

THEOLOGICAL OUTLINE OF DEUTERONOMY¹

1. **Consider:** a review of God's faithfulness (1.6–4.40)
2. **Covenant:** an exposition of the law (5–26)

5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
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3. **Commence:** preparations for renewing the covenant (27.1–28.68)
4. **Commit:** an exhortation to obedience (29.2–30.20)

Chapter 5 gave us the Ten Commandments, one writer thinks that the rest of the “Covenant” sermon is a meditation on each of the Commandments in succession:

Major Issues	Godward	Manward
Authority	Commandment 1 Expounded in Dt 6-11	Commandment 5 Expounded in Dt 16.18-18.22
Dignity	Commandment 2 Expounded in Dt 12	Commandments 6, 7, 8 Expounded in Dt 19-21, 22.1-23.14, and 23.15-24.7
Commitment	Commandment 3 Expounded in 13.1-14.21	Commandment 9 Expounded in 24.8-16
Rights and Privileges	Commandment 4 Expounded in 14.22-16.17	Commandment 10 Expounded in 24.19-26.15

We continue with Deuteronomy 7. Our title is “*Why Israel?*”

Last week we considered “Israel’s policy of war.” I am not sure we have answered our questions about that topic sufficiently, likely we will come across it again in Deuteronomy. Today I want to look closer at God’s selection of Israel from among the other nations.

The structure of Dt 7

- A Separation from the nations (1-6) [You are a holy people]
- B Choosing one nation (7-11) [God keeps covenant]
- B' Blessing one nation (12-16) [The ultimate environment]

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

A' God over the nations (17-26) [You are a trusting God]

You will notice the chiasmic arrangement of thought.

The theme of separation (1-6):

Which verses emphasize separation from the nations? **3, 5, 6** What ideas form the basis or rationale for this separation?

1. **Social: no intermarriage**
2. **Religious: no religious syncretism (no mixing with their religions)**
3. **Theological: chosen by God out of all peoples**

The theme of God's choosing (7-11):

What was not a reason for God's choosing? (7) **the greatness of the Israelite nation – relatively small**

What reasons does God give for choosing Israel? (8)

1. **God's love**
2. **God's promise to the fathers**

What did God do for his chosen people? (8) he brought them out of captivity in Egypt

What should Israel conclude about God because of his choice? (9-10)

1. **God is faithful to his covenant**
2. **God holds men accountable for their response to him**

Who were the fathers with whom God made the covenant he was keeping?
Abraham, Isaac, Jacob

What was Israel required to do in response to God's covenant keeping choice? (11) **Keep God's commandments**

Recall the first commandment:

Dt 5.7 ¶ **'You shall have no other gods before Me.**

How is God's choice connected to the first commandment? **It gives ample reason for keeping God's commandments**

The theme of God's blessing (12-16):

Consider the promises God makes to those who keep his covenant:

1. **God will keep his covenant (12)**
2. **Fruitfulness, both of man and beast (13-14)**

3. No more disease (15)

What do these conditions imply? Have they ever been fulfilled? **They suggest the blessings of the millennial kingdom, they have never yet been fulfilled**

Compare Jeremiah 31.31-32, the New Covenant promise. What made a new covenant necessary? **The disobedience of Israel (“My covenant which they broke”)**

Jer 31.31-32 ¶ “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD.

Compare Hebrews 9.15

Heb 9.15 ¶ For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were *committed* under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Jesus mediates a new covenant (for all people):

1. He satisfies the conditions of the old covenant
2. He receives God’s promises for his obedience
3. He brings his children into his perfect kingdom based on his obedience, not theirs

God’s choice of Israel “because he loved them” prepares us for God’s choice to offer hope in a new covenant because God loves his Son who did all things well and with whom God is most pleased.