

# LESSON 7A: DEUTERONOMY

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GROW University - Old Testament 101

## Context

Historical:

Redemptive-Historical:

**Theme:** *The covenant Lord loves and is faithful to His covenant people; therefore they should love and be faithful to Him as well.*

## Outline W/ Pivotal Texts

### Option #1: Three speeches of Moses:

- I. Deuteronomy 1:1-4:43 – Moses' first speech
- II. Deuteronomy 4:44-28:68 – Moses' second speech
- III. Deuteronomy 29:1-34:12 – Moses' third speech

### Option #2: Structured according to the pattern of other ancient Near-Eastern covenant documents:

- I. Preamble 1:1-5
- II. Historical Prologue. 1:6-4:43
- III. Stipulations 4:44-ch. 26
  - A. Prescriptive Law Ch. 5
  - B. Descriptive Law Ch. 6-26
    - 1. 1st commandment Ch. 6-11
    - 2. 2nd commandment Ch. 12
    - 3. 3rd commandment 13:1-14:21
    - 4. 4th commandment 14:22-16:17
    - 5. 5th commandment 16:18-18:22
    - 6. 6th commandment Ch. 19-21
    - 7. 7th commandment 22:13-23:14
    - 8. 8th commandment 23:15-24:7
    - 9. 9th commandment 24:8-16
    - 10. 10th commandment 24:17-26:15
- IV. Document Clauses. Ch. 27
- V. Blessings and Curses Ch. 28
- VI. Oaths and Ratification Ch. 29-30
- VII. Witnesses Ch. 31-32:47
- VIII. (Conclusion) Ch. 32:48-34:12

**Q: What is a covenant?**

**A:** In biblical terms, it is a divinely-ratified, solemn agreement between two parties, with terms and conditions that can only be broken upon the penalty of death.

**Q: Where have we seen covenants before in the Pentateuch?**

- Adam
- Noah
- Abraham
- Abraham's Descendants (Exodus)

Deuteronomy gives us all these covenant obligations, laws, blessings, curses, etc. all in one document.

**Theme Texts**

Chapters 1-5

Chapters 1 through 4 review Israel's relationship with Yahweh so far.

Then in Chapter 5, Moses gives the 10 commandments again, and uses chapters 6 through 26 to explain and apply them to Israel, right where they were at that time.

Chapter 6:4-9

God repeatedly tells His people of His initiating and faithful love for them (4:37; 7:6-8; 23:5; 33:3).

Read 6:4-5.

"*Shema*," the Hebrew word for "hear." -> "listen with a readiness to obey."

- The heart: the mind, the will, the emotions, the thought life, the character—everything that makes up the "insides" of a person.
- Soul: literally "*breath*" or "*passion*."
- Strength: literally "*muchness*" or "*force*" or "*very*."

- Summary: "Love Yahweh your God with all your *inner man*, and all your *passion*, and with all your *muchness / your force / your very everything*."

**Q: What does it look like when someone loves the Lord like this?**

Read **Deuteronomy 6:6-9**

**A:** *It looks like a life where the word of the Lord is central to everything.*

Love is called for in Deuteronomy 11 times.<sup>1</sup>

**Application:**

When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, he turned to the Shema (Luke 10:27).

Chapters 6-26

- Chapters 6-26 are an exposition of the 10 commandments.
- Moses is showing Israel how to live them out in the promised land.
- Q: How are we to make sense of laws like these today?
- 2 Different Types of Law in the Old Testament:
  - Prescriptive Law Is the Foundational Law Rooted in the Perfect, Unchanging Character of God.
  - Descriptive Law Is the Way the *Prescriptive* Law Is To Be Applied in a Certain Time and Place.

We, the Church in the 21st century AD, apply the prescriptive law differently. Our descriptive law looks different.

*"[The truly equitable law of Almighty God] is the law by which each age and place forms rules of conduct best suited to itself, although the law itself is always and everywhere the same and does not differ from place to place or from age to age."*<sup>2</sup>

*"Surely it is never wrong at any time or in any place for a man to love God with his whole heart and his whole soul and his whole mind and to love his neighbor[sic] as himself."*<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Deuteronomy 6:4; 10:12; 11:1, 13, 22; 13:3; 19:9; 23:5; 30:6, 16, 20

<sup>2</sup> Augustine, *The Confessions*. Book III, sect. 7, par 2.

<sup>3</sup> Augustine, *The Confessions*. Book III, sect. 8, par 1.

We still read these chapters to learn more about how to apply the essence of the law on this side of Christ's death and resurrection. How they applied it back then will help us more accurately apply it today.

## Chapter 10:12-11:1

As we consider the essence of the law, Moses tells the nation in chapter 10 how Yahweh intends the law not to be burdensome, but good.

Read 10:12.

The Lord is concerned primarily with *the heart*.

## Chapters 27-28

Devote whole heart to Yahweh → Blessings (God is pleased = Bountiful land)

Fail to devote whole heart to Yahweh → Curses (Cast off = Unbountiful → Removed)

Even then, Yahweh says in Deuteronomy 30:1-10 that He would bring them back afterwards. Even in His wrath, Yahweh is gracious, and He will complete His plan of redemption.

Redemptive-History Connection:

Israel's sin and removal from the land = Adam and Eve sinned and were removed from Eden.

God's plan of redemption is to bring His people back to Eden.

## Chapter 18:15-22

Moses prophesies that God will raise up the last and greatest Prophet.

Read 18:15, 18-19 (Confirmed in Acts 3:19-26.)

- Will deliver God's final and conclusive revelation to mankind...
- Who all the Old Testament prepares the way for...
- Who all the New Testament is about...

Jesus

A diagram consisting of three curved arrows pointing from the text above to the word 'Jesus'. The top arrow originates from 'Prophet' in the first paragraph and points to 'Jesus'. The middle arrow originates from 'Will deliver God's final and conclusive revelation to mankind...' and points to 'Jesus'. The bottom arrow originates from 'Who all the New Testament is about...' and points to 'Jesus'. The word 'Jesus' is underlined.

## Conclusion

Now as Moses fades from the scene, Yahweh's story continues.

Two recommended readings:

- Deuteronomy 30:11-20
- Deuteronomy 32:45-47

\* These passages are part of Moses' last sermon to the people, full of meaningful application.