

Deuteronomy

The title means “second law” from 17:18. Each king was to have a “copy of the law.”

It is a collection of speeches from Moses about Israel’s travels, a reminder of the covenant God made, and the appointment of Joshua to lead Israel into Canaan.

Israel is in the plains of Moab on the Eastern side of the Jordan River.

Deuteronomy is frequently quoted in the NT and is ascribed to Moses.

Authorship – Matt. 19:7-8 with Deut. 24:1-4; Jos. 8:31 with Deut. 27:5-6

“Moses wrote” – Deut. 31:9, 22

“Moses spoke” – 1:1, 3; 4:45; 27:9; 31:1, 30

Paul – Rom. 10:19 with Deut. 32:21; 1 Cor. 9:9 with Deut. 25:4

Peter – Acts 3:22 with Deut. 18:15-18

Jesus quoted Deut in His temptation – Matt. 4:4 with Deut. 8:3; 4:7 with 6:16; 4:10 with 6:13

Hebrews 10:28 with Deut. 17:2-6

The book is typically broken up into 4 sections:

1. 1-4 – Reminders and Warnings
2. 5-26 – The Law
3. 27-30 – Renewal of the Law, Blessing and Cursing
4. 31-34 – Appointment of Joshua and Moses’ Final Words

Exodus covers approximately 350 years, from the death of Jacob to the construction of the tabernacle.

Leviticus covers approximately 1-2 years.

Numbers covers approximately 38 years as Israel was wandering in the wilderness.

Deuteronomy takes place in the 40th year, 11th month, 1st day of the month after leaving Egypt (1:3).

Important lessons from Deuteronomy:

1. There is a constant emphasis on doing exactly what God said – 4:2.
2. The importance of the next generation – 6:6-9; 11:18-21.
3. The dangers of worldly influences – 7:2-4.
4. God’s character – 7:9-10.
5. God is specific about worship – 12:13-14.
6. The blessing of faithful obedience – 28:1-14.
7. The dangers of disobedience – 28:15-68.

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1 – Exodus 18-Numbers 14

- Deuteronomy is full of reminders. The first few chapters are reminders of Israel's wilderness years and God's punishment and provision.
- They were near Suph (a transliterated word), which refers to the Red Sea.
- 1:8 – God did what He promised, yet it remained for Israel to do what He commanded in order to receive the land.
- Judges appointed – Exo. 18.
- 1:22-38 - The spies sent into the land. Numbers 13-14.

2-3 – Israel's Victories in the Wilderness

- 2:7, 14 – The wilderness years.
- 2:26-3:11 - Sihon and Og defeated – Numbers 21.
- 3:12-22 - Land East of the Jordan given to Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh.
- 3:23-29 – Moses forbidden entrance into the Promised Land – Numbers 20.

About Anak/Anakim/Giants/Emim/Zamzummim/Nephilim/Rephaim

Anak means neck – Num. 13:22, 28, 33; Deut. 9:2; Jos. 15:13-14; 21:11; Jud. 1:20

Anakim means long-necked – Deut. 1:28; 2:10-11, 20-21; 9:2; Jos. 11:21-22; 14:12, 15

Emim means terror – Gen. 14:5; Deut. 2:11-12 – same as Rephaim

Nephilim means feller, bully, giant – Gen. 6:4; Num. 13:33

Rephaim means giant – Gen. 14:5; 15:20; Deut. 2:11, 20; 3:11, 13; Jos. 12:4; 13:12; 15:8; 17:15; 18:16; 2 Sam. 5:18, 22; 21:16-22 (weapons, hands, feet); 23:13; 1 Chr. 11:15; 14:9; 20:4-8; Isa. 17:5

Zamzummim means plotters or intriguing – Deut. 2:20 – same as Rephaim

Facts

- Tribes who lived in the region of what would become the Promised Land.
- Known for their size and ferocity.
- Defeated by God so their land could be inhabited by others (Deut. 2:20-21).

