

PANORAMA OF THE BIBLE

DEUTERONOMY

RENEWAL THROUGH SENSITIVITY

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Deuteronomy comes from two Greek words: deuterios which means 'two' (from which we get duo, duet, etc.), and nomos which means 'law'. Thus, the title means 'second law'. The law was not replaced with a second law; this is just a second account of the law.

Deuteronomy is the last book in the Pentateuch. You will recall that the first section of the Old Testament contains five books and is called the Pentateuch or the Law. We can see a flow of thought running through the Pentateuch by observing the following one line descriptions of the first five books of the Bible:

Genesis - RUIN THROUGH SIN
Exodus - REDEMPTION THROUGH SACRIFICE
Leviticus - RELATIONSHIP THROUGH SEPARATION
Numbers - REVERSAL THROUGH SELF
Deuteronomy - RENEWAL THROUGH SENSITIVITY

The second presentation of the law was to renew God's purpose and plan by renewing His people. God would do that by making them sensitive to Himself.

Remember that the former generation had refused to enter the Promised Land. They wandered forty years in the wilderness until all those who lacked faith to enter Canaan died. Among the original group that left Egypt, only Moses, Joshua and Caleb were still living - and Moses died without entering the Promised Land.

The events in Deuteronomy cover no more than a couple of months. Moses delivered three addresses to the people. He spoke to the people who had not gone through the Red Sea, who had not been at Sinai when the law was given, nor who had been there at Kadesh Barnea when the people turned back and would not enter the land that God had promised to them. Moses addressed the children and grandchildren of those who failed to take the land God had promised. Moses reveals to them that God is now ready to renew His promise to give the Israelites the land of Canaan.

God reveals three purposes in this book.

i. First, He declared His love for His people (Deuteronomy 4:37; 7:7-9; 10:15).

This was the first mention of God's love in the Bible. In Deuteronomy, God's love became a major theme.

ii. Second, God called for His people to love Him (Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Matthew 22:35-40).

iii. Third, God desired obedience from His people (Deuteronomy 10:12-13).

To create sensitivity in His people, God spoke through His servant Moses. He addressed the people from three perspectives, seen in the outline of the Book of Deuteronomy.

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

I. The Past Chapters Chapter 1 - 4

A. Direction	1:1-12
1. To Step Out	1:1-8
2. To Spread Out	1:9-18
3. To Spy Out	1:19-25
B. Defeat	1:26-46
1. Contrariness	1:26-27
2. Cowardice	1:28-33
3. Condemnation	1:34-35
4. Commendation	1:36-39
5. Chasing	1:40-46
C. Desert	2-3
1. Mt. Seir	2:1-8
2. Moab	2:8-25
3. Military Victories	2:26-3:29
D. Decrees	4
1. Obedience	4:1-15
2. Idolatry	4:16-40

3. Cities of Refuge 4:41-49

II. The Present Chapters 5 - 26

A. Commandments 5

1. Commandments Introduced 5:1-5
2. Commandment - 1 5:6-7
3. Commandment - 2 5:8-10
4. Commandment - 3 5:11
5. Commandment - 4 5:12-15
6. Commandment - 5 5:16
7. Commandment - 6 5:17
8. Commandment - 7 5:18
9. Commandment - 8 5:19
10. Commandment - 9 5:20
11. Commandment - 10 5:21
12. Compliance Encouraged 5:22-35

B. Consistency 6-8

1. Consistent through Love for God 6
2. Consistent through Separation to God 7
3. Consistent through Remembrance of God 8

C. Conquest 9 - 11

1. The Way of Victory 9:1-6
2. The Way of Defeat 9:7-10:11
3. The Way of Recovery from Defeat 10:12-22
4. The Way of Consistency 11

D. Commandments Continued 12 - 26

1. Regarding a place of worship 12
2. Regarding other gods 13
3. Regarding food 14
4. Regarding miscellaneous subjects 15
5. Regarding major feasts 16
6. Regarding miscellaneous matters 17 - 18
7. Regarding cities of refuge 19
8. Regarding war 20

- 9. Regarding miscellaneous matters 21 - 25
- 10. Regarding tithes and offerings 26

