

# Deuteronomy

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**MEANING:** Deuteronomy means “Second” (or repeated) Law”  
 Deuteronomy has also been called the “Book of remembrance.”  
 Deuteronomy is also know as Moses’ “Upper Dessert Discourse.”

**AUTHOR:** Moses

**TIME WRITTEN:** 1407 - 1406 B.C.

**POSITION IN THE BIBLE:**

- 5th Book in the Bible
- 5th book in the Old Testament
- 5th and last book in the Pentateuch
- 4 have preceded it. 61 to follow it.

**CHAPTERS:** 34

**VERSES:** 958

**WORDS:** 38,461

**KEY WORD:** Covenant

**TWO KEY PASSAGES:**

1. **Deuteronomy 10:12-13** - ““And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,  
 And to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?”
2. **Deuteronomy 30:19-20** - “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;  
 that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

**KEY CHAPTER:** Deuteronomy 27

1. The formal ratification of the covenant occurs in Deuteronomy 27 as Moses, the priests, the Levites and all Israel “Take heed and listen, O Israel: This day you have become the people of the Lord you God” (**27:9**).

**OBSERVATIONS ABOUT DEUTERONOMY:**

1. Deuteronomy consists of a series of farewell messages by Israel’s 120 year-old leader, Moses.
2. Includes about forty claims that Moses wrote it.
3. Covers a time frame of about one month.
4. Takes place entirely on the Plains of Moab.
5. Deuteronomy is a repetition of the deeds of god and the content of the Law for the benefit of the generation about to enter the Promised Land.
6. In 2 Kings 22-23, King Josiah, in the 18th year of his reign, was so impressed with the new “book of the law” (Deuteronomy) found during the repair of the temple in 621 B.C. that he called a public meeting of Israel to “read in their ears all the words” of this “covenant” between God and His people. He enacted legislation to enforce the new code and the keeping of the new Covenant. The book was found in the ruins of the temple by Hilkiah, the priest.

7. Deuteronomy is one of the four Old Testament books most frequently quoted in the New Testament.
  - a. Cited more than eighty times in seventeen of the twenty-seven New testament books.
  - b. The other most quoted are Isaiah, Psalms, and Genesis.
8. Deuteronomy has been called “five-fifths” of the Law since it completes the five books of Moses.
9. Deuteronomy is not a second law but an adaptation and expansion of much of the original law given on Mt. Sinai. It is enlarged and renewed on the Plains of Moab.. This is done through three sermons of Moses.
  - a. Moses’ First Sermon. (1:1 - 4:43)
    1. He reaches into the past to remind the people of the undeniable facts of their history.
      - a. The moral judgment of God upon Israel’s unbelief .
      - b. The deliverance and the provision of God during time of obedience.
    2. Moses’ Second Sermon. (4:44 - 26:19)
      - a. These chapters review the three categories of the Law.
        1. The testimonies. (5 - 11)
        2. The statues. (12:1 - 16:17)
        3. The ordinances. (16:18 - 26:19)
          - a. Civil ordinances. (16:18 - 20:20)
          - b. Social ordinances. (21 - 26)
      3. Moses’ Third Sermon. (27 - 34)
        - a. In these chapters Moses writes history in advance.
          1. He predicts what will befall Israel in the near future (blessings and cursings.)
          2. He also predicts what will befall Israel in the distant future (dispersion among the nations and eventual return).
          3. Moses lists the terms of the covenant soon to be ratified by the people.
        - b. Because He will not be allowed to enter the promised land, Moses appoints Joshua as his successor and delivers a farewell address to the multitudes. Note: Moses will finally enter the Promised Land when he appears with Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration in Matthew 17:3.
        - c. The last three verses of the Pentateuch are an appropriate epitaph for this great man. **Deuteronomy 34:10-12** - “But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants, and in all his land, and by all that mighty power and all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.”

## SUMMARY OF DEUTERONOMY

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Deuteronomy, in its broadest sense, is the record of the renewal of the old covenant given at Mount Sinai.
  - 1. This covenant is reviewed, expanded, and enlarged, and finally ratified in the plains of Moab.
  - 2. Moses accomplishes this through three sermons that move from a retrospective, to an introspective, and finally to a prospective look at God's dealings with Israel.
- B. The generation of the Exodus that had failed in their faith at Kadesh Barnea had died in the wilderness.
  - 1. The new generation that would actually inherit the Promised Land would be the recipients of Moses' instructions in Deuteronomy.
  - 2. Deuteronomy covers a period of about one month.
- C. There are Three Major Divisions in the Book.
  - 1. Moses' 1st sermon. (1:1 - 4:43) (Retrospective perspective)
  - 2. Moses' 2nd sermon. (4:44 - 26:19) (Introspective perspective)
  - 3. Moses' 3rd sermon. (27-34) (Prospective perspective)

### MOSES' FIRST SERMON. (1:1 - 4:23) RETROSPECTIVE

- A. Moses reaches into the past to remind the people, this new generation, of the undeniable facts in their history.
  - 1. The moral judgment of God upon Israel's unbelief.
  - 2. The deliverance and provision of God during times of obedience.
- B. The simple lesson is that obedience brings blessings and disobedience brings punishment. It still does!

### MOSES' SECOND SERMON. (4:44 - 26:19) INTROSPECTIVE

- A. This moral and legal section is the longest in the book because Israel's future as a nation in Canaan will depend on a right relationship with God.
- B. These chapters review the three categories of the Law:
  - 1. The TESTIMONIES. (5-11) These are the moral duties:
    - a. A restatement and expansion of the Ten Commandments.
    - b. An exhortation not to forget God's gracious deliverance.
  - 2. The STATUTES. (12:1 - 16:17) These are the ceremonial duties:
    - a. Sacrifices.
    - b. Tithes.
    - c. Feasts
  - 3. The ORDINANCES (16:18 - 20:20) These are the civil duties (16:18 - 20:20) and social duties (21-26):
    - a. The system of justice.
    - b. Criminal laws.
    - c. Laws of warfare.
    - d. Rules of property.
    - e. Personal and family morality.
    - f. Social justice.

### **MOSES THIRD SERMON. (27-34) PROSPECTIVE**

- A. In these eight chapters, Moss writes history in advance.
  - 1. He predicts what will befall Israel in the near future—blessings and cursings.
  - 2. He predicts what will happen in the distant future —dispersion among the nations and eventual return.
- B. Moses lists the terms of the covenant soon to be ratified by the people.
- C. Because Moses will not be allowed to enter the land, he
  - 1. Appoints Joshua as his successor.
  - 2. Delivers a farewell address to the multitude.
- D. God Himself buries Moses in an unmarked grave, perhaps to prevent idolatry.
- E. Moses finally enters the Promised Land when he, along with Elijah, appears with Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:3)
- F. The last three verses of Deuteronomy (and the Pentateuch) are an appropriate epitaph for this great man. **Deuteronomy 34:10-12** — “But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, in all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, before Pharaoh, before all his servants, and in all his land, And by all that mighty power and all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.”