

Deuteronomy

Original Historical Setting

Author: Moses

Date: Written around 1406 B.C.

Audience: The first audience was the new generation of Israelites listening to Moses preach these words.

Occasion: Moses commanded the priests to take what he had written in this book and to put it next to the Ark of the Covenant as a witness against the Israelites if they turned from God's loving instructions.

Timeline: ~1406 B.C. – Moses preaches 3 sermons (Deut)
~1405 B.C. – Moses dies
~1405 B.C. – Israelites enter Promised Land

World Events that occur simultaneously

~1400 B.C. – Palace of Minos on Crete destroyed by fire

~1400 B.C. – The Lion Gate at Hattushash built

Genre/Literary style

A record of Moses' final speeches or sermons

Features and Structure

- Deuteronomy is a record of three sermons that Moses gave to the generation of Israelites who came after the disobedient ones who did not go into the land.
- Ser. 1 (**Ch 1:1-4:43**) – Reviews mighty acts of the LORD
- Ser. 2 (**Ch 4:44-28:68**) – Presents the Laws of the LORD
- Ser. 3 (**Ch 29-30**) – Proposes covenant renewal with the LORD
- (**Ch 31-34**) – Describe the change of leadership from Moses to Joshua

Key text(s)

5:7-21 – Ten Commandments

6:4-5 – Love the LORD your God

6:7-9 – Teach your children the Word daily

34:5 – Moses dies

What to look for

- The outline of Deuteronomy is similar in format to ancient treaties between kings and their subjects. Notice what the King outlines as His expectations and what He will give the people upon obedience.
- Ancient treaties looked something like this:
 1. Preamble (identifying the ruler) **1:1-5**
 2. Review of past relationship between parties **1:6-4:49**
 3. Rules of the treaty **5-26**
 4. Blessings/Curses for Obedience/Disobedience **27-30**
 5. Instructions on reading/observing treaty **31-34**
- Notice the Benefits of Obedience **28:1-4** and the Consequences of Disobedience **28:15-68**

Interesting facts

- Deuteronomy means “second law” as it is the second giving of the Law by Moses
- Forms of the noun or verb “command” occur almost a hundred times in Deuteronomy.
- The concept of refuge for a fugitive starts in Deuteronomy. Moses orders that once they settle Canaan, they are to set up six “cities of refuge.” These are cities where people can go after accidentally killing someone to get a fair trial and be protected from the victim's avenging family and friends.
- Jesus quotes Deuteronomy more than any other of Moses' five books. There are nearly 100 references to Deuteronomy in the New Testament.

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-6