

The Book of Deuteronomy

DEUTERONOMY (Israel, on the Eastern Side of the River Jordan)

On the banks of the Jordan Moses delivers three sermons to Israel, issues a challenge to Joshua, pronounces a blessing upon the individual tribes, composes a song, and departs for heaven.

I. HIS THREE SERMONS.

A. First sermon (Deut. 1-4).

1. He relates the splendor of God they had experienced while at Mt. Sinai (4:10-19, 32-33).
2. He reviews their tragic sin at Kadesh-barnea (1:27). Thus a trip that should have taken but eleven days (from Mt. Sinai to Canaan) actually took some thirty-eight years (1:2).
3. He reminds them of his own sin which would keep him from the Promised Land (3:23-27; 4:21-22). (See also 31:1.)
4. He urges Israel to encourage their new leader Joshua (1:38; 3:28). (See also 31:7-8, 23.)
5. He sets apart the three eastern cities of refuge (4:41-43).

B. Second sermon (Deut. 5-26).

1. The Ten Commandments are repeated (5:7-21).
2. A warning is issued against immorality (23:17), compromise (7:1-5), and witchcraft (18:9-14).
3. Moses gives a description of Canaan (8:7-8).
4. He reviews his personal experiences with God while upon Mt. Sinai (9:9-21).
5. He reminds them of their financial obligations to God (26).
6. Laws concerning clothing (22:5), divorce (24:1-4), women's rights (21: 10-17; 22:13-20), and warfare (20) are given.
7. He summarizes God's overall purpose and plan for that generation of Israelites. "And he brought us out from thence [Egypt] that he might bring us in [Canaan]" (See 6:23.)

C. Third sermon (Deut. 27-30).

1. He orders the blessings and judgments (curses) of the law to be read by the Levites upon two mountains when Israel entered the Promised Land. The blessings were to be read on Mt. Gerizim, and the curses upon Mt. Ebal. (See 11:26-29; 27:1-14.) The specific blessings are referred to in 28:1-14, and the curses in 27:15-26; 28:15-68.
2. Deuteronomy 28-30 records in seven parts the features of the Palestinian Covenant.
 - a. Israel to be dispersed for disobedience (28:36, 49-53, 63-68; 30:1). This takes in the Assyrian, Babylonian, and Roman captivities, in addition to Israel's trials during the past twenty centuries. It would almost seem that Moses had Hitler's armies in mind when he wrote 28:64-67. During this time Israel would become a byword (28:37), and be the tail instead of the head (cf. 28:13 with 28:44).
 - b. Israel will repent while in dispersion (30:2).
 - c. The return of Christ will occur (30:3).
 - d. Israel will be restored to the land (30:5).
 - e. The nation will receive a new heart (30:6).
 - f. Israel's oppressors will be judged (30:7).
 - g. The nation will experience prosperity (30:9-10).
3. Moses offers his generation a choice between God's judgment or blessing (30:15-20). During these three sermons Moses expounds upon the following great theological themes:
 - a. The faithfulness of God (2:7; 4:33-38; 7:6-8; 8:3-4; 9:4-6; 29:5-6; 32:9-14).
 - b. The Word of God (4:1-2, 7, 9; 11:18-21; 30:11-14).
 - c. The Person of God (6:4-5; 7:9; 32:39).
 - d. The love of God (7:13).
 - e. The glory of God (4:39; 10:17-18).
 - f. The grace of God (7:6-9; 9:4-6).
 - g. The coming great prophet of God (18:15-20).
 - h. The will of God (10:12-16).
 - i. The kings of God (17:14-20).
 - j. The Israel of God (4:25-31; 11:16-17).

II. HIS CHALLENGES TO JOSHUA (DEUTERONOMY 31).

See especially 31:7-8, 14, 23.

III. HIS SONG.

See 31:19-22, 30; 32:1-47.

At this time Moses also completes the Pentateuch (first five books of the Bible). (See 31:9, 24.)

IV. HIS BLESSINGS UPON THE INDIVIDUAL TRIBES (DEUTERONOMY 33).

V. HIS DEPARTURE FOR HEAVEN.
See 31:2, 14-18; 32:48-52; 34:1-12.