

## THEOLOGICAL OUTLINE OF DEUTERONOMY<sup>1</sup>

1. **Consider:** a review of God's faithfulness (1.6–4.40)
2. **Covenant:** an exposition of the law (5–26)
3. **Commence:** preparations for renewing the covenant (27.1–28.68)
4. **Commit:** an exhortation to obedience (29.2–30.20)

In the first four chapters, which past events did Moses bring up for consideration?

1. **The disobedience at Kadesh Barnea**
2. **The journey from Kadesh to Moab**
3. **The victory over Sihon**
4. **The victory over Og**
5. **The prohibition of Moses' entrance (three times, chs. 1, 3, 4)**

Moses used these events to illustrate the faithful character of God and to call the Israelites to commit themselves to respond with faithfulness to God's word as they entered the land.

Chapters 5-26 comprise a single long message, "an exposition of the Law." We will go through it step by step.

### Chapter 5: **The Ten Commandments and the Heart**

#### Preamble (1-6)

- Moses opens by referring to a covenant God made "with us" at Horeb (Sinai). (2) **What covenant is this? this is the Mosaic covenant, not Abrahamic**
- What is meant by the distinction between "our fathers" and "with us" in v. 3? **Fathers = Abraham, Isaac, Jacob; Us = the present nation**
- How did God speak to those entering the covenant? (4) **face to face (the voice from the mountain)**

#### Repetition of the commandments (7-21)

- Compare Exodus 20.1-17; what is the most obvious difference between the two versions of the ten commandments? **In Deuteronomy, the first table of the Law is much expanded**

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from an outline in Lawrence O Richards, *The Bible Readers Companion*, electronic ed. (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1991), 117.

- Specifically, the expanded sections are after the 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment and the 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - What concepts expand the 3<sup>rd</sup> commandment? (9-10) **They teach God's jealousy against the heathen idols and his enduring lovingkindness to his own followers**
  - What concepts expand the 4<sup>th</sup> commandment? (13-15) [Compare Ex 20.9-11] **Besides resting the Sabbath Law in Creation, God also makes the Sabbath a memorial of the Exodus**

"Some Christians appeal to Hebrews 4:9 for support that we should observe Sunday as the Sabbath. However, the rest in view in that verse probably refers to our heavenly rest, after we go to be with the Lord. Still other Christians argue for observance of the Sabbath on the basis that it was a creation institution that antedated the Mosaic Law. However, God did not command Sabbath observance until the Mosaic Law."<sup>2</sup>

The concluding narrative: Appointment of Moses (22-33)

First, the people appoint Moses to speak for them (22-27)

- Notice v. 22 speaks of the tablets written on stone. When did that happen? **The tablets were written by God after Moses spent 40 days on the mountain, came to rebuke the people, then went up the mountain again to receive a second set of tablets**
- The passage recounts the fear Israel had to hear God's voice directly, so they begged Moses to represent them before God.

Second, God approves Israel's request (28-33)

- What two things does God say to Moses as he responds? (28-29) **First, he approves, the people have spoken well, with appropriate fear of God; second, he expresses his desire, that the people would always keep this attitude of respect before the Lord "that it may be well with them"**
- God directs the people to return to their tents and Moses to stand and listen to him (30-31). To whom does God speak in vv. 32-33? **Here Moses quotes God's message to the people, God is speaking to the people.**

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<sup>2</sup> Tom Constable, *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible* (Galaxie Software, 2003), Dt 5.12.

- What metaphor does God use in his first appeal to the people through Moses (32-33)? **The metaphor of a journey: follow the path of my commandments without deviation (32), walk in my commandments (33), “that it may be well with you” (Compare v.29)**

**“That you may live long (5:32–33).** This theme is found often in Deut. God gave Israel the Law as a gift of love. Only if they lived in fellowship with Him could they prosper in His land. And the Law showed Israel how to remain in fellowship. The principle, if not Mosaic Law, is surely for us today. If we are to be blessed, we must live close to the Lord. We can only stay close by being responsive and obedient.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Richards, *The Bible Readers Companion*, 121.