

Key to DEUTERONOMY

1. STATISTICS:

Deuteronomy is the fifth book in the Pentateuch. Writer is Moses who did not complete it until just before his death. Time of writing 1500 B.C. Actual time covered is one month, but review is made of past 40 years. Place of writing at southeast entrance into Promised Land. Key verses, 11:26-28. Name, means "second" or "reiterated" Law, i.e., stating the Law with a view of its usage in the land.

2. THEME:

Deuteronomy was Moses' magnificent valedictory. It looked back over the important events of the past 40 years, and forward to the glorious victories of the future. The underlying strain concerned GOD's faithfulness and the challenge was to trust Him and go forward.

3. OUTLINE:

Review and warnings (1-4) Possible blessings and curses (27-30)
Reminders of the Covenant (5-11) Moses' farewell (31-34)
Warnings about future (12-26)

4. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The entire book is composed of Moses' words. Speeches were made eloquent by the Spirit of GOD for Moses had admitted he could not speak (Exodus 4:10-13).

As literature, the book is magnificent, classed with Genesis, Psalms and Isaiah.

The writer's poetic nature is demonstrated in his "national anthem" of chapter 32. See also Exodus 15; Psalm 90.

There are two great prophetic sections: 18:15-19; 28-30.

Emphasis of the book is a stern review of moral laws.

Temptations were just ahead. A new generation had grown up.

Nowhere in the Pentateuch until here do we read of the love of GOD. Note here the emphasis: 4:37; 7:7,8; 10:15.

The word "remember" is necessarily prominent, occurring 18 times.

5. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

The central chapter is 27. Here is condensed for public recitation an epitome of the LORD's

requirements.

The Decalogue (10 commandments) is repeated in chapter 5.

Most of the present host would dimly remember the "thunderings and lightnings" of Sinai 40 years before.

The importance of daily, ceaseless training of children is emphasized in chapter 6.

The necessity of complete extermination of the wicked people of the land of Canaan is detailed in chapter 7. The reason was so that GOD's people might not be corrupted.

Moses was not allowed to enter the land because of his sin (32:51); yet fourteen centuries later we do find him in the land at the scene of the transfiguration of CHRIST (Matthew 17:3).

Provisions were made for the continual reading of the Law (31:9-13) after Moses' death, also, for the recording of the Law in plaster, on Mt. Ebal "very plainly" (27:2-4; Joshua 8:30-32). When the nation heeded the Law they prospered. When they neglected it, they suffered.

6. INTERESTING FEATURES:

Specific military rules in chapter 20.

GOD believes in punishment, but not in bitter cruelty (25:1-3).

A good test for false prophets (18:20-22).

Chapter 33 is similar to Genesis 49.

Read and note the spiritual foresight of Moses as he described the centuries of wandering of the Jews in 28:63-68.

7. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:

You will best understand Deuteronomy after you have read the first four books. Then, in your imagination stand with Moses and look back, and forward. This book lives!

~ end of Deuteronomy ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>
