COVENANT IN SONG

When one thinks of covenants, solemn and somber agreements with lists of requirements come to mind, along with promises and pledges. Although these are part of the picture, the book of Deuteronomy ends differently, with a song and a poem of blessing. The importance of music cannot be overstated. Often even those who cannot talk because of dementia are still able to sing. A song can take us back to a particular time and place that was decades ago. Thus, God called Moses to write a song that encapsulated the covenant. The people were to learn it and sing it and pass it on to their children. This would help them remember all that God had done for them, to pass on the stories of how God had blessed them.

The content of the rest of this song with many stanzas is to review and recall God’s blessings to Israel, along with their rebellion and disobedience. God is gracious, but sin has consequences, and singing about Israel’s past history would help it to remain more vividly in the memory. This is the reason that the psalms are also powerful to many people even today. Poetic writing itself has a musical quality to it, and it invites the readers to sing along and remember. Music can also lead to prayer, and is a form of prayer, so that the singer is drawn to worship God and communicate with Him in new ways. The covenant in musical form makes a fitting end to this book that is really all about the heart and love and life.
Write out Deuteronomy 32:35–47 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Deuteronomy 32:35–39. 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 32:35–47. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How has music helped you in your walk with God?

What songs are most meaningful to you in seeing God’s love for you?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut12-3
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?

During what times in your life have you longed for God to bring justice?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut12-4
inSpect

What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Romans 12:17–21
Nahum 1:1–8
Deuteronomy 24:17–22
Luke 18:1–14
Deuteronomy 31:19–30
Psalm 96:7–13
Revelation 18:1–8, 20–24, 19:1–3

What other narratives come to mind in connection with Deuteronomy 32?

Review your memorized verse from Deuteronomy 32:35–47.
Meditate on Deuteronomy 32:35–47 again and look for where Jesus is.

What difference does it make in your life to think of the judgment as good news?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

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

Read more at www.inversebible.org/deut12-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what are personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are you personally convicted of in your public behavior?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/deut12-7
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.

What examples of injustice have you seen or experienced in your life?

How does it make you feel when you see the wicked go unpunished and the vulnerable/innocent suffer?

In what ways can you act and speak differently in your own life to stand up for the vulnerable and oppressed?

What songs have been meaningful to you, either as a remembrance of what God has done for you or as a warning of the importance of following God with your whole heart?

How can we live to exhibit that God’s Word is our very life? What is a real result of that truth?

What is the significance of these being the last words of Moses?