

Deuteronomy



Author: Moses



Date: ~ 1406 B.C.



Audience: God's chosen people,
the Israelites



Written in: Hebrew as
debarim

Introduction & Purpose of Deuteronomy

The Hebrew title *debarim*, meaning "words," emphasizes Moses' vital messages to the new generation of Israelites before entering the Promised Land. His speeches on the plains of Moab recount God's faithfulness, reaffirm God's covenant, and offer guidelines for living under God's rule. As leadership transitions to Joshua, Moses prepares them for heartfelt obedient relationship with God. Significantly influencing biblical theology, this book is quoted by Jesus more than any other.

About the Author

Moses was well-suited to author the Pentateuch due to his elite education in Egypt, time to write during Israel's desert journey, and commitment to God's mission. He is recognized as the chief prophet, leader of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, a miracle-worker, and the "lawgiver" of the Ten Commandments. His life spans three 40-year periods: living in Pharaoh's household (0-40), living as a fugitive in Midian (40-80), and leading the Israelites to the Promised Land (80-120). Moses died at 120 years old.

Structure & Themes of Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy, structured as a covenant sermon, delivers three key movements: *Remember the Lord and Your Story (Dt. 1-4)*: Recounts Israel's journey, highlighting God's faithfulness and lessons from past failures. *Love the Lord and Obey His Commands (Dt. 5-26)*: Restates the law, emphasizing obedience as a response to God's grace. *Choose Life and Renew the Covenant (Dt. 27-34)*: Presents blessings or curses, renews God's covenant, and transitions leadership to Joshua.

Deuteronomy emphasizes covenant love and obedience, focusing on God's selection of Israel as His holy people. It connects obedience with blessings and disobedience with judgment, reflecting God's faithfulness despite our sinfulness. The book ties worship, justice, and daily life, showing that love for God impacts how we love others.

Deuteronomy helps us KNOW, LIVE, & LOVE like Jesus

Deuteronomy helps us **KNOW Jesus** as the faithful covenant-keeper and true Law-giver. Jesus quotes Deuteronomy more than any other Old Testament book, especially during His wilderness temptation, revealing Him as the One who perfectly loves the Father, fulfills the law, and invites us into a grace-filled covenant relationship.

Deuteronomy teaches us to **LIVE like Jesus** through intentional obedience shaped by love. Jesus models this through submission to the Father and resistance to temptation. The book calls us to move beyond convenience-based faith, remember God's faithfulness, and choose daily obedience in a world that constantly pulls us toward compromise.

Deuteronomy trains us to **LOVE like Jesus** by caring for the vulnerable, being faithful in our relationships and service of others by prioritizing justice, compassion, and a sense of shared responsibility.

Notable Verses in Deuteronomy

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

- Dt. 6:4-5

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. - Dt. 7:9

Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. - Dt. 8:2

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.

- Dt. 30:15

Resources to Dive Deep into Deuteronomy

- *Deuteronomy Series* - The Bible Project
- *Deuteronomy* – N. T. Wright
- *Deuteronomy* – Daniel I. Block (NIV Application Commentary)
- *Deuteronomy* - Deanna Thompson (Belief Commentary)
- *Be Equipped (Deuteronomy)* - Warren Wiersbe

Question to Ponder from Deuteronomy

Am I intentionally choosing to love and obey the Lord in every area of my life (including how I treat others and pursue justice), or am I drifting into forgetfulness and compromise?