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4-5 – Obedience, Idolatry, and the Covenant

- 4:1-14 - We are constantly told that man is not capable of keeping God's law. However, Israel was constantly commanded to do exactly what God commanded so they could live and remain in the Promised Land.
- Do not add to or take away from – Pro. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19
- Keep my commandments yourself, then teach your children and grandchildren – 4:9-10.
- The “Ten Commandments” – 4:13; 10:4; Ex. 34:28.
- 4:15-31 – Warnings against idolatry.
- 4:32-40 – Israel had a completely unique experience with God in communication (v. 33) and choice (v. 34). Why? So Israel could KNOW God (v. 35-36). Why did God choose Abraham (v. 37)?
- 4:41-43 – Cities of Refuge. Later expanded to six cities (Jos. 20:7-9).
- 4:44-5:22 – Moses's reminder to Israel of the Ten Commandments.
- 5:23-33 – Israel's response at that time and God's desire for Israel.

6 – The Next Generation

- 6:1-9 – Obey the Law and pass it on to the next generation.
- 6:10-15 – You're going to be greatly blessed in the new land. Don't forget the source!
- 6:16-19 – Staying in the land was contingent upon diligent obedience to the Law.
- 6:20-25 – Israel was to teach the children about what happened in Egypt and the Exodus and to keep all the Law.
- We are counted as righteous when we do what God says (v. 25). Righteousness cannot be transferred from one person to another. 1 John 3:7
- God declares people as righteous when they conform to His revealed will.
- Romans 4 is important in this discussion. 4:3-6, 8-11, 22-24 (11 times) we find λογίζομαι and it means to count, consider, or reckon. Man is considered righteous by God when he “walks in the steps of the faith of Abraham” (Rom. 4:12).
- The KJV uses counted, reckoned, and imputed – but it is the same word.

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7 – Covenants, Choosing, and Obedience

- 7:1-5 - God wanted His people to know they were different. He didn't want them to just know that other people viewed them differently. No covenants! The reason – you will begin serving other gods. 1 Kings 11
- How do we celebrate the “success” of our children? Nehemiah 13:23-27
- 7:6-11 – God's choice of Israel. Not based on military strength or economic standing in the world. God still has a “special people” in the world today. Titus 2:11-14
- 7:9-11 – The character of God. Exodus 34:5-7
- 7:12-16 – The blessings of obedience. We must remember that these promises were made within the context of national Israel, specifically in connection with the promises to Abraham that would ultimately bring about the Messiah.
- 7:17-26 – Do not fear the inhabitants of the land or worship their idols.

8 – The Necessity and Possibility of Faithful Obedience

- Every book, from Ex – Deut, emphasizes this point. Man is able to keep God's law and be blameless in His sight. Luke 1:5-6
- Obey – 8:1, 6, 11, 20
- Remember the source of your blessings – 8:10.
- Israel knew about possible removal from the Land at least 700 years before it happened.
- Judges 2:7-10

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9 – Review of Rebellion

- 9:1-6 – Israel to remember that the land was a gift and the defeat of their enemies was from His hand.
- 9:7-21 – Israel's rebellion after Moses went up on Sinai (Ex. 24:16-18; 32).
- 9:22-29 – Further rebellions and Moses' intercession. Taberah = Numbers 11:1-15. Massah = Exodus 17. Kibroth-Hattaavah = Numbers 11:31-35.

10 – The Second Set of Tablets

- 10:1-5, 10-11 – Exodus 34
- 10:6-9 – Numbers 3-4
- 10:12-21 – What God required from Israel. Fear, walk, serve, keep, circumcise your hearts
- 10:22 – The great nation promise to Abraham fulfilled.

11 – Remember what God did for you in the Exodus and in the wilderness wanderings

- 11:8 – Keep every commandment.
- 11:18-21 – Keep the commandments in the forefront of your mind.
- 11:26-32 – Receiving blessing or cursing was wholly up to Israel.

12 – About worship in the Promised Land

- 12:1-7, 17-18 - God would choose the place.
- 12:18-19 – Provisions for the Levites.
- 12:29-32 – Beware of idolatry.

13 – Various warnings

- 13:1-5 – Watch for false prophets.
- 13:6-11 – Family members trying to lead people into idolatry.
- 13:12-18 – City leaders trying to lead people into idolatry.

14 – Various laws

- 14:1-2 – Improper mourning rituals.
- 14:3-21 – Clean and unclean meats. Leviticus 11
- 14:22-29 – Laws on tithing.

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15 – Various Laws

- 15:1-7 – Debts released every seven years. Jubilee (every 50th year) – Lev. 25. Ground to rest, debts released, and slaves set free.
- 15:8-11 – Generosity to the poor. The sufficiency was to be “for his need,” not to bring about equality among all people. Leviticus 19:9-10 and the dignity of work.
- 15:12-18 – The law for servants. Israel was constantly reminded about her own Egyptian bondage and was reminded not to behave like them.
- 15:19-23 – Firstborn animals. The firstborn male was for sacrifice, not work. Exo. 13.

