

Deuteronomy: Moses' Parting Exhortations

Moses Renews Covenant

Why a "Second Law"?

- 1-Book Title (repetition of the law)
- 2-Need for Rehearsal in Trans-Jordan Setting
 - a) To Safeguard Against Distracting Influences of New Land.
 - b) To Induct New Generation in Covenant
- 3-Succession of Leadership

Summary

An aging leader exhorts a new generation at the edge of a new land to abandon all in decisive, loving service of the One True God.

Literary Context

Sermonic Style
Exhortation
Use of Story As History and Illustration
Legal Content (chs. 12-26)

Historical Context: Treaty format of Deuteronomy

Hittite Treaty Forms (ca. 1500 BC)
Assyrian (Vassal Treaties of Esarhaddon, 672 BC)

Authorship

Internal Evidence
Mosaic authorship
Glosses
External Evidence
The Josiah connection: discovery or authorship (2 Kings 22.8)?
Seventh century discovery

Overview of Deut.: Four Speeches of Moses

First Speech: Retracing Our Path, 1.1-4.43
How We Reached This Point, 1.1
Hear Now, and Obey, 4.1

Second Speech: Giving Laws of Yahweh 4.44 - ch 28
Decalogue, 5.6
Hear, O Israel...Hear, O Israel, 6.3, 4
The Law, ch. 12-26
Blessings and Curses, 27-28

Third Speech: Confirming the Covenant, ch. 29-30

Fourth Speech: Forecasting Your Perils (Apostasy), 31.1-32.47
Commissioning a New Leader: Joshua, 31.7
Composing a Poetic Witness: Song of Moses, 32.1

Death of Moses, 32.48-34.12
Death Predicted, 32.48
Blessing for Tribes, 33
Record of Death, 34

The Law in Deut...

- Major Segments of the Law, 12-26
 - True Worship, False Worship, 12-13
 - Three Annual Festivals, 16
 - Conduct of Leaders (Judges, Kings, Prophets), 17-18
 - Rules for Warfare, 20
 - Tithe, 26

- Law in Deut. (12-26) Vs. Law in Lev.
 - Deut. Laws Are Basic in Nature
 - Deut. Law Considers Larger Picture
 - Deut. Law More Humanitarian
 - Deut. Law is less concerned with ritual purity than Lev. Law, (with exceptions)

- Compassion in the Law
 - Care for Vulnerable (Widow, Orphan, Alien, Poor, Levite)
 - Debt Ceiling
 - Servant's Term Limit
 - Asylum for Runaway Slave
 - Security for Violated
 - Ecological Compassion
 - Exemption from Military Duty
 - Return Lost Property
 - Ceiling on Flogging

Legislation or Covenant?

Keep the law to remain in relationship with God, not simply to conform to legislation. (Backgrounds, p. 217.)

The God of Deuteronomy

- Disciplinarian, Jealous, 4.3, 24
- Tender, Protector, 1.30, 1.31, 4.7
- Merciful, 4.29
- Instructor, 4.5

The People of Deuteronomy

- Possessors of Divine Law, 4.8
- Holy, 7.6, 26.19
- Chosen by God, 7.6
- Treasured Possession of God, 7.6, 26.19ff
- Beloved of God, 7.8
- Not Intrinsically Superior, 9.6

Concerns of Deuteronomy

- Absent-Minded Prosperity Will Breed Self-Sufficiency, 8.10ff
- Idolatry Will Return, 31.29
- Apostasy: A Recurring Warning
- Idolatry is Forbidden, 4.15-31 (First Teaching)
- Astral Worship is Fatal, 16.21-17.7 (Law Section)
- Idolatry Brings Disaster, 29.21 (Third Speech)

Contribution of Deuteronomy

"Passion" Infused in Law Context

Passion to encourage

Passion to challenge

Theological Focus

Accent on monotheism

Monotheism calls for undivided loyalty

Loyalty expressed as love

Possession of land is conditional

Important text: The Shema, 6.4-9 → "Hear"

1. Is not.. Acknowledging existence of other gods, but insisting on supremacy of one's own god"

Not: "[It is] the Lord [who is] our God, the Lord alone" [though you may have a different god].

2. Is a Belief in the existence of only one God.

Is: "The Lord [who is] our God, [that] Lord is singular" [so much so that there is no other deity in or outside the universe].

What is Significance of Tithing Instruction, 26.1-15?

A. Significance of Position in Book?

B. Significance of Action?

C. Significance of Speech?

D. "Correct Worship" frames ch. 12-26.

E. Gratitude and gift reaffirm faith-dependence at first fruitful-ness, and at triennial intervals

F. Verbal truth sharpens faith

Impact for Today : Repetition helps us hear.

"Remember" in Deut.: 18x		"Love" in Deut.: 41x	
4:10	15:15	5:10	11:22
5:15	16:3	6:5	13:3
7:18	16:12	7:9	13:6
8:2	24:9	7:12	19:9
8:18	24:18	7:13	21:15
9:7	24:22	10:12	21:16
9:27	25:17	10:19	30:6
11:2	32:7	11:1	30:16
		33:3	30:20
		11:13	

Love : Be Motivated by love of God. (follow law for love)

Remember : Challenge to (keep/renew) covenant commitment.