

DEUTERONOMY

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AUTHOR

Many wish to attribute a later date and author to Deuteronomy
The book clearly indicates that it was written by Moses.
Our Lord frequently quotes from it, giving credit for its contents to Moses.
The historical appendix which describes Moses' death may have been added by another.

DATE

The events described in Deuteronomy occurred during the eleventh month of the fortieth year.
Israel wandered in the desert, 1406 B.C.

BACKGROUND

Israel is at the Jordan, in Moab, ready to enter Canaan.
Moses' forty years of leadership are drawing to a close.
After a long delay in the wilderness, the generation that failed to believe God and rebelled against Him has died and their children are ready to move on.

PURPOSE AND THEME

Moses, knowing that he is about to die, delivers a final message of warning to God's people.
The book summarizes his previous years of teaching ministry with them.

He uses the experiences of the previous generation to teach the younger generation the dangers of unbelief and rebellion.

He demonstrates the importance of maintaining a proper relationship with God who has chosen them in love as His own people, and of obeying His commands.

If they obey Him, He will bless them.

If they rebel, He will judge them.

He is concerned that the covenant people remain faithful to God so as not to surrender to the contaminating influence of the Canaanites.

In that way God will be able to bless them and they will be a light in the midst of surrounding pagan darkness.

ORGANIZATION

The author's understanding of the covenant relationship between God and His people has affected the organization of his presentation.

The basic ingredients of a covenant agreement are all present:

- I. Preamble 1:1-5
- II. Historical prologue 1:6-4:49
- III. Stipulations 5-26
 - A. General requirement of allegiance to the sovereign 5-11
 - B. Specific commandments 12-26
- IV. Curses and blessings 27-30
- V. Arrangements for succession and public reading 31-34

In spite of the parallels with the covenant format, the historical situation and grammatical structure seem to place these elements within a different format which controls the content of the book.

As Moses is about to die and the people will have to enter Canaan without him, he gathers the people together on five occasions to speak to them.

This book reveals his five messages to the people.

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THE SECOND LAW: 5 Messages to Remind God's People to Remain Faithful

Ralph Porter

Historical Prologue 1:1-5	First Message: Historical review of God's dealings with Israel 1:6-4:43	Second Message: Reconfirmation of Mosaic covenant 4:44-26:19	Third Message: Consequences of their response 27-28	Fourth Message: Second Covenant confirmed 29-30	Fifth Message: Final exhortation to Israel 31:1-29	Historical Appendices 31:30-34:12
	<p>From Horeb to the rebellion at Kadesh-Barnea 1:6-46</p> <p>Forty year wilderness wandering 2:1-16</p> <p>Victorious approach to the land 2:17-3:29</p> <p>Consequent warnings to Israel 4:1-40</p> <p>Appointment of cities of refuge 4:41-43</p>	<p>A review of the commandments God has given to His people</p> <p>Historical background 4:44-49</p> <p>Exhortations to obedience 5-11</p> <p>Review of the covenant 5-6</p> <p>Command to destroy heathen influence 7</p> <p>Command based on God's grace 8-11</p> <p>Summary of statutes and ordinances 12-26</p> <p>Commandments emphasizing religious significance 12-18</p> <p>Commandments emphasizing civil significance 19-26:15</p> <p>Commandment requiring general obedience 26:16-19</p>	<p>Two alternatives for God's people:</p> <p>If they obey Him, they will be blessed</p> <p>If they rebel, God will judge them</p>	<p>Logically subordinate to the preceding message, it relates these two alternatives to their past history, and to God's future plan for His people.</p>	<p>Final exhortation to Israel to follow the teaching He has given them.</p> <p>Promise of Yahweh's presence 31:1-8</p> <p>Command to read the law 31:9-13</p> <p>Forecast of the future 31:14-22</p> <p>Charge to Joshua 31:23</p> <p>Witness of these words 31:24-29</p>	<p>Song of Moses 31:30-32:47</p> <p>Command to climb the mount 32:48-52</p> <p>Final blessing on Israel 33</p> <p>Death of Moses 34:1-8</p> <p>Beginning of Joshua's ministry 34:9-12</p>