

## LESSONS FROM THE PAGES OF DEUTERONOMY

"And He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in and give us the land that He swore to give to our fathers."

- Deuteronomy 6:23 (ESV)

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Deuteronomy 12:1 introduces a portion of the book that marches across every page
until it comes to its powerful closure in 26:15: "These are thestatutes and
rules" We will sample the first course and the last course of the segment
as a way of tasting the contents in between.
PART ONE: Deuteronomy 12
Read Deuteronomy 12:4-18. Note the connection with Deuteronomy 8:8-10 in our previous lesson.
• In God's Deuteronomy-economy, a <u>meal</u> is more than <u>eating</u> .
In God's Deuteronomy-economy, to bemindful andthankful
is to be joyful .

Seven times within the "statutes and rules" we find the words "_you shall
rejoice (Deuteronomy 12:7, Deuteronomy 12:12, Deuteronomy 12:18,
Deuteronomy 14:26, Deuteronomy 16:11, Deuteronomy 16:14, and Deuteronomy 26:11)
Glance down verses 20-27. In God's Deuteronomy-economy, the most prominent
prohibition at the table was theblood
PART TWO: Deuteronomy 26
• The <u>basket</u> : Vv.1-4
• The <u>response</u> : Vv.5-11 Excerpt by Dr. Walter Brueggemann: "The rhetoric
works so that the speaker who is a belated rememberer of an old event becomes a
present-tenseparticipate in that old event. In 'liturgical
time,' thegap between past time and present time is overcome, and
present-tense characters <u>become</u> <u>involved</u> in remembered events."
(Deuteronomy, p.247) The segment in verses 5-10 "lines out Israel's most treasured
memory that decisively defines Israel's present-tense life." (p.246
• The poor-tithe : Vv.12-15 (Also called the 3rd Year Tithe)

As we start wrapping up our lesson, take a careful look at the cohesion of these 15 chapters by comparing Deuteronomy 26:16 back to Deuteronomy 12:1. In conclusion, reflect on the exchange of words in Deuteronomy 26:17-19.

serving Him who <u>rings</u> <u>our</u> <u>hearts</u> <u>like</u> <u>a bell</u> ."  [Abraham Joshua Heschel, <i>Man is Not Alone: A Philosophy of Religion</i> , p.174]
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