

I. Deuteronomy

A. **Introduction**

1. Title

a. Hebrew: "These are the words"

b. LXX: "The Second Law" (see 17:18) from the word, "Deuteronomy"

2. Date of Events: 1406 B. C. (1:3; 34:8; Josh. 1:1; 5:10)

B. **Outline**

1. Intro: The Historical Setting of Moses' Expositions (1:1-4).

2. Moses' First Exposition: Historical Prologue (1:5-4:43).

3. Moses' Second Exposition: The Stipulations of the Sinaitic/Mosaic Covenant (4:44-28:68).

4. Moses' Third Exposition: A Future Covenant (29:1-30:20).

5. The Concluding Events (31:1-32:47).

¹ Notes prepared with help of The Master's Seminary BI 501 Bible Survey syllabus.

C. Major Themes

1. The Election of Israel

- a. “Yahweh your [our] God” (1-31)

- b. Yahweh’s Sovereign Choice of Israel (4, 7, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 23, 26, 31)

- 1) Israel (4:37; 7:6-8; 10:15; 14:2)

Deuteronomy 7:6-8 “...the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers...”

Deuteronomy 9:4-6 “Do not say in your heart when the LORD your God has driven them out before you, ‘Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land,’ but *it is* because of the wickedness of these...nations *that* the LORD your God is driving them out before you, in order to confirm the oath which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Know, then, it is not because of your righteousness that the LORD God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stubborn people.”

Deuteronomy 10:14-16 “Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it. ¹⁵ Yet on your fathers did the LORD set His affection to love them, and He chose their descendants after them, *even* you above all peoples, as *it is* this day. ¹⁶ So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer.”

- 2) “The place . . . for His name to dwell” (12:5, 11, 14, 18, 21, 26; 14:23-25; 15:20; 16:2, 6, 7, 11, 15, 16; 17:8, 10; 18:6; 26:2; 31:11)

- 3) The King (17:15)

 - 4) The Priests (18:5; 21:5)

 - c. "All Israel" (1:1; 5:1; 11:6; 13:11; 18:6; 21:21; 27:9; 29:2; 31:1, 7, 11; 32:45; 34:12; cf. Ex. 18:25; Num. 16:24)/"All the men of Israel" (27:14; 29:10)/"All the tribes of Israel" (29:21)/"All the assembly of Israel" (31:30)/"All the elders of Israel" (31:9)
2. **The Unregenerate Hearts of Israel & the Need for Regeneration** (5:17, 8:2, 8:14, 8:17, 10:16, 28:47, 29:4, 29:18-19, 30:2, 30:6, 30:14, 30:17, 32:46).

Deuteronomy 5:29 "Oh that thy had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and their sons forever!"

Deuteronomy 8:13-14, 17 "...when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiplies...then your heart will become proud and forget the LORD...you might say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.'"

Deuteronomy 9:6 "...you are a stiff-necked people."

Deuteronomy 9:24 "You have been rebellious against the LORD from the day I knew you."

Deuteronomy 10:12-13, 16 "Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ and to keep the LORD'S commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?... So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer."

Deuteronomy 29:2-4 And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, "You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh and all his servants and all his land; ³ the great trials which your eyes have seen, those great signs and wonders. ⁴ Yet to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to know, nor eyes to see, nor ears to hear.

Deuteronomy 30:6 “Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.”

- Today, though many in 21st century Israel pride themselves as followers Moses, they are not. Such was the case ~2000 yrs ago: John 5:45-47 “Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. ⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

3. The Attributes of Yahweh

- a. Unique & Jealous (4:24; 5:9; 6:4-9, 15; 13:2-10; 29:20; 32:16, 21)
- b. Faithful (1:38-39; 2:7; 3:1-3; 7:9, 12; 31:6, 8; 32:4)
- c. Loving (1:31; 4:37; 7:7-8, 13; 13:18; 23:5; 30:5; 33:12)
- d. Gracious (1:8, 10, 11, 20-21, 25, 35; 2:7; 3:18, 20-21; 4:31; 6:10; 7:8, 13-16; 8:10, 18; 9:5, 27-28; 10:15, 22; 11:9, 14-17, 21; 12:1, 21; 14:24, 29; 28:9; 29:13)
- e. Judging (1:37; 3:26; 4:21, 25; 6:15; 7:4; 9:18-20, 22; 11:17; 13:17; 29:20, 23, 25, 27-28; 31:29; 32:21-22)

