

# The Book of Deuteronomy

## The Farewell Addresses of Moses

Journey Through the Bible (33)

# Introduction

We come to the conclusion of Israel's 40 years of wilderness wanderings. (Our 10<sup>th</sup> lesson from the exodus to Canaan)

All the generation that rebelled is gone (except Joshua and Caleb & Moses)

YHWH has begun to show His power to deliver the land of Canaan to Israel.

Moses, knowing he will not lead them into the conquest, prepares them with a set of speeches.

These are recorded in the **Book of Deuteronomy**.

# The Book of Deuteronomy

- The 5<sup>th</sup> book attributed to Moses (the Pentateuch).
- This section accepted by all Jews as authoritative
- Meaning – “second law”, or rather the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the law given at Mt. Sinai (though updated for that audience).
- **Deuteronomy 17:18** (LXX)

# The Book of Deuteronomy

- It was first spoken by Moses, then (mostly) written by him
- **Deuteronomy 1:1-3**, beginning on the 40<sup>th</sup> year, 11<sup>th</sup> month, 1<sup>st</sup> day.
- **Deuteronomy 31:9, 24** – Moses wrote down these words

# The Book of Deuteronomy

- Deuteronomy is frequently quoted in NT (listed between 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> most quoted, depending on approach). It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most quoted directly.
- **4:24**, God is a consuming fire – **Heb. 12:29**
- **5:16** – Honor your father & mother – **Matt. 15:4**,  
**Ephesians 6:2-3**
- **5:16-21** – 10 commandments – **Rom. 13:9**, **Matt. 19:18-19**
- **6:5** – love God with all your heart... - **Matt. 22:37**

# The Book of Deuteronomy

- Deuteronomy is frequently quoted in NT.
- **6:13, 16, 8:3** – Jesus answered Satan – **Matt. 4:4-11**
- **18:15** – a prophet like Moses – **Acts 3:22**
- **25:4** – not muzzle the ox – **1 Cor. 9:9**
- **30:11-14** – commandment not too mysterious – **Romans 10:6-8**

# The Book of Deuteronomy

- Brief outline:
- **1:1-5** – introductory observations
- **1:6-4:40** – first speech, a history of their wanderings
- **4:44-28:68** – second speech, a reminder of God's laws when they inherit the land
- **29:1-30:20** – third speech, Israel's covenant with God
- **31-34** – Final observations – Joshua chosen, Moses to die, Israel's future and fate, final blessings and Moses' death.

# Deuteronomy – A Call for Loyalty to God

- A continued emphasis on Israel obeying God's commands
- Commandment – 132x in 99 verses
- Statutes – 29x – an authoritative rule/regulation
- Law – 23x – the laws of God
- Judgment – 22x – established practices, customs
- Testimonies – 3x – **4:45, 6:17, 20**



# Deuteronomy – A Call for Loyalty to God

- The covenant between God & Israel
- **Deut. 29:1ff** – the people were to make a covenant with God (a contractual agreement that calls for binding action between two (or more) parties)
- This was an extension of their covenant at Mt. Sinai (**cf. Exodus 19:5-8**).
- “Covenant” – 27 times in Deuteronomy

# Deuteronomy – A Call for Loyalty to God

- The covenant between God & Israel
- Covenants had always been important to God & His people
- **Gen. 6:18** – God established His covenant through Noah (**cf. Gen. 3:15**).
- **Gen. 9:9ff** – the rainbow
- **Gen. 15:18** – with Abram – to give the land\*
- Later, **1 Kings 8:23** – Solomon; **2 Kings 23:1-3** – Josiah

# Deuteronomy – A Call for Loyalty to God

- The covenant between God & Israel
- Moses is reminding Israel that they belong to YHWH and are obligated to faithfully serve Him.
- Recall **Exodus 19:8, 24:3 & 7** at Mt. Sinai
- Sadly, this acknowledgment in our text is peppered with knowledge of what Israel would do in the future.

