



WOW: Word Of the Week

Whole-Hearted

June 9, 2021

One-word summaries—we come to the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy. I share a brief overview and a few main ideas and themes.

Deuteronomy is written for second-generation people. Moses' sermons are a combination of reminders, exhortation, and warning. The call is to faithfulness, the call is to "choose life." Forget the failures of the past, live by faith, let God's presence direct and guide you into generosity and compassion. God claims Israel as his own covenant people, desiring their love and devotion so that they will live out his holiness and justice.

In our desire to analyze the book – Moses' sermons; covenant renewal, covenant demands, and covenant consequences; the "Song of Moses," and choosing a new leader – it is easy to overlook the fact that the word "heart" appears in the book almost fifty (50!) times.

Whatever else we see in the book of Deuteronomy, let us not overlook this principle, this WOW. God is not pleased with half-heartedness. It is all or nothing. Whole-hearted! True-hearted, faithful and loyal. Covenant loyalty, singularly focused living. No "double master" lifestyles are possible.

Five reminders from Deuteronomy. What does it mean to be "whole-hearted?"

- Whole-heartedness leads me to love and devotion.
- Whole-hearted living leads me to obedience.
- Whole-heartedness leads me into the heart of God.
- Whole-heartedness keeps my commitment front and center. No turning away, no secondary allegiances, no "iffy" moments, no lapses. The entirety of my heart, my life. My all.
- Whole-heartedness comes from focused minds and mindsets. I need reminders, instruction. Listening, hearing, singing faith.