4. The Requirements of Israel (10:12-13) [MSB, 265]

- a. Fear Yahweh (1:29; 3:22; 4:10; 5:29; 6:2, 13, 24; 8:6; 10:12, 20; 13:4; 14:23; 17:19; 28:58; 31:12, 13)
- b. Love Yahweh (5:10; 6:5; 7:9, 13; 10:12, 15, 18; 19; 11:1, 13, 22; 13:3; 19:9; 30:16)

- c. Keep Yahweh's Commands (4:2, 40; 5:10, 29; 6:2, 17; 7:9, 11, 12; 8:2; 10:13; 11:1, 8, 22; 13:4; 26:17, 18; 27:1; 28:9, 45; 29:19; 30:16)
 - d. Walk in Yahweh's Ways (5:33; 8:6; 10:12; 11:22; 13:5; 19:9; 26:17; 28:9; 29:19; 30:16)
 - e. Serve Yahweh (10:12, 20; 11:13; 13:4; 28:47-48)
 - f. Hear/Obey Yahweh (4:1; 5:1; 6:4; 9:1; 11:13; 27:9; 28:1, 15; 30:2; 31:12, 13)
5. **The Possession of the Land** (1-12, 15-19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28, 30, 31, 32)

6. **The Priority & Sufficiency of Scripture**

Deuteronomy 4:2 "You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Deuteronomy 4:6 "So keep and do them, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'"

Deuteronomy 4:8 "Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today?"

Deuteronomy 8:3 He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.

Deuteronomy 8:9 "...that I may let them hear My words so that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children."

Deuteronomy 8:12 "Then the LORD spoke to you from the midst of the fire; you heard the sound of the words, but you saw no form – only a voice."

Deuteronomy 11:18 “You shall impress these words of mine on your heart...You shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up.”

Deuteronomy 30:11-14 “For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?’ ¹³ Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross the sea for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?’ ¹⁴ But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it.”

7. The Dangers of Trusting in False Prophets, Signs, & Wonders over the Word of God (13, 18)

Deuteronomy 13:1-5 “If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, ² and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,’ ³ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴ You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. ⁵ But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death...”

Deuteronomy 18:20 “But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak...that prophet shall die.”

8. Exclusive Worship of Yahweh & Prohibition of Other Religions (4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 17, 28, 31)

Deuteronomy 13:6, 9, 11 “If your brother...or your son or daughter, or the wife you cherish, or your friend who is as your own soul, entice you secretly, saying, ‘Let us go and serve other gods’ (whom neither you nor your fathers have known...)...you shall surely kill him; your hand shall be

first against him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people...Then all Israel will hear and be afraid, and will never again do such a wicked thing among you.”

9. **The Death of Moses** (1:37; 3:23-27; 31:2, 14, 16, 27, 29; 32:48-52; 34:1-8; cf. Num. 20:12; 27:12-14)/The Future Leadership of Joshua (1:38; 3:28; 31:3, 7-8, 14, 23; 32:44; cf. Num. 27:15-23)

D. Purpose: Moses exhorted Israel to be faithful to Yahweh and to the Sinaitic Covenant so that she might go in and possess the Land, though He foretold that Israel would fail to obey Yahweh in the Land.

E. Bibliography

1. Exegetical: Craigie, *The Book of Deuteronomy* (NICOT) - most influential commentary on any book in the OT.
**Daniel Block (Southern Seminary)
2. English Interpretation: Merrill, *Deuteronomy* (NAC).
Wright, *Deuteronomy* (NIBCOT).
3. Expository: Brown, *The Message of Deuteronomy* (BST).

F. Selected Interpretive Problems

The Nature of the Law [see Strickland, ed., *Five Views on Law and Gospel, what is application of Law to the new covenant?.*]

1. 3-Fold Division of the Law

- Moral Law

- Ceremonial Law

- Civil Law

2. Unified – it was a moral act to observe all of the law, whether matters of expressed morality, ceremony, or civil.

G. Preaching Deuteronomy