

Deuteronomy

There's Something in a Name	"Deuteronomy" comes from two Latin words: <i>duo</i> (two) and <i>nomos</i> (law). In the Hebrew Bible, it is known as <i>Debarim</i> , meaning "the words (of Moses)." Both names are fitting. The book functions as the last words of Moses before his death on the Plains of Moab overlooking the promised land whereby, he re-gives the Law to the second generation.
How the Re-Telling Unfolds	The first giving of the Law (Exodus 19 – Leviticus) is, essentially, in a "thus saith the Lord" in light of what the Lord has done. (Do this/Do not do this because I am the Lord who brought you out of Egypt). The second giving of the Law in Deuteronomy contains those elements. But it adds another element in light of the fact that Israel is going to enter the Promised Land. That element is "if." If you do what I have commanded you while you are in the Promised Land, you will stay there. If you do not, you will be removed.
That's Why Deuteronomy is the Most Important Book in the O.T.	Deuteronomy is the core book of the OT because it is tied to: (a) the promise of Abraham; (b) the Law of Moses; and (c) the residency in the land of the Promise. A good way to think about Deuteronomy is that it is the source by which the authors of the books that follow use to narrate their story. In other words, why are their uprisings within the land in the Book of Judges? It's because Israel didn't follow the Law as prescribed and demanded in Deuteronomy. Why is Israel removed from the land in 1-2 Kings? Same thing. Why does Malachi prophesy a forerunner to the Messiah? It's because only the Messiah could do what Israel <u>and Moses</u> could not.
It's Also Why Deuteronomy is Quoted Often in the N.T.	From the N.T. writers perspective, even the advent of the Messiah wasn't going to be enough to keep Israel in the land. In fact, the Romans removed them from their land – in accordance with not keeping the Laws for residential occupancy – because they rejected the one who did. As a result, a new land is in order, where the Messiah rules and reigns, and the Messiah's people will not be removed. And the end of Revelation tells us all about that permanent place of residence.
Important Themes in Deuteronomy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Blessings and curses.</i> If you obey, I will bless. If you disobey, I will curse. 2. <i>Israel as the Elected People of God.</i> God has freewill and it trumps everyone else's. And, out of all the nations of the world, he chose Israel. 3. <i>The Need for a Centralized Location for Worship.</i> David uses this urging to make Jerusalem the center. 4. <i>Concern for the Least of These.</i> There are a lot of laws in Deuteronomy that relate to care for the Levites, sojourners, orphans, and widows. 5. <i>The Canaanites Need to be Removed.</i> By Deuteronomy's logic, the Canaanite had lost all claims to the land because of their sin. Allowing them to remain will open Israel up to apostasy. Consequently, they have to be removed.
Key Verses	Deuteronomy 6:4-12
Three Sermons and a Funeral	<p>The Book of Deuteronomy is in the form of <u>three sermons</u> Moses delivered to Israel on the Plains of Moab overlooking the Promised Land just prior to Israel entering it.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What God Has Done for Israel (1-4) 2. What God Expects of Israel (5-26) 3. What God Will Do for Israel (27-32) <p>It concludes with a narrated section of the death, burial, and legacy section about Moses (33-34) that, obviously, wouldn't have been written by Moses. Consequently, the best way to remember Deuteronomy is "three sermons and a funeral."</p>

Sermon One: What God Has Done for Israel (Deut. 1-4)

1. Key Passage #1: Moses Isn't Going to Cross the Jordan (3:23-29)

²³ At that time I pleaded with the Lord: ²⁴ "Sovereign Lord, you have begun to show to your servant your greatness and your strong hand. For what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do the deeds and mighty works you do? ²⁵ Let me go over and see the good land beyond the Jordan—that fine hill country and Lebanon."²⁶ But because of you the Lord was angry with me and would not listen to me. "That is enough," the Lord said. "Do not speak to me anymore about this matter. ²⁷ Go up to the top of Pisgah and look west and north and south and east. Look at the land with your own eyes, since you are not going to cross this Jordan. ²⁸ But commission Joshua, and encourage and strengthen him, for he will lead this people across and will cause them to inherit the land that you will see." ²⁹ So we stayed in the valley near Beth Peor.

2. Key Passage #2: The Land Isn't Yours. It's Mine. It Doesn't Come with a Guarantee (4:23-29)

²³ Be careful not to forget the covenant of the Lord your God that he made with you; do not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything the Lord your God has forbidden. ²⁴ For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God. ²⁵ After you have had children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time—if you then become corrupt and make any kind of idol, doing evil in the eyes of the Lord your God and arousing his anger, ²⁶ I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you this day that you will quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess. You will not live there long but will certainly be destroyed. ²⁷ The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and only a few of you will survive among the nations to which the Lord will drive you. ²⁸ There you will worship man-made gods of wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or eat or smell.²⁹ But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Sermon Two: What God Expects of Israel in the Land (Deut 5-26)

1. Key Passage #1: The Shema (6:4-12)

⁴Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.^[a] ⁵Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. ¹⁰When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, ¹¹houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, ¹²be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

2. Key Passage #2: What They Need to Know While in the Land About Why They Are There in the First Place (9:4-6)

⁴After the Lord your God has driven them out before you, do not say to yourself, “The Lord has brought me here to take possession of this land because of my righteousness.” No, it is on account of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is going to drive them out before you. ⁵It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations, the Lord your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ⁶Understand, then, that it is not because of your righteousness that the Lord your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stiff-necked people.

Sermon Three: What God Will Do for Israel (27-32)

1. Key Passage #1: I Will Bless You If You Obey (28:1-10)

If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. ²All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God: ³You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. ⁴The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. ⁵Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed. ⁶You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out. ⁷The Lord will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven. ⁸The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you. ⁹The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in obedience to him. ¹⁰Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they will fear you.

2. Key Passage #2: I Will Curse You If You Disobey (28:15-20)

¹⁵However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you: ¹⁶You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country. ¹⁷Your basket and your kneading trough will be cursed. ¹⁸The fruit of your womb will be cursed, and the crops of your land, and the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. ¹⁹You will be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out. ²⁰The Lord will send on you curses, confusion and rebuke in everything you put your hand to, until you are destroyed and come to sudden ruin because of the evil you have done in forsaking him.

3. A Most Important Lesson to Remember

We don't live in this covenant. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus and our faith in Him, we have an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, nor fade. Nor can we be removed from it. Not because of what we have or haven't done. But because of what He has done. Therefore, do not live in the wrong covenant.

The Funeral (33-34)

1. Moses Saw Because God is Good. He Died Because God is Just. (34:1, 5)

Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land. . . ⁵And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said.

2. Hello Joshua (34:9)

⁹Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit^[b] of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses.

3. A Most Beautiful Benediction (34:10-12)

¹⁰Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, ¹¹who did all those signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land.¹² For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

**But one would rise in Israel greater than Moses that Moses himself said would rise (18:15). His name is Jesus!