

# Old Testament Survey

## Deuteronomy

# Deuteronomy

- Definition of ‘Deuteronomy’
  - In the Greek, Δευτερονόμιον, *Deuteronomion*, “second law”
  - In the Hebrew, דְּבָרִים, *Devarim*, “[spoken] words”

# Deuteronomy

- Introduction to the beginning of Deuteronomy
  - It is around 1405 BC
  - The first generation that came out of Egypt has died
  - The nation of Israel (the second generation) is waiting on the plains of Moab, with the Jordan River between them and the Promised Land
    - Many of the citizens would be between the ages of 40 to 60 years old (except Moses, Joshua, and Caleb)

# Deuteronomy

- Introduction to the beginning of Deuteronomy
  - The book spans about one month in duration while Moses gives his speech and his ultimate death

# Deuteronomy

## ISRAEL'S EXODUS FROM EGYPT AND ENTRY INTO CANAAN

MAP 2





# Deuteronomy - Overview

- The Historical Setting of Moses' Speeches | Dt. 1:1-5
- **Moses' First Speech: Historical Prologue** | Dt. 1:6-4:43
  - A Historical Review of God's Gracious Acts from Horeb to Beth Peor (1:5–3:29)
  - An Exhortation to Obey the Law (4:1–40)
  - The Setting Apart of Three Cities of Refuge (4:41–43)

# Deuteronomy - Overview

## Moses' Second Speech: Covenant Stipulations | Dt. 4:44-26:19

- General Stipulations: Love and Faithfulness | Dt. 4:44-11:32
  - The Basic Elements of Israel's Relationship with the Lord (5:1–11:32)
    - The Ten Commandments (5:1–33)
    - The total commitment to the Lord (6:1–25)
    - Separation from the gods of other nations (7:1–26)
    - A warning against forgetting the Lord (8:1–20)
    - Illustrations of Israel's rebellion in the past (9:1–10:11)
    - An admonition to fear and love the Lord and obey His will (10:12–11:32)

# Deuteronomy - Overview

## Moses' Second Speech: Covenant Stipulations | Dt. 4:44-26:19

### – Specific Stipulations: Justice and Holiness | Dt. 12:1-26:19

- Instructions for the life of worship (12:1–16:17)
- Instructions for leadership (16:18–18:22)
- Instructions for societal order (19:1–23:14)
- Instructions from miscellaneous laws (23:15–25:19)
- The firstfruits and tithes in the land (26:1–15)
- The affirmation of obedience (26:16–19)



# Deuteronomy - Overview

- **Moses' Third Speech: Covenant Renewal** | Dt. 27:1-30:20
  - Blessings and Curses | Dt. 27:1-28:68
  - Covenant Ratification and Final Exhortation | Dt. 29:1-30:20

# Deuteronomy - Overview

- **Conclusion: Israel's Future | Dt. 31:1-34:12**
  - The Change of Leadership (31:1–8)
  - The Future Reading of the Law (31:9–13)
  - The Song of Moses (31:14–32:47)
    - 1. The anticipation of Israel's failure (31:14–29)
    - 2. The witness of Moses' song (31:30–32:43)
    - 3. The communicating of Moses' song (32:44–47)

# Deuteronomy - Overview

- **Conclusion: Israel's Future | Dt. 31:1-34:12**
  - The Final Events of Moses' Life (32:48–34:12)
    - The directives for Moses' death (32:48–52)
    - The blessing of Moses (33:1–29)
    - The death of Moses (34:1–12)

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

**Table 4**  
**Deuteronomy as Exposition of the Decalogue**

Adapted from Walton (1987)

<b>ISSUES</b>	<b>RE: GOD</b>	<b>RE: MAN</b>
Authority	Commandment 1 5:7 (chaps. 6–11)	Commandment 5 5:16 (16:18–17:13)
Dignity (19:1–24:7)	Commandment 2 5:8–10 (12:1–32)	Commandments 6–8 5:17–19 6th: 19:1–21:23 7th: 22:1–23:14 8th: 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)

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Authority
  - The First Commandment focuses on the authority of God
  - The Fifth Commandment is concerned with human authority, specifically in its relationship to divine authority

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Authority
  - From the First Commandment, God should be our first priority and final authority
  - God’s authority can be seen in the following passages
    - Chapter 6:4 – The ‘Shema’ (Hebrew ‘to hear’) presents Yahweh, and Yahweh alone, as God
    - Chapter 10:17 – Speaks of Yahweh as God of Gods, Lord of Lords, and the great, mighty, and awesome God

