

Overview of Deuteronomy

Key Thought: The Book of Deuteronomy consists of messages from Moses to the new nation of Israel preparing them to enter the land God promised them. The key thought in the book is a call to obedience and love (4:2, 6:5) that is based upon God's Love (7:7-8) and the fact that His laws are for the benefit of His people (6:24, 10:13). The book is also one that demonstrates the humility we should have before God.

Book Name: The Hebrew name for the book is *Haddebbharim*, "The Words" taken from the opening phrase in the book "These are the words of Moses..." The name "Deuteronomy" means "Second Law." Deuteronomy is not really a second law, but records five (my count) final addresses the 120 year old Moses (Dt 31:2) gives to the people of Israel preparing them to enter into the promised land.

Author: Moses (Deut 1:1) (Joshua probably wrote chapter 34, Moses' death)

Key Passages: Deut 5:1-22 Repeat of the 10 commandments
Deut 6 (especially 6:4-9) which is known as the "shemah" "Hear O Israel..."
Deut 7:7-8, 12-13
Deut 10:12-13 (cf. Micah 6:8)
Deut 17:18-20
Deut 18:15-22 (cf. Deut 34:10 and Num 12:3)
Deut 30:11-20

Basic Outline of Deuteronomy (with some key chapters)

- I. Moses First Address: Prolog and History (1:1-4:43)
 - a. Command for Obedience (ch. 4)
- II. The Second Address: the Law (4:44-26:19)
 - a. The 10 Commandments repeated (5:1-22) – Ch 10, the 2nd tablets
 - b. The Greatest Commandment (6:1-9)
 - c. God's Choosing of Israel (7:1-11)
 - d. God's summary of the Law (chapter 10)
 - e. Review of the feasts of Passover, Weeks, and Tabernacles (ch 16)
 - f. Rules for Kings (17:14-20)
 - g. The Prophet (18:15-22) (cf. Jn 1:21; Acts 2:22-23) (consider also Dt. 21:23)
 - h. Misc. Laws (22-25)
- III. The Third Address: Blessings & Curses (27:1-29:1)
- IV. The Forth Address: (29:2-30:20)
 - a. Call to decision (life and blessing or death and cursing)
- V. The Fifth Address Moses' Last Words and Death (31:1-34:12)
 - a. Joshua's Appointment (31:1-8)
 - b. The Death of Moses (ch 34)

Devotional Questions:

1. Moses expresses his hearts desire to enter into the promised land in Deut 3:23-29. What can we learn about the nature of God when the answer is "no" to prayer?

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2. Love the Lord is a major theme in Deuteronomy. (Dt 6:5; 7:6-9; 10:12, 18; 11:1, 13,22; 13:3; 19:9; 30:6; 30:16, 20) . Why would Love be such a major element in a book dealing with the Law? Consider Jesus words in John 14:15-21; 15:9-10)

3. Read Deuteronomy chapter 6:1-9.

What promises does God give for obedience? (v. 1-3) Does this mean that if we have struggles that we have been disobedient? Why or why not?

What instructions are given to help Israel remember the law of God? Consider also Deut 5:20 and 27:1-3.

4. God anticipates that Israel will have a King. Why do you think he gives the instructions God gives in 17:14-20? What strikes you about these commands that we who are not kings could apply?

5. Looking back at Deut 18:15-22, we know that Jesus fulfills the prophecy of a prophet like Moses. Why do you think Israel would have been looking for a separate prophet (Jn 1:21, Mark 6:15)? According to this passage, what qualities make Moses a foreshadow of “the Prophet,” Jesus? (see also Deut 34:10)

6. How does Paul use Deut. 30:14 in Rom 10:8? What is the significance of this work of God?

7. In light of Rom 2:29, What does God’s call for Israel to circumcise their heart in 10:16 and the promise to circumcise the heart of those who return to God in 30:6 tell us about God’s desire and plan?

8. What financial principles do we learn from Deut 15:1-11 and 23:19-20?

9. List and discuss some interesting tid-bits and laws found in Deuteronomy that stand out in your reading:

Add or subtract from the Law (Dt 4:2, 12:32)

Divorce and remarriage (Dt. 24:4)

Clothes did not wear out (Dt 8:3-4, 29:5)

Vows (23:21-23)

Qualifications of a Prophet (Dt 13:1-2;
18:22)

Pledges (24:6)

False Witnesses (19:18-19)

CSI (21:1-9)

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10. The simple phrase “for the Lord your God” occurs several times in Deuteronomy. What do we learn about God and His work through these occurrences?

Deut. 2:7 The Lord has blessed Israel even during the wanderings

Deut. 3:22 The Lord fights for you

Deut. 4:24 The Lord is a consuming fire-a jealous God

Deut 4:31 The Lord is merciful and will not forget his promises to your fathers

Deut 6:15 The Lord is a jealous God – don’t follow false gods

Deut. 7:9-10 The Lord is God, He is faithful and keeps his promise to those who love Him and repays those who hate Him

Deut. 7:21 The Lord is great and awesome and with (lit among) his people

Deut. 8:7 The Lord is bringing them into a good land

Deut. 9:3 The Lord goes before Israel and is a consuming fire

Deut 10:17 The Lord is God of god’s and Lord of Lords, great, mighty and can’t be bribed

Deut. 20:1, 4 The Lord is with you to fight for you

Deut. 23:5 The Lord loves you (turned Balaam’s curse to blessing)

Deut. 31:6 The Lord will not leave you or forsake you.

Deut 13:1-3 The Lord is testing you (with false teachers) to know if you love him with all of your heart and soul