

Bible study:

I recently heard a sermon by Colin Smith on Moody Radio. “The program is called Unlocking the Bible” and it was the April 2 episode. Evelyn Queen recommended that I listen to it. So, I did. He talked about being in seminary and he was required to read all of Deuteronomy at one time. Deuteronomy is 34 chapters, so that is quite a block of time. However, as he read this book all in one setting he noticed the great love of God.

Did you know that in Deuteronomy 17:18 it says that when they select a king he is to write out this entire book?

In Deuteronomy 31:11 they were instructed to publicly read Deuteronomy every 7 years.

This is a powerful book of the Word of God. However, this is also a neglected book of the Word of God.

So, today I wish to introduce this book to you. Then over the next 10 months I hope to teach the book.

Let’s start by reading verses 1-8 of Deuteronomy chapter 1:

These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel across the Jordan in the wilderness, in the Arabah opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel and Laban and Hazereth and Dizahab. ² It is eleven days’ journey from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea. ³ In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses spoke to the children of Israel, according to all that the LORD had commanded him to give to them, ⁴ after he had defeated Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth and Edrei. ⁵ Across the Jordan in the land of Moab, Moses undertook to expound this law, saying,

⁶ “The LORD our God spoke to us at Horeb, saying, ‘You have stayed long enough at this mountain. ⁷ Turn and set your journey, and go to the hill country of the Amorites, and to all their neighbors in the Arabah, in the hill country and in the lowland and in the Negev and by the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates. ⁸ See, I have placed the land before you; go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to them and their descendants after them.’

KEY THEMES (FROM THE ESV STUDY BIBLE):

Today, I wish to mainly talk about the overview of the book and the background. I usually use several sources in Bible study but for today the ESV Study Bible introduction to this book is my main source. I have consulted a little bit more.

1. The uniqueness of God (4:1–40).
2. The election of Israel (4:5–9; 7:6; 10:14–15; 14:1–2, 21).
3. The goodness of the land that God has promised to give Israel (1:25; 6:10–11; 8:7–13; 11:8–15).
4. The faithfulness of God, despite Israel’s sin, to keep his promise of land made originally to Abraham (1:8, 19–46; 7:1–26; 8:1–20; 9:1–10:11).
5. The power of God to defeat the enemies in the land (2:1–3:11; 4:1–40; 7:1–26).
6. Exhortations to Israel to love, serve, fear, and obey God (6:5; 10:12–13; 13:4).
7. Warnings against idolatry and instruction for proper worship of God (4:9–31; 5:6–10; 7:1–5; 8:19–20; 12:1–32; 13:1–18).
8. The comprehensiveness of the laws of God affecting all of life in the land (12:1–27:26).
9. The imminent death of Moses (1:37; 3:26; 4:21; 32:51; 34:1–12).

Now, I wish to talk about the background of this book:

- The ESV Study Bible shares: The name “Deuteronomy” derives from the Greek for “second law,” an early mistranslation of “copy of this law” in 17:18. In fact, Deuteronomy emphasizes that its laws are not a new law but rather the preaching of the original law given to Israel at Sinai.
- I have often thought of Deuteronomy as one long sermon, or series of sermons which Moses gave.
- Remember that this is the final book of the Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and now Deuteronomy.
- The ESV Study Bible further shares:

- Deuteronomy 31:9 records that Moses wrote down “this law,” most likely referring to chapters 1–30. Certainly, the bulk of these chapters is the speech of Moses to Israel in the plains of Moab at the end of the 40-year wilderness period and immediately preceding the conquest under Joshua. Later OT and NT statements also assume Mosaic authorship (cf. Josh. 23:6; 1 Kings 2:3; Mal. 4:4; Matt. 19:7–8; Rom. 10:19).
- It is very important that we notice the above statement. It is very important that we notice that later OT and NT authors affirm Mosaic authorship.
- Anytime you read a study Bible, or commentary, or Bible Dictionary and it introduces a book, they talk about when the book was dated. There are a few different views on the dating of Deuteronomy.
 - Some say about 1406 BC
 - Others say about 1220 BC depending on other views.
 - Some do not believe that Moses wrote Deuteronomy and so they date Deuteronomy to King Josiah in the later half of the seventh century.
 - I believe Moses wrote this book and so I would favor one of the first two views.
 - In 2 Kings 22:8-13 we do see Josiah’s reforms, but this does not mean that the book was written at that time.

Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, “I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD.” And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan who read it.⁹ Shaphan the scribe came to the king and brought back word to the king and said, “Your servants have emptied out the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of the workmen who have the oversight of the house of the LORD.”¹⁰ Moreover, Shaphan the scribe told the king saying, “Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.” And Shaphan read it in the presence of the king.

¹¹ When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes.¹² Then the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Micaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah the king’s servant saying,¹³ “Go, inquire of the LORD for me and the people and all Judah concerning the words of this book that has been found, for great is the wrath of the LORD that burns against us, because our fathers have not listened to the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us.”

- This book parallels ancient treatise, especially the Hittite treatise from the second millennium BC. This also points to an early date between 1500-1300 BC

Deut 31:9 and 24 ESV:

⁹Then Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests, the sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel.

²⁴ When Moses had finished writing the words of this law in a book to the very end,

THE ESV STUDY BIBLE CONTINUES:

STRUCTURE

There are a number of similarities between the structure of Deuteronomy and ancient treaty documents. In particular, treaties from the Hittites of the second millennium and treaties from the Assyrians of the eighth century B.C. have clear affinities with the structure of Deuteronomy, though each with differences. Though Deuteronomy does not perfectly match the treaties of the Hittites, it is much closer in structure to them than to the later Assyrian treaties.

A simple summary of the treaty structure, with Deuteronomy's verses, is shown on the chart.

Ancient Treaty Structure	Deuteronomy
Preamble	<u>1:1–5</u>
Historical Prologue	<u>1:6–4:43</u>
General Stipulations	<u>4:44–11:32</u>
Specific Stipulations	<u>12:1–26:19</u>
Blessings and Curses	<u>27:1–28:68</u>
Document Clause	<u>31:9–29</u>
Witnesses	<u>32:1–47</u>

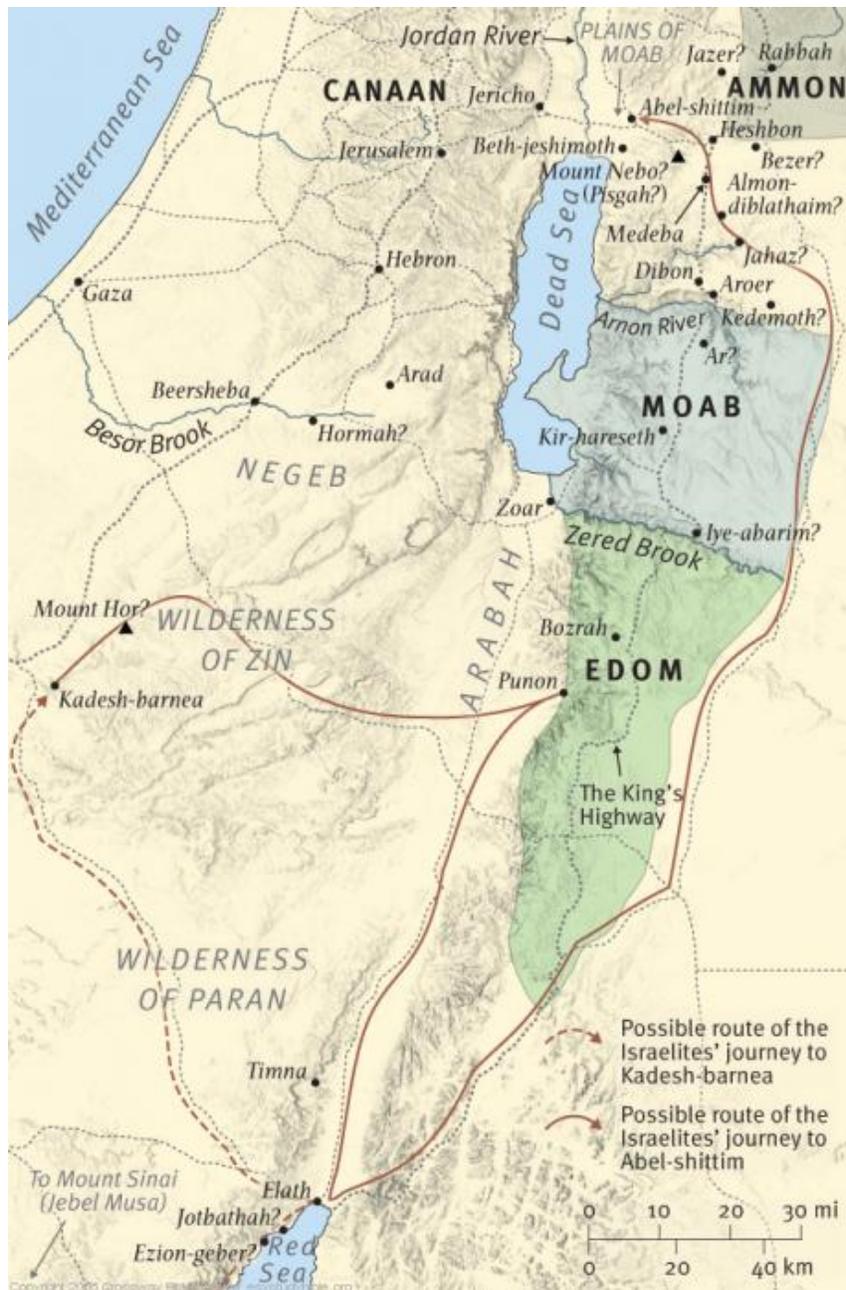
- Deuteronomy records the last words of Moses.
 - His last 3 sermons
 - 2 prophetic poems about Israel's future
- There is a reflection on past mistakes with a warning not to make the same mistakes in the future.
- Purpose: Moses exhorts the people to live as obedient people in the Promised land.

