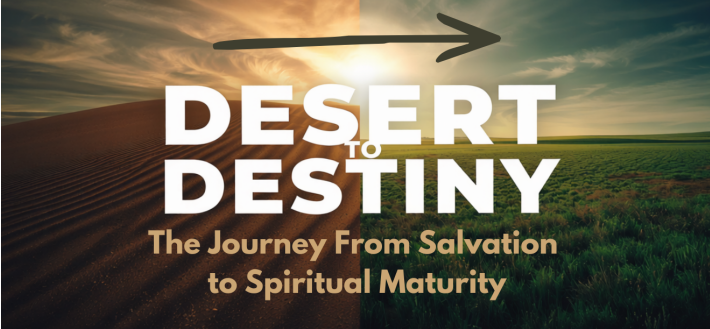




DESERT to DESTINY

The Journey From Salvation
to Spiritual Maturity

Choose Your Future Deuteronomy 30-34

Leaving the Desert Behind

Big Idea: God gives us a future, but we must choose to faithfully follow Him into it.

I. The Future Is a Choice

[Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Matthew 16:24]

Application: You don't choose your future all at once — you choose your direction one decision at a time.

II. Our Past Does Not Have to Determine Our Future

[Deuteronomy 31:1-8, Philippians 3:13-14]

Application: Your worst chapter doesn't have to be your final chapter.

III. Faith Is Choosing to Follow

[2 Timothy 3:14, John 8:12]

Application: You don't simply inherit somebody else's faith. You need to make your own commitment to Jesus.

IV. The Goal Is to Stay the Course

[Deuteronomy 34:1-7, 2 Timothy 4:7, Romans 6:3-4, Hebrews 12:1-2]

Application: The question isn't just: "Have you decided to follow Jesus?" The question is: "Will you keep following Jesus?"

Question, Reading, Challenge, and Prayer

Question: What choices am I making today that are shaping the direction of my spiritual future?

Reading: As you read the passages below, consider what it means to choose Christ, follow Him, and keep moving forward in faith: Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Matthew 16:24, and Philippians 3:13-14.

Challenge: Choose Christ over comfort, obedience over convenience, and faith over fear. Identify one area where God is calling you to follow Him more faithfully, and take one intentional step forward this week.

Prayer: Ask God to help you choose His way, following Jesus faithfully, and moving forward in faith, courageously trusting Him with your future and remaining faithful to Him each day.

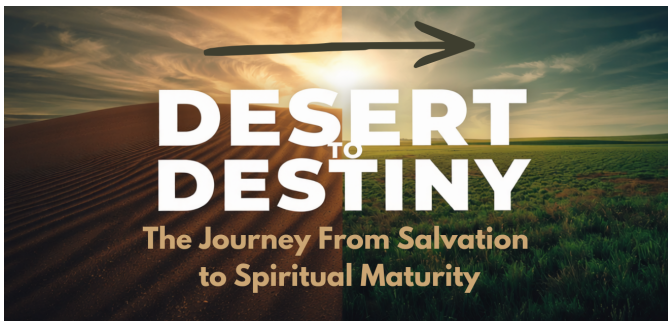
[Deuteronomy 30:15-20] See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. [32:47] ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. [30:6, 6:5] ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, [29:18] ¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. [4:26] ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. [30:1] Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, [10:20] for he is your life and length of days, [Psalm 27:1, Psalm 66:9, John 11:25] that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them. [1:8]

[Deuteronomy 31:1-8] So Moses continued to speak these words to all Israel. ² And he said to them, "I am 120 years old today. [34:7, Exodus 7:7] I am no longer able to go out and come in. [Numbers 27:17] The Lord has said to me, 'You shall not go over this Jordan.' [3:27, 1:37] ³ The Lord your God himself will go over before you. [9:3] He will destroy these nations before you, so that you shall dispossess them, and Joshua will go over at your head, [9:3] as the Lord has spoken. [1:38, 3:28, Numbers 27:18, 21] ⁴ And the Lord will do to them as he did to Sihon [Deuteronomy 2:31-35, Numbers 21:21-25] and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when he destroyed them. [3:1-7, Numbers 21:33-35] ⁵ And the Lord will give them over to you, and you shall do to them according to the whole commandment that I have commanded you. [7:2] ⁶ Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, [31:23, Joshua 1:6-7, 10:25, 1 Chronicles 22:13, 28:20] for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. [20:4] He will not leave you or forsake you." [Joshua 1:5] ⁷ "...Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall put them in possession of it. [31:6, 31:23, Joshua 1:6-7, 10:25, 1 Chronicles 22:13, 28:20] ⁸ It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; [Exodus 13:21] he will not leave you or forsake you. [31:6, Joshua 1:5] Do not fear or be dismayed." [1:21, 7:18, Joshua 1:9, 8:1, 10:25]

[2 Timothy 3:14] But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it.

[Philippians 3:13-14] Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

[Hebrews 12:1-2] Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.



Choose Your Future

Deuteronomy 30-34

Leaving The Desert Behind

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Read Deuteronomy 30:15-20. In this passage Moses placed a clear choice before Israel: life or death, blessing or curse. Why do you think God emphasizes the importance of our choices?
2. Many of us are paralyzed by our past failures. Paul addresses the mindset of looking forward as believers in Jesus in Philippians 3:13-14. What components of Paul's explanation of looking forward do you do well, and what components do you still need to work on?

Paul explains the Road to Looking Forward in Philippians 3:13-14:

[Philippians 3:13] Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. [I haven't arrived yet, but I refuse to stop moving forward.] But one thing I do: [single minded-focus] forgetting what lies behind [This is not necessarily saying Paul literally erased his past from memory. Rather, he refuses to live by his past accomplishments or be paralyzed by his past failures. In the immediate context, Paul has just listed his impressive religious credentials and achievements. He refuses to treat them as something that means he has already "arrived."] [NIVAC] . . . and straining forward to what lies ahead, [Paul shifts to the picture of a runner stretching toward the finish line. The Greek expression conveys the idea of reaching or extending oneself forward. The image is of concentration, effort, and determination—not casually walking toward the goal.][crossway.org]

[Philippians 3:14] I press on toward the goal [The word translated "press on" is the same Greek word Paul used earlier for pursuing Christ. It communicates persistent pursuit.] [NIVAC] . . . for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. [In the race of the Christian life, Paul wasn't content to receive a participation ribbon. He wanted to obtain the gold medal. As sure as true athletes compete to win, followers of Christ should run the Christian race for the prize. You should long to hear Jesus say to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matt 25:23).] [TESB]

Paul didn't deny his past. He simply refused to let his past determine his future.

3. Jesus said, "Follow me." to multiple people and groups on numerous occasions. What is the difference between simply believing in Jesus and actually following Jesus? [Read John 8:12 for some insight].
4. When someone puts on a team's jersey, They are publicly identifying themselves with that team. Baptism is infinitely more significant – it is a public declaration. Choosing to live faithfully for Christ has a "ripple effect" and can have an incredible impact on the people around you. What does it look like for you to 'wear the jersey' of Christ – not just on Sunday, but in everyday life?
5. Moses knew that Israel's future would involve challenges. What does it look like to choose faithfulness even when following God is difficult or inconvenient? Share an example from your life.
6. Think about your own spiritual journey. What is one area where God may be asking you to make a choice—to trust Him, obey Him, let go of the past, or take a step forward – and how can you use your own walk with God to encourage those around you? Don't miss the challenge of Jesus to the demon-possessed man after he Healed him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you [Mark 5:19]