

**Moses' Altar Call**  
Deuteronomy 30:1-20  
*Study Guide*

The final verses of Deuteronomy 29 left us with a bleak picture. God promised the nation of Israel that if they walked in disobedience to His Word, then God would judge them. He would judge them by “uprooting them from their land in anger, in wrath, and in great indignation, and casting them into another land” (29:28). We know from reading the rest of the Old Testament that Israel did fail to keep her side of the covenant and so God was bound by His own word to punish her in the manner He promised.

But just as God is a righteous God who must punish sin, He is also a merciful God who forgives those who repent. His unconditional promise to Abraham to give Israel the land and to bless all nations through her will come to pass. Israel will one day repent of her sins and God will forgive her, restore her and redeem her.

In this passage, God, through Moses, instructs the people on the mercy of God and the effectiveness of His word. There are several valuable lessons in this passage for us as well. If you are a child of God, He loves you, no matter how sinful you have been. You can always be pardoned, cleansed, and restored through repentance. God’s Word is capable of bringing this entire process of change about.

**Day 1**

**Read Deuteronomy 30:1-20**

1. Why do you think that the title of this week’s lesson is Moses’ Altar Call?”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Every person faces a very important choice at some point in his life. From verse 19, what is that choice?

3. God is bound to preserve the nation of Israel and to ultimately bring her to repentance so that she can enjoy the promises that God made with Abraham. Has God made such a promise to America? What do you think will happen to your country should she continue down the path she is currently going? Can you do anything about it?
  
4. If you are a child of God, then God has bound Himself to preserve you and complete in you that which He started. If you fall into sin, He will convict you and bring you to repentance. Take some personal quiet time to meditate over and carefully answer the following questions: Are you currently living in unrepentant sin? If so, has the Lord been convicting you of this sin? Why have you not repented? Based upon your answers, can you say with absolute certainty that you are a child of God?
  
5. Thank God that He promises to chasten His children to keep them close to Him. Worship Him for being a righteous God who punishes sin. Praise Him for being a loving God who forgives those who turn from their sin to Him.

**Hebrews 12:7-8** "For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives. If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons."



4. No truly repentant individual need think for a moment that their sins are too great for God to forgive. Read about the joy that David found in forgiveness in Psalm 32:1-7. Write down 4 steps that led to David's forgiveness.

5. Pray that God will help you to confess and forsake sin immediately after you commit it so that you can take full advantage of the spiritual blessings He has for you. If you have a friend who claims to be a Christian, but is living in sin, pray that God will convict his heart and bring him to repentance. Consider going to him lovingly and sharing with Him the conditional nature of God's forgiveness so that he too can experience the joy of his salvation.

**1 John 1:9-2:2** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. My little children, these things I write to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."

### **Day 3**

#### **Read Deuteronomy 30:5-10**

1. In yesterday's reading, we saw two certainties regarding forgiveness, it is conditional and guaranteed. Moses adds a third certainty in these verses, that is, God's forgiveness is generous. When Israel repents, God will not simply "wipe the slate clean." He promises to lavish His blessings upon them. List 8 generous things God will do for them when they repent.

2. Read Luke 15:11-32. What was this father's reaction to his repentant son?
  
3. The Lord promises that when Israel truly repents of her sins that he will "circumcise their heart and the heart of their descendants." Read Deuteronomy 10:16, Jeremiah 4:4, and Romans 2:28-29. What does this phrase mean?
  
4. God is so gracious when He forgives us. He freely bestows all His blessings and good favor toward us when we repent. Read Mathew 18:21-35. Based on God's forgiving character, how should we act towards people who sin against us? If we fail to do this, what does God promise in Matthew 6:14-15?
  
5. Thank God for being so gracious when He forgives and for not withholding any of His blessings from you. Pray that God will help you emulate His character and forgive graciously.

## Day 4

### **Read Deuteronomy 30:11-14**

1. Here Moses begins his altar call. He has warned them of cursing if they disobey, blessings if they obey, and forgiveness if they repent. Now he is about to call upon them to make a decision on whether or not to totally commit to their covenant God. Moses is not asking them to commit to obeying a covenant that is incomprehensible and unachievable. What are the 4 things that Moses says is not true about God's instruction?
2. What are the 3 things that are true of God's instruction? From verse 14, why are these things true of God's instruction?
3. God's Word is not a message that is beyond our intellectual grasp. As believers with the Holy Spirit as our guide, we have all the truth necessary for choosing to love and obey God and experience His promised blessings. The Bible has no secret codes or esoteric messages that are reserved for the mentally elite. What comfort can you draw from this truth?

4. Some people believe that the pursuit of truth is an impossible and endless journey that people hopelessly embark on for their whole lives. God says that finding truth is as simple as turning to His Word. Paul quotes Deuteronomy 30:14 to prove that a right relationship with God is clearly revealed in the Scripture. Read Romans 10:5-14. In your own words, write out what this passage teaches about how a person is saved.
  
5. Thank God for His sufficient Word which enables you to live a life that is pleasing to Him. Be grateful that you do not have to live in fear such as pagans, wondering if their actions will provoke their gods to anger. You know exactly what pleases and displeases God. Ask Him for the strength and the courage to do what pleases Him as He has revealed it.

**2 Timothy 3:16, 17** "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

## **Day 5**

### **Read Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

1. A choice has to be made. Israel knows what the results of disobeying God's Word will be and they know what the results of obeying God's Word will be. Now they must make up their minds. From verse 15, what 4 things does Moses set before them?