- It is a motivational sermon encouraging the people to live in faithful obedience to the covenant laws given 40 years earlier.
- Recall that in Numbers the spies were sent out but because of the unfaithfulness of the people they were made to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. Moses exhorts the people not to let that happen again. See Numbers chapters 13-14.
- Deuteronomy is about God's faithfulness and mercy when Israel is unfaithful.
- The ESV Study Bible shares:
 - *The theology of Deuteronomy is focused on convincing Israel to trust and obey, and to conquer the land. The uniqueness and incomparability of God is clearly argued (e.g., ch. 4). His power over other nations and armies is evident (e.g., 2:1–23). His grace and faithfulness are also stressed, with frequent reminders that the land is sworn by him on oath and is undeserved (9:4–6) and full of good things (e.g., 6:10–12).*
- The ESV Study Bible continues:
 - *The book's emphasis on the continuation of the covenant made at Sinai with the previous generation underscores the abiding significance of God's law for his people (e.g., see 5:1–3). The large central section of Deuteronomy (12:1–26:19) recites the law, consistently urging Israel to keep it. The law is wide-ranging, incorporating all areas of life—economics, family and sexual relationships, religious observance, leadership, justice, guidance, food, property, and warfare. To some extent, the detail of the laws fleshes out the great command of 6:5, that Israel is to love the Lord with all its heart, soul, and strength. Chapters 12–16 show what such total love of God will look like and, in many respects, provide examples of what the Ten Commandments (ch. 5) mean in practice.*
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- *Deuteronomy brings together the patriarchal promises, the history of the exodus and wilderness, and the laws given at Sinai.*
- *It also provides a theological foundation for the history books that follow (esp. Joshua–2 Kings).*
- *The language of Deuteronomy is often found in these later books, so much so that they are sometimes referred to as the Deuteronomistic History.*
- *Deuteronomy is surely the key book undergirding the reforms of Josiah in 2 Kings 23 and is referred to by several of the prophets, especially Jeremiah*

and Hosea. Deuteronomy is also frequently quoted in the NT, most notably by Jesus in his wilderness temptations and by Paul in his letter to the Romans.

