

## SUMMARY AND REVIEW

Take 5-10 minutes to discuss this week's sermon, *Fault Lines*.

**READ** Deuteronomy 6:1-5, Deuteronomy 8 & 2 Kings 25:1-4, 21.

## INTRO TO THE TEXT:

Deuteronomy opens with Moses' preparatory teachings to this generation who will enter the promised land. Deut. actually comes from two Greek words, *deuteros*, meaning "second", and *nomos*, meaning "name". Thus, this is the "second giving" of the law to a *new* generation. This generation's parents (whom God rescued from Egyptian slavery) chose not to heed God's commandments, laws, and moral and legal regulations, and were not allowed to enter the promised land. Moses hopes that this new generation will do what the previous one would not—enter the land and take possession of it. Thus, Moses both teaches and admonishes that obedience will bring blessing and disobedience will bring punishment (Deut. 28) and ultimately, God's people must worship the Lord God completely (Deut. 6:5).

Sadly, the story does not end here. Fast forward past Judges to 2 Kings, a story of the kings that ruled over the divided kingdoms (Judah, in the south, capital city Jerusalem; Israel, in the north, capital city Samaria). The text depicts the final overthrow of God's people with the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians (Israel and its capital of Samaria had been destroyed by the Assyrians about 136 years earlier- see 2 Kings 17:6). Before this destruction, a few good rulers followed God's commands and many prophets warned that the judgement of God was at hand, but to no avail; the people continued to worship other gods. This new generation that Moses had hoped would break the pattern of sin was ultimately like their forefathers: they disobeyed God which led to the disastrous period of the judges and finally, to the history found in 2 Kings, the judgment of God resulting in the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersal/captivity of the Israelites.

**RE-READ** Deuteronomy 6:1-5 & 2 Kings 25:1-4, 21

## ANALYZE THE TEXT

1. If you have seen 'before' and 'after' images, these texts from Deuteronomy and 2 Kings give us that same perspective. We see the 'before' warning in Deut., and the 'after' final judgment in 2 Kings. What do you think led to the 'judgment' based on your initial reading of Deut. 8 and your readings of Deut. 6:1-5?
2. What is the result of obedience to God's commands? From what/where does obedience stem (Deut. 6:4-5)?
3. Discuss the idea that while God often delivers judgement (punishment) on us, he will never leave us nor forsake us. How does this reality influence your view of God? Of God's interaction with the world?

## APPLY

1. What idols are we tempted to build for ourselves because of cultural peer pressure? How are these infiltrating the church?
2. The lie of idolatry is that we are in control. Discuss examples where you have tried to 'do it yourself' only to find that you are not in control. How do you try to avoid these pitfalls?
3. Discuss opportunities in our lives where we can follow God's greatest command (Deut. 6:4-5)? What are some examples of opportunities that were missed in your life?

**MEMORIZE** Deuteronomy 6:5