# Deuteronomy – A Call for Loyalty to God

- An ancient treaty (Unger's Bible Dictionary)
- **Treaty Form.** Second millennium b.c. Near Eastern treaties imposed upon a vassal by an overlord or a great king such as a Hittite ruler had a remarkably consistent form:
  - (1) a preamble, identifying the author of the covenant;
  - (2) historical prologue stating previous relations between the two parties (if any), and past benefactions by the overlord;

# Deuteronomy – A Call for Loyalty to God

➤ An ancient treaty (Unger's Bible Dictionary)

➤ **Treaty Form.**

(3) basic and detailed stipulations stating the obligations imposed by the sovereign ruler upon the vassal;

(4) deposit of a copy of the covenant in the vassal's most sacred repository;

(5) periodic public reading of the covenant by the vassal;

# Deuteronomy – A Call for Loyalty to God

- An ancient treaty (Unger's Bible Dictionary)
- **Treaty Form.**
  - (6) witnesses, generally the gods of the countries involved;
  - (7) curses for breaking the covenant;
  - (8) blessings for keeping it;

# Deuteronomy – A Call for Loyalty to God

➤ An ancient treaty (Unger's Bible Dictionary)

➤ **Treaty Form.**

(9) a formal oath of obedience;

(10) a solemn ratification ceremony;

(11) a formal procedure for acting against rebellious vassals.

# Deuteronomy – A Call for Loyalty to God

- An ancient treaty (Unger's Bible Dictionary)  
Compare this with Deuteronomy:
- (1) a preamble, identifying the author of the covenant; **Deut. 1:1-5** – Moses
- (2) historical prologue stating previous relations between the two parties, and past benefactions by the overlord; **Deut. 1:6-3:29** – Israel's history



# Deuteronomy – A Call for Loyalty to God

- An ancient treaty (Unger's Bible Dictionary)  
Compare this with Deuteronomy:
- **Treaty Form.**  
(3) basic and detailed stipulations stating the obligations imposed by the sovereign ruler upon the vassal; **Deut. 4-26** – law Israel was to keep
- (4) deposit of a copy of the covenant in the vassal's most sacred repository; **Deut. 31:9, 26-27** – the law kept beside the Ark

# Deuteronomy – A Call for Loyalty to God

- An ancient treaty (Unger's Bible Dictionary)  
Compare this with Deuteronomy:
- **Treaty Form.**  
(5) periodic public reading of the covenant by the vassal; **Deut. 31:10-13** – every 7 years
- (6) witnesses, generally the gods of the countries involved; **Deut. 31:26** – placed by the ark of the covenant. IT was a witness

# Deuteronomy – A Call for Loyalty to God

- An ancient treaty (Unger's Bible Dictionary)  
Compare this with Deuteronomy:
- **Treaty Form.**  
(7) curses for breaking the covenant; **Deut. 28:15-68**
- (8) blessings for keeping it; **Deut. 28:1-14**

# Deuteronomy – A Call for Loyalty to God

- An ancient treaty (Unger's Bible Dictionary)  
Compare this with Deuteronomy:
- **Treaty Form.**  
(9) a formal oath of obedience; **Deut. 29:1-2, 9-14**  
**(cf. Exodus 24:7, Joshua 24:24, etc.)**
- (10) a solemn ratification ceremony; **Deut. 27:5-7** –  
a call to build an altar when they crossed over

# Deuteronomy – A Call for Loyalty to God

➤ An ancient treaty (Unger's Bible Dictionary)  
Compare this with Deuteronomy:

➤ **Treaty Form.**

(11) a formal procedure for acting against rebellious vassals. **Deut. 30:17-19** – a declaration of punishment if they rejected God

# Deuteronomy – Passages

- Consider the previous texts related to the NT.  
Also consider:
- **Deut. 4:1-2**, do not add to or take away from His commands
- **Deut. 4:7-8**, what great nation...?
- **Deut. 5:29**, oh that they had such a heart in them...
- **Deut. 6:4-9**, hear Him, love Him and teach your children
- **Deut. 7:6-9**, He did not choose you because

# Deuteronomy – Passages

- Consider the previous texts related to the NT. Also consider:
- **Deut. 8:1-6**, man shall not live by bread alone. They were provided for
- **Deut. 10:12-13**, what does the LORD require of you, but... fear Him, walk in His ways, love Him, serve Him...
- **Deut. 12:5**, a place YHWH will choose
- **Deut. 29:29**, secret things belong to the LORD our God

# Deuteronomy – Passages

- Consider the previous texts related to the NT. Also consider:
- **Deut. 30:1-3**, when you fall, if you return...(32:1-43 – the Song of Moses)
- **Deut. 30:15-19**, choose life
- **Deut. 34:5-12**, Moses dies and the people mourn. His epitaph.



Moses prepared Israel as best he could.

They would remain faithful for awhile.

But his message lives on in all TRUE disciples of God (& Jesus)

As you examine your life,  
are you faithful to Jesus?

Let us pray!