

Deuteronomy

Context/Purpose

The first generation that experienced the Exodus have died from God's judgement upon them. The second generation is stationed on the plains of Moab waiting to enter into the Promised land of Canaan. Before they enter into the land, they must remember what it means to be the people of God, what it means to fulfill their mission, and what it means to be in covenant with Yahweh.

- Re-establish and re-teach the commandments
- Remind the people of the covenant
- Motivate the people to holiness and obedience
- Highlight God's covenant faithfulness




Importance of the Book

- a. Deuteronomy brings together the patriarchal promises, the history of the exodus and wilderness, and the laws given at Mt. Sinai.
- b. The Law, especially the book of Deuteronomy, form the theological matrix for the rest of the Old Testament.
- c. Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy more than any other book. Jesus used the book of Deuteronomy in his own life more than any other book in the Old Testament.
- d. We see the Gospel throughout the book of Deuteronomy

Structure

There are a number of similarities between the structure of Deuteronomy and ancient treaty documents. In particular, treaties from the Hittites of the second millennium and treaties from the Assyrians of the 8th century B.C. have clear affinities with the structure of Deuteronomy, though each with differences.



<u>Ancient Treaty Structure</u>	<u>Deuteronomy</u>
Preamble	1:1-5
Historical Prologue	1:6-4:43
General Stipulations	4:44-11:32
Specific Stipulations	12:1-26:19
Blessings and Curses	27:1-28:68
Document Clause	31:9-29
Witnesses	32:1-47

The book also appears to be a book of sermons or farewell speeches. Deuteronomy consists of at least three addresses or sermons from Moses to Israel. Moses encourages Israel to obey all the commandments of God. It is like his last will and testament to the people he has led for decades.

- a. Prologue (1:1-5)
- b. Moses' First Speech: Historical Prologue (1:6-4:43)
- c. Moses' Second Speech: General Covenant Stipulations (4:44-11:32)
- d. Moses' Second Speech: Specific Covenant Stipulations (12:1-26:19)
- e. Moses' Third Speech: Blessings and Curses (27:1-28:68)
- f. Moses' Third Speech: Final Exhortation (29:1-30:20)
- g. Succession of Leadership (31:1-34:12)

The book also appears to be an expanded thematic explanation of the ten words or commandments (decatalogue).

- a. Historical Prologue (1:1-4:43)
- b. Stipulations (4:44-26:19)
 - i. Ten Commandments (4:44-5:33)
 - ii. First Commandment (6:1-11:32)

- iii. Second Commandment (12:1-32)
- iv. Third Commandment (13:1-14:21)
- v. Fourth Commandment (14:22-16:17)
- vi. Fifth Commandment (16:18-18:22)
- vii. Sixth Commandment (19:1-22:12)
- viii. Seventh Commandment (22:13-23:18)
- ix. Eighth Commandment (23:19-24:22)
- x. Ninth Commandment (25:1-19)
- xi. Tenth Commandment (26:1-15)
- xii. Formal Conclusion (26:16-19)
- c. Ratification Ceremony (27:1-28:68)
- d. Covenant Consequences: Blessings and Curses (29:1-30:20)
- e. Historical Epilogue (31:1-34:12)

The Law and the Christian

- a. The Law is a prophetic witness to Christ (John 5:39; Luke 24:26-27)
- b. The Law is what made Christ righteous (Matt. 5:17-20)
- c. The Law was an expression of the Great Commandments (Rom. 13:8-10; Gal. 5:14, 6:2)
- d. The Law reveals God's character (Rom. 7:12)
- e. The Law revealed, defined, and exposed man's sinfulness (Rom. 3:19-20; 1 TIm. 1:8-11)
- f. The Law was a tutor until Christ (Gal. 3:24)
- g. The Law was never intended to bring righteousness, but to demonstrate one's lack of and need for righteousness (Rom. 3:20; Gal. 2:16)
- h. The Law has been satisfied through the obedience of Christ on behalf of His people (Rom. 8:4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 4:4)

- i. The Law can now be obeyed through God's Spirit (Ezek. 36:26-27; Jer. 31:31-34)

Responses to Deuteronomy

- Remember - (5:15; 7:18; 8:1-2, 18; 9:7, 27; 15:15; 16:3, 12; 24:9, 18, 22)
 - "Remember the Lord your God"
 - "Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt..."
- Know - (4:35, 39; 7:9; 8:2-5; 9:3, 6; 29:6)
 - "... know that the Lord your God is God"
- Do - (4:1, 5-6, 14; 5:1, 27, 32; 6:1, 3, 18, 24-25; 7:11-12; 8:1; 11:22, 28, 32; 12:1, 32; 15:5; 24:22; 26:16; 28:1, 13, 15, 58; 29:9)
 - "Be careful to do what I commanded you"
- Purge - (13:5; 17:7, 12; 19:19; 21:9, 21; 22:21-22, 24; 24:7)
 - "Purge evil from your midst"