

Deuteronomy means “Second Law” – it is the Law restated, repeated

Final book of the “Torah” (Hebrew for “Law”) or “Pentateuch” (Greek for “5 Scrolls”)

3 farewell sermons delivered by Moses over 7 days, about a month before their departure into Canaan under Joshua (1:1-3) – 3 themes:

- Reminds the children of Israel of God’s mighty acts – “remember” is used 18 times – the original generation that left Egypt is dead, except Joshua and Caleb (Num. 14:20-24)
- Warns the people of the temptations, especially idolatry, they would face in the new land
- Pleads with the people to love God and to be loyal to their covenant obligations – “love” is used 22 times

Deuteronomy was probably the “book of the Law” which prompted King Josiah’s sweeping reforms in 621 BC (II Kings 22-23) – the High Priest found it while repairs were being made on the Temple – High Priest read it, and gave it to the King’s secretary who read it to the King – the King rent his clothes and wept – King Josiah gathered the people, read it, and the people made a covenant to live by the Law

Quoted 90 times in New Testament – i.e., in Jesus’ temptations in the wilderness he quotes from Deuteronomy 3 times: Matt. 4:3-4 (Deut. 8:3); 4:5-7 (Deut. 6:16); 4:8-10 (Deut. 6:13)

#### 1. Moses First Farewell sermon (1:1-4:43)

1:1-5 Background – 1:3 it is the first day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, in the 40<sup>th</sup> year since departure from Egypt (Ex. 19:1; 40:17)

1:6-8 It’s time to enter the promised land

1:9-18 Appointment of tribal leaders (Ex. 18:13-27; Num. 11:14-17) – 1:13 Qualifications for leadership: wisdom, discernment, respected

1:19-33 Remembrance of Israel’s refusal to enter Canaan (Num. 13-14) – 1:22-23 How God speaks to us: sometimes God’s voice comes through other people

1:34-46 Penalty for Israel’s rebellion – 1:37 Moses is not able to enter Canaan because of Israel’s rebellion – he vicariously bears God’s punishment on Israel’s behalf (compare to Num. 20:10-13)

2:1-3:11 Desert warfare – 3:11 a comment about an oversized iron bed which was a museum piece in Rabbah, a city in Ammon – iron age

3:12-22 Land allotment for Transjordan tribes: Reuben, Gad, ½ tribe of Manasseh (Num. 32: Joshua 13) – 3:22 “Do not fear them, for it is the Lord your God who fights for you”

3:23-29 Moses is forbidden to enter Canaan (1:37; Num. 20:10-13)

4:1-14 Moses commands obedience – 4:2 do not add or take away from the Law (12:32; Rev. 22:18-19) – 4:6-8 Keep the Law as a witness to the Gentiles

4:15-40 Warning against idolatry – Hebrew worship was to be imageless worship of the invisible God

4:24 Description of God: consuming fire, jealous God

4:26 Covenants are always witnessed – God’s witnesses are heaven and earth

4:29 “You will seek the Lord your God, and you will find him if you search after him with all your heart and soul”

4:31 “God is merciful”

