

The Book of Deuteronomy

An Introduction to the Book of Deuteronomy

I. Title

- A. The word ‘Deuteronomy’ means, “Second law-giving” or “Repetition of the law.”
- B. This word comes from the Greek translation of the Old Testament (LXX) in 17:18.
- C. This title gives a good generalization of the contents of the book.
- D. However, it is not entirely accurate.
 - 1. This is not a giving of a second law.
 - 2. It is a restatement of many of the laws given in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers to a new generation of Israelites.
 - 3. However, it is also an interpretation and expansion upon those laws.

II. Author

- A. The book of Deuteronomy was written by Moses (1:1; etc.).
- B. It fits in as part of the Pentateuch, vital to its proper understanding.

III. Date

- A. The contents of the book cover a period of about 40 days (1:3).
- B. After the death of Moses, the people mourned for 30 days, making a total of 70 days (cf. 34:8).
- C. This puts the date at approximately 1450 BC.

IV. Purpose

- A. The book of Genesis detailed the fall of man and the beginning of God’s plan of redemption.
- B. The book of Exodus showed the deliverance of Israel from Egypt and the giving of the Law of Moses.
- C. Exodus ended with the construction of the Tabernacle – providing a means of forgiveness, fellowship, and worship.
- D. The book of Leviticus detailed the things necessary for Israel to approach and remain in fellowship with God.
- E. The book of Numbers emphasizes service – faithful obedience to God throughout life.
- F. The book of Deuteronomy details how one may be successful in living a life of faithfulness to God.
 - 1. Emphasis upon remembrance.
 - 2. Emphasis upon love.

V. Brief Outline

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| A. | First Address | (1:1 – 4:43) | <i>Recollection of History</i> |
| B. | Second Address | (4:44 – 26:19) | <i>Remembrance of Law</i> |
| C. | Third Address | (27 – 30) | <i>Renewal of Covenant</i> |
| D. | Moses’ Farewell and Death | (31 – 34) | |

