

The Book Of:
Deuteronomy *Hebrew Name
debarim
"these are the words"*

Structure and Outline

Preamble	Chapters 1:1-5
Lessons from Israel's History	Chapters 1:6—4:43
Lessons from the Law of God	Chapters 4:44—26:19
Renewal of the Covenant	Chapters 27—30
Succession of Leadership	Chapters 31—34

I. What is Deuteronomy?

As with the first three books of the Bible, the Hebrew name, "These Are the Words," comes from the first phrase in the book. The English name, Deuteronomy, comes from the Greek translation of the Old Testament. Interestingly, the word "deuteronomy," which means "second law," is actually a mistranslation of the phrase "copy of this law" appearing in Deuteronomy 17:18. The book is not another law, but rather a second proclamation of the original law.

II. Who Wrote Deuteronomy?

Traditional scholarship holds Moses as the author of the first five books of the Bible (known as the Pentateuch), and there are no compelling reasons to believe otherwise. In fact, Deuteronomy 31:9, 24 state that Moses wrote these words. Moreover, numerous other Scriptures indicate Moses as the author (examples include Joshua 23:6; 1 Kings 2:3; Malachi 4:4), and this is also what Jesus and the Apostle Paul believed (see Matthew 19:7-8; Romans 10:19). The book of Deuteronomy was composed near the end of the wilderness wanderings, which will put the date either around 1406 B.C. or 1220 B.C. depending on the preferred date ascribed to the exodus from Egypt.

Deuteronomy (continued)

III. Why Was Deuteronomy Written?

Deuteronomy is either one long sermon with three parts or three separate sermons. As the Israelites are encamped on the east side of the Jordan River, they are preparing to enter the Promised Land. Moses proclaims and reaffirms the covenant established by God, urging the people to keep the laws given to them 40 years earlier at Mount Sinai. He recounts God's faithful deeds as well as the people's numerous times of rebellion to serve as motivation to walk in obedience. Moses emphasizes the need for covenant faithfulness as Israel embarks on their new journey. The book ends with an account of the death of Moses and the succession of Joshua as Israel's new leader.

Key Themes & Theology in Deuteronomy

• **Obedience**

Deuteronomy 4:1—2	Obey God fully on His terms.
Deuteronomy 11:1—32	Obey all God's statutes.
Deuteronomy 30:11—20	Choose life or death.

• **Remembrance**

Deuteronomy 1—3	Remembering the past
Deuteronomy 4—26	Remembering God's law

• **Relationship**

Deuteronomy 7:9	God is faithful to His covenant
Deuteronomy 29:12—15	The Lord is God of Israel.

• **Grace**

Deuteronomy 7:7—8	God's love motivates Him.
Deuteronomy 9:1—6	God's favor is not earned.
Deuteronomy 30:1—3	God allows for repentance.

• **Discipleship**

Deuteronomy 3:28	Moses trained Joshua to lead.
Deuteronomy 6:4—9	Parents train their children.