

# Deuteronomy

Author: Moses

Date: 1406 B.C.

The English title “Deuteronomy” comes from the Greek Septuagint meaning “the second law” and comes from 17:18 (“*a copy of the law*”). In the Jewish Bible, this book is called “Debarim” which means “words” referring to the opening verse giving the words of Moses (1:1). This book is the fifth and final book of the Torah or the books of the law written by Moses. This is more than a mere repetition of the law; Moses is expounding on the law.

Deuteronomy is quoted over 100 times in the rest of the Bible. Deuteronomy is clearly one of the most important books in the Old Testament. First, Jesus quoted the book of Deuteronomy more than any other book in the Old Testament. Second, Jesus used the book of Deuteronomy in his own life more than any other book in the Old Testament. For example, Jesus answered all three of his temptations in the wilderness with quotations from the book of Deuteronomy. Jesus also quotes from this book to summarize the law (Matthew 22:37).

The Israelites were encamped at the entrance to Canaan, the Promised Land. They are facing war, temptation, and a new, settled way of life—all under the unproven leadership of Joshua. Except for Joshua and Caleb, this generation had not experienced the deliverance from Egypt, the Red Sea crossing, or the giving of the law at Mt. Sinai. They needed to be reminded of God’s power and God’s laws. Moses takes this final opportunity to do so and to prepare the people for their new life in the land of their inheritance. In this book we see God is faithful to faithless people. He always keeps His word.

The main theme of this book is to love and obey God: **“Therefore you shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always”** (11:1). Repeatedly, we will be told to love, keep, obey, serve, fear, and remember God. In the New Testament, Jesus puts it this way, **“If you love me, keep my commandments”** (John 14:15).

Scholars point out the similarities between this book and ancient Middle Eastern treaties or covenants. Deuteronomy is mostly made up of three sermons on obedience by Moses: 1) Past: “What God Has Done for Israel” 2) Present: “What God Expects from Israel” 3) Future: “What God Will Do for Israel.” The conclusion, Chapters 32-34 deal with Moses’ death and the succession of leadership.

## Deuteronomy Outline

- I. Moses’ First Sermon: Review of Israel’s History Since Sinai (Chs. 1-4:43)
- II. Moses’ Second Sermon: Principles for Godly Living (Chs. 4:44 – 28:68)
  - A. Ten Commandments Reviewed
  - B. Love the Lord Your God
  - C. Laws for Proper Worship
  - D. Laws for Ruling the Nation
  - E. Laws for Human Relationships
  - F. Blessings of Obedience and Consequences of Disobedience
- III. Moses’ Third Sermon: A Call for Commitment to God (Chs. 29 – 30)

#### IV. The Change in Leadership: Moses' Last Days (Chs. 31-34)