Deuteronomy 32: The Song of Moses and the Terminal Generation

Weekly Worksheet · Deuteronomy 31:16–32:43 · NKJV · Name: _____

Moses is days from death. Israel has not crossed the Jordan. Before they enter the land, God tells Moses how the story will end: they will break the covenant, He will hide His face, and a song will stand as a witness against them when it happens (31:16–21). Then Moses writes the song. It is a covenant lawsuit, the form ancient treaties used when a vassal broke faith: summon the witnesses, recite the benefits, read the charges, pronounce the sentence. The prophets reused that form against Judah (Isaiah 1:2; Micah 6:1–2; Hosea 4:1). The New Testament quotes this chapter more than almost any other in the Old Testament, and every writer who quotes it applies it to his own generation. That is the argument of this study: not that AD 70 can be read into Deuteronomy, but that Jesus, Peter, Paul, Hebrews, and John read Deuteronomy 32 and said, in effect, "this is us."

This week's plan

Monday	Read all of Deuteronomy 32 once, straight through, in your NKJV. Write one sentence: what is this chapter about?
Tuesday	Reread Verses 1–6 ("Witnesses summoned, Judge named, charge read"). Fill in that section's box below.
Wednesday	Reread Verses 7–14 ("What God did for Israel"). Fill in that section's box below.
Thursday	Reread Verses 15–18 ("The stipulations broken"). Fill in that section's box below.
Friday	Reread Verses 19–25 ("The sentence"). Fill in that section's box below. Then the remaining sections.
Saturday	Answer the questions, learn the memory verse, bring this sheet to the table.

Verses 1–6: Witnesses summoned, Judge named, charge read

In your own words, what does this section say? Note any word or verse you want to ask about.

Verses 7–14: What God did for Israel

In your own words, what does this section say? Note any word or verse you want to ask about.

Verses 15–18: The stipulations broken

In your own words, what does this section say? Note any word or verse you want to ask about.

Verses 19–25: The sentence

In your own words, what does this section say? Note any word or verse you want to ask about.

Verses 26–33: Why a remnant survives, and what the rest became

In your own words, what does this section say? Note any word or verse you want to ask about.

Verses 34–43: The verdict executed, the nations invited in

In your own words, what does this section say? Note any word or verse you want to ask about.

Discussion questions

1. Deuteronomy 31:21 says the song would "testify against them as a witness," and Jesus said "there is one who accuses you, Moses" (John 5:45). Where in Matthew 23 do you hear the song's charges in Jesus' mouth?

2. Compare 32:13–14 with 32:32–33, then Matthew 21:33 with 21:39. What did the owner plant, and what did he harvest?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 10:1–22 and mark every line that comes from Deuteronomy 32. What does verse 11 say about the readers?

4. Deuteronomy 32:36 and Daniel 12:7 describe the same moment. What did Daniel say would be finished when it came?

5. Revelation 10:5–6 repeats the oath of Deuteronomy 32:40. What changed between Moses' oath and the angel's?

6. If 32:43 was fulfilled when Gentiles rejoiced with Israel in Paul's churches (Romans 15:10), what does that make the church, and how does reading the song on their clock change how you apply it?

Can you defend it?

A friend says, "Deuteronomy 32 is about the Babylonian exile, not Jesus' day." Using only the New Testament quotations in this chapter (Acts 2:40; Romans 10:19; Romans 12:19; Luke 21:22), write the two-sentence answer you'd give. Then write the best comeback your friend could make, and what you'd say to that.

Something I don't understand

A verse from this chapter I'd use to explain it to a friend

Memory verse: Deuteronomy 32:4.

Write it out from memory on Friday.

Bring to the table

- ☐ Read the whole chapter at least twice
- ☐ Every section box filled in
- ☐ Questions answered
- ☐ Memory verse learned
- ☐ One question of my own to ask

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