

Deuteronomy Introduction 1.1–8

Difficulties

Demands, commands, harshness.

Are the numerous strange requirements that seem so far removed from our lives and culture relevant today?

Issue of Law and Grace.

Is this book of value to the Christian? 2 Tim 3.16,17; John 5.39; Luke 24.25–27

Importance

Foundational for history and theology of the Old Testament.

Some call the historical books “Deuteronomistic History.”

Foundational for the prophets of the Old Testament.

Third most Cited in the New Testament after Psalms and Isaiah.

Quoted by Jesus himself.

Title

English / Greek / Latin Deuteros + nomos = second law.

Torah is more than law; it is instruction or an exposition of the faith.

Hebrew Canon “these are the words.”

Tanak

Torah

Law or instruction

Five Books of Moses

Foundational

Nevi'im

Prophets

Former (Historical) Joshua – Kings

Latter (Writing) Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the Twelve

Ketuvim

Writings

Psalms, Proverbs, Job

Megillot: Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther

Other: Daniel, Ezra/Nehemiah, Chronicles

Setting: Seven Questions

Who? Moses to all Israel.

What? Exposition of the Torah.

When? About to enter the promised land after 40 years of wandering.

Where? Plains of Moab.

Why? A new generation must respond in faith to the Lord's call.

1. Renewal of the Covenant
2. Call to commitment, faith, love and obedience
3. Promise of blessings in the land
4. Warnings of curses for rejection of the Lord

Hittite Treaty Form

Suzerain: a sovereign or state having some control over another state that is internally autonomous. E.g. a feudal overlord. The King.

Vassal: the subject: a holder of land by feudal tenure on conditions of homage, tribute and allegiance.

*Deuteronomy can be viewed as the **Constitution** of the Redeemed People of God.*

Theology: The revelation of the nature, character and works of the one and only true God.

Outline

In three addresses Moses portrays a vision for life in the land enjoying the benefits of the covenant of grace.

1. 1.1–4.43 Remember the great works of salvation and provision by the Lord.
2. 4.44–26.19 Hear (and Heed) the Lord's instructions.
3. 27.1–30.2 Choose between blessing and curses; life and death
4. 31.1–34.12 Continuity of the Covenant. Moses will die but the Lord will not.

Tone

More sermon than legislation

Supreme Commandment: love 6.4 Call to fear, walk, love, serve, keep 10.12,13

There is an urgency of a Farewell Address 30.19 as Moses prepares to die.

Promises of blessings

Warnings of curses

Call for decision and allegiance