

Turn From the Grave

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Date: 26 February 2017

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[0 : 00] Good morning, brothers and sisters. My name is David. I'm one of the staff here at Watermark, and I'm responsible for the Mandarin ministry.

And Karen is my co-worker here. So I'm thankful for her so that you can understand what I'm saying here today.

Today is the last message in our series on Deuteronomy. When we think back over Deuteronomy, we see that God has made a covenant with the people of Israel.

He's given them His sacred law. It speaks of God's holiness, righteousness, love and compassion. Not only did He give them this law, and He told them how they ought to love one another. How they should care for the widows and orphans and foreigners among them.

[1 : 25] And He even told them how they ought to celebrate and party. You know, we can always review and go back and listen to the previous sermons in this series.

Today, we see that the people of Israel, they need to turn back to God.

This is a weird feeling. Because where are they now? And we think this is so strange, because what is the situation that they are in? Because they are in the situation that they are in.

They are in the place of the Lord. They immediately enter the place of the Lord. Actually, they are just outside of the promised land. They are about to enter into the promised land. But in the Bible, they are in the promised land.

And why is this passage talking about turning back? This is like a couple of married married to a couple of married married.

[2 : 25] They say, It's as though you are telling people who are about to get married.

In the future, when you are about to get divorced, this is how you repair the relationship. Because here, Moses is saying to the people who are about to enter in the promised land, After you go into exile, this is what you should do.

In the future, it reminds us how, in God's perspective, A day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

I like a movie. There is a movie that I like. There is a type of movie that I like.

For example, Back to the Future. Like The Wife of the Time Traveler. Recently, there is a movie that I like.

[3 : 36] Some amazing professor. Dr. Strange. Sorry, Dr. Strange. So, in Dr. Strange, there is a treasure.

He can see the past and future. It enables him to see the past and the future.

If you have this treasure, I see the wall on the table. If you look at the wall, it's a wall. You know, if you were to look into it, at my future, you would see I'm Apollo Bones.

If you look at it from this angle, then I'm a baby. Now, we see the following. It says, it's a few hundred years. And we feel a little bit like this when we're looking at this passage today.

You just look at it a little bit, and it's as though we fast-forwarded hundreds of years. Hundreds of years after Israel entered the promised land, they betrayed God, and God allowed them to go into exile.

[4 : 53] But God gave them an amazing promise. And as I thought about this promise, I thought it was, it's really an amazing promise.

Because in human relationships, it is very rare to find this kind of a promise. Like, for example, if you have a dating couple, or even good friends, the relationship among good friends, if one party offends and does a lot of things against the other party, what typically happens is the other party gets really mad and doesn't want to have anything to do with the first offending party.

So He sent His only Son into this world To die for our sins on the cross The magnitude of the sin Was born by Him On the cross Jesus said My God, my God Why have you forsaken me?

That is what God did We could not do that for ourselves And this is what it's talking about in verse 6 And the Lord your God Will circumcise or get rid of what is unclean In your heart and the heart of your offspring The English uses the word circumcision directly Which is to have a surgery on your heart And only God can do this surgery

Just like Dr. Strange He was once a brilliant doctor Where many patients were already declared dead on the operating room And he was able to understand what was the problem And bring them back to life But when Dr. Strange himself When he became sick He could not heal himself He needed to find an assistant He needed to have someone else Who could save his own heart He seemed so strong and so brilliant But in light of his own mortality He could not save himself Here we see that God did a surgery for us In the Old Testament Circumcision is a mark of a covenant

In order that we may love the Lord our God The Lord our God with all our heart and all our soul Our Lord Jesus Before he went to the cross One of his disciples, John Said He declared I will definitely stay with you But before the rooster crowed twice He had already denied Christ

[34 : 12] But after Christ rose from the dead Jesus Christ went and sought Peter out And he asked him Do you love me Do you love me Do you love me God loved Peter so much That even when Peter betrayed him And denied him God sought him out And Peter repented And Peter turned to Christ Turned back to Christ So today We also need to spend time Reflecting on What is our sin And sometimes we need to remind one another

And we need to turn back to God And turn back to God's word And come back to the presence of the living God Because verse 20 says For he is your life Jesus also tells us I am the way The truth and the life Apart from me No one can come to the Father And this is what we must do As people We need to repent And turn to God And turn to God's word Because He has the words of life Let's pray Let's pray Our loving heavenly Father

We thank you Thank you that you are a God of such love Even when we were still sinners You sent the Lord Jesus Christ To come to earth To save us To save us We were helpless sinners And you continually speak your word to us So that we can know you And so we know how to put your words into our hearts And also to speak your words to others Lord we pray that you would help us and those around us And to take this path of life that you've given us

Thank you Lord In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ we pray Amen Amen Correct screens out And always out