# D e u t e r o n o m y – Major themes

- Authority
  - From these chapters, it shows ways that adherence to the First Commandment can be demonstrated
    - To Love God (6:5; 10:12; 11:1, 13, 22)
    - To obey his commandments (6:6, 17, 24-25; 7:11-12; 8:1, 6; 10:12-13; 11:1, 8, 13, 18, 22)
    - Warnings against testing the Lord (6:16; 10:16)

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Authority
  - Moses also reminds the Israelites how God has proven or will prove himself worth of the respect and status that he demands
    - Israel is chosen and loved (7:6-8; 10:14-15)
    - Israel has been multiplied in keeping with the covenant promises (10:22)
    - Israel delivered out of Egypt (6:21-23; 7:19; 8:2-5, 14-16; 11:2-7)



# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Authority
  - From the Fifth Commandment, the focus here is on how human authority is to conform to divine authority rather than how we respond to human authority
  - Parents are seen as the basic link for the communication of instruction and for the representation of divine authority

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Authority
  - From chapters 16:18 to 17:13, it does not speak of the role of parents, but focuses on other forms of human authorities
  - We see it focusing on the following:
    - Judges
    - Kings
    - Priests and Levites
    - Prophets

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Authority

- Judges

- Responsible for enforcing the covenant (17:2-7)
    - Should not distort justice (16:19-20)
    - Enforce verdicts and need to follow instructions (17:10-12)
    - Failure to enforce the covenant laws and rules could put the covenant's benefits in jeopardy

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Authority
  - King
    - Viewed as Gods representative and responsible for the people
    - Set up a system that conforms to the covenantal requirements
    - Can put the covenant benefits in jeopardy if:
      - He is too concerned about his uniform (v. 16-17)
      - Fails to observe the law

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Authority
  - The Priest and Levites
    - Responsible for serving, which includes teaching the people (17:10-12)
    - If the priests are not supported by the populace, they could not function and covenant would be in jeopardy

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Authority
  - Prophets
    - Responsible for passing on God's messages
    - Involved in both the authority of God and in instruction
    - Prophets need to ensure they:
      - Speak with the correct authority (18:9-14)
      - Speak with God's words and not their own (18:20)
    - Covenant can also be put in jeopardy if people fail to heed the prophet's words

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Authority
  - Deuteronomy warn of areas where the covenant could be jeopardized through a break in the chain of authority and instruction
  - Human authorities need to be honoured in that they serve as an important link in communicating God's instructions to his people
  - It is the responsibility of human authorities not to corrupt their offices

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Dignity
  - The Second Commandment forbids the worship of carven images
  - Chapter 12:4 – “You shall not treat the LORD your God that way”
  - The Israelites were not to worship Yahweh in the same way the Canaanites worshiped their gods
  - The use of images was common among the Canaanites



# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Dignity
  - The Israelites are instructed not to repeat pagan rituals
  - The dignity of Yahweh is jeopardized when he is treated as the pagans treat their deities
  - Thus worship should never accommodate the world's standards
  - True worship must give God his proper place

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Dignity
  - How does this relate to man?
  - With reference to Commandment #6, it seeks to show the difference where a life is taken, but murder has not been committed
    - Accidental homicide and the connected discussion of the function of the levitical cities
    - The requirement of two witnesses in a capital case
    - The treatment of a malicious witness who are put to death if the case is a capital case

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Dignity
  - The law of retaliation as a protection against a judicial taking of life where the crime would not warrant such a punishment
  - Guidelines are also given for:
    - Warfare (Chapter 20)
    - Bloodguilt (Chapter 21)
  - Everyone deserves the dignity of existence

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Dignity
  - With reference to Commandment 7, it is a little difficult to connect to dignity though it maybe more suitable under integrity
    - In Deuteronomy 22:12-30 it discuss varies types of adultery
    - These all threaten the dignity of the family

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Dignity
  - With reference to Commandment 8, by seeing dignity as the basic element behind the prohibition of stealing, he is able to discuss other areas that are impacted
    - Chapter 23:17-18 – refers to stealing the freedom of a foreign slave
    - Chapter 23:19-20 – refers to stealing of self respect
    - Chapter 23:21-23 – refers to stealing from God by not paying one's vows

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Dignity
  - Chapter 23:24-25 – drawing the distinction of stealing and what is not in relation to picking food on someone's property
  - Chapter 24:1-4 – concerned about the woman's self-respect
  - Chapter 24:5-6 – concerned about 'stealing' things essential for survival
    - A bride's husband
    - Major food-producing implements (i.e. the mill)

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Dignity
  - Chapter 24:7 – concerned about the rights of a kidnapped victim