IN STRUCTURE

- *It is likely that the literary form of the suzerainty treaty of the ancient Near East lurks in the background. In a suzerainty treaty, a king or suzerain rehearsed what he had done for his nation and stipulated what he required in response. There is also an incipient note of anticipation, as it is understood that the instructions are given to a people on the verge of setting up a utopia—a good society governed by identifiable institutions and practices—in a promised land.*



Outline

- I. Prologue (1:1–5):
- II. Moses' First Speech: Historical Prologue (1:6–4:43)
 - A. Introduction to first speech (1:6–8)

- B. Encouragement to trust in the land of promise (1:9–18)
- C. Israel's failure at Kadesh recalled (1:19–46)
- D. Israel passes through Edom, Moab, and Ammon (2:1–23)
- E. Israel defeats Heshbon (2:24–37)
- F. Israel defeats Bashan (3:1–11)
- G. Distribution of Transjordanian land (3:12–17)
- H. Command to all Israelites to fight (3:18–22)
 - I. Reiteration of Moses being denied entry into the land (3:23–29)
 - J. Exhortation to Israel (4:1–40)
 - K. Setting apart cities of refuge (4:41–43)
- III. Moses' Second Speech: General Covenant Stipulations (4:44–11:32)
 - A. Introduction to Moses' second speech (4:44–49)
 - B. The Ten Commandments (5:1–21)
 - C. Israel requests Moses to mediate God's law (5:22–33)
 - D. The greatest commandment (6:1–25)
 - E. Exclusive relationship worked out in conquest and worship (7:1–26)
 - F. Learning the lessons of the wilderness (8:1–20)
 - G. Recounting the golden calf incident (9:1–10:11)
 - H. Exhortation (10:12–11:32)
- IV. Moses' Second Speech: Specific Covenant Stipulations (12:1–26:19)
 - A. Proper worship (12:1–32)
 - B. Threats of idolatry (13:1–18)
 - C. Clean and unclean foods (14:1–21)
 - D. Tithes (14:22–29)
 - E. The sabbatical year (15:1–18)
 - F. Firstborn animals (15:19–23)
 - G. Feasts (16:1–17)
 - H. Leaders (16:18–18:22)
 - I. Protecting life (19:1–21:14)
 - J. Protecting sexual morality (21:15–23:14)
 - K. Various laws protecting property (23:15–24:22)
 - L. Laws on justice, marriage, and business (25:1–16)
 - M. Amalek (25:17–19)
 - N. Firstfruits and tithes (26:1–19)
- V. Moses' Third Speech: Blessings and Curses (27:1–28:68)
- VI. Moses' Third Speech: Final Exhortation (29:1–30:20)

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- VII. Succession of Leadership (31:1–34:12)
- A. The commissioning of Joshua and the writing of the law (31:1–29)
 - B. The Song of Moses (31:30–32:47)
 - C. The blessing of Moses (32:48–33:29)
 - D. The death of Moses (34:1–12)

August 12: 1:1-18

August 19: 1:19- 46

August 26: 2:1-23

September 2: 2:24-37

September 9: 3:1-22

September 16: 3:23–29

September 23: 4:1–43

September 30: 4:44-49

October 7: 5:1-21

October 14: 5:22-33

October 21: 6:1-25

October 28: 7:1-26

November 4: 8:1-20

November 11: 9:1-10:11

November 18: 10:12- 11:32

November 25: 12:1-32

December 2: 13:1-18

December 9: 14:1-21

December 16: 14:22-29

December 23: 15:1-18

December 30: 15:19-23

January 6: 16:1-17

January 13: 16:18-18:22

January 20: 19:1-21:14

January 27: 21:15-23:14

February 3: 23:15-24:22

February 10: 25:1-16

February 17: 25:17-19

February 24: 26:1-19

March 3: 27:1-28:68 part 1

March 10: 27:1-28:68 part 2

March 17: 27:1-28:68 part 3

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March 24: 29:1-30:20 part 1

March 31: 29:1-30:20 part 2

April 7: 31:1-29

April 14: 31:20-32:47 part 1

April 21: 31:20-32:47 part 2

April 28: 32:48-33:29

May 5: 34:1-12

May 12:

May 19:

May 26: