



Sowing the Word

Then I said to you, "Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them. The LORD your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes." Deuteronomy 1:29-30



Deuteronomy 1-4 **May 20th-26th, 2010**

So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped *them* to understand the reading.
(Nehemiah 8:8)

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Helpful Study Resource:

Explore the Book by J. Sidlow Baxter

Online Help:

Deuteronomy: The Law that Delivers by Ray C. Stedman

<http://www.pbc.org/files/messages/2992/0205.html>

http://preceptaustin.org/deuteronomy_commentaries.htm

Commentary:

The commentary used with permission throughout
this booklet is:

With the Word Bible Commentary

by Warren W. Wiersbe.

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Quick Facts



Author: Moses

There are in Deuteronomy more than forty claims that Moses wrote this book. But most of all, Jesus directly attributes it to Moses (Matt 19:7-9; John 5:45-47)



Time: Like Leviticus, Deuteronomy does not progress historically, but covers a period of about one month. This book is written at the end of Moses' life (at 120), at the end of Israel's wanderings (40 years) and right before they enter into the promised land.



Theme: The common theme of Deuteronomy is a call to obedience. The stress is both on what and why we should walk in obedience to the Lord.



Title: The term Deuteronomy literally means "second law". It is not the second law, as in a replacement of the first, but more a restatement of the first. It is seen as God giving them another chance to obey the Lord. Therefore Deuteronomy is sometimes seen as the book of "Second Chances"!

Quotable book: As you read through the book of Deuteronomy, you hopefully will find many "familiar phrases". That is because Deuteronomy is the most quoted book of the Bible from other books of the Bible. Deuteronomy is quoted 356 times by other Old Testament books. It is then quoted 196 times in the New Testament. That adds up to whopping 552 times that this book is quoted by other books in the Bible! So, here is the challenge, how many of these references can you spot as you read through the book.

Outline

I. First Sermon: Reviewing the Past (1–4)

- A. The tragedy of unbelief (1)
- B. Journeys and victories (2–3)
- C. Closing appeal that they obey (4)

II. Second Sermon: Obedience in the Present (5–26)

- A. Ten Commandments Reviewed (5)
- B. A call for wholehearted commitment (6)
- C. Blessings of the chosen people (7)
- D. Blessings of the chosen land (8)
- E. Remembering the rebellions (9)
- F. Call to Obey (10)
- G. Love and obedience demanded and rewarded (11)
- H. False religions, true worship (12)
- I. False prophets (13)
- J. Various regulations (14–15)
- K. Three main festivals reviewed (16:1–17)
- L. Various regulations (16:18–25:19)
- M. Stewardship obligations (26)

III. Third Sermon: Considering the Future (27–30)

- A. Blessings and curses (27–28)
- B. Repentance and return (29–30)

IV. Personal Concerns: Moses' End (31–34)

- A. A new leader – Joshua (31)
- B. A new song (32)
- C. A new blessing – Final Blessings of Moses (33)
- D. A new home – Death of Moses (34)

With the Word Bible Commentary

Deuteronomy means “second law.” It records the second giving of the Law by Moses as he prepared the nation to enter their promised inheritance. But Moses did more than simply repeat the Law to a new generation. He applied it to their new life in the land and stressed the importance of their loving God and obeying Him from the heart.

Some key words in *Deuteronomy* are *land* (190 times), *hear* (54 times), *possess* and *possession* (57 times), *heart* (53 times), and *love* (25 times).

The nation *owned* the land by God’s grace and *possessed* the land by God’s power, but they could not *enjoy* the land unless they obeyed God’s Word. When the nation disobeyed, God chastened them *in the land* (book of Judges) and then took them *from the land* into Babylonian captivity.

In the addresses, Moses first reminded the people of God’s past leading (chaps. 1–4). The word *remember* is used 14 times in the book. Then he restated and applied the Law (chaps. 5–26), and closed his message with words of warning and blessing (chaps. 27–33). In chapter 34, we read how Moses passed from the scene and Joshua took over.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary (Deut)*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

With the Word Bible Commentary

Deuteronomy 1

The Kadesh Barnea event is recorded in Numbers 14, and the New Testament commentary is in Hebrews 3–4. God warns against “an evil heart of unbelief” (Heb. 3:12). An evil heart! Why is the sin of unbelief so evil?

To begin with, unbelief makes God a liar and questions the dependability of His Word. Our responsibility is not to question God but to believe God and do what He commands.

Unbelief wastes time. An eleven-day journey turned into forty years of wandering and death! Unbelief robs us of God’s best blessings. God cared for His people those forty years, but how much more He would have done had they claimed their inheritance.

