

Outline of Deuteronomy

1-4	Review God's Wonders
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8-11	Lessons in Obedience
12-16	Canaan Ceremonial Laws
17-20	Civil Laws for Canaan
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31-34	Farewell & Death of Moses

Authorship and Introduction

Moses is the author of the book of Deuteronomy. Jesus cited it directly attesting the Mosaic authorship (Mt.19:7-9; Mk.10:3-5; 12:19; Jn.1:19). The date of writing is 1406 B.C. on the plains of Moab just before his death.

The title comes from the Greek Septuagint version meaning "Second law". The idea is that it goes through important concepts from Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers a second time. It is a book of review. This is to prepare the new generation before entering the Promised Land. Deuteronomy is a repetition of the Law given at Mt Sinai to the new generation.

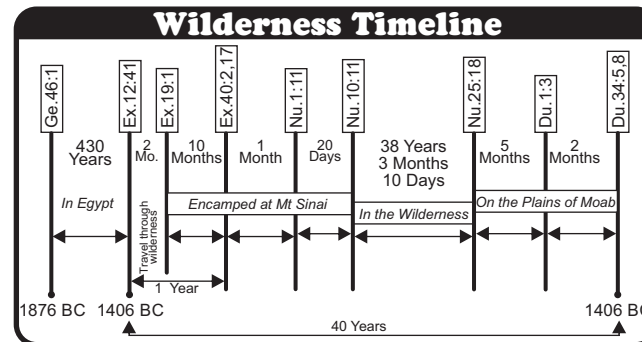
Deuteronomy is similar to Leviticus in that both books contain a record of instructions and speeches. However, in Deuteronomy Moses addressed all Israel rather than focus on the Priests and Levites. It is more than a recapitulation but is the parting words of a man who communed with God on an intimate level and who matured over 120 years.

DEUTERONOMY

The heart of Deuteronomy is concerned with the concept of a covenant. Also the book provides the important message of Moses passing on the temporary leadership to Joshua.

Covenant Relationship

A Covenant demands at least three elements. Namely, two contracting parties, and the document that describes the purpose and requirements of the relationship. With this in mind, this book must be seen through the grid of a covenant. It must not be removed from this historical and theological context. And as a covenant we should not in some abstract way isolate a meaning removed from the covenant idea.



Cities of Refuge

God provided these Cities of Refuge in case of an accidental death so the slayer would have to place to go for protection. This is an amazing concept that finds its ultimate meaning and fulfillment in Jesus Christ. The slayer would need to stay at that city until he stands before the congregation for judgment. And he would have to stay in the city until the death of the High Priest.

Now if the man was found to be guilty, he would be turned over to the Avenger of Blood

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who was a male near kinsman of the one killed. This Avenger would kill the person who killed his blood relative (Nu.35:15-21).

The death of the High Priest was most significant! How does the death of an innocent High Priest change the situation of the refugee? It is the death of the High Priest that changed the slayer's situation. The debt was paid in full upon the Priest's death. The picture here of Christ cannot be overstated. Christ fulfills all that the Cities of Refuge provides (He.6:18-20). Christ is the innocent High Priest. He is the Avenger of Blood for those who reject His blood sacrifice. Christ is the City of Refuge to all who come to Him.

Cities of Refuge Characteristics

- They were established by God before they were needed
- They were available to all as well as accessible to all (Israelite or Stranger)
- Their gates were always open and located within a day's journey
- They protected the innocent
- They did not ultimately protect the guilty
- The innocent had to remain until the death of the High Priest
- They were widely advertised
- They were located at higher elevations to be seen from long distances



CHRIST IN DEUTERONOMY

- Typified in the Cities of Refuge as the Avenger of Blood, and the innocent High Priest Who must die!