

To summarize our introduction of Deuteronomy so far:

1. Name: Hebrew, “Words,” Greek, “Deuteronomy” (Second Law)
2. Date: just before the conquest of the land under Joshua, sometime prior to 1406 BC
3. Author: Moses, for the most part. Some editorial additions, especially death of Moses (possibly by Joshua)
4. Form: some resemblance to Hittite Suzerainty Treaties, an argument for the traditional date, but there are problems with suggesting Moses derived his form from pagans who he had not personally encountered.

“Deuteronomy consists of a series of farewell messages by Israel’s 120-year-old leader, Moses. It is addressed to the new generation destined to possess the Land of Promise. Like Leviticus, Deuteronomy contains a vast amount of legal detail, but its emphasis is on laypersons rather than the priests. Moses reminds the new generation of the importance of obedience if they are to learn from the sad example of their parents.”¹

Message of Deuteronomy:

“Deuteronomy, in its broadest outline, is the record of the renewal of the covenant given at Mt. Sinai. This covenant is reviewed, expanded, enlarged, and finally ratified in the plains of Moab. Moses accomplishes this primarily through three sermons that move from a retrospective, to an introspective, and finally to a prospective look at God’s dealings with Israel.”²

THEOLOGICAL OUTLINE OF DEUTERONOMY³

1. Consider (1-4)
2. Covenant (5-28)
3. Commit (29-30)
4. Conclusion (31-34)

Note: In 31-33, much of the material is also spoken by Moses, but might have been something said or composed at a different time from the sermons. At any rate, it is included at the end of Deuteronomy as final instructions and blessings from Moses. It includes the official

¹ “Deuteronomy” *Nelson’s Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts*, Rev. and updated ed. (Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson, 1996).

² “Deuteronomy” *Nelson’s Complete*.

³ Lawrence O Richards, *The Bible Readers Companion*, electronic ed. (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1991), 117.

commissioning of Joshua as the new leader.

Outline:

- I. Introduction: the covenant setting (1:1–5)
- II. Moses' **first major address**: a review of God's faithfulness (1:6–4:40)
 - A. God's past dealings with Israel (1:6–3:29)
 - B. An exhortation to observe the law faithfully (4:1–40)
- III. Historical interlude: preparation for the covenant text (4:41–49)
 - A. The appointment of cities of refuge in Transjordan (4:41–43)
 - B. Introduction to the second address (4:44–49)
- IV. Moses' **second major address**: an exposition of the law (5–26)
 - A. The essence of the law and its fulfillment (5–11)
 - B. An exposition of selected covenant laws (12–25)
 - C. Covenant celebration, confirmation, and conclusion (26)
- V. Preparations for renewing the covenant (27:1–29:1)
 - A. The ceremony at Shechem (27:1–13)
 - B. The curses that follow disobedience to specific stipulations (27:14–26)
 - C. The blessings that follow obedience (28:1–14)
 - D. The curses that follow disobedience to general stipulations (28:15–68)
 - E. Narrative interlude (29:1)
- VI. Moses' **third major address**: an exhortation to obedience (29:2–30:20)
 - A. An appeal for faithfulness (29:2–29)
 - B. A call to decision (30)
- VII. Moses' last acts (31–34)
 - A. The duties of Israel's future leaders (31:1–29)
 - B. The Song of Moses (31:30–32:44)
 - C. Narrative interlude (32:45–52)
 - D. Moses' blessing of the tribes (33)
- VIII. Moses' death and burial: narrative epilogue (34)⁴

⁴ Adapted from Tom Constable, *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003), Dt 1.1.

Deuteronomy at a Glance⁵

Focus	First Sermon	Second Sermon				Interlude	Third Sermon	Conclusion
Reference	1.1-4.40	5.1-11.30	12.1-17	16.18-19.20	21.1-19	27.1-29.1	29.2-30.20	31.1-34.12
Division	Review of God's Acts for Israel	Exposition of the Decalogue	Ceremonial Laws	Civil Laws	Social Laws	Ratification of the Covenant	Palestinian Covenant	Transition of Covenant Mediator
Topic	What God has done	What God expected of Israel				What God will do		
	Historical	Legal				Prophetical		
Location	Plains of Moab							
Time	c. 1 Month							
(Lawrence Richards key words)	Consider	Covenant				Commitment		

⁵ Adapted from "Deuteronomy" Nelson's Complete.

Constable: Deuteronomy “is a selective digest of matters most important to the average Israelite in his or her relationship with God.”⁶

Key Concepts:

Covenant: the foundation of God’s relationship with Israel is the covenant first made with Abraham, expanded and renewed under Moses — the covenant stipulates to the people the terms for living with God.

“Covenant by its very definition demands at least three elements—the two contracting parties and the document that describes and outlines the purpose, nature, and requirements of the relationship. ... This means, moreover, that all the revelation of the book must be seen through the prism of covenant and not abstractly removed from the peculiar historical and ideological context in which it originated.”⁷

Love: especially God’s love for the patriarchs and then for the whole nation; calls for God’s people to respond in love.

Hearken (*i.e.*, listen and obey): obedience is rooted in love for God

“God’s love for people motivates Him to bless His people, and our love for God should motivate us to obey Him.”⁸

Fear the Lord: found 20 times in the book, a component of the people’s love for God, exhibited in obedience and purity

Separation: “you are a holy people ” (Dt 7.6, 14.2, 21, 28.9)

“Purity laws, which dealt directly or indirectly with forms of separation, testify to the need for Israel to maintain covenant purity and separation.”⁹

Remember past grace: Remember God’s faithfulness

Redemption: this is “*seen in [God’s] redemption of Israel from slavery (5:6; 6:12; 7:8; 8:14; 9:26; 13:5; 15:15; 21:8; 24:18), His sovereign and free choice of Israel (4:27; 7:6–7; 10:15; 14:2) to be His own (4:20; 7:6; 14:2; 26:18; 28:9) holy (7:6; 14:2, 21; 26:19; 28:9) and treasured people (7:6; 14:2; 26:18).*”¹⁰

⁶ Constable, *Expository Notes*, Dt 1.1.

⁷ Eugene H. Merrill, *Deuteronomy*, The New American Commentary, v. 4 (Nashville, Tenn.: Broadman & Holman, 1994), 48.

⁸ Constable, *Expository Notes*, Dt 1.1.

⁹ Merrill, *Deuteronomy*, 54.

¹⁰ Richards, *The Bible Readers Companion*, 117.