When you come to those Kadesh Barnea places in your pilgrimage, don’t look around at the problems and dangers. Look up to the God who is leading you, and walk by faith.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Deut 1:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

With the Word Bible Commentary

Deuteronomy 2

God assigns our battles. He instructed the nation not to meddle with the Edomites, the Moabites, or the Ammonites. The people were to behave themselves as godly pilgrims and avoid creating trouble. For a nation that enjoyed great victory in war, His instructions were probably hard to take, but God had better things for His people than the spoils of those nations. (See [Rom. 12:18](#); [Col. 4:5](#).) It is unwise to meddle in things that God commands us to avoid.

God assures our victory. When the Lord leads us into battle, we need not fear, for His commandment is His enablement. Israel defeated Sihon, and “there was not one city too strong” (v. 36) for God’s people. (See [1 John 5:1–4](#).)

God assigns our inheritance. God promised to give the Trans-Jordan territory to the tribes of Reuben and Gad ([Num. 32](#)), and He kept His promise. (See [Ps. 47:4](#); [Acts 20:32](#); [1 Pet. 1:3–5](#).) God promises—we possess by faith!

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (Deut 2:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

With the Word Bible Commentary

Deuteronomy 3

A possession to claim (1–11). Guided by God's will and fortified by God's promises, the people marched from victory to victory. Were it not for their unbelief, the former generation could have won the victories in Canaan forty years earlier. The high walls and gates were no problem to God (Num. 13:26–33). He is limited only by our unbelief.

A promise to keep (12–22). The tribes to be settled east of the Jordan had promised to cross the river and help conquer Canaan (Num. 32:16–23). Now that their land was subdued, Reuben and Gad might have settled down and avoided a lot of danger, but they kept their word. God hears our promises and takes them seriously (Num. 30:2; Eccles. 5:1–5).

A penalty to endure (23–29). Because of his pride at Kadesh (Num. 20:1–13), Moses was not allowed to enter Canaan, even though he prayed earnestly for God to relent. He did see the land and give the people a leader to take them into the land. He also visited the land centuries later when Jesus was transfigured (Matt. 17:1–3). Some of the disappointments of life will have their compensations when the glory comes. Be patient!

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (Deut 3:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

With the Word Bible Commentary

Deuteronomy 4

Before he repeated the Law to Israel, Moses reminded them of their holy relationship with God and of their privileges as His chosen people. What other nation had heard the voice of God, had seen His power and glory, and had received His Word as their wisdom and their very life (vv. 1, 4, 25, 40)? When we take our blessings for granted, we are in danger of disobeying God.

On the basis of these privileges, Moses warned them to take heed lest they forget what God had done for them (v. 9), how God had come to them (v. 15), what God had said to them (v. 19), and what God expected of them because of His covenant (v. 23). To whom much is given, much shall be required.

He also warned them that disobedience would bring chastening. God forgives His people when they repent (vv. 29–31), but read Hebrews 12:25–29 before making plans to disobey God. He is a merciful God (v. 31), but He is also a jealous God (v. 24); He will not permit His children to sin successfully.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary*
Deut 4:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

“Encourage him.”

Deuteronomy 1:38

Written by : C H Spurgeon

Taken From: *Morning and Evening*

God employs his people to encourage one another. He did not say to an angel, “Gabriel, my servant Joshua is about to lead my people into Canaan—go, encourage him.” God never works needless miracles; if his purposes can be accomplished by ordinary means, he will not use miraculous agency. Gabriel would not have been half so well fitted for the work as Moses. A brother’s sympathy is more precious than an angel’s embassy. The angel, swift of wing, had better known the Master’s bidding than the people’s temper. An angel had never experienced the hardness of the road, nor seen the fiery serpents, nor had he led the stiff-necked multitude in the wilderness as Moses had done. We should be glad that God usually works for man by man. It forms a bond of brotherhood, and being mutually dependent on one another, we are fused more completely into one family. Brethren, take the text as God’s message to you. Labour to help others, and especially strive to encourage them. Talk cheerily to the young and anxious enquirer, lovingly try to remove stumblingblocks out of his way. When you find a spark of grace in the heart, kneel down and blow it into a flame. Leave the young believer to discover the roughness of the road by degrees, but tell him of the strength which dwells in God, of the sureness of the promise, and of the charms of communion with Christ. Aim to comfort the sorrowful, and to animate the desponding. Speak a word in season to him that is weary, and encourage those who are fearful to go on their way with gladness. God encourages you by his promises; Christ encourages you as he points to the heaven he has won for you, and the spirit encourages you as he works in you to will and to do of his own will and pleasure. Imitate divine wisdom, and encourage others, according to the word of this evening.