

Jesus in Deuteronomy

This is our last study of Jesus in the Pentateuch. We may have a study or two of Christ in the remainder of the Old Testament. My hope is that your spiritual eyes are open a little more to recognizing Jesus in his preincarnate appearances and types.

Deuteronomy is a review of the life of Moses as he recounts the journeys and laws to his people just before he is to die. 'Obedience' could be called the key-note of the book. He would one day stand with Elijah and Christ on the mount of transfiguration and discuss Christ's obedience to the Father, going to the cross in Jerusalem. But God's desire for obedience is always for the good of the people. 5:29, 6:24 Obedience is not required to gain God's favor, but it is demanded because we already enjoy God's favor. They were chosen and delivered and heirs of wonderful promises. It is because the requests for obedience came from this heart of love that they are expected to obey. Titus 2:13,14 We should be zealous to do good works because his gift of grace has enabled us to obey the commands that are for our good.

Surrender: As they stood in the plains of Moab listening to Moses remind them of the Law they pledged their obedience to God. 26:16-19 Today too, we must come to a point of surrender when we decide we will obey Christ because of our love for Him and trust that He knows best. It is like the servant in 15:16-17. Some of the servants of the Lord realize by a revelation of grace that they are better off as His slaves than a slave of our own desires. Surrender is in your best interest.

The Promised Messiah: We learned in the study of Exodus how that Moses was a type of Christ. 18:15 Let us just review a few of the shadows and consider some of the ways the picture falls short. Delivered from a violent death at infancy, willing to leave the palace of a king to deliver his people from bondage, meekness, faithfulness, and in finishing the work God gave him to do Moses was like Christ. Also, he was a mediator between God and the people, and communed with God face to face. Quite a likeness! Yet here are some places the type falls short. "Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, but Christ as a Son over His own house." Moses sinned under provocation. Moses needed help to bear the burden of the people. Christ has borne the burden of our sins in His own body on the tree and invites us to cast all our care on Him. Moses was not able to bring the people into the Promised Land, but Christ is able to bring us in and give us an inheritance among all them that are sanctified by faith that is in Him.

Cities of Refuge: There were three cities of refuge on each side of the Jordan. They were chosen for their easy access from any location. Roads to these cities

were clearly marked. The gates were always open. If someone accidentally killed another he could flee to a city of refuge to be safe from the vengeance of a kinsman. We too have a place of Refuge in Jesus. Although Satan is out to punish us with death for our sins, we have fled to Jesus and are safe there in Him. Tradition says there were posted on the highways men who could direct you to the city, running before you to show the way. What a picture of the evangelist!

The Cross: 21:23 A picture of the curse Jesus would take upon himself along with that of all mankind as He hung on the cross for us.

The Urim and Thummim: The High Priest had these upon his breastplate and inquired of the Lord through them. We do not know exactly what they were although it is speculated that they were stones of some type. We don't know how God answered through them. We do know that the Septuagint translated these words as 'manifestation' and 'truth'. These same words are found in 2Co 4:2 KJV. Christ is the manifestation of the truth.

33:12 Is this not a picture of the Good Shepherd carrying his sheep? Also see verse 27.

This was a short study so lets add a Christophany from the book of Joshua that is quite amazing: Joshua 5:13-15 Sounds like Moses experience with the burning bush, which must have been told to Joshua many times. Notice the prostrate reverence and the holy ground. Joshua needed his own encounter with God and so do we. The Captain of the Hosts gave Joshua his battle plan in chapter 6. We need to hear from the Captain to know how to gain victory over the enemy in our lives.