III. The Prospects Chapters 27 - 34

- A. The Promised Land 27 - 30
 - 1. Entering the Land 27
 - 2. Enjoying the Land 28 - 30
- B. The New Leader 31:1 - 32:47
 - 1. The Summons 31:1-13
 - 2. The Song 31:14 -32:1-47
- C. The Last Look 32:47 - 34:12
 - 1. The Blessing of the Tribes 32:47 - 33:29
 - 2. The Burial of Moses 34

Commentary on Deuteronomy

I. The Past - Chapters 1 - 4

A. Direction Chapter 1:1-25

1. To Step Out 1:1-8

The Lord tells the people they have remained in one place long enough and it is time for them to move out! God tells them to get ready to go take the land He has promised them. This message is very much needed in Christianity today. Many believers need to move out and move forward for God (Hebrews 6:1, 12 and Philippians 3:12-15).

2. To Spread Out 1:9-18

Moses chose wise men to help him administer justice among the Israelites. There is a great lesson here regarding delegation of authority and responsibility. A good leader will tap the resources which God has placed in other people and will allow those people to use their God-given skills to assist in accomplishing God-given tasks.

3. To Spy Out 1:19-25

Here is another record of the spies who were chosen to investigate the land of Canaan.

B. Defeat Chapter 1:26-46

1. Contrariness 1:26-27

God had promised the land of Canaan to His people, but sadly, after their miraculous deliverance from Egypt, they lacked faith to move forward at God's direction.

2. Cowardice 1:28-33

This passage reminds us of the cowardice among the Israelites. (See Numbers 13 - 14 for references to all these events.)

3. Condemnation 1:34-35

God condemned the people for their lack of faith. How depressing, within sight of God's promise but condemned to a lifetime of wandering in the wilderness! That is the result of faithlessness and cowardice.

4. Commendation 1:36-39

Caleb and Joshua, the two positive spies, are commended by the Lord. We are often reminded that our sins will find us out, but we need to be educated to the fact that our faith will also find us out! Faith in God and His Word may cause us to look foolish for a while, but in the end it will always bring the victory!

5. Chasing 1:40-46

The people decided to go up and take the land, but only after God had pronounced judgment against them. Lost opportunity may never be regained. The people went up to fight but were chased by the Amorites and returned to Hormah to weep for their sins and their defeat. May God help us as individual Christians, Christian families, and churches not to lose opportunities which God gives us!

C. Desert Chapters 2 - 3

This passage of Scripture contains a record of the wanderings of the Israelites in the desert after they failed to obey the Lord and take the Promised Land. God told His people to avoid conflict with the Edomites, Moabites and Ammonites, for He had other plans for His people. Never get caught up in conflicts which may cause delay and defeat in accomplishing God's greater good!

1. Mount Seir 2:1-8

2. Moab 2:8-25

3. Military Victories 2:26-3:29

D. Decrees Chapter 4

This is a record of the decrees which the Lord gave the people on various subjects as indicated.

1. Obedience 4:1-15

It was very important for the people to remember the blessings of the Lord and to obey His commands. This is an important lesson for the people of God in every generation.

2. Idolatry 4:16-40

The Book of Deuteronomy is concerned with God's love for His people and His desire for them to love Him. God's jealousy mentioned in this passage is not to be understood as a weakness, but a strength. He has made a covenant with His people and will not tolerate the breaking of this covenant. God knows that the idols of this world cannot hear, cannot help and cannot speak to the people. He alone is the living God. He is jealous, lest His people be destroyed through spiritual adultery.

3. Cities of Refuge 4:41-49

II. The Present - Chapters 5 - 26

A. Commandments Chapter 5

1. Commandments Introduced 5:1-5

The people of God are to do three things related to the commandments.

First, they are to LISTEN.

Jesus was fond of saying, "He that hath ears, let him hear." Many mistakes in life result from a failure to hear what God has to say.

Secondly, they were to LEARN.

God's people are to know the things which He has commanded. Learning involves many things, but one sure thing is the ability to recall information at the right time and under the immediate circumstances that relate to His teachings.

Lastly, they were to LIVE.

The believer must obey the commands of the Lord. We have already seen the Ten Commandments in our study of Exodus, and note here that they are repeated in Deuteronomy.