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Commitment
  - With respect to Commandment 3, chapters 13:1 to 14:21 addresses in various ways the problem of not taking God seriously or not taking one's relationship, commitment, or obligations to God seriously enough
    - Chapter 13:1-5 – concerns the false prophet
    - If an individual is serious about God, the false prophet's behaviour will be offensive and intolerable
    - If he does nothing, he will still be held guilty



# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Commitment

- Total purging of evil is required if you are to take God and his Name seriously

- Chapter 14 concerns the dietary laws

- The truly committed person would demonstrate his commitment to God even in his diet
- The practice of an individual is an indicator of that person's commitment to God and holiness in his life

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Commitment
  - This is how Commandment 3 and 9 parallel each other:
    - Taking your commitments to your fellow man seriously
    - Assuming that he is going to take his commitment to you seriously
    - Not making false accusations
  - The common denominator is trust

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Commitment
  - Chapter 24:8-9 start off with the false accusation of Miriam against Moses
    - There are consequences of such an accusation
  - From verses 10-15, it focuses on establishing trust by fulfilling one's commitments and pledges
  - Verse 15 states that punishing an innocent person is like bearing false witness against them

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Rights and Privileges
  - Commandment 4 speaks of God's rights and Commandment 10 addresses human rights
  - With respect to Commandment 4, it focuses on the Sabbath
  - God has a right to be honoured through the dedication of a special day to him in gratitude for his deliverance of Israel from Egypt

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Rights and Privileges
  - God can also be honoured in other areas such as:
    - Showing gratitude to God as the source of one's goods and freedom
    - Tithing
      - This is giving a portion of one's goods back to God in gratitude
  - This is the right of God and our privilege
  - He demands of us goods and acts of compassion, just as he provides goods and acts of compassion

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Rights and Privileges
  - Commandment 10 admonishes against coveting
  - Coveting is desiring something that does not belong to you and it oversteps the bounds of what one has a right to possess
  - Deuteronomy expands this into the area of violating the rights and privileges of others

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Rights and Privileges
  - The following are some areas for consideration
    - The basic right to justice for all (24:17-18)
    - The right of the poor to leftovers from the harvest (24:19-22)
    - The right of the innocent and the right of the guilty (25:1-3)
    - The right of the dead brother's family (levirate marriage) – (25:5-10)

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Rights and Privileges
  - The following are some areas for consideration
    - The right to fair treatment in the marketplace (25:13-16)
    - The issue of first fruits as a way of remembering the rights and privileges that the Israelites were enjoying that their forefathers did not (26:1-15)



# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Conclusion
  - The deuteronomic laws (chapters 6-26) are an expansion of the decalogue with the intent of addressing the spirit of the law
  - This is accomplished by showing multiple examples for each commandment with the purpose of moving beyond legalism to a truer understanding of God's concern and requirements

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- Conclusion
  - This is the same thing that Christ does with his Sermon on the Mount
  - Both Moses and Christ show that the prohibition against murder is a prohibition against things murderous, whether attitudes or actions

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- New Testament Implications
  - It is one of the most cited Old Testament books in the New Testament (both Psalms and Isaiah are cited more often)
  - The promise of another prophet like Moses would come (Deuteronomy 18:14-22)
  - We can see how Jesus Christ is like Moses in the New Testament and how he is the promised prophet from Deuteronomy

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- New Testament Implications
  - Christ feed the people bread and meat (i.e. feeding of the five and four thousand) just as Moses did in the wilderness
  - When Jesus promised an unfailing stream of life-giving water, the people remembered what Moses did and the promise of the coming prophet
  - Peter (Acts 3:22) and Stephen (Acts 7:37) affirm Christ as the coming prophet as spoken by Moses

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- New Testament Implications
  - Other uses of Deuteronomy in the New Testament
    - Jesus repulsed Satan during his temptation in the wilderness
      - Deuteronomy 8:3 – first temptation (Matt 4:4, Luke 4:4)
      - Deuteronomy 6:16 – second temptation (Matt 4:7, Luke 4:12)
      - Deuteronomy 6:13 – third temptation (Matt 4:10, Luke 4:8)
    - Deuteronomy's concern for the classes of society vulnerable to abuse and exploitation is reflected in Jesus' ministry to the poor and widows (Deut. 6:5, Matt 22:37-40)

# Deuteronomy – Major themes

- New Testament Implications
  - Other uses of Deuteronomy in the New Testament
    - Israel and the Church
      - Both chosen amongst the least of its group (Deut. 7:6-7, 1 Cor. 1:26-30)
      - Both are treasured possessions of God (Deut. 7:6, 14:2, 26:18; Eph. 1:14, Titus 2:14, 1 Peter 2:9)
      - God is a consuming fire for both (Deut. 4:24; Heb. 12:29)

# Next class

- Joshua, Judges, and Ruth

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