REMEMBERING IS FOR THE HEART

In the overall covenant structure of Deuteronomy, chapters 6–11 focus on relationship, heart, and life. As a result of choosing to focus on God’s grace and mercy, the change of heart brings a change in the whole life. This passage summarizes the overall aim of the covenant and sets the stage for the laws that follow, which are arranged in the consecutive pattern of the Ten Words. In light of Deuteronomy 10, the laws are clearly not the means of salvation, but are case laws and examples of what it looks like to live a life with a circumcised heart.

The heart is central here, because only with the heart can one truly serve God. And yet our hearts are naturally stiff and stubborn, even stony. They need to be circumcised to be able to follow God (Deut. 10:16). It seems that part of the circumcision process is learning to understand who God really is, to focus on His mighty and awesome power, and to understand His love. When we know God’s heart, our hearts are drawn into a faith relationship with Him, and we naturally begin the process of living well. As a result, we also have love for others. When we understand that God has rescued us from slavery and that we were the strangers and foreigners as well, we are then inspired to reach out in love to other strangers and foreigners. God’s love for us grows a responsive chord in our own hearts and overflows into love for others that would not have been there before. It is easy to forget from whence we have come, but God wants us to remember.
Write out Deuteronomy 10:12–22 from the Bible translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Deuteronomy 10:12–16. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Deuteronomy 10:12–22. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

Where in your own heart do you need circumcision?

How has legalism infected your relationship with God?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut07-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How can I be more active in ministering to the vulnerable in my area and country?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut07-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Micah 6:1–8
Deuteronomy 30:1–6
Deuteronomy 6:4–9
Deuteronomy 15:4–11
Deuteronomy 9:4–29
Ezekiel 36:22–27
Deuteronomy 26:12–15
Ephesians 2:4–10

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Deuteronomy 10?

Review your memorized verse from Deuteronomy 10:12–22.
How does it make a difference in your relationship with Jesus to see Him as both the all-powerful and awesome God, and as the One who comes into your heart and calls you to care for the vulnerable?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Meditate on Deuteronomy 10:12–22 again and look for where Jesus is.

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut07-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what applications can be made personally?

What applications can be made publicly and/or socially?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/deut07-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How do you serve God with all your heart and all your soul? What are indications that this is present in your life?

Have there been times in your life where you have struggled to give God your will? How did you ultimately make that choice?

How do you know if your heart needs to be circumcised?

What does it mean for us that God does not take a bribe or play favorites?

What is the relationship between God giving food and clothing to the foreigner and God’s call for us to love them?

How can you show more love for the vulnerable and foreigners around you?

How has God’s love for you changed your life?