2. Commandment - 1 5:6-7
3. Commandment - 2 5:8-10
4. Commandment - 3 5:11
5. Commandment - 4 5:12-15
6. Commandment - 5 5:16
7. Commandment - 6 5:17
8. Commandment - 7 5:18
9. Commandment - 8 5:19
10. Commandment - 9 5:20
11. Commandment - 10 5:21
12. Compliance Encouraged 5:22-35

We are commanded to observe the ordinances of God. The ability to keep His laws begins with a respectful fear of Him. The God who created the universe has told us He loves us, has given us His covenant of love, and has called on us to act toward Him with respect. We will experience the wrath of God if we try to have His LOVE but defy His LAW. You can't have one without the other.

B. Consistency Chapters 6 - 8

1. Consistency through Love for God 6

Note the Jewish Shema (which means 'hear') is found in verse 4 and the great commandment in verse 5. The law of love for God was to be written upon the heart, hand and forehead of the believer. Some Jews took this literally and made little boxes with straps attached which could be bound on the forehead and hands. These little boxes are called phylacteries. Inside the small box a copy of this Bible passage was carried. Actually, God meant that this law of love was to be internalized – not just quoted or carried in a phylactery.

2. Consistency through Separation to God 7

God told the people that they were to be separate from the people who lived in Canaan. This meant that the other nations had to be driven out of the land. God knew that any toleration of treaties,

intermarriages and social or religious contact would dilute the faith of His people and bring them to destruction. Note the covenant of love mentioned in 7:8-16.

3. Consistency through Remembrance of God 8

In verse 8:11, we have a warning. The Israelites were warned not to forget the goodness of God evidenced by His bringing them into the land. This is always a danger for God's people. We can begin to take for granted the blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us in the past. Note very carefully the warning issued in verses 19-20.

C. Conquest Chapters 9 - 11

1. The Way of Victory 9:1-6

The way to victory is seen clearly in these verses. Read very carefully verse 6. God does not bless us because He likes our plans and our goodness. He blesses us when we get in line with His will and purpose. It is His righteousness and not ours that brings victory!

2. The Way of Defeat 9:7-10:11

Defeat comes when we rebel against God's will through doing what is wrong or failing to do what is right.

3. The Way of Recovery from Defeat 10:12-22

Look at verses 12 and 13. We must return to the Lord. We must praise His name and lean wholly upon Him. He will bring victory over the enemies who are making light of His name.

4. The Way of Consistency 11

The way of consistency involves three things.

First, we must have a deep love for God.

To leave our first love is the most tragic of spiritual declensions (Revelation 2:4).

Second, we must obey God.

Third, we must have faith in God.

Our trust is never in ourselves, nor in any human agency. We must fully trust in Him, if we are to experience complete and utter victory (Proverbs 3:5-6).

D. Commandments Continued Chapters 12 - 26

God gives clear directions to His children. These commandments are not to reveal God's authority but to lead, protect and bless. It would be wise to read these chapters and make notes of New Testament principles which you discover within them.

1. Regarding a Place of Worship 12

As the people moved into the new land, they were to be careful not to blend with the inhabitants of the land. They were to remember God by worshipping Him in a proper way at all times.

2. Regarding Other gods 13

3. Regarding Food 14

4. Regarding Miscellaneous Subjects 15

5. Regarding Major Feasts 16

6. Regarding Other Miscellaneous Matters 17-18

7. Regarding Cities of Refuge 19

8. Regarding War 20

9. Regarding More Miscellaneous Matters 21-25

10. Regarding Tithes & Offerings 26

III. Prospects - Chapters 27 - 34

A. The Promised Land Chapters 27-30

1. Entering the Land 27

2. Enjoying the Land 28-30

B. The New Leader Chapters 31:1-32:47

1. The Summons 31:1-13

2. The Song 31:14-32:47

C. The Last Look Chapters 32:47-34

1. The Blessing of the Tribes 32:47-33:29

2. The Burial of Moses 34

The main theme of Deuteronomy is OBEDIENCE. The way to consistent obedience is for God's people to be sensitive to Him. The way to that sensitivity is threefold:

1) To know that you are loved by God and to love Him in return: This is a matter of the heart and emotion.

2) To be obedient through separation to His will: This is a matter of the will.

3) To be conscious of God and His blessings through remembrance: This is a matter of the mind.

Thus, we have the route to a consistent walk with God. We must give Him our **heart**, our **will**, and our **mind**. If you totally dedicate your feelings, your decision-making processes and thinking to God, you will be a dynamic Christian.