16 – Feasts and Justice

- 16:1-8 – Passover. Abib = Mar/Apr. Lev. 23:4-8
- 16:9-12 – Pentecost. Lev. 23:15-22
- 16:13-17 – Tabernacles. Lev. 23:33-44
- 16:18-20 – Administer justice. Exo. 23
- 16:21-22 – No trees, shrubs, or stones set up to honor gods.
- 17:1 – Sacrifices were to be perfect.

17 – Enforcement of Law and the Monarchy

- 17:2-7 – Death penalty for idolatry. Must be two to three witnesses. Witnesses were to cast first stones. Exo. 20:3-5. God has never been opposed to the reporting of sin, but He was specific as to how it was to be done. Pro. 12:17-19; 14:25
- 17:8-13 – Judges in Israel were to instruct the nation about the law and to apply the law equally. Citizens were expected to obey the law and judgments made. Those who were rebels were to be put to death and that would cause others to fear (v. 12-13).
- 17:14-20 – About kings. (1) God would choose. (2) From among the Jewish people. (3) Not to multiply horses, wives, gold or silver. (4) Get his own copy of the Law, read it, and observe it.

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18 – Priests, Customs, and a Prophet

- 18:1-8 – Support for the Levites. Leviticus 7
- 18:9-14 – Abominations of the Canaanites were not to be adopted by the Israelites. Pass through the fire = child sacrifice to appease the gods (2 Kg. 17:16-18). Divination (witchcraft) = an attempt to gain supernatural information (Num. 22:7; 23:23). Observer of times (soothsayer) = seems to refer to reading signs in the sky. Enchanter (interpreter of omens) = one who whispers spells, fortune tellers. Witch (sorcerer) = the use of amulets or guilds. Charmer (conjurer) = one who joins spells. Consulter with familiar spirits (medium), wizard (spiritist), necromancer (one who calls up the dead) = all refer to various particulars of attempts to communicate with or gain information from the dead.
- 18:15-22 – A prophet like Moses. This passage is applied to Jesus in Acts 3:22-26. This passage also addresses “presumptuous” prophets (v. 20-22). Verse 22 is the “test” of a prophet.

19 – Cities of Refuge, Landmarks and Witnesses

- 19:1-13 - There were protections for manslaughter and premeditated murder until a trial could be held. Numbers 35; Deuteronomy 4
- 19:14 – Landmarks. Don’t steal the property of others. Deut. 27:17; Pro. 22:28; 23:10
- 19:15-21 – Multiple witnesses for trial. False witnesses were to be punished with the punishment he wanted used.

20 – About War

- 20:1-4 - God would be with them in battle. 2 Kings 6:8-23
- 20:5-9 – Exemptions from military service. (1) Men who recently built house and had not dedicated it. (2) Men who had recently planted a vineyard and not yet eaten of it. (3) Men recently betrothed (engaged). (4) The fearful.
- 20:10-15 – Offer terms of peace before war. If they accept, they would serve Israel as “tributaries” (serfdom). If no peace, kill all males and take all women, children, and spoils. This was for nonCanaanite cities (v. 15).
- 20:16-18 – The fate of the “ites.” Leviticus 18 is a good commentary on why.

21 – Various Laws

- 21:1-9 – Dealing with unsolved murder. Go to cities nearest body and follow instructions.
- 21:10-14 – About marrying foreign women who had been taken during war. Don’t abuse her.
- 21:15-17 – Inheritance of the firstborn son.
- 21:18-21 – Dealing with perpetually rebellious sons. Purpose – v. 21.
- 21:22-23 – The curse of hanging on a tree. The man deserved capital punishment. Gal. 3:13

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22 – Various Laws on Moral Conduct

