

Deuteronomy - "Second Law"

From Whom: Moses has been traditionally recognized as the author of Deuteronomy, since the book itself testifies that Moses wrote it (**ch.1:1, 5; ch.31:9, 22, 24**). It is widely believed that **Deut. 32:48–34:12** was added after Moses' death (probably by Joshua), the rest of the book came from Moses' hand just before his death in 1405 B.C.

This is the same Moses that talked with God face to face, and that truly knew God. Moses wrote this book to remind the Israelites of what God had done and to remind them of what God expects of them. The name literally means "**Second Law**".

To Whom: The original recipients of Deuteronomy, both in its verbal and written presentations, were the second generation of the nation of Israel. The book concentrates on events that took place in the final weeks of Moses' life. As such, the first generation that escaped Egypt with Moses had passed away in the wilderness (except Joshua and Caleb).

What/ Theme: The theme of this book is an explanation of the Law and the plea to obey the Law. This book records the final words of Moses to Israel as he explains the terms of the covenant that they have agreed to live by in the Promised Land.

The overall structure of the book is similar to the treaties of the era, in which a victorious king would outline the terms of peaceful existence (preamble, historical prologue, general terms of the treaty, specific terms of the treaty, call for allegiance to the king/obedience to the treaty, consequences for keeping or violating the treaty). In this way, God is explaining to Israel, through Moses, how they are to live and imploring them to live in such a way that will lead to their peace.

Where/ Notable People: Written and presented on the plains of Moab. The key personalities are Moses and Joshua. Jesus quotes this book in response to the temptations presented by Satan in the wilderness at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. [Note the mystery surrounding Moses' burial place **Deut 34:5-8**, see also **Jude 1:9**.]

Outline:

1. **Introduction:** The Historical Setting of Moses' Speeches (**1:1–4**)
2. **The First Address by Moses:** A Historical Prologue
3. **The Second Address by Moses:** The Stipulations of the Mosaic Covenant (**4:44–26:19**)

4. The Third Address by Moses: Covenant Renewal, Plea for obedience, and Declaration of Blessings and Curses (27:1–30:20)

5. The Concluding Events: Change of Leadership (31:1–34:12)

DEUTERONOMY AT A GLANCE								
Focus	First Sermon	Second Sermon			Third Sermon			
Reference	1:1 — 4:44 — 12:1 — 16:18 — 21:1 — 27:1 — 29:1 — 31:1 — 34:12							
Division	Review Of God's Acts For Israel	Exposition Of The Decalogue	Ceremonial Laws	Civil Laws	Social Laws	Ratification Of Covenant	Palestinian Covenant	Transition Of Covenant Mediator
Topic	What God Has Done	What God Expected Of Israel			What God Will Do			
	Historical	Legal			Prophetical			
Location	Plains Of Moab							
Time	c. 1 Month							

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CHRONOLOGY OF ISRAEL IN THE PENTATEUCH		
Date	Event	Reference
Fifteenth day, first month, first year	Exodus	Exodus 12
Fifteenth day, second month, first year	Arrival in Wilderness of Sin	Exodus 16:1
Third month, first year	Arrival in Wilderness of Sinai	Exodus 19:1
First day, first month, second year	Erection of Tabernacle	Exodus 40:1, 17
	Dedication of Altar	Numbers 7:1
	Consecration of Levites	Numbers 8:1–26
Fourteenth day, first month, second year	Passover	Numbers 9:5
First day, second month, second year	Census	Numbers 1:1, 18
Fourteenth day, second month, second year	Supplemental Passover	Numbers 9:11
Twentieth day, second month, second year	Departure from Sinai	Numbers 10:11
First month, fortieth year	In Wilderness of Zin	Numbers 20:1, 22–29; 33:38
First day, fifth month, fortieth year	Death of Aaron	Numbers 20:22–29; 33:38
First day, eleventh month, fortieth year		Deuteronomy 1:3

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