



FALL THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

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Deuteronomy: Remembering Our Way into Hope *with Dr. Michael Chan*

The book of Deuteronomy speaks with remarkable urgency to our present moment, offering a theology of hope rooted not in optimism, but in remembrance. Throughout Scripture, and especially in Deuteronomy, the future of a people depends upon the truthfulness of their memory. In an age of competing national myths, cultural polarization, and historical amnesia, the book calls communities to reject both triumphalism and despair in favor of honest remembrance—to recover what our divisions have dismembered and to tell the whole story of who we have been. It is no accident that Deuteronomy was among the biblical books most frequently cited during the era of America's Founders; its vision of covenant, responsibility, and collective memory has long shaped public imagination. Just as Israel could not cross the Jordan until it had reckoned truthfully with its past, neither can any people hope to flourish without remembering both the gifts they have inherited and the failures that demand repair. This series explores Deuteronomy and related biblical texts with the conviction that remembrance always precedes promise. Hope grows where memory is tended, where courage overcomes amnesia, and where communities commit themselves to preserving what is good, repairing what is broken, and crossing together into a more fruitful future.

About Dr. Michael Chan

Dr. Michael Chan serves as Vice President for Mission and Inclusion at Concordia College. He originally joined the Concordia College community in June 2022 as the executive director for faith and learning. Prior to that, he was associate professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He joined Luther Seminary after completing his Ph.D. at Emory University and a year of research and teaching at the University of Helsinki. He is a graduate of Luther Seminary (M.A. in biblical theology) and Pacific Lutheran University (B.A. in elementary education).

