

DEUTERONOMY

LITERARY TYPE: Historical Narrative and Law. The name of the book means 'second law'. The Hebrew name for the book means 'the words'.

AUTHOR: The author is not mentioned in the text itself, but tradition credits Moses as the author for the reasons stated in the Genesis LADROCK (as to why he is the author of the whole Torah) and also the following additional reasons:

- Deuteronomy 1:1 and 4:44 – both these verses indicate that Moses was the one to communicate what was recorded in the book to the people.
- The detailed eyewitness account and speeches could have only been provided by Moses or someone working closely with him (perhaps Joshua).
- Matthew 19:7 credits Moses as the author.

DATE: The content of the book would have been communicated by Moses on the plains of Moab around 1406BC – approximately 40 years after exiting Egypt. It is obvious to say that the book must have been written before his death, but the details of his death must have been included by somebody else – it's suggested that this may have been Joshua.

RECIPIENTS: The Israelites. The sermons were given specifically to the generation that were about to enter the Promised Land, but would be read by the generations that would follow.

OCCASION:

- To give detailed instructions about God's law and His covenant with Israel.
- To exhort Israel to pay attention to God's instruction – the words 'do', 'keep' and 'observe' appear 177 times in Deuteronomy.
- To show God rewards obedience and punishes disobedience.

CONTENT SURVEY:

The first message of Moses: What God has done (1:1-4:43).

General introduction: Moses speaks to all Israel (1:1-5).

Looking back in history: Gods mighty acts between Horeb and Beth-peor (1:6-3:29).

The practical consequence for Israel of Gods delivering acts (4:1-40).

Cities of refuge set apart (4:41-43).

Second message of Moses: The law of God (4:44- 26:19).

Introduction to the second message of Moses (4:44-49).

The nature of the covenant of faith: the fundamental demand for total allegiance to Yahweh (5:1-11:32).

The law of God: The detailed covenant stipulations (12:1-26:19).

Third message of Moses: recap of the covenant demands (27:1-30:20).

Covenant renewal in the promised land (27:1-26).

Declaration of the covenant sanction: Blessings and curses (28:1-68).

Israel exhorted to accept the covenant (29:1-15).

Punishment for disobedience (29:16-28).

Secret things and revealed things (29:29).

Repentance and forgiveness (30:1-10).

The solemn appeal to choose life (30:11-20).

Epilogue: The last act of Moses and his death (31:1-34:12).

Moses' parting words camp; the presentation of Joshua (31: 1-8).

The seventh – year covenant renewal ceremony (31:9-13).

The divine charge to Moses camp; Joshua (31:14-23).

The law to be deposited in the ark (31:24 – 29).

Moses' song of witness (31:30 – 32:47).

Moses' prepares to death camp; blesses the people (32:48 – 33:29).

The death of Moses (34:1-12).

KEY VERSE:

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Sources: Willmington's Bible Handbook and SOTW lectures