DEUTERONOMY IN THE LATER WRITINGS

Lesson 11 for December 11, 2021

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Josiah: Reformation



Nehemiah: Wroship



Jeremiah: Conversion



Micah: Obedience



Moses was the first person to write the Word of God. Thus, Deuteronomy is one of the oldest books in the Bible.

Therefore, the subsequent authors read this book and knew about the teachings in it. There are many direct and indirect references to Deuteronomy and its message in the Old Testament.



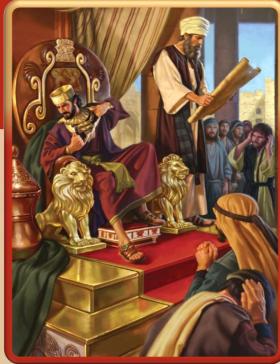
JOSIAH: REFORMATION

"Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants—all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read—" (2 Kings 22:16)

Josiah was the grandson of Manasseh and the son of the impious king Amon. He chose not to follow their example but to seek God with all his heart and to restore the Temple (2K. 22:2-5).



"The book of the law" (Deuteronomy) was found in the Temple. When Josiah heard chapter 28 being read, he tore his clothes. He understood the punishment his people deserved because of their wickedness (2K. 22:11, 18-19).



Josiah consulted God through the prophetess Huldah. Then he decided to begin a spiritual reform, so Israel would abandon sin and turn back to God (2K. 22:13-14; 23:1-3).



NEHEMIAH: WORSHIP

"You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You." (Nehemiah 9:6)

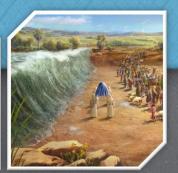
The expression "heaven of heavens" in Deuteronomy 10:14 is found 6 other times in the Old Testament:



This expression shows the majesty, power, and greatness of God. It's always used in worship.

After the Levites read "the book of the law" (Neh. 8:18), they prayed to worship God for His creating power, and for how He had taken care of Israel.





JEREMIAH: CONVERSION "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13)

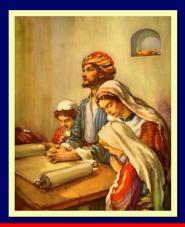




Jeremiah quoted Deuteronomy 4:29 in the context of the fulfillment of the prophecy: "And the Lord will scatter you among the peoples." (Dt. 4:27) In that moment, parts of Israel were captives in Babylon because of their sins. After all, their stay at the Promised Land was conditional on their obedience (Dt. 4:25-26; Jer. 7:4-7).



The solution Moses had suggested was a change of their attitude. Jeremiah confirmed it: they had to seek God with all their hearts. We will receive the blessings of the covenant if we do so.

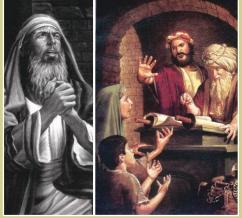


MICAH: OBEDIENCE

"He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

Micah quoted Deuteronomy 10:12-13, but reversed:





The message was the same, but the context wasn't. In Micah's time, they looked like pious people, but they were unfair to the weak and those in need (Micah 6:10-11). Acting justly was essential.

Giving offerings to show our love for God and to seem humble is useless if we're living in disobedience.

DANIEL: RESTORATION

"So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes." (Daniel 9:3)

Daniel mentioned "the Law of Moses" twice in his prayer (Dn. 9:11, 13).

In verse 11, it helped Daniel to understand why Israel had been deported. In verse 13, it helped Daniel to understand God's justice and mercy.





God had punished His people because of their rebellion, just as He had foretold. However, there was hope: If they came to God and turned from their sins, God would restore them as He had promised to Moses in Deuteronomy 4:30-31.

Today we can come to God with the same confidence Daniel had in His "great mercy." (Dn. 9:18)

"God requires that we confess our sins, and humble our hearts before Him; but at the same time we should have confidence in Him as a tender Father, who will not forsake those who put their trust in Him."

E. G. W. (Selected Messages, book 1, cp. 54, p. 350)