

Text: Dt 11.1-32

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 writer² 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

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

We turn to Deuteronomy 11. Our title is “*I’m Talking to You, Jacob*”

This is the *last* chapter meditating on the first commandment, according to John Walton (see chart above).

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

² John H. Walton, “Deuteronomy: An Exposition of the Spirit of the Law,” *Grace Theological Journal* 8, no. 2 (1987): 214ff.

Once again, let's isolate the paragraph divisions and basic themes of each paragraph:

1. You are witnesses of the things I have done, I am talking to you (1-7)
2. Your obedience relates to your possession (8-12)
3. Your prosperity depends on your obedience (13-17)
4. You shall be mindful of my words, and I will clear the nations out before you (18-25)
5. I am giving you a blessing and a curse (26-28)
6. The anticipated completion of conquest and the continued commands (29-32)

Compare the opening paragraph with Dt 5.1-5, what does the similarity between that passage and the opening of Dt 11 teach us? **That the whole section is really about one theme: the present generation must have its own relationship with God, they can't rely on their parents**

What does the repetition of synonyms for God's law (v. 1) teach about God's demands on Israel? **God expects Israel to obey him in every respect**

What grounds does God base his demands upon? (2-6) **They are eyewitnesses of God's mighty works**

Application: What responsibility lies on eyewitnesses of God? What work have you witnessed? **An eyewitness must faithfully report what he sees God do (Conquest generation; apostles) – we who believe witnessed God's work in our lives**

In v. 10, the text says that in Egypt, they had to water the land "with your foot."

"The technique referred to is attested in ancient texts and drawings and still exists in parts of Egypt. It consists of networks of ditches, canals, and holding tanks from and into which river water could be 'pumped' by means of a paddlewheel-like device called a *shadūf* in Arabic. This was powered by pedals or similar systems so that one could indeed say that the irrigation was done by foot."³

³ Eugene H. Merrill, *Deuteronomy*, The New American Commentary, v. 4 (Nashville, Tenn.: Broadman & Holman, 1994), 208.

Comparatively, Israel (the land) is better than Egypt because God provides water without human ingenuity and effort all year round.

What does the gift of the land (10-12) motivate the Israelites to do? (8-9) **Keep every commandment God gives**

The cycles of fall and spring rainy seasons are reflected in the myths of Ba'al worship: Ba'al is a Canaanite fertility god, connected to the rains. Canaanites believed they must placate Ba'al by their fertility rites so the rains would continue.

What does God require instead of fertility rights? (13-17) **God requires obedience to his commandments (commitment to the covenant)**

Notice that vv. 19-21 repeats the teaching of 6.7-9. Again, what principle of Bible study does this teach us? **The whole block of teaching from Dt 6-11 are a single unit (inclusio)**

What does God command in vv. 18-20 that goes beyond keeping his commandments? The Israelites are also to teach his commandments to their children

What is the consequence of living and teaching God's commandments? (23-25) **God will grant conquest of the land**

Combining the pronouncement of blessing and cursing (26-28) with the mention of Gerizim and Ebal (29-32), what does God anticipate with this final command of the section? [Gerizim and Ebal are well into the promised land] **God implies a renewal of the covenant some time after the conquest began, near its completion: it anticipates that God's promises will come to pass.**

What would you say the general demand of Dt 5-11 is? **Complete devotion to God and his will.**