4:35, 39 There is one God; God is both in heaven and on earth

4:37 Reason for God’s favor; God’s love for Israel’s ancestors

#### 2. Moses Second Farewell Sermon (4:44-28:68)

4:44-49 Introduction to Moses’ second sermon

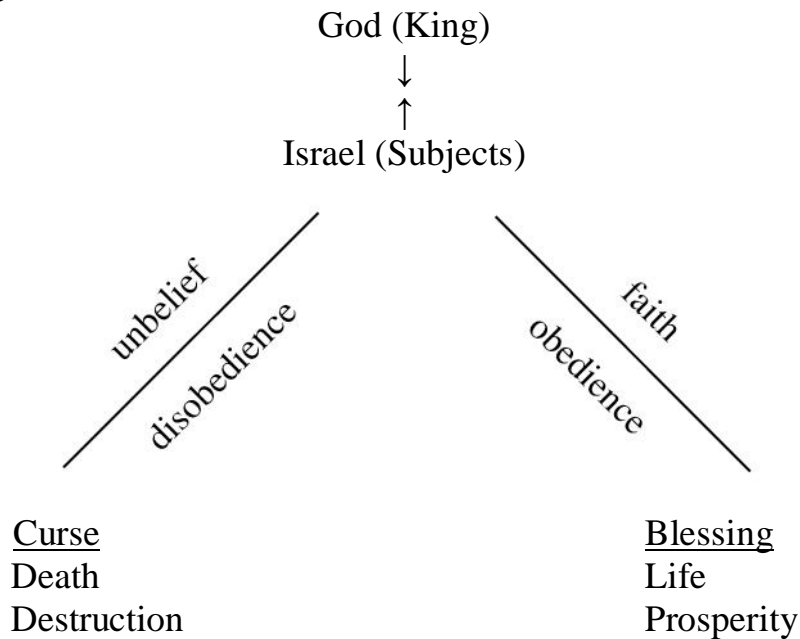
5:1-22 Review of the 10 Commandments (Ex. 20:2-17) – the covenant is always contemporary because each generation must renew their covenant (26:16-19; 31:10-11) – Moses and God spoke “face to face” (5:4; 34:10)

5:23-33 People are afraid of God’s glory – task of Moses: to hear and to tell; task of people: to hear and to obey

- 6:1-9 The greatest commandment (Matt. 22:37) – “Shema”
- 6:1-3 Blessings of obedience: prosperity and fruitfulness (Ps. 1:1-3)
- 6:4-5 Most important verses in Hebrew Bible – “Heart” refers to your mind or will; “soul” refers to your self, your vital being; “might” refers to physical strength
- 6:6-9 How observance of this verse is to be implemented: talk about it all the time; bind them to your head and forehead; write on doorpost of house and gates
- 6:10-25 Caution against disobedience (Ps. 1:4-6)
- 7:1-11 Israel’s election
- 7:2 Instructions to be unmerciful to the nations in the promised land – “drive them out” – Why? The sins of the people in the land have reached such a depth that they have forfeited their right to be in the land (9:4-5; Gen. 15:16; Num. 33:50)
- 7:6-8 Why God chose Israel: because God loves them and is being faithful to his covenant to the patriarchs
- 7:12-26 Blessings of obedience – 7:22 The victory over Canaan will be gradual (Ex. 23:29-30)
- 8:1-20 Remember the Lord – 8:11-20 READ – When we are blessed we must avoid pride and arrogance
- 9:1-29 A review of Israel’s rebelliousness
- 10:12-22 The essence of God’s Law – 10:12-13 What does God require? Fear (awe), walk, love, serve, keep – 10:16 “circumcise the foreskin of your heart” (Rom. 2:29)
- 11:1-32 Rewards of love and obedience – 11:24-25 Ideal boundaries of Israel (Gen. 15:18-21) – 300,000 square miles – they never occupied more than 30,000 square miles
- 12:1-28 Centralization of worship
- 12:29-13:18 Warnings against idolatry, false prophets, apostates – 13:2 signs and wonders are not proof that God is in things
- 14:1-2 Prohibition against pagan mourning customs (Lev. 19:28; 21:5)
- 14:3-21 Clean and unclean meat (Lev. 11)
- 14:22-29 Tithing principles – Tithe belongs to God; Israel is a steward of the land which belongs to God
- 15:1-6 Debts are to be canceled every 7 years – 15:6 The borrower is a slave to the lender
- 15:7-11 Generosity to the poor – 15:11 “There will never cease to be some in need on the earth” (Mk. 14:7)
- 15:12-18 Laws concerning bond servants – 15:16-17 a person can choose to be a bond slave forever; poke a hole in earlobe (Rom. 1:1; Phil. 1:1)
- 15:19-23 Laws concerning first born animals
- 16:1-17 The 3 major feasts: Passover, Weeks (Pentecost), Tabernacles
- 16:18-17:13 Hebrew judicial system – 16:18-20 Judges appointed (1:13-17); 17:8-9 Supreme Court of Priests
- 17:14-20 Principles governing Kings – purpose: to execute God’s laws – Prohibitions for Kings: not foreigner, not have foreign wives, not seek wealth, not above the Law
- 18:1-8 Portions of sacrifices that belong to Levites and Priests
- 18:9-22 Warnings about fascination with the future –
- 18:9-14 Prohibitions against magic and the occult
- 18:15-22 Test of whether a person is a true or false prophet: complete accuracy
- 19:1-13 Three cities of refuge set apart for accidental murder; already 3 cities set aside in Transjordan (4:41-43)
- 19:14 Law against removing property boundaries
- 19:15-21 Laws concerning witnesses – 19:15 Two or three witnesses are required (I Tim. 5:19)
- 20:1-20 Rules of War
- 20:5-8 Conscientious objectors: people with undedicated houses, unharvested vineyards, betrothed, afraid
- 20:10-15 Non-Palestinian cities: seek peace, kill only men, take booty, take wives (21:10-15)
- 20:16-18 Palestinian cities: kill and burn everything, take no wives, take no booty (7:1-5)
- 20:19-20 No unnecessary destruction of environment – Greeks and Romans stripped forests for

