

Deuteronomy 32:1-47 (September 3, 2021)

Reflection: *In your own thoughts, what makes music so effective at communicating ideas? What role does music play in a culture? What can the lyrics of a song tell us about a culture?*

Read Deuteronomy 32:1-18 – Perfection of God and the Imperfection of God’s People

1. i) How is God described in this section, and how has God’s graciousness been evident to the people of Israel? (v.4, 6b-9, 10-15) ii) How is Israel described, and how have they acted in response to God’s graciousness to them? (v. 5-6, 15-18)

2. i) In what ways do we see a contrast between God’s character and action and Israel’s character and action? ii) What is this song trying to convey by showing this contrast? iii) From your understanding of Deuteronomy, what is the ideal manner of how these two parties should interact with one another?

Read Deuteronomy 32:19-43 – God’s Justice Kindled, Vindication, and the People Rejoice

3. i) What is God’s reaction to Israel’s failure to be faithful to him? (v.19-25) ii) What is God’s reaction to the nations that are his enemy and that threaten his people? (v.26-35) iii) How and when will God ultimately vindicate and show compassion to his people? (v.36-47)

4. A major problem in the future for Israel is idolatry. How does this song contrast the God of Israel from the foreign gods to show that the God of Israel is superior?

Read Deuteronomy 32:44-47 – Moses' words to Israel

5. i) What does Moses entrust Israel to do with this song? (v.44-46) ii) What does Moses tell the Israelites is the importance of these words and the words of the Law? (v. 47)

6. In your own words, what is the gospel (or the good news) of Deuteronomy, and is this similar or completely different than the gospel found in the New Covenant?

This song was given to Israel by God to be a witness against them in the future. God's goodness to Israel as a covenant partner is evident throughout the song, and the song warns Israel of the curse and danger they face as they turn to foreign gods. It also points forward to a future worth rejoicing over as God vindicates his people, brings judgement against his foes, and God makes atonement for the land. For us today, this song offers us a chilling reminder of the dangers of idolatry and that our ultimate hope and security rests in God, and because of this, we must love him with all our heart, soul, and might.