

# Deuteronomy

## Covenant Renewal, Codification of Law, and Confirmation of New Mediator

**TITLE:** Translated "Second Law" – This does not imply a new or lesser delivery, but rather the renewed treatment of the Law.

**AUTHOR:** Moses – "the Words of Moses;" with a few obvious editorial references (2:10-12) and ending (Chap. 34)

**DATE:** Traditionally 1400 BC; conservative scholars are also comfortable with 1280 BC, based on archeological findings.

**OCCASION:** On the plains of Moab, in front of a new generation after 40 years wandering in the desert wilderness; about to cross over into the promised land; and as Moses is ready to hand over leadership of the people to Joshua.

**PATTERN:** Note that there is a recurring pattern of deliverance and observances in the early O.T. books every 40 years:

	CONSECRATION	OCCASION	DELIVERANCE	LEADER	COVENANT	RECORD
<b>Exodus</b>	Sinai (Horeb)	Exodus from Egypt (40 years after Moses fled Egypt)	God rescues from Pharaoh (Plagues, Red Sea Crossing)	Moses	Law	Tablets/ Commandments
<b>Deuteronomy</b>	Plains of Moab	40 Years later – after Wilderness	God defeats Moabite and Amorite Kings	Moses handing over to Joshua	Renewal	Words Recorded in Deuteronomy
<b>Joshua</b>	Shechem (Ephraim in Samaria)	40 Years later – after Conquests	God gives victory / removal of Canaanites	Joshua	Recommitment	Stone of Remembrance

**PURPOSE:** To call the chosen nation of Israel to cross over and enter into the promised land and blessings and at the same time rededicate themselves to following the Lord with all their whole heart (*Deut. 6:5-6*). The recounting of the Law serves to Codify what has already been specified by applying it to the situation of God's people 40 years later. [Note specifically the setting aside the cities of refuge, as well as directions in regard to the placement of the sanctuary and conduct of the King.] These are the commandments they are to follow once they are established in the promised land. Finally, Moses – who will not enter himself – needs to speak to the people about obeying the appointed new leader, Joshua, after having known only their first prophet for much of their living memory.

**MAIN THEMES:** 1) Listen to ("Hear") the Word; 2) God's faithfulness in delivering His people and fairness in delivering the Law; 3) Blessing to those who obey, curses to come upon the people for unfaithfulness; 4) Promise of Renewal and Restoration, as well as prophecy of the coming Messiah (18:18-19); 5) "Choose life" by obeying; 6) Be "strong and courageous," in entering the promised land – echoed in the Book of Joshua.

*"Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other. So you shall keep His statutes and His commandments which I am giving you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may live long on the land which the LORD your God is giving you for all time."*

– Deuteronomy 4:39-40

**GENRE:**

A Biblical, Covenant Document, echoing Exodus/Leviticus, and mirroring the Near Eastern Suzerainty (Covenant) Treaties of that age between the greater, conquering King and his Vassals (Kings, Princes). In this form, God Himself replaces any earthly ruler, as the perfectly good and powerful Sovereign Lord. Stylistically, Deuteronomy comprises passages with attributes of Law, Historical Narrative, Instruction (Didactic), and Prophecy.

	PREAMBLE	HISTORICAL PROLOGUE	STIPULATIONS	BLESSINGS AND CURSES	INSTITUTION	WITNESSES
<b>Suzerainty (Covenant) Treaty</b>	Identification of the Parties and Occasion	Legacy of relations (and wars) between parties; Recounting the triumph of the Great King	Specific expectations and requirements; Defining boundaries; Purpose for regulations; Rules for appeal	Benefits of remaining in Covenant; Penalties for Betrayal	Ceremonies and Public Readings of Covenant; Songs	Appeal to God(s) and People; Deposition (Storage) of Document
<b>Deuteronomy</b>	1:1-18	1:19 to 3:29	4:1 to 26:19	27:1 to 28:68	29:1-29; 32:1-43; 33:1-29	30:19-20; 31:19, 23-29

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

Deuteronomy seals up the testimony of Moses and forms the application of the Law that the Israelites are expected to follow throughout the days of the Judges and Kings. It is very likely the scroll that was found in Josiah's day, whose commands had been neglected for so long. Finally, there are at least 45 references from this book cited in the NT, including the forms used by the Lord Jesus, Himself. Therefore, it still conditions how we understand and receive God's commands for our obedience and well being today.

*"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."*  
 – Deuteronomy 30:19-20

**OUTLINE:**

The main sections in Deuteronomy break down much like on the chart listed above.

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| <p><b>I. PREAMBLE (INTRODUCTION):</b>      <b>DEUT. 1:1-18</b></p> <p>A. Time and Place: The Plains of Moab</p> <p>B. Leadership Gap: Moses and the People</p>                                   | <p><b>IV. COVENANTAL STIPULATIONS:</b>      <b>DEUT. 6:1 TO 26:19</b></p> <p>A. General Laws</p> <p>B. Specific Commands</p>                          |
| <p><b>II. HISTORICAL PROLOGUE:</b>      <b>DEUT. 1:19 TO 3:29</b></p> <p>A. Defeat in the Wilderness</p> <p>B. Victory over the Kings</p> <p>C. Moses Denied Entry</p>                           | <p><b>V. CONSEQUENCES:</b>      <b>DEUT. 27:1 TO 28:68</b></p> <p>A. Blessings</p> <p>B. Curses</p>   |
| <p><b>III. THE LAW:</b>      <b>DEUT. 4:1 TO 5:33</b></p> <p>A. The Charge to Keep the Commandments</p> <p>B. Ten Commandments Restated</p>  | <p><b>VI. COVENANT RENEWED:</b>      <b>DEUT. 29:1 TO 30:20</b></p> <p>A. Pledge to Follow and Live</p> <p>B. Prophecies of Forsaking and Renewal</p> |
| <p><b>VII. LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION:</b>      <b>DEUT. 31:1 TO 34:12</b></p> <p>A. Joshua's Commissioning</p> <p>B. The Song of Moses</p> <p>C. The Blessings of Moses</p> <p>D. Death of Moses</p> |   |

*"Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."*  
 – Deuteronomy 6:4-5