crosses

- 21:1-9 Laws concerning unsolved murder – if someone was found murdered between 2 towns: elders from the two towns would sacrifice a heifer in order to avoid tribal feuds
- 21:10-14 Laws concerning female prisoners of war – be careful, consider what you are about to do, let her go if it does not work out, but do not sell her as a slave
- 21:15-17 First born inheritance rights – double share (Gen. 25:29-34)
- 21:18-21 Rebellious children are to be stoned – 21:20 “a glutton and a drunkard” (Lk. 7:34)
- 21:22-22:12 Miscellaneous Laws – 21:22-23 Those who are hung from a tree are cursed by God (Gal. 3:13) – people who were impaled after stoning are being treated with profound disrespect
- 22:13-21 The value of virginity – considered an embarrassment today
- 22:22-30 Sexual sins: adultery, fornication, rape, incest
- 23:1-8 Those who are to be excluded from the congregation: eunuchs (Acts 8:26-39), bastards, and people from the nations that were inhospitable to the children of Israel on their journey to Canaan (Ammonites, Moabites, and Edomites) – however, after 3 generations people from these 3 nations are eligible
- 23:9-25:19 Miscellaneous Laws
  - 24:1-4 Permits divorce but not remarriage to the former spouse
  - 25:5-10 Levirate marriage – protects widows, continues the family name
- 26:1-19 Tithes and offerings
- 27:1-10 Law inscribed on stone
- 27:11-28:68 Blessings and Curses



- 27:11-14 Blessings shouted from Mt. Gerizim; Curses from Mt. Ebal – “Amen” = so be it
- 3. Moses’ Third Farewell Sermon (29:1-34:12)
  - 29:1-29 Israel renews its covenant with God
  - 30:1-20 The blessings of returning to God – 30:19-20 “I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life that you and your descendants may live”
  - 31:1-32:47 Moses’ final charge to Joshua and the people
    - 31:9 “Moses wrote down this Law”
    - 31:10-13 The Law was to be read publicly every 7 years
    - 31:26 Deuteronomy was to be put in the Ark of the Covenant
    - 31-29 Moses predicts that in the future they will depart from what they had promised
  - 32:1-44 Song of praise to God by Moses
  - 32:11 Image of the mother eagle

32:48-52 Moses' death on Mt. Nebo foretold

33:1-29 Deathbed blessing of Moses on the tribes (Gen. 27:4) – Tribe of Simeon is left out – had they disappeared? (Gen. 49:7)

34:1-12 Moses views the promised land from the Transjordan Mountains – 34:6-7 God buried Moses; he died at 120 years – good eyesight and sexually potent

Next week: Joshua

Schedule of Daily Readings

	<u>Option One</u>	<u>Option Two</u>
Monday	Joshua 1-3 -----	2
Tuesday	Joshua 4-6 -----	6
Wednesday	Joshua 7-10 -----	7
Thursday	Joshua 11-14 -----	14
Friday	Joshua 15-17 -----	20
Saturday	Joshua 18-20 -----	23
Sunday	Joshua 21-24 -----	24