

The Whole Truth

Deuteronomy

Introduction: The last of the five books of the Pentateuch (“pente”—“teuchos”—5 scrolls)

A. Overview of the Pentateuch (Torah)—written by Moses

1. Genesis—The beginnings of humanity and the selection of a family
2. Exodus—The chosen family becomes a people
3. Leviticus—The people are given direction
4. Numbers—The people wandering toward their promise
5. Deuteronomy—the focus today (more quoted by Jesus than any other book of OT)

B. About Deuteronomy—(title comes from Greek title in Septuagint)

1. Deutero—second
2. Nomos—law
3. It reviews the law and covenant God made with His people
4. It is not a second law but a reviewing of the law and covenant that God made with His people at Sinai
5. Remember: All adults but Joshua, Caleb, and Moses have died
6. Moses wants this generation to know what God has done, what He wants to do, and what it will take for Him to accomplish it.
 - a. It is a moment of hope but hope always has an element of uncertainty; therefore some level of anxiety
 - b. What if things go wrong?
 - c. Moses is very pastoral in Deuteronomy
 - d. His word to his people before he hands off leadership to Joshua
 - e. These words come from the east side of Jordan and the northern region of Moab (see map)

C. Four messages by Moses

1. History-1:1-4:43
2. Law and Love-4:44-26:19
3. Blessings or Curses-27-30
4. Farewell-31-34

I. Moses' first message: The History of God's People (1:1-4:43)

A. Moses rehearses the call to leave Sinai, the appointing of judges, the spies, rebellion and the penalty for rebellion, the attempt to fight and the defeat by the Amorites (1:5-46)

B. Tells of their time wandering and then all the men of war die out (2-4)

1. Defeat of Sihon (King of Amorites) and Og (king of Bashan)
2. Settling east of the Jordan (1/2 tribe of Manasseh and Reuben)
3. Moses forbidden to enter (Read 3:23-29)
4. Moses instructions (4)
 1. Obey and Remember (1-14)
 2. Reject idolatry (Read 15-20)
 3. More warning about idolatry (21-40)
 4. Cities of refuge (Read 41-43)

II. Moses' second message: Law and Love (4:44-26:19)

- Centered on the concept of the covenant
- Emphasis on the conditional aspect of the covenant
- Divine blessing depends on obedience rooted in love
- Continual and consistent disobedience would lead people away from the blessing of God and destroy their relationship with God

Four Sections

A. Begins with a repetition of the Ten Commandments (4:44-5:33)
Note: Read 5:1-22, 32, 33

B. The Jewish confession of faith (shema)—brief doctrinal statement (6:4-9)

1. Faithful Jews still quote today
2. Seen in New Testament several times
3. Don't forget where you came from (6:10-12)
4. Share it with your family (6:20-25)
5. Holy separation (7:1-8)—Read
6. Blessings of Obedience (7:9-26)
7. Don't forget God (8-see 8:19)
8. Reminder of Israel's failure at Sinai

C. The second set of stone tablets (10,11)

1. Tablet two (10:1-11)
2. Essence of the Law (see 10:12,19)
3. Blessings of obedience (11-see 8,9)

D. Many ethical standards (12-25)—Remember they are now going to go set up a nation

1. Prescribed place of worship (12:5-11)
2. End of 12 and 13 warning of following apostates, false prophets or even family that encourages you to follow false gods
3. A way to mourn, eat meat and tithe—chapter 14
4. Debt forgiveness every seven years, the poor, slaves, and firstborn animals —chapter 15
5. Passover reviewed and other feasts—chapter 16:1-17
6. Justice administered—16:18-17:13 (see 17:8-10)
7. How kings, priests and Levites are to act and be treated(Read 17:14-18:8)
8. Avoid godless customs of nations (18:9-14)
9. New prophet to come—18:15-22
10. Chapter 19
 - a. Cities of Refuge
 - b. Property boundaries
 - c. Law concerning witnesses
11. Warfare rules (20)
12. Miscellaneous laws (21-25)

NOTE: 25:5-10 (Levirate marriage—see story of Ruth and Boaz)

III. **Moses' Third Message: Blessings or Curses (27-30)**

- A. Foreign to us in west to understand, this was a common eastern culture speech form
- B. Also called a doctrine of retribution or Deuteronomic theology
- C. This was immediately true for Israel—they would succeed when obedient and would lose the land when disobedient
- D. This concept is broadened in biblical theology as it speaks to fact that character has much to do with eternal destiny (Read 28:1-23)
 1. Renewed covenant —29:1-12, 29)
 2. Reminder 30:1-6

IV. Moses' Farewell (31-34)

- A. Joshua appointed (31:1-8)
- B. Read the Law every seven years (31:9-13)
- C. Prophecy of apostasy (31:16-18)
- D. Song and inauguration of Joshua (31:22-30)
- E. Song of Moses —32
- F. Moses blesses all the tribes —33
- G. Death and burial of Moses —34 (Read)