

Introduction: in our ongoing studies in our Journey through the Bible, this week we come to the last book of the Pentateuch of 5 books of Moses.

### LITERARY OVERVIEW

Title: Deuteronomy = Gk. Deuteronomion “second law”; Heb. Haddebarim “the words” or Mishneh Hattorah “repetition of the law.” This is a misnomer, as it is not mere repetition.

Author: Moses as primary writer and compiler. Audience: Primary audience is the nation of Israel as they prepare to enter the promised land. Secondary, the readers of the New Testament (quoted and applied numerous times).

Purpose: To remind them of what had happened to the previous generation, to urge them to obedience as they entered into the land so that they would know God’s blessing. Sometimes called the “Upper Desert Discourse”, it is a kind of “pep talk” (Ryken) to prepare them to live for God. It should be particularly noticed how he speaks to a new generation of how the sins of the previous generation affected them.

Plotline: Over about a month period, Moses recounts their history, reiterates the law, and urges them to remember God. Moses recognizes Joshua as the new national leader.

Main Events: The recounting of their history, application of laws, establishment of new leadership.

Main Characters: God, Moses, the previous generation of Israel, the contemporary generation of Israel.

Form/Genre: A series of three discourses as farewell messages and a covenant treatise.

Challenges: Similar to the past, to put yourself in the story.

### OUTLINE<sup>1</sup>

#### Prologue (1:1–8)

- The place where Deuteronomy was spoken/written, the East of the Jordan river

#### A REVIEW OF ISRAEL’S HISTORY (1:6–4:43)

- I. The Appointment of Leadership (1:9–18)
- II. Israel’s Rebellion at Kadesh Barnea (1:19–46)
- III. Israel’s Journey into Transjordan (2:1–25)
- IV. Israel’s Victory over Sihon and Og (2:26–3:11)
- V. The Division of the Conquered Territory in Transjordan (3:12–22)
- VI. Joshua’s Selection to Lead Israel into the Land (3:23–29)
  - Moses forbidden to enter the land.
- VII. The Command to Live as a Wise People (4:1–43)

#### THE LAW, THE PROMISES, AND THE COVENANT COMMUNITY (4:44–11:32)

- I. Historical Prologue (4:44–49)
- II. The Lord’s Covenant (5:1–5)
- III. The Ten Commandments (5:6–22)
- IV. Moses, the Mediator of the Covenant (5:23–31)
  - An expression of God’s longing (5:29)
- V. A Challenge to Love God (5:32–6:25)
  - The “Shema” (6:4-5). Command to pass on to children.
- VI. Instructions Concerning the Conquest of the Land (7:1–26)
  - Some of the most difficult passages, and there is complete destruction of the people. (9:4 gives some explanation)
- VII. God, the Only Source of Blessing (8:1–20)
- VIII. Israel’s History and Future (9:1–10:11)
- IX. A Challenge to Seek God (10:12–11:32)
  - More than external obedience issues, but desire for the heart of His people.

#### THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COVENANT FELLOWSHIP (12:1–26:19)

- I. The Worship of God (12:1–16:17)
  - Key passage for what is known as the “Regulative Principle of Worship” (12:29-32)
- II. The Administration of Justice and the Purity of Worship (16:18–17:13)
- III. The Leadership of the People and the Revelation of God (17:14–18:22)
  - Prophecy concerning Jesus (18:15-19).
- IV. The Administration of Justice and the Rules of War (19:1–21:14)
- V. The Individual and the Community (21:15–25:19)
- VI. The Anticipation of Life in Canaan (26:1–15)
- VII. The Final Exhortation of Moses (26:16–19)

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from the Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version

<b>THE COVENANT RENEWAL (27:1–30:20)</b>
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- I. **The Renewal of the Covenant in Canaan under Joshua (27:1–26)**
- II. **Moses' Address to Israel (28:1–29:1)**
  - 28:47 again, the issue of the heart.
- III. **Review and Application (29:2–29)**
- IV. **A Choice of Life or Death, Blessing or Curse (30:1–20)**

<b>THE LAST ACTS OF MOSES (31:1–33:29)</b>
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- I. **The Transition of Authority to Joshua (31:1–8)**
- II. **The Reading of the Law by the Priests (31:9–13)**
  - Reading to all the people, including children.
- III. **God's Appearance to Moses and Joshua (31:14–23)**
- IV. **The Placement of the Law by the Ark of the Covenant (31:24–29)**
- V. **The Song of Moses (31:30–32:47)**
  - One of the ways they are to recall what the Lord has done and exhort to obedience was song.
- VI. **Moses' Blessing on the Tribes (32:48–33:29)**

**The Epilogue: Moses' Death, Joshua's Succession, and Moses' Legacy (34:1–12)**

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**MAJOR THEMES**

- 1.) **A Call to Remember the Past.** Remember what God did in Egypt, at Sinai, in the wilderness. See the consequences of sin. See the patience of God.
- 2.) **A Call to Consider the Future.** Obey and worship me where you are going.
- 3.) **The Issue of the Heart.**
  - Some wrongfully assume that in the Old Covenant God was only concerned with external conformity, and not the heart. This is clearly seen to be false throughout the book.