

A tropical island scene with a crescent moon and the word 'DEUTERONOMY' overlaid. The scene features a sandy beach in the foreground, turquoise water, and a small island with palm trees and dark, jagged rock formations in the background under a clear blue sky.

DEUTERONOMY

TITLE

Deuteronomy means “second law.”

Rather than a literal second law, it is instead three sermons of Moses that explain the law to the new generation.

But, the 10 commandments are restated in Dt. 5



COMPOSITION

Except for the part that narrates his death (Dt. 34),
most of Deuteronomy was written by Moses

It is possible that the book was updated at various
times by a later editor, but there is no good reason
to deny Moses wrote the core





LITERARY ANALYSIS

As the last installment in Moses' biography, Deuteronomy presents 3 sermons and 2 prophetic poems.

In those, Moses reflects on the nation's past mistakes and urges them to be faithful in the future as they take the Promised Land.

While the refrain "The Lord spoke to Moses" dominates Leviticus and Numbers, in Deuteronomy, Moses speaks

It is also widely recognized to follow the same pattern as ancient Near Eastern (ANE) suzerain-vassal treaties.

OUTLINE

It is widely recognized that Deuteronomy follows the same pattern as ancient Near Eastern (ANE) suzerain-vassal treaties:

- Preamble (1:1-5)
- Historical Prologue (1:6-4)
- General Stipulations (5-11)
- Specific Stipulations (12-26)
- Blessings and Curses (27-28)
- Document Clause (30)
- Witnesses (32)





PURPOSE

The purpose of Deuteronomy is to summarize and renew the covenant in preparation for entering into the land.

In the process it organizes laws in a way that the spirit behind the 10 Commandments will be understood.

It is the charter document of Israel that emphasizes that there is one God, one people of God, one sanctuary, and one law.

(Walton/Hill, 163)



MAJOR THEMES

In Deuteronomy, slightly different major themes emerge:

- Law
- Central Sanctuary
- History as Theology
- Retribution Principle

Also emphasized is the land (mentioned 100+), as is “given” (75x), “this day” (70x), and “possess” (almost 70x)

This underscores God’s gracious intentions toward Israel

KEY WORD

Over and over again, the word “remember” appears in Deuteronomy:

- The giving of the law (4:9-10)
- The covenant (4:23)
- The past slavery (5:15)
- Their great deliverance (7:18)
- God’s leadership and provision (8:2-6)
- The sins of the past (9:7)
- The Ancient of Days (32:7)

Also, land is frequent (100+), as is “given” (75x), “this day” (70x), and “possess” (almost 70x)





DEUTERONOMY IN THE NT

“Deuteronomy is one of the greatest books of the Old Testament. Its influence on the domestic and personal religion of all ages has not been surpassed by any other book in the Bible. It is quoted over 80 times in the NT and thus it belongs to a small group of 4 OT books to which the early Christians made frequent reference.”

- J. A. Thompson (Deuteronomy, TOTC, 11)

Those 4 books are: Genesis, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, and Psalms

Deuteronomy is quoted in all but: John, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Timothy, and 1 & 2 Peter



DEUTERONOMY IN THE NT

Also, the promise of Deuteronomy formed in large part the expectation of the Israelites in Jesus' day.

According to Deuteronomy:

- God will one day raise up a prophet like Moses (Dt. 18)
- There has not been a prophet like Moses (Dt. 34, at least up the end of the OT period)
- Therefore, we (the Israelites) must keep looking for a greater Moses
- The book of Matthew then presents how Jesus is the new and greater Moses