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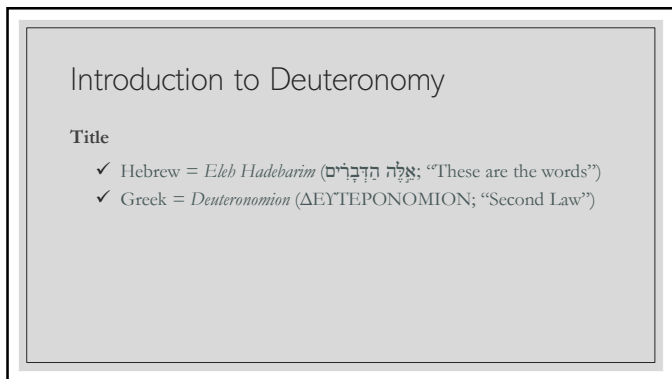
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Introduction to Deuteronomy

**WHO—Authorship**

- ✓ Moses (John 5:45–47; Exod 17:14)

**WHO—Audience**

- ✓ Second Generation Israel

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Introduction to Deuteronomy

**WHEN**

- ✓ Approximately 1406 BC
- ✓ 40 years after the exodus from Egypt
- ✓ 1446 BC = Exodus from Egypt (**key date!**)
- ✓ Everything in Deuteronomy takes place in a 30-day period

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Introduction to Deuteronomy

**WHERE**

- ✓ Fifth part of a five-part series
- ✓ Plains of Moab
- ✓ Israel **REALLY POISED NOW** to take the Promised Land

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Introduction to Deuteronomy

**WHY**

- ✓ This book is the **WHY** of God's Kingdom Plan for Israel.
- ✓ Israel is called to be a Kingdom of Priests so that they may love God supremely and serve Him faithfully all their days. This is to be a model to the nations to draw all people to the one and only God.

Deuteronomy is Moses' last will and testament proclaimed as a sermonic covenant treaty to the second generation of Israelites who came out of Egypt exhorting them to love their God and stay faithful to Him all their days so that they may fulfill their mission as a Kingdom of Priests to the nations.

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Introduction to Deuteronomy

**HOW—Terminology and Themes**

- ✓ Speaking (or Words; from which the book gets its Hebrew title; 1:1 (2x), 3, 6, 11, 14 (2x), 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 25, 32, 34, 43; 2:1, 7, 17; 3:26 (2x); 4:2, 9, 12 (2x), 13, 15, 21, 30, 32, 33, 36, 44; 5:1, 3, 5, etc.)
- ✓ Listening (or Hearing, Obeying; 1:16, 17 (2x), 26, 34, 43, 45 (2x); 2:25 (2x), 30; 3:26; 4:1, 6, 10, 12, 28, 30, 32, 33, 36 (2x); 5:1, 23, 24, 26, 27 (2x), 28 (2x); 6:3, 4; ... **10:10**, etc.)
- ✓ Love (4:37; 5:10; **6:5**; 7:7, 8, 9, 13; **10:12**, 15, 18, 19; 11:1, 13, 22, etc.)
- ✓ Fear (or Terror, Dread; 1:21, 29 (2x); 2:4, 25 (2x); 3:2, 22; 4:10, 34; 5:5, 29; 6:2, 13, 24; 7:18, 19, 21; 8:6, 15; **10:12**, 17, 20, 21 11:25, etc.)

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Introduction to Deuteronomy

**HOW—Terminology and Themes**

- ✓ Service (or Work, Slave, Servant; 3:23; 4:19, 28; 5:6, 9, 13, 14 (2x), 15, 21; 6:12, 13, 21; 7:4, 8, 16; 8:14, 19; 9:27; **10:12**, etc.)
- ✓ Guard (or Watch, Keep; 2:4; 4:6, 9 (2x), 15, 23, 40, 44; 5:2, 10, 12, 29, 32; 6:2, 3, 12, 17 (2x); 6:25; 7:8, 9 (2x), 11, 12 (2x); 8:1, 2, 6, 11 (2x); **10:13**; 11:1 (2x), etc.)
- ✓ Heart (or Mind; 1:28; 2:30; 4:9, 11, 31, 39; 5:29; 6:5, 6; 7:17; 8:2, 5, 14; 9:5; **10:12**, 16; 11:13, 18, etc.)
- ✓ Commandments, Ordinances, Laws, Teachings, Precepts, Judgments (1:5, 16 (3x), 17 (2x); 2:4, 37; 3:21; 4:1, 2 (3x), 5 (2x), 6 (2x), 8 (2x), 14 (2x), 15, 23, 40 (2x), 44; 5:1 (2x), 10, 12, 16, 31 (3x), 32, 33; 6:1 (4x), 2 (3x), 6, 17 (4x); ... **10:13 (3x)**, etc.)
- ✓ Turning Away (or Repentance; 1:25, 45; 4:30, 39; 5:30; ... 22:1 (2x), 2, ... 28:31, 60; **30:1, 2, 3, 8, 9**, etc.)

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Introduction to Deuteronomy

**HOW—Terminology and Themes**

- ✓ Unique interchange of “you” singular and “you” plural in the book. Impossible to recognize with an English text only. But it’s very important. And it’s counterintuitive ...
  - ❖ Singular is arguably **corporate** in most cases (e.g., Deut 17:14)
  - ❖ Plural is more **individual** (each and every person)

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Introduction to Deuteronomy

**HOW—Literary Structure**

The Outline of the book is framed by a common Ancient Near Eastern Suzerain-Vassal Treaty “contract”.

- ✓ The Historical Precedent (1:1 – 3:29)
- ✓ The Law’s Purpose—Love (4:1 – 11:32)
- ✓ The Ten Commands in Action (12:1 – 26:19)
- ✓ Blessings and Curses (27:1 – 28:68)
- ✓ Yahweh’s Unfathomable Plan (29:1 – 30:20)
- ✓ Covenant Witnesses (31:1 – 32:47)
- ✓ God’s Plan for Israel beyond Moses (32:48 – 34:12)

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The Law of Deuteronomy

**Principles To Follow**

- ✓ The tri-partite view of the Law is improper (i.e. Ceremonial, Civic, Moral)
- ✓ The Law was designed to teach
- ✓ The Law was made for man (e.g., Mark 2:27)
- ✓ Laws become irrelevant (meaningless, superfluous, obsolete) when they prevent you from maximizing your potential to fulfill its ultimate intent

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GOD		MAN	
1, 2	Authority	5	
3	Respect	6, 7, 8, 9	
4	Stewardship	10	

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The Law of Deuteronomy

**Command 1**  
 "You Shall Have No Other gods before Me" (5:7)

**12:1–31**

**Don't raise other gods to the level of Yahweh. Serve Him in one place because He is one God.**

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The Law of Deuteronomy

**Command 2**  
 "You Shall Not Make for Yourself an Idol" (5:8-10)

12:32 – 13:18

Don't lower Yahweh to the level of other gods.

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The Law of Deuteronomy

**Command 3**  
 "You Shall Not Take Yahweh's Name in Vain" (5:11)

14:1–21

How you dress and how you eat for the watching nations reflects how seriously you take God's name.

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The Law of Deuteronomy

**Command 4**  
 "You Shall Keep the Sabbath" (5:12-15)

14:22 – 16:17

God owns your time and your resources. Be ready to give them up and be generous.

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The Law of Deuteronomy

**Command 5**  
 "You Shall Honor Father and Mother" (5:16)

**16:18 – 18:22**

**Honor your parents along with all other God-ordained authorities.**

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The Law of Deuteronomy

**Command 6**  
 "You Shall Not Murder" (5:17)

**19:1 – 21:23**

**Take murder seriously and value life.**

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The Law of Deuteronomy

**Command 7**  
 "You Shall Not Commit Adultery" (5:18)

**22:1 – 23:18**

**No mixing. No greed. Unadulterated purity in everything.**

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The Law of Deuteronomy

**Command 8**  
 "You Shall Not Steal" (5:19)

23:19 – 24:15

Assuming rights and presuming ownership is stealing.

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The Law of Deuteronomy

**Command 9**  
 "You Shall Not Bear False Witness" (5:20)

24:16 – 25:4

Uphold justice. Pursue the good and the right for every case and every person.

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The Law of Deuteronomy

**Command 10**  
 "You Shall Not Covet" (5:21)

25:5 – 26:15

Embrace what is rightly yours and protect your neighbor's right to his possessions. No cheap-shots.

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The Law of Deuteronomy

**Strange Laws**

- ✓ Animal Diet (Command 3; 14:4–21a; “take God seriously in your diet”)
- ✓ Asherah Tree (Command 5; 16:21–22; “authority statement”)
- ✓ Spiritists, Witchcraft (Command 5; 18:9–14; “wrong authorities”)
- ✓ Not cutting down fruit trees in war (Command 6; 20:19–20; “value the life of life-giving trees”)
- ✓ Wife in war must shave her head and cut her nails (Command 6; 21:10–14; “mourn for parents; her life is valued; her life is reset”)

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The Law of Deuteronomy

**Strange Laws**

- ✓ Take the chicks, not the mother bird (Command 7; 22:6–7; “a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush; no mixing; no greed”)
- ✓ Build a roof railing (Command 7; 22:8; “no mixing; no one should have to die at home”)
- ✓ Clothing with two kinds of fabric (Command 7; 22:11; “no mixing”)
- ✓ Don’t muzzle the ox (Command 9; 25:4; “justice for the ox”)
- ✓ Blot out Amalek (Command 10; 25:17–19; “cheap-shot; Amalek did not value others’ rights”)

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The Law of Deuteronomy

**Reasons for the Law**

- ✓ To reveal what God cares about (“Torah”; Lev 11:44; Isa 42:21; Gal 5:14)
- ✓ To spotlight Himself to the nations (Deut 4:6–8; Isa 49:6; e.g., Deut 14:21; 1 Pet 3:13–16)
- ✓ To make a legitimate offer of reconciliation (Exod 19:5; Lev 11:45; 18:5; 26:1–13; Deut 6:25; Rom 2:6–7; 10:5)
- ✓ To expose sin (Rom 3:20; Gal 3:19)
- ✓ To aggravate sin (Rom 5:20; 7:8–9)
- ✓ To lead us to Christ and the New Covenant (Rom 7:6; 8:2; 2 Cor 3:7–8; Gal 3:13, 24; 4:1–5; 5:1, 16; 6:2; Heb 8:13; Jas 2:12)
- ✓ To be fulfilled by the Son of “Man” (Rom 10:4; Gal 4:4–5; cf. John 15:1–2)

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