

Eric Swanson / General

The Bible

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# Deuteronomy

**Author:** This is the final book attributed to Moses, the final chapters deal with the death of Moses and are classically attributed to Joshua.

**Date:** The end of the wandering and the beginning of the time in the Promise Land. Although Deuteronomy is presented as an address by Moses, scholars generally agree that it dates from a much later period of Israelite history. An early edition of Deuteronomy as it exists today has been identified with the book of the Law discovered in the Temple of Jerusalem about 622 BC ([2 Kings 22:8](#); [2 Chronicles 34:15](#)). Further edits come from around the time of King Josiah.

**Audience:** This book is both to that second generation after Egypt as well as a letter to those who would come afterwards.

**Reason:** This book is considered a second giving of the law. This is an expansion and defining of what the relationship will be like based on the 10 Commandments and other expanding on how to be God's people.

**Theme:** This is a furthering of the Covenant with God and an outline of the curses attached to failure to meet the expectations of the covenant.

**Key Verse:** [Deuteronomy 32:46-47](#)

## Deuteronomy 32:46–47 CEB

<sup>46</sup> he told them: Set your mind on all these words I'm testifying against you right now, because you must command your children to perform carefully all the

words of this Instruction.<sup>47</sup> This is no trivial matter for you—this is your very life! It is by this means alone that you will prolong your life on the fertile land you are crossing the Jordan River to possess.

**Sections:** History of Wanderings (Ch 1-4), Review of the Law (Ch 5-26), Curses and Blessings Attached (Ch 27-30), Farewell to Moses (Ch 31-34)

**Key Words:** Covenant, Observe, Blessing, Curse

**Basic Intro:** Leviticus gave us all of the law, but this was directed at a specific generation. Deuteronomy is a re-telling of the law towards a new generation, a new audience. Just as we teach our children about old truths through new mediums, this book reminded the people of God of the old covenant of God and their commitment to it. They would be held accountable to that and they needed to understand it. This book also lets us know that instead of a great land with all things placed out for us, it was all of that plus already occupied by people who wouldn't want to just give it up. We needed to be ready for that.

### **Questions for Discussion:**

- What is more important to you, Achievements or Time with God? Both might be focused on God but this text emphasis one over the other, how did you see it in the text?
- What do you think it means when we read “God is jealous for his people”?
- Deuteronomy reminds us to raise our children for God so... how do we raise our children on God's principals? How do we as children improve in respecting the teaching of our parents? How do we balance those on the fact that this very book is a re-telling of old rules to a new generation (is that born out of disrespect of the older generation or the older generations respect that changes need translation)?
- So... you are standing at the entrance of the Promise Land and all you have to do is wait for Moses to Die! What do you think it was like to be one of God's people in that situation? What does that mean for your relationship with

God?

- Deuteronomy speaks about blessings for obedience to God's word. How has God blessed you for your obedience?