

- We are studying Deuteronomy 32 as an introduction to the book of Psalms which we will be studying next. We are moving into what is known as the Wisdom literature in the Old Testament. These books are called that because, unlike everything we have studied, they are not books of history or prophecy. On Sunday mornings in April all the classes are meeting together to study Job. We are going to start our study of Psalms on Wednesday nights, then on Sunday mornings in May also. After Job and Psalms, we will study Proverbs and Ecclesiastes together.
- The reason for studying Deuteronomy 32 is that it is very similar in composition, theme and form to many of the Psalms. It was written by Moses to encourage the Israelites not to forsake God.
- Moses explains in the introduction to the song itself that he is writing the song to teach the people. (Deuteronomy 32:1-2)
- Moses explains that God is high in character, but that the Israelites are not, and so they turned against God their creator. (Deuteronomy 32:3-6) This reminds me of a sign my father saw on Church one day which became one of his favorite sayings - "Find yourself away from God? Guess who moved?"
- Moses uses highly metaphorical language to explain the history of God's relationship with Israel and how He has always provided for them and taken care of them abundantly. (Deuteronomy 32:7-14)
- Moses explains how the Israelites forsake God by worshipping other gods that didn't even exist. (Deuteronomy 32:7-14)
- Moses says God will punish Israel for forsaking Him by: 1) famine 2) beasts and poisonous snakes 3) invading armies and 4) scattering them. (Deuteronomy 32:15-33)
- Moses says eventually God will rescue Israel again. (Deuteronomy 32:34-43)
- Moses and Joshua recite this whole song to Israel and tell them to take all these words to heart and teach them to their children. (Deuteronomy 32:44-47)
- Moses' death is foretold in detail. (Deuteronomy 32:48-52)

Questions:

1. What are the names of four books of the Old Testament which are considered wisdom literature? Why are they called that?
2. Why do we study Deuteronomy 32 as an introduction to the books of Psalms? Who wrote this song?
3. What is Deuteronomy 32's main purpose?
4. Why does the writer say that the Israelites turned against God?
5. What does the writer describe in highly metaphorical language?

20170405 Wednesday PM

Deuteronomy 32

page 2 of 2

6. We often talk about how the Israelites worshipped other gods as if there were other gods to worship. What does the writer say about the gods they were worshipping?
7. Why does the writer say God will punish Israel?
8. How does the writer say God will punish Israel?
9. Who recites the words of this song to Israel?
10. What instructions come to Israel along with the song?
11. Whose death is foretold in detail in Deuteronomy 32?

Originally developed by Madison Laird for high school study at the East Foothill Church of Christ in San Jose, CA following a curriculum outline by Aaron Curtis. Edited by Betty Brown of Jackson, TN. Material may be used free of charge without license or royalty. Questions or comments: madison@madisonlaird.com