



Putting the Puzzle Pieces Together

Second Series: “Top Edge” Old Testament: The Law

Lesson #7: Deuteronomy

I. Introduction

A. Title:

1. The Hebrew title is “The Words”
2. The Septuagint called it “The Second Law”

B. Author: Moses

1. Internal evidence

- a. There are around 40 claims within the book that Moses wrote it.
- b. Geographical and historical details indicate first hand knowledge

2. External evidence

- a. Old Testament writers affirm the Pentateuch to Moses (Josh. 1:7, Judge 3:4, 1 Kings 2:3, 2 Kings 14:6, Ezra 3:2)
- b. Christ quotes Deuteronomy and attributes it to Moses (Matt. 19:7-9, Mark 7:10, Luke 20:28, John 5:45-47)
- c. Deuteronomy is cited more than 80 times in New Testament
- d. Jewish traditions point to Moses

C. Time frame: one month

D. Location: Plains of Moab (1:5, 4:46, 29:1) east of Jericho and the River Jordan.

E. Emphasis: A great deal of legal details – but its focus is on the lay men, not priests and sacrifices.

F. Moses preaches three passionate sermons (the upper desert discourse)

Passage	Theme	Perspective
1. Deut. 1:1-4:37	Review of Israel’s History	A look at the past
2. Deut. 4:4-26:19	The Law	A look at the present
	Moral duties (including 10 commandments – compare 5:6-21 with Ex. 20)	Chap. 5-11
	Ceremonial duties	Chap. 12-16:17
	Civil and social duties	Chap. 16:18-26
3. Deut. 27:1-31:30	Prophecy	A look at the future

G. Deuteronomy is a “covenant renewal document” and as such follows the same format as other near Eastern treaties.

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| 1. Preamble – parties making the treaty | 1:1-5 |
| 2. Prologue – dealings in the past | 1:6-4:43 |
| 3. Stipulations or conditions | 4:44-26:19 |
| 4. Ratification (blessings and cursings) | 27 – 30 |
| 5. Provisions to maintain the covenant | 31 – 34 |
- H. Key theme: “Beware lest you forget.”
1. Remember
 2. When you prosper, God has cause it
 3. When you destroy, there are consequences
- I. Reasons for the Law to be repeated:
1. New generation of Israelites need to be assured that God’s standards didn’t change. Covenant was still in effect.
 2. New conditions of life – from nomadic to settled people
 3. Idolatrous influences
 4. Moses was 40 years older than when he wrote Exodus. He had gained spiritual maturity
 5. Assurance of continued covenant.
- J. Moses and the Promised Land
1. 34:4 Allowed to see the Promised Land, but not enter it.
 2. Matt. 17:3 Appears with Christ at Mount of Transfiguration
 3. His Epitaph Deut. 34:10-12

II. An Outline of Deuteronomy

- A. First Speech of Moses
1. Preamble (1:1-5)
 2. Historical Prologue (1:6-3:29)
 3. Introduction to Stipulations: Exhortation to obey the Law (4:1-43)
- B. Second Speech of Moses
1. Introduction to Speech (4:44-5:5)
 2. Stipulations (5:6 – 26:19)
 - a. The Decalogue (5:6-21)
 - b. Response of the people (5:22-33)
 - c. Elaboration of the Decalogue (6:1-26:15)
 - 1) Commandment 1 (6-11)

No other gods before me (Ex. 20:1-3, Deut. 6-11)

- God has a right to make that command Other “gods” include riches, wisdom of man (Jer. 9:23), good works (Isa. 64:6) and pleasure (2 Tim. 3:4)
- NOTE: the account in Deuteronomy gives examples of how to obey this command. It demonstrates that God should be the Israelites first and only authority.
- We owe him preference and obedience

2) Commandment 2 (12)

No idols (Ex. 20:4-6, Deut. 12)

- Yahweh is not to be treated the way the Canaanites treated their gods.
- Worship is not meant to be trivialized. The Holy Spirit is the only aid to our worship (1 Cor. 12:3)
- We need a high view of God

3) Commandment 3 (13:1-14:21)

No misuse of the Name of God (Ex. 20:7, Deut. 13:1-14:21 and Col 3:16-17)

- A commitment to Christ should be reflected in our conduct
- We must remain above reproach

4) Commandment 4 (14:22-16:17)

Comment 4: Remember the Sabbath (Ex. 20:8-11, Deut. 14:22-16:17)

- It was meant to be a day of rest (Deut. 5:14)
- This command is not reiterated in the New Testament
- Christ did not keep the Sabbath (John 5:18, Matt. 12:1-8)
- Christ is Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:27-28)

5) Commandment 5 (16:18- 18:22)

Comment 5: Honor your father and mother (Ex. 20:12, Eph. 6:1-4)

- First commandment with a promise

6) Commandment 6 (19-21)

Comment 6: Do not kill (Ex. 20:13, Deut. 19:21-21:23 and 1 John 3:9-18)

- Accidental murder is covered with cities of refuge
- Murder is not the same as a God-ordered war or self defense (Judges 11:21, 1 Sam. 17:45-51)
- New Testament defines murder as an attitude of heart (Matt. 5:21-26, 1 John 3:15)

7) Commandment 7 (22:1 – 23:14)

Comment 7: Do not commit adultery (Ex. 20:14, Deut. 22:13 – 24:5, 1 Cor. 6:19-20)

- Marriage is a solemn vow before God and is not to be dissolved except for adultery and death (Matt. 19:9, 1 Cor 7:39)

8) Commandment 8 (23:15 – 24:7)

Comment 8: Do not steal (Ex. 20:15, Eph 4:28)

- Restitution was required

9) Commandment 9 (24:8 – 16)

Comment 9: Do not lie (Ex. 20:16, Eph. 4:25)

- A serious crime that affects our relationship with God and others (Deut. 19:16-20)
- Truthfulness is the mark of a New Testament Christian

10) Commandment 10 (24:16-19)

Comment 10: Do not covet (Ex. 20:17)

- Many other sins begin coveting (2 Cor. 10:5)
- Contentment is the antithesis of covetousness (1 Tim. 6:6-11)

d. Concluding exhortation (26:16-19)

3. Document Clause (27:1-10)

4. Curses and Blessings (27:11-28:68)

C. Third Speech of Moses: Final Charge (29-30)

D. Last Words of Moses

1. Miscellaneous Matters (31)

2. Song of Moses (32)

3. Blessing of Moses (33)

4. Death of Moses, Transition to Joshua (34)

(A Survey of the Old Testament, p. 134-135)

III. So what?

Fifty times in the book of Deuteronomy we are urged “to hear.” The “great central confession” of Deuteronomy 6:4 and 10:12-13 begins with the instruction to listen. How much easier our lives would be if we would just listen to God and follow his instructions!

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Christ quoted from Deuteronomy so often?
2. Why do you think God repeated the 10 Commandments twice in the Pentateuch?
3. Which commands do you struggle most with, those pertaining directly to God (1-4) or those that involve our relationship with each other (5-10)?

EXODUS AND CONQUEST OF CANAAN

- ← Probable route of wandering in the Sinai
- ←..... Entry into and conquest of Canaan
- ☉ *Marah*—Oasis
- *Rameses*—City or settlement
- ←----- Trade routes

