (Week #3) we indicated that the word *promise* is the key to Act I, **Scene 1** of the Progress of Redemption. In Scene 1 God chose a people, beginning with the Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, through whom he would initiate his plan of redemption. Scene 1 encompasses Genesis 12–50.

Scene 2 of Act I can be summarized by the word *law*. In this scene, which encompasses the books of Exodus through Joshua, the LORD forms the people whom he has chosen into a nation, providing them with a population, leadership, law, and a land. The importance of the Law is seen in that another entire book, Deuteronomy, is given over to the repetition of that Law (as the name indicates) before the people of Israel cross over into the land which God had promised them. A reminder of the dramatic outline we are following in our lessons:

PROLOGUE: REDEMPTION NEEDED (Gen. 1:1–11:26)**ACT I: REDEMPTION PREPARED: ISRAEL****Scene 1: The Patriarchs: God's Choice of a People (Gen. 11:27–50:26)****Scene 2: The Formation of a Nation: Israel (Exodus–Joshua)**

The book of Deuteronomy, with its second giving of the Law, is part of God's formation of Israel into a nation, through which he will bring redemption to the whole world. The book consists of a series of sermons which Moses delivers to the people in the territory of Moab, east of the Jordan River, to prepare them for their entrance into the Promised Land. In his sermons, he reviews some of the history of the last 40 years of their wilderness wanderings and reiterates the Law which God had given them at Mt. Sinai, that is, the covenant which the LORD made with his people. It was necessary for Moses to repeat the Law because the first rebellious generation of Israelites, who had been delivered from bondage and Egypt and had met with God at Mt. Sinai, after 40 years of wandering had died in the wilderness (see Deut. 1). It was necessary for the new generation of Israelites to receive the Law once again and to renew their covenant with God before entering the Promised Land.

The importance of Deuteronomy is seen from the fact that there are almost 100 quotations of and allusions to the book in the New Testament. Our Lord Jesus resisted the temptations of the devil in the wilderness by quoting from Deuteronomy three times (Matt. 4:1-11). What Jesus called the greatest commandment in the Law is found in Deut. 6:5, one of our two memory verses this week (cf. Matt. 22:34-40).

Lesson Helps:



This lesson will give you the opportunity to review the Ten Commandments with your students, which you studied two weeks ago in Lesson #7. We suggest that you focus your lesson on the first of the two memory verses, Deuteronomy 6:5, the first and greatest commandment, which (together with Lev. 19:18b) summarizes the whole Law of God.

Lesson aim: My students will learn about the first and greatest commandment (Deut. 6:5; cf. Matt. 22:36-38), so that they will choose to love God with their whole being. Notice how this command to love God is repeated in Deuteronomy 7:9; 10:12; 11:1, 13, 22; 13:3; 19:9; 30:6, 16, 20. Notice also that this command to love God is associated with commands to keep (or observe or obey) his commandments, fear (or revere) the LORD, walk in all his ways, serve the LORD, to hold fast to him, and listen to his voice. In the book of Deuteronomy Moses' exhortations to obedience are set in relational terms. In other words, God's people are not simply told to keep a set of rules or commandments. They are told to love the LORD and to express this love by a life of obedience to him.

Of course, the LORD knew that his people would not be able to love, fear, serve, and obey him. They would need to have their hearts "circumcised" (Deut. 10:16; 30:6). This heart circumcision is the work of Christ and the Spirit under the new covenant (Jer. 31:31-34; cf. Heb. 8:6-13; Rom. 2:25-29; Col. 11-14). Through Christ's sacrifice our disobedience to God's law is forgiven and through the indwelling Holy Spirit we are enabled to obey God's law in the future, especially to love him.

In your lesson, review the first and greatest commandment (Deut. 6:5, your memory verse). Review the Ten Commandments as specific expressions of our love for God. Remember the sacrifice of Christ as God's provision for our disobedience. Encourage your students, in prayer, to invite the Holy Spirit to fill and empower them to love and obey God in the future.

Assignment:

-  Read about Act I: Redemption Prepared: Israel. Scene 2: Formation of a Nation: Israel: **Conquest and Settlement of Canaan (Israel) under Joshua** (Joshua)
-  Memorize Joshua 24:15.