

I. Restored People (Dt. 30:1-5)

1. He assumes Israel will fail (**verse 1**)
 - the law is not the problem, the people are the problem
 - the law is a guardian (Gal. 3:24)
- Rea - the law is like a thermometer, it only tells the temperature, it does not change it
2. All the blessings and curses will come on them
 - they will suffer famine, disease, poverty and warfare
 - they will be carried into exile (as a nation)
3. The results of the word and their response is a good reflection of the nature of sinful people
- Rea - we say "it's just human nature" - but that is the very nature Jesus came to save us from. It's "human nature" to lie. It's "human nature" for men to run around on their wives. It's "human nature" for church people to gossip.
4. Classic theology states that we are "dead to God" - that we cannot do anything about it
 - we are "hostile" to Him - we are doomed if left to ourselves
5. The next verses predict a change of heart (**verses 2-5**)
 - verse 1 said they will do wrong
 - verse 2 says that they will change - why the change?
 - God will re-gather the Israelites (verses 3-5)
 - the book of Ezra, Nehemiah and Malachi show that though they came home,
- their hearts remained far from God
6. Some see the remaining Jews being gathered back during the 1000 year Millennium to come
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Our tendency is away from God - our potential is to be like God
 2. God gathers them back - why?
 - they have been sufficiently punished
 - He loves them
 - God does not give up
 - God is true whether people are true are not
 3. The people need to repent - the prophets preached it regularly, and some did repent. Just as in the New Testament some receive God's way in Jesus, and others do not. But as many as "received" Him (Jesus) to them He gave the right to become the sons of God (John 1:12).

II. Renewed Hearts - Dt. 30:6-10

1. God intervenes and renews the people's hearts (**verse 6**)
 - the analogy is circumcision
 - circumcision was a sign (from the people's side) of their accepting God's covenant
 - it is possible to have bodies that are circumcised but hearts that are not
- Rea 2. This is similar to being baptized on the outside but no real commitment on the inside
 - to be a Jew on the outside, does not mean you are a Jew on the inside

-how will God effect this “circumcision of heart?” - through Jesus

3. Other images:

A. Joel says rend your heart, not your garments - Joel 2:13

B. Ezekiel says God gives a new heart - Ezek. 36:26

C. Born again - New Testament

4. God will deal with their enemies (**verses 7-10**)

God’s justice and vindication

A. He punishes those who rebel

B. They will be vindicated

C. God will make them prosper again (8-10)

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. God steps in to judge and vindicate

2. God does what they are unable to do - but He does not do it against their will, or unconsciously (without their permission) - verses 19-20 relate YOUR choice. Stated bluntly, they are not just “chosen” - they too must make a “choice.”

3. When we get into a real mess, the only person that can “make a way” out is God

III. Righteous Choice (Dt. 30:19-20)

1. They will fail to keep the law - they will repent when God circumcises their hearts
-it seems as if God does it all

Rea -no, as the prophet looks to the future, he sees and reports what is going to happen but does not “make” it happen. That is the import and meaning of verses 19-20. He lays this squarely in the lap of the people of Israel - I’m setting this choice before you. Isn’t that what verse 19 says? Now you must choose.

Rea 2. So... he looks into the future and says - I see there that you will fail

I will give you a new heart

That new heart is based on your choice (verse 19)

Note also that verse 10 says “if” you obey - the new heart does not take away your choice

3. The grace of God is seen in that He:

-will give them another chance

-He does not just throw them out into the trash - He continues to “make a way”

-but, it all based on our choice (verse 19) - chose life so that you may enjoy the

blessing of God (again)

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. This is like a preacher laying out a choice for his people on Sunday morning - what will be your choice - at the end of many sermons there is the implied question “so, what do we do?”

2. Joshua 24 - Joshua says, you do whatever you want as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord

3. If God does the entire thing, then why is there any choice? Actually if God just puts a new heart within us, we don’t have to choose. We could be saved unconsciously.