

## Deuteronomy

### Who wrote it?

Probably Moses (although not the bits about his death)

Some scholars think later (see Josiah in 1 Kings)

### Who was it for?

A pause in the narrative

3 sermons from Moses as they look into the promised land, east of the Jordan

Possibility of divine blessing is laid before them – “the drama of the book”.

### When does the action take place?

There is not much action!

40 years after Numbers 14: after 40 years of desert wandering – all of that generation except Joshua, Caleb and Moses have passed away.



2 different ways to understand the structure

### An International Treaty

Text	Treaty
1: 1-5	Preamble
1:6 – 3:29	Historical Prologue
4:1 – 11:32	Basic stipulations
12:1 – 26:19	Detailed Stipulations
27-30	Curses and Blessings (Ratifications)
31-34	Succession Arrangements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Invocation of witnesses</li> <li>- Public Reading</li> </ul>

### An exposition of the law

Issues	God	Man
Authority	Commandment 1 5:7 and (Chs 6-11)	Commandment 5 5:16 (16:18 – 17:13)
Dignity	Commandment 2 5: 8-10, (Ch 12)	Commandment 6-8 5:17-19 6 <sup>th</sup> : 19:1 – 21:23 7 <sup>th</sup> : 22:1 – 23:14 8 <sup>th</sup> : 23:15 -24:7
Commitment	Commandment 3 5:11 (13:1 – 14:21)	Commandment 9 5:20 (24:8 – 16)
Rights and Privileges	Commandment 4 5: 12-15 (14:22 – 16:17)	Commandment 10 5:21 (24:17 – 26:15)

**Both provide insights:**

But maybe something simpler:

3 sermons from Moses before he dies, as the people pause before going into the land.

Sermon 1: **Recapitulation**

Sermon 2: **Exposition**

Sermon 3: **Exhortation**

**Sermon 1:** Remember what God did and why

1-3: What happened in the last 40 years....

4: Why it matters now...

**4: 32-40**

- *Why did God act has he did in the past?*

**4: 15-24**

**No other Gods**

**No visual representations**

**4: 9-14**

- *It seems a bit harsh that they don't get to see God or even imagine what he's like. Why is God against this? How are they supposed to believe in Him?*

**For us:**

Remembering how God has acted to save us in the past is central to obeying him now

There is only one truly existing rescuing God, and he has made what he is like very clear

**Sermon 2:** The One True God is Your God!

Read Deut 5: 1-5 – anything strange about this?

**God's word is always speaking to people, always giving every hearer choices**

If God is the only God, there is every reason to follow him, but for the person of God, there is more:

V2

**How does that motivate you to do what God says?**

Some questions:

***Why are some of the laws so strange?***

*Have a look at the following laws – why would God give them to the people then? What do they have to do with us today?*

Deuteronomy 22: 1-3

Deuteronomy 22: 6-7

Deuteronomy 22:8

***Why are some of the laws so strict?***

*Have a look at these laws – what do you think of them? Do you feel able to justify them?*

Deuteronomy 13: 6-11

Deuteronomy 21: 18-21

This is how covenants work – their part was clear!

***So why set an impossible standard?***

Deuteronomy 9: 4-6

Deuteronomy 10:14-17

**For us:**

God's law always expresses something about what he loves and doesn't love

A treaty based on us obeying doesn't work without heart change

Breaking the covenant (abandoning the way you relate to God) is always really serious, no matter how insignificant it seems

**Sermon 3: Keep the covenant (except you won't!)**

Blessings for sticking to the covenant, curses for disobeying, make sure you read it

God will bring them back in the end (30:1-10)

But Israel will definitely rebel (31: 14-22)

Look at Matthew 4: 1-11

How is Jesus like Israel in this passage?

Where does Jesus quote from when resisting the Devil's temptations? How is his response different to Israel's?

**For us:**

Jesus keeps the law for us, changes our hearts, takes the curses we have earned on himself gives us a new covenant that doesn't depend on our obedience – good news!

**Deuteronomy 30: 19-20**

<sup>19</sup> This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now **choose life**, so that you and your children may live <sup>20</sup> and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the **LORD is your life**, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.