- 22:1-4 – Helping a brother when he is not around. Anything an Israelite found that had been lost was to be kept was to be returned to the owner. You could not act as if you did not see it. To act any other way would be inhumane. Matthew 7:12
- 22:5 – Dress according to your sex. This was to protect the sanctity of both males and females.
- 22:6-7 – Protecting the life of animals. The Bible indicates that the way we treat animals reveals what kind of person we are – Proverbs 12:10. This was interesting...
 - **Predictor of Crime:** Animal abusers are five times more likely to commit violent crimes against humans.
 - **Serial Killers:** A history of animal torture is a common trait among serial killers and sexual offenders.
 - **Domestic Violence:** In 70–88% of cases where a woman is abused by a partner, the pets in the household are also threatened or killed.
 - **Mass Shootings:** A 2018 study found that 23 US school shooters from 1988 to 2012 had prior histories of animal cruelty.
- 22:8 – Build a protective wall on your roofs so no one would fall off.
- 22:9-11 – Laws of planting and clothing.
- 22:12 – Tassels on garments served as reminders of the law – Numbers 15:37-41.
- 22:13-30 – Laws about sexual misconduct...
 - 22:13-21 – Virginity was expected at the time of marriage. Hebrews 13:4. If a man falsely charged his new wife of not being a virgin, he paid her father 100 shekels of silver and he could never divorce her because he had publicly shamed her. If his charges were true, the woman was to be put to death because what she did was disgraceful and evil.
 - **Pre-Engagement Risk:** People who live together before getting engaged are 48% more likely to experience marital dissolution than those who wait until after engagement or marriage.
 - **The "Inertia" Factor:** Researchers suggest that couples who "slide" into living together may find it harder to break up, leading them to marry partners they might not have otherwise chosen.
 - **Divorce Percentages:** Research indicates that roughly 34% of marriages end for those who lived together before engagement, while roughly 10%–22% of marriages end for those who did not cohabit before marriage.
 - 22:22 – Adultery. Both to die.
 - 22:23-24 – A woman engaged who had consensual sex. Both to die.
 - 22:25-27 – A woman engaged who was raped. The man only to die.
 - 22:28-29 – A virgin woman, not engaged. This seems to be a mutual relationship because “they” would be found out. The man was to give 50 shekels of silver to her father, marry her, and could never divorce her. Exodus 22:15-16
 - 22:30 – Men forbidden from sleeping with their father’s wife. Lev. 18:8; 1 Cor. 5

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23 – Various Laws

- 23:1-8 – Individuals not permitted in the congregation of Israel. Men with crushed or mutilated genitals, those born to forbidden marriages (to the 10th generation), Ammonites and Moabites. Edomites and Egyptians could be among the congregation after three generations.
- 23:9-14 – Cleanliness during wartime because God was in their midst.
- 23:15-16 – A run away slave who fled to Egypt could stay and was to be treated properly.
- 23:17-18 – Prostitution was not to be tolerated, male or female. Wages from that practice were not to be given to God.
- 23:19-20 – Don't charge brethren interest, but it was okay with foreigners.
- 23:21-23 – Keep your vows without delay.
- 23:24-25 – They could eat grapes and grains of neighbors but not harvest.

24 – Various Laws

- 24:1-4 – A man could divorce his wife for “uncleanness.” Elsewhere translated as nakedness, indicating sexual sin. He could not take her back if she had been married again and divorced because she was defiled. This was the basis of Matt. 19 and Mk. 10.
- 24:5 – Newly married men excused from military service for one year.
- 24:6 – Millstones could not be taken as collateral.
- 24:7 – Kidnapping = death penalty.
- 24:8-9 – Leprosy – Leviticus 13-14.
- 24:10-13 – About getting a pledge when loaning something.
- 24:14-15 – The treatment of slaves.
- 24:16 – Personal responsibility for sin and punishment.
- 24:17-18 – About acting justly.
- 24:19-22 – About taking care of the poor.

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25 – Various Laws

- 25:1-3 – Law on corporal punishment. Acts 22:25; 2 Cor. 11:24
- 25:4 – Animals could eat while working.
- 25:5-10 – The “Levirate” (*Latin for brother-in-law*) marriage. Familiar to people in Jesus’ time (Matt. 22:23-28). The law was for when brothers “dwell together.” If no child from first marriage, woman was to marry the brother of her dead husband. The firstborn son was then to succeed the name of the dead brother for retaining the inheritance in Israel. If this role was refused by the living brother, he was to be publicly shamed by the woman (v. 7-10). Removal of the shoe for confirming transactions was a custom in Israel – Ruth 4:7.
- 25:11-12 – Disputes were to be handled by judges. Two Israelite men should not be fighting. If they were, and the loser’s wife stepped in with a low blow, she would be punished without mercy.
- 25:13-16 – Financial transactions were made by weight. Inaccurate measures were forbidden.
- 25:17-19 – Destruction of the Amalekites. This explains 1 Samuel 15. Exodus 17:8-16

26 – Laws of Harvest and Tithing

- The first-fruits belonged to God. They represented the very best of the harvest.
- Tied to this offering was a remembrance of the history of the nation, including Egypt (v. 4-10).
- Every third year, Israelites were to bring this tithe to towns and share with Levites, strangers, fatherless, and widows.
- These laws set Israel apart from all other nations (v. 16-19).

27-28 – Blessing and Cursing

- 27:1-10 – When they came into Canaan, they were to set up large, white-washed stones containing the 10 Commandments and an altar on Mt. Ebal.
- 27:11-28:68 – Six tribes were to stand on Mt. Ebal and six on Mt. Gerizim. The Levites were to announce curses and blessings on Israel, with the tribes responding with “Amen.”
- 28:1-2 – Notice the necessity of obedience and the result.
- 28:47-51 – Essentially a prophecy of the period of the Judges.
- 28:52-57 – Prophetic of what happened with Assyria (2 Kg. 17) and Babylon (2 Kg. 24-25).

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29 – The Covenant Affirmed

- This is the third discourse given by Moses to Israel (1-4, 5-28).
- He appealed to their having witnessed God's work among them (v. 2-9), and to all who were present (v. 10-15)
- He admonished them not to depart from God and suffer the same fate as Egypt, Sodom, and Gomorrah (v. 16-29).

30 – Returning to God

- 30:1-10 – The results of returning to God from unfaithfulness.
- 30:11-14 – The simplicity of obedience.
- 30:15-20 – They had to choose between life and death.

31-32 – A New Leader and New Song

- 31:1-8 – Joshua announced to lead Israel into Canaan.
- 31:9-13 – The law to be read publicly every seven years in the hearing of all.
- 31:14-29 – Joshua inaugurated and God foretells of Israel's departure.
- 31:19-22, 30-32:47 – God gave Moses a song to teach Israel as a testimony against them in the future. Moses taught them the song on the same day.
- 32:1-4 – God's character.
- 32:5-6 – Israel's willful rebellion.
- 32:7-14 – Israel is told to remember the days of old. God had provided for and protected Israel.
- 32:15-18 – Jeshurun's rebellion into idolatry.
- 32:19-43 – God's fury upon Israel.
- 32:44-47 – The choice presented to Israel.
- 32:48-52 – Moses told to view the land before he died.

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33 – Moses' Farewell Blessing on the Tribes

- 33:1-5 – The delivery of the Law at Sinai (Ex. 19:14-20). Ten thousands of saints (Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19; Heb. 2:2).
- Jeshurun – 32:15; 33:5, 26; Isa. 44:2 – means “upright one.”
- Reuben (33:6); Judah (33:7); Levi (33:8-11); Benjamin (33:12); Joseph (33:13-17); Zebulun and Issachar (33:18-19); Gad (33:20-21); Dan (33:22); Naphtali (33:23); Asher (33:24-25).
- Ephraim and Manasseh fall under Joseph's name. Simeon was greatly reduced in Number because of their sin in Moab (Num. 25). At the first census they were 59,300 (Num. 1:22-23). At the second census they were 22,200 (Num. 26:12-14). They were also eventually absorbed into Judah (Jos. 19:1-9).
- 33:26-29 – The events of the exodus and wilderness proved that there is no God but Jehovah. The God in the heavens is the same God who helped His people on the earth.

34 – Moses' Death

- God promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob “I will give it to your descendants” (Gen. 15:13-16).
- His death and burial (34:5-8).
- Moses' life can be summed up in forty-year segments: (1) Birth to upbringing in Egypt (Acts 7:17-22; Ex. 1-2), (2) Killed an Egyptian, escaped, became a shepherd (Acts 7:23-29; Ex. 2), (3) Burning bush to border of Canaan (Acts 7:30-44; Ex. 3-Deut. 34).
- 34:9 – Joshua inaugurated (Num. 27:12-23).
- 34:10-12 - Moses' special relationship with God. About seeing God “face to face.” The Bible says, “no man has seen God” (Jn. 1:18). Exodus 33:11, 20 – a contradiction? Numbers 12:6-8.