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Introduction To Deuteronomy

The book of Deuteronomy is Moses' last will and testament much like Paul's epistle to 2 Timothy. Both of these men were writing knowing that soon they would be removed from this earth.

The theme of the book of Deuteronomy is obedience to God, the motive is love for God and the outcome is blessings.

The people would be moving from a life of wondering to a life of occupying and settling in the land, a life of leadership under Moses for 40 years who represented the law to a life of leadership under Joshua who represented a life of faith.

The Red Sea represented the death of the old man as they came out of Egypt but the crossing of the Jordan would represent the life of the new man of faith.

God would no longer be seen in a visible form from day in to day out as in the wilderness but he would always be present fighting on their behalf as they sought Him and obeyed Him.

I. The book of Deuteronomy.

A. The name of the book comes from the LXX, the Greek translation of the Hebrew

Scriptures by the 70 scholars from Alexandria in Egypt as did the books of Genesis through Numbers.

1. The Latin Vulgate followed the LXX. "Deuteronomos".
 - a. Deuterom means second.
 - b. Onomos means law.
2. The second law is referenced to the Kings command to write himself a copy of the law when he would sit on the throne. 17:18
3. The idea that Deuteronomy is a second law distinct and different from the one at Sinai is a grotesque error.
 - a. The first time the law was given was to the generation that was delivered from Egypt at Mount Sinai.
 - b. The second time the law was given at the plains of Moab on the east side of Jordan to the generation that had grown up in the wilderness, who were under the age of 20 years at the time of the rebellion to enter the land at Kadesh Barnea. Num. 14, Deut. 1:5, 26
4. The second giving of the law is not a complete recapitulation but an explication of the law given nearly forty years earlier.
5. The Hebrew titles given to the book are several.

- a. "The words" or "These are the words" from the opening words. vs. 1
- b. "The book of Admonitions or reproofs" describing the character of the book.

B. The author is Moses

1. The testimony of most likely Joshua who wrote the appendix after Moses' death states that Moses wrote the law and delivered it to the priests is clear. 31:9
2. The witness of Joshua again declares the command by Moses to the Levites to put the law he had finish writing besides the ark as a testimony against them in their future rebellion. 31:24-26
3. Moses refers to himself over 38 times in the book.
4. The Old Testament writers quoted Deuteronomy 356 times.
5. The book is quoted over 190 times in the New Testament under the phrase "the Scriptures", "The law" or "The law of Moses".
6. Jesus quoted Deuteronomy more than any other book of the Old Testament.
 - a. He confirmed and verified the authorship of Moses often. Math. 19:8, Mk. 10:3, Jn. 1:17, 5:46
 - b. He quoted all three times from Deuteronomy when He was tempted

of the devil in the wilderness. Deut. 8:3, 6:13, 10:20, 6:16

- c. He referred throughout His ministry to the law of Moses, Moses wrote of Me, the commandments of Moses or the law, etc.
7. The apostles attested to his authorship also. Acts 3:22, 7:37, Rom. 10:5, 9, 12:19, 1Cor. 9:9, Gal. 3:10
 8. The Pharisees and Scribes placed an emphasis on the law by declaring "Moses said" or "The law of Moses says".
 9. The book of Deuteronomy is a witness to it's own authenticity and authorship by the very fact that it contains 259 references to Moses' previous four books.
 10. The critics of modern literary criticism espouse a theory of various authors like the other four books of the Pentateuch called the J.E.D.P. or "Documentary Hypothesis".
 - a. The Pentateuch means five, it is the fifth book of the law, Torah and have dated it around 621b.c.
 - b. Some believe this was the book discovered during the reign of Josiah and therefore give it the late date. 2Kings 22-23, 2Chron. 34-35.
- C. The date of the book is found in the book it self.**

1. The date is on the first day of the eleventh month of the fortieth year, after they had come out of Egypt, Feb. 1, 1405, for April was the beginning of their new year in their religious calendar. 1:3
* Just six month after Aaron death to the children of the second generation. Num.33:38, Duet. 1:3
2. The death of Moses took place in the plains of Moab being 120 years old, his eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor reduced and God buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite of Beth Peor, morning him for thirty days but no one knows his grave to this day. Deut. 34:1-8
3. The nation mourned him for 30 days. 34:8
4. The nation crossed the Jordan on the 10th day of the first month of the forty-one year.
* The total number of days from the giving of the law to the crossing was 70 days, minus 30 days for mourning leaving 40 days for the giving and writing of the book of Deuteronomy.

II. The book of Deuteronomy in relation to the Pentateuch.

- A. Genesis is the ruin of man through sin, God is sovereign. Gen. 3:1-7
- B. Exodus is the redemption of Israel through blood, God is judge. Ex. 12
- C. Leviticus is communion with God through sacrifice, God is holy. Lev. 1-7
- D. Numbers is chastening through disobedience, God is severe. 14:29-31
- E. Deuteronomy is possession through faith and obedience, God is faithful. Deut. 4:1
* J. Sidlow Baxter calls "the Pentateuch a kind of Bible in miniature".
 - a. In Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers Jehovah God speaks through Moses.
 - b. In Deuteronomy Moses speaks to the people.

III. The of the book of Deuteronomy and it's structure.

- A. The book marks a transition from the wilderness wondering to possess the land promised to the Patriarchs.
 1. All who came out of Egypt died in the wilderness who were 20 years old and up.

2. The only two exceptions were Joshua and Caleb, who brought back the good report.
3. The locality of their camp is the east banks of the Jordan River. 1:5
4. The book of Acts has been compared to the book of Deuteronomy as transitional, in that they bring us to a new experience and new walk in the Spirit.
 - a. Moses representing the law could never bring them into the promise land.
 - b. Joshua a type of Christ would bring them into a walk of faith.

B. The book presents three mayor discourses by Moses.

1. The first discourse reviews the their past history. ch. 1-4
 - a. Israel's rebellion. ch. 1
 - b. Israel's wondering and victories through God. ch. 2-3
 - c. Israel's responsibility to the word. ch. 4
2. The second discourse reviews their present responsibility to the law. ch. 5-26
 - a. General laws. ch. 5-11
 - b. Particular laws. ch. 12-26
3. The third discourse reviews the conditions for future blessing or cursing. ch. 27-30

- a. The writing of the law on Mount Ebal and Gerizim. ch. 27
- b. The blessings and cursings. ch. 28
- c. The renewed covenant. ch. 29
- d. The restoration to God. ch. 30
4. The renewed leadership is established. ch. 31-34
 - a. Joshua is anointed and appointed. ch. 31
 - b. Moses teaches the song to witness to their rebellion in the future. ch. 32
 - c. Moses blesses Israel. ch. 33
 - d. Moses' death and burial. ch. 34

IV. The book of Deuteronomy and it's purpose.

- A.** To prepare the new generation for life in Canaan. 4:1
 1. By listening to the law.
 2. By learning the law.
 3. By observing the law.
- B.** To persuade the mind and will of the hearer to God's ways over the worlds ways. 30:19-20
 1. They were to choose between blessing or cursing.
 2. They were to choose between life and death.
 3. to love the Lord their God.
 4. They were to obey His voice.
 5. They were to cling to Him.

6. They were to understand that He was their life and length of days.
7. They were to dwell in the land sworn to their fathers.

C. To emphasize a three-fold priority.

1. Recall what you know.
2. Reflect on what you know.
3. Respond to what you know is right.

V. The book of Deuteronomy and it's message.

A. God's love for His people.

1. The love of God for man is not spoken about from Genesis to Numbers.,
2. The proclamation appears for the first time in Deuteronomy. 4:37, 7:7, 8, 13, 10:15, 23:5, 33:3

B. God's faithfulness.

1. He redeemed them. , 5:6, 6:12, 7:8, 8:14, 9:26, 13:5, 15:15, 21:8, 24:18
2. He chose them. 4:37, 7:6, 14:2, 26:18, 27:9
3. He made their clothes and shoes to last through the wilderness. 29:5
4. He gave them the land. 3:2, 18, 20, 28, 5:31
5. He defeated the Kings of the land. 3:2-6, 7:8, 11:3

6. He would scatter them throughout the world if they rebelled. 4:26-27, 28:64, 32:26

C. God's warning about idolatry.

1. They were not to follow after other gods. 6:14, 8:19, 11:28, 13:2, 28:14
2. They were not to serve other gods. 7:14, 11:16, 13:2, 6,13, 28:14, 31, 64, 29:26
3. They were not to pass their children through the fire. 4:28, 27:15, 28:64, 31:29
4. They were to know that idolatry is an abomination to the Lord. 7:25, 26, 12:31, 13:14, 17:1, 4, 18:9, 12, 20:18, 22:5, 23:18, 25:16, 27:15

VI. The book of Deuteronomy and key versus, words and phrases.

A. The key versus.

1. The "Shema" of Israel. 6:4-9
 - a. Jesus attested to the priority of this being the greatest commandment. Math. 22:37
 - b. The Shema declares that the Lord our God is one "echad" which means a compound unity not "yakeed" not an absolute singularity of one.
* The word "God" is "Elohim" which is also representative of three or more.

- c. The responsibility to pass the knowledge to their children.
- 2. The requirements of God. 10:12-13
 - a. To fear the Lord their God.
 - b. To walk in all His ways.
 - c. To loved Him
 - d. To serve the Lord their God with all their heart and all their souls.
 - e. To keep the commandments and statutes for their good.
- 3. The Prophecy of the Messiah. 18:18-19
 - a. He would be like them among their brethren.
 - b. He would have Gods words in His mouth.
 - c. He would speak all God commanded.
 - d. He would require the words not obeyed.

B. The key words.

- 1. The word "do" appears 98 times.
- 2. The word "obey" appears 10 times.
- 3. The word "observe" appears 21 times.
- 4. The word "hear" appears 34 times.
- 5. The word "love" appears 16 times.
- 6. The word "fear" appears 29 times.
- 7. The word "remember" appears 15 times.

C. The key phrases.

- 1. The phrase "Jehovah your God" or "Jehovah our God" appears over 300 times.

- 2. The phrase "to possess or possess it" appears 52 times.
- 3. The phrase "fear the Lord" appears 9 times.
- 4. The phrase "the land" appears 112 times.

VII. The book of Deuteronomy and it's outline .

* Gleason L. Archer, Jr., altered by me.

I. First discourse: historical prologue. 1: 1—4:43

A. God's gracious guidance from Horeb to Moab. 1:1-3:29

B. The new generation admonished to cherish the law. 4:1-40

C. Appointment of the Transjordanian cities of refuge. 4:41-43

II. Second discourse: laws by which Israel is to live. 4:44-26:19

A. Basic commandments. 4:44-11:32

- 1. The historical setting of this discourse. 4:44-49
- 2. The Decalogue and the love of God to be taught to posterity. 5:1-6:25
- 3. Steadfast obedience and constant grateful remembrance of God's dealings. 7:1-11:32

- B. Statutes of worship and a holy life. 12:1-16:22**
1. Genuine worship and needful safeguards against idolatry. 12:1-13:18
 2. Rules about food, the Sabbaths, and the feast days. 14:1-16:22
- C. Judgments: the treatment of specific offenses. 17:1-26:19**
1. Death for idolatry; appellate procedure; the responsibilities of a king. 17:1-20
 2. Penalties for witchcraft and false prophecy; the true prophet. 18:1-22
 3. Cities of refuge for accidental homicides; penalties for fraud and perjury. 19:1-21
 4. Rules of battle and siege. 20:1-20
 5. Care of the deceased; captive wives; inheritance and family discipline; removal of the corpse from the gallows. 21:1-23
 6. Concerning lost property; no masquerading as opposite sex; no mingling of seeds or of diverse animals. 22:1-12
 7. Laws concerning marriage, chastity, care of the body, cleanliness. 22:13-24:5
 8. Laws concerning economic and social justice. 24:6-25:19
 9. Laws of stewardship, offerings, and tithes. 26:1-19

III. Third discourse: warning and prediction. 27:1-30:20

- A. The law to be inscribed and its sanctions recited at Mount Ebal. 27: 1-26
- B. Conditions for blessing and chastisement of the nation (prediction of future judgments upon Israel). 28:1-68
- C. Review of God's benefactions; exhortations to Covenant faithfulness. 29: 1-30:20

IV. The closing details. 31:1-33:29

- A. Transfer of leadership, the written law entrusted to the leaders of Israel and apostasy predicted. 31:1-30
- B. Song of Moses: Israel's responsibility to the covenant. 32:1-43
- C. Moses' farewell exhortation. 32:44-47
- D. Moses warned of approaching death. 32:48-52
- E. Moses' final blessing upon Israel, tribe by tribe. 33:1-29

V. Death of Moses and his obituary. 34:1-12

A. Moses sees the promise land. 34:1-4

B. Moses' death in Moab. 34:5-8

C. Mose's successor, Joshua. 34:9-12