OLD TESTAMENT · THE LAW · BOOK 5 OF 66

Deuteronomy

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD (6:4)

34	Moses	c. 1406 B.C.	Remember
Chapters, 959 Verses	Author	The Plains of Moab	Love, Obey, Choose Life

STRUCTURE

The Book in Four Parts

Deuteronomy is built from Moses' farewell addresses, in the pattern of a covenant: **history** (1–4), the **great commandment** (5–11), **laws** (12–26), and **blessings, curses and witnesses** (27–34).



Each bar shows that part's share of the 959 verses.

I 1:1–4:43 · 155 verses

Moses Looks Back

Forty years from Horeb to the Jordan, and a call to obey.

II 4:44–11:32 · 193 verses

Love the LORD

The Ten Commandments, the Shema, and "remember."

III 12–26 · 345 verses

The Laws of the Covenant

Worship, holiness, leaders, justice and daily life.

IV 27–34 · 266 verses

Covenant and Farewell

Blessing and curse, "choose life," Joshua, the Song, and Moses' death.

WHERE AND WHEN

On the Plains of Moab

The whole book takes place in about one month, at the end of the forty years in the wilderness.

1:3

The Fortieth Year

Eleventh month, first day

1:5

The Land of Moab

On this side Jordan, over against Jericho

2:14–16

A New Generation

The men of war had died in the wilderness

34:7–8

Moses' Last Days

He dies at 120; thirty days of mourning

> *"These be the words which Moses spake unto all Israel on this side Jordan in the wilderness."*
>
> Deuteronomy 1:1 (KJV)

For the whole route from Egypt to the plains of Moab, with maps, see The Exodus Journey.

DEUTERONOMY 1–4; 8–10

Forty Years Remembered

Moses retells the journey so the new generation will learn from it. "Remember" and "forget not" run all through the book.

1 1:6–18

Horeb

"Ye have dwelt long enough in this mount": rulers appointed for the people.

2 1:19–46

Kadesh-barnea

Unbelief at the spies' report; a generation turned back.

3 2:1–23

Around Edom, Moab, Ammon

Israel passes by the lands God gave to others.

4 2:24–3:11

Sihon and Og

The first victories, east of the Jordan.

5 8:2–4

Manna and Clothes

"Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years."

6 9:7–21

The Golden Calf

"Ye have been rebellious against the LORD" (9:24); Moses prays forty days.

> *"These forty years the LORD thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing."*
>
> Deuteronomy 2:7 (KJV)

The Land Moses Saw

DEUTERONOMY 1–4; 27; 34 · MAP

The Land Moses Saw

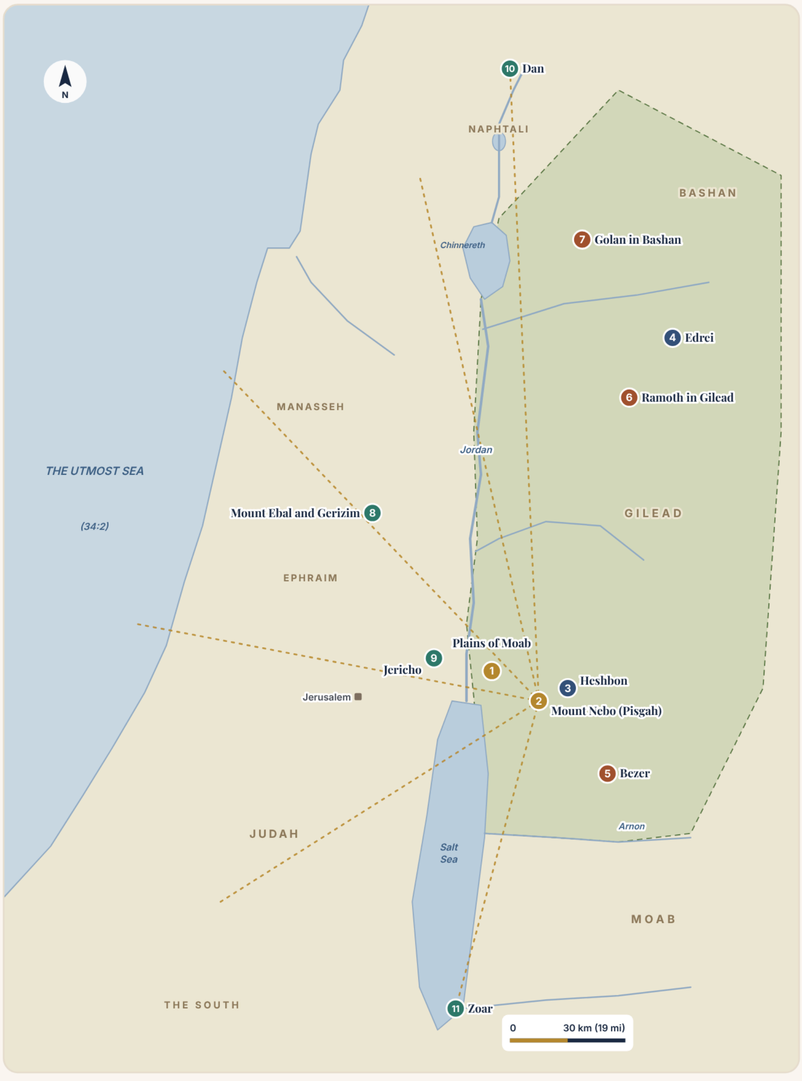
Moses spoke these words on the plains of Moab, with the land east of Jordan already won. At the end he climbed Mount Nebo, and the LORD showed him the whole land, from Dan to Zoar and the utmost sea. The numbers match the cards below.

DEUTERONOMY 1–4; 27; 34

The Land Moses Saw

From the plains of Moab and the top of Pisgah

The fortieth year, c. 1406 B.C. · Positions approximate



Where Moses spoke and died
The plains of Moab and Mount Nebo

Land taken east of Jordan
From Sihon and Og (2–3)

Cities of refuge east of Jordan
Bezer, Ramoth, Golan (4:41–43)

What Moses saw from Pisgah
From Dan to Zoar and the utmost sea (34:1–3)

"This is the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed."

DEUTERONOMY 34:4 (KJV)

The dotted lines show the parts of the land named in 34:1–3. Positions approximate.

BibleStudyForAll.com · Map positions approximate · Scripture from the King James Version

1 1:5; 29:1; 34:8

Plains of Moab

Moses. Where Moses spoke these words to all Israel, "on this side Jordan."

2 3:27; 32:49–52; 34:1–6

Mount Nebo (Pisgah)

Moses. Moses sees the land, dies, and is buried in a valley over against Beth-peor.

3 2:24–37

Heshbon

East of Jordan. Sihon king of the Amorites defeated; his land given to Reuben and Gad.

4 1:4; 3:1–11

Edrei

East of Jordan. Og king of Bashan, the last of the giants, defeated.

5 4:41–43

Bezer

City of refuge. A city of refuge east of Jordan, for the Reubenites.

6 4:43

Ramoth in Gilead

City of refuge. A city of refuge for the Gadites.

7 4:43

Golan in Bashan

City of refuge. A city of refuge for the Manassites.

8 11:29; 27:1–26

Mount Ebal and Gerizim

The land ahead. The blessing to be put on Gerizim and the curse on Ebal; an altar and the law written on stones.

9 34:1–3

Jericho

The land ahead. "The city of palm trees," across from where Moses stood.

10 34:1

Dan

The land ahead. The far north of the land Moses saw from Pisgah.

11 34:3

Zoar

The land ahead. The far south: "the plain of the valley of Jericho … unto Zoar."

The Shema and the Ten Commandments Given Again

DEUTERONOMY 6:4–9

The Shema: Hear, O Israel

Named from its first Hebrew word, *Shema*, "Hear." Jesus called verse 5 "the first and great commandment" (Matthew 22:37–38).

DEUTERONOMY 6:4–5

The Great Commandment

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

1 6:6

In Thine Heart

"these words … shall be in thine heart."

2 6:7

Teach Thy Children

"teach them diligently unto thy children."

3 6:7

All Day Long

At home and by the way, lying down and rising up.

4 6:8

Bind Them

"for a sign upon thine hand."

5 6:9

Write Them

"upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."

6 6:12

Forget Not

"beware lest thou forget the LORD."

DEUTERONOMY 5:6–21

The Ten Commandments Given Again

The same ten words given at Sinai (Exodus 20), repeated to the new generation.

1 5:7

Thou shalt have none other gods before Me.

2 5:8–10

Thou shalt not make thee any graven image.

3 5:11

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.

4 5:12–15

Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it.

5 5:16

Honour thy father and thy mother.

6 5:17

Thou shalt not kill.

7 5:18

Neither shalt thou commit adultery.

8 5:19

