

## The Book of Deuteronomy

**Theme:** The generational God of Israel has brought the promise-fulfillment of deliverance and blessing to his people.

**Context:** Deuteronomy is the last of the five books believed to have been written by Moses (commonly called the Pentateuch). Concluding the story of God's deliverance from Egypt in Exodus, Deuteronomy places God's people on the edge of the promised land and about to enter. It is on the edge of all of God's promises being fulfilled that Moses speaks his final. In a general sense, Moses (even as he was carried along by the Holy Spirit) structured Deuteronomy in the format of the treaties between kings and subjects of the time. Within this general treaty format, the themes of salvation proper (the Gospel), ethics, and family are all expounded and deepened for the careful reader.

**Connection:** As was mentioned in the *Context* section above, Deuteronomy carries obvious connection with the previous four books of the Bible in that it completes the five-book set that Moses wrote. To add to that, Deuteronomy holds deep connection with the history narratives that follow (Judges-2 Kings). Commonly, these together are referred to as the Deuteronomistic history. It is generally believed that King Josiah found this book of Deuteronomy in a time when the true depth and meaning of the law was all but forgotten (2 Kings 22, 23). To add to this general connection of flow and discovery in the Old Testament narrative, Deuteronomy holds a significant place in the New Testament narrative as well. Just to name a few of these connections, there is Deuteronomy 6's recording of what Jesus calls the greatest commandment in Matthew 22:37, 38. Likewise, Jesus used Deuteronomy in fending of the Devil's temptations in Matthew 4 (Deut. 6:13, 16; 8:3). Jesus even uses Deuteronomy to expound on the ethics of marriage (Deut. 24:1; see Matt. 19). Peter makes reference to an important passage in Deuteronomy 18:15 in one of his sermons found in Acts 3. Likewise, Paul makes reference to Deuteronomy 21:23 in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his work on our behalf. It's worth noting that this is only some of the direct references! No mention is being made of the clear inferences and informing verses that spatter both the Old and New Testaments. Deuteronomy is well connected to the rest of Scripture. It held significance for God's people then, and it should hold equal importance for God's people now.

### Solid Rock Verses:

4:25-31—*For the LORD your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you...*

5:22-31—*They are right in all they have spoken...*

6:4-6—*You shall love the LORD your God with all your...*

7:6-9—*it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath...*

9:4-5—*Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess...*

10:16—*Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart...*

17:14-20—*you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose...*

18:15-22—*The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you...*

19:15—*only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three...*

21:22-23—*for a hanged man is cursed by God...*

30:1-10 [see chs. 28 and 29]—*And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse...*

31:8—*It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you...*

32:1-43—*The Rock, his work is perfect... Vengeance is mine, and recompense...*

34:1-12 [see ch. 18:15-22]—*And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses...*