

A Study in Deuteronomy: Lesson 1 – Introduction

I. Introduction

A. Deuteronomy is primarily about _____

1. Deuteronomy means _____
2. Having the law was good for God’s people from a worldview perspective
 - a. Worldview can be discussed in many ways – will use Francis Schaeffer’s outline

Metaphysics	Cosmology	Origins – where did everything come from?
	Ontology	Nature of being/existence – who am I? why am I here?
Ethics/Morals	Ethics	Standards of conduct – how should I behave?
	Morals	Actual behavior – am I accountable? to whom?
Epistemology		Theories of knowledge – how do I know truth? how do I know it is true?

b. Christian worldview

Metaphysics	Cosmology	The infinite personal God has always existed, and He created all that is
	Ontology	I am a human being created by God in His image to glorify Him and enjoy Him forever
Ethics/Morals	Ethics	God sets behavioral standards for our good
	Morals	As His created beings we are obligated to follow His standards, and He holds us accountable
Epistemology		God has revealed truth to mankind through Jesus Christ and in His Word. We know it is true by faith, but it is not an unreasonable faith

- c. Test of a good worldview: logical, coherent, true, practical
- d. All 3 parts in Deut. Result: this worldview is good for the people who hold to it

B. Law itself is a form of grace, especially when the law giver is God

1. Most people long for true justice
2. Contrary to popular thought, man is not basically good
 - a. Therefore laws are needed, absolute not arbitrary laws
 - (1) Absolute laws are true for _____ people _____ the time

(2) Arbitrary – everything else – includes unjust laws; laws based on mere opinion of ruling class, popular majority, or vocal minority; laws not consistently applied/enforced; laws changing for no reason

b. Absolute standards needed in areas like morals – only _____ can set absolutes

c. SJAEC – No _____ → No _____ → No _____ →
No _____ → _____ (Mt 24:12)

d. God is the absolute law giver and that law is a gift of grace

C. Purpose of the Law

1. Rom 3:19-20 – by the law comes a _____

2. Gal 3:21-24 – the law is a _____ to lead us to Christ

D. Character of the law – (1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____ (Neh 9:13)

II. Importance of Deuteronomy

A. _____ of 27 NT books have quotes from Deut

B. Some of the most important Deuteronomy verses in the NT

1. Jesus' temptation in wilderness – Mt 4:1-11

2. Jesus came to fulfill law – Mt 5:17-19

3. Jesus repeatedly quoting the 10 Commandments – e.g. Mk 7:10

4. Good Samaritan – Lk 10:27

5. Moses and the Prophets – Jn 5:44-47, Lk 16:29-31, Lk 24:27, Acts 3:22-23

6. The Great Commandment – Mt 22:36-37

7. Are you the Prophet? – John 1:21

III. Idea of a Covenant

A. Agreement between two/more parties – format same as was used in Near East for treaties

1. Parties: a superior (overlord/suzerain) and a subordinate (vassal)

2. Purpose of agreement: secure allegiance of vassal and lay out terms of relationship

B. Format of a Covenant

Sections	Deuteronomy
Preamble – overlord introduced	
Historical prologue – past relations between parties reviewed	
Treaty stipulations – mutual responsibilities of the parties	
General principles	
Specific principles	
Treaty sanctions – blessings and curses	
Witnesses & Covenant continuity or succession arrangements	

C. The Law was only part of larger relationship or covenant with God – a covenant of grace

D. Covenant is a reminder of the mercy and grace of the overlord

1. Obedience of the vassal expected because of the _____ of the overlord
2. Covenant always involves _____ as well as _____

IV. Historical background to the start of Deuteronomy (part of Pentateuch)

A. 4100 – creation and fall – covenant of grace begins

B. 2450 – worldwide flood – Noahic covenant

C. 2165 – patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob) – covenant to Abraham and his offspring

D. 1445 – Exodus and wilderness experience (Moses)

1. Failure of people to rely on God and enter when told
2. Older generations perish in wilderness

E. 1405 – leadership transfers to Joshua for entry to Promised Land

1. Moses gives three farewell messages to the people in Deuteronomy at age 120 as the mediator between God and the people
2. Moses looking back 40 yrs and reviewing key events and teachings from those years – lessons learned

V. Deut 1:1-5

A. Audience and place for Moses' messages – across the Jordan in Arabah in land of Moab

B. Time for Moses' messages – the 40th year, 1st day, 11th month

1. After wilderness wanderings

2. After Sihon and Og defeated

C. Content of Moses' messages – all that the Lord commanded him

VI. Common themes seen in the book based on common verbs

A. To love – to have affection for

1. God to the people 4:37, 7:8,13, 10:15, 23:5

2. People to God 6:5, 7:9, 10:12, 11:1,13,22, 13:3

3. People to other people 10:19, 15:16, 21:15,16

B. To hear (hearken) – hear intelligently (often with implication of attention, obedience, etc)
4:1,30, 5:1, 6:4, 8:20, 9:1,23, 13:4,18, 15:5, 26:14,17, 27:10, 28:1,2,15

C. To serve – to work (in any sense); by implication, to serve, till; to attend as a menial or worshipper
6:13, 10:12,20, 11:13, 13:4, 28:47

D. To fear – to be afraid, stand in awe, fear
4:10, 5:29, 6:2,13,24, 8:6, 10:12,20, 13:4, 14:23, 17:19, 28:58, 31:12

E. To cleave – to cling, cleave, keep close
4:4, 10:20, 11:22, 13:4, 30:20

F. To walk in the way of – to go, walk, behave
5:33, 8:6, 10:12, 11:22, 19:9, 26:17, 28:9, 30:16

G. To do that which is right – upright; right; righteous; just
6:18, 12:25, 28, 13:18, 21:9

H. To keep/do the commandments, etc. – to hedge about (as with thorns), i.e. guard; generally, to protect, attend to, etc
5:29, 6:25, 11:8,22, 13:18, 15:5, 19:9, 26:18

Assignment for Next Lesson:

Basic: Read the Deut 1:6-26. Outline passage or list main points. What key words/ideas impact you?

Advanced: Read the following background verses: Gen 15:13-21; Num 10:11-36, 11:11-17, 13:1-27