

## Deuteronomy 27-34 Reflection

### ? Starting Questions:

- What do you think the original author was trying to get across?
- What does the passage say about God/man?
- How does the passage inform my response to God?

**These are some of our starting questions, but when we approach Scripture we are often left with additional questions of our own. This is a good thing! Here are a few questions we had while reading. Feel free to answer them, or come up with a few of your own:**

? Because this is the very last section of the Torah, many themes and questions that were introduced way back in Genesis are being addressed again. In light of Deuteronomy's conclusion, what other themes and motifs can you find in this section that have continued throughout the entire Torah? What does their context in Deuteronomy reveal about what God ultimately wants to communicate through them?

? Do you think the Israelites had a difficult time trusting in God's promised grace? Do you have a difficult time trusting God's grace, even though you know more to the story than they did?

### ! Literary Elements (Themes and Repetition):

! **Heart**-This motif is used over forty times in Deuteronomy alone. We have seen from Noah to Pharaoh, and now with the people of Israel, God's emphasis on the posture of one's heart. Moses now explains the Law in view of their heart position and its circumcision required to fully know and trust God. Moses' explanation points to the understanding that people act based on what is in their heart.

! **The Patriarchal Promise**- We see continued reference and development of God's promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in regard to not only the Promised Land, but also the blessing and multiplication He will provide for Israel... and then to all nations through Israel! We even see Moses as an image of these patriarchs, as he ultimately is allowed to glance into the promise land, and bless Israel before his own death, never seeing the promise completely fulfilled.

➔ **Prayer:** God, what a beautiful beginning to Your Story. And yet, it is not only the beginning, but a beautiful summary of the gospel by which you restore right relationship with Your people! I praise You for being the beginning and the end of this grand narrative! I can't wait to continue to see Your reckless love unfold throughout the rest of the pages of the Bible, as well as throughout all of time!