



Overview for Deuteronomy

Author: Commonly accepted to be Moses, except for the last chapter, which was probably written after Moses' death

Time Period Covered: 37 days in 1451 B.C.

Date Written: About 1407 B.C. – 1406 B.C.

Setting: East side of Jordan; in view of the land of Canaan

Prominent Characters: Moses, Joshua

Objective: To remind the Children of Israel of God's blessings and encourage them to recommit their lives to Him

Key Verse: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." – Deuteronomy 30:19

Comments: Deuteronomy, taken from the Greek word that means, "second giving of the law," is a book of remembrances, written for the Children of Israel to help them realize that they were following a mighty, living God. This fifth and final book of the five that are called the Pentateuch is primarily sermonic in character; it contains the record of three public addresses Moses made to the people in the eleventh month of the fortieth year of their wanderings. The Book of Deuteronomy ties the five books together by building upon what grows out of the previous books.

The book opens with Moses preparing the sons and daughters of the older generation to possess the Promised Land. This group of individuals was not of age when the Law was first handed down at Mount Sinai. Because of unbelief and their refusal to obey, the older generation wandered for nearly thirty-nine years and died in the wilderness without entering the

Land of Promise. As Deuteronomy begins, the younger generation was poised on the east side of the Jordan River, which separated them from their westward conquest.

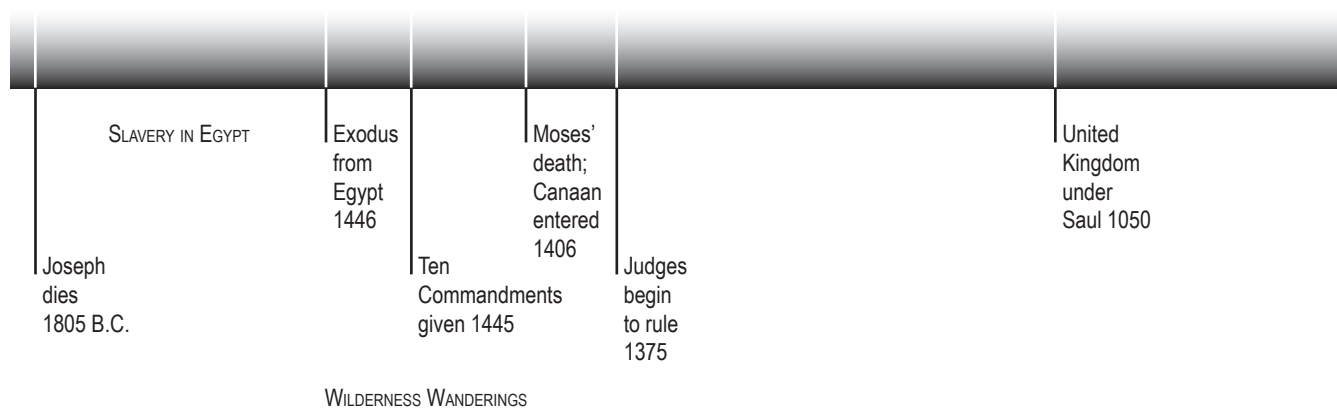
Moses reminded the people of the many mighty miracles God had performed on their behalf, and reviewed the Law given to them by God. He also restated the covenant that God had made with His chosen people, and reiterated many of the circumstances through which God had taken them, exhorting them to rededicate their lives to God. He orated and explained the law as it was originally given, omitting details such as the priests' service, laws of sacrifice, and the building of the house of God. Since these were Moses' last instructions prior to climbing Mount Nebo to view the Promised Land before his death, his words expressed his life's purpose.

Reading through this book, several lessons become clear. Because of what God had done, the Children of Israel should have had hope and willingly followed Him; because of what God expected, the people should have listened and obeyed; because of who God was, they should have loved Him completely. Only when they learned those lessons would they be prepared to possess the Promised Land.

The book concludes with the change of leadership. Moses had led the people for forty years, but because of his disobedience (Numbers 20:12) he would not enter the Promised Land. Just before Moses died, he climbed Mount Nebo to Pisgah; from that mountain peak, he was allowed to see the beautiful land God had promised His people.

We can learn many of life's lessons from the study of Deuteronomy. Remember how God has shown His love and care in your life. Rehearse these accounts and tell them to your children in hopes that they, too, will have hope and confidence in a God who has the future under control.

Timeline



Outline

*Hannah's Bible Outlines used by permission per WORDsearch.
A complete amplified outline of this book is available on our website at www.apostolicfaith.org.*

- I. The first discourse: Historical review (1:1—4:43)
 - A. Introduction (1:1-4)
 - B. The wilderness sojourn (1:5—3:29)
 - C. An exhortation to obedience (4:1-40)
 - D. The selection of the cities of refuge (4:41-43)
- II. The second discourse: exposition of the Law (4:44—26:19)
 - A. Introduction (4:44-49)
 - B. The exposition of the Decalogue (5:1—11:32)
 - C. The exposition of the principle laws of Israel (12:1—26:19)
- III. The third discourse: ratification of the covenant (27:1—30:20)
 - A. The establishment of the Law (27:1-26)
 - B. The responsibility of keeping the Law (28:1-68)
 - C. The renewal of the covenant (29:1—30:20)
- IV. Historical appendices (31:1—34:12)
 - A. The final injunctions of Moses (31:1-29)
 - B. The song of Moses (31:30—32:47)
 - C. The sight of the land by Moses (32:48-52)
 - D. The blessing of Israel by Moses (33:1-29)
 - E. The death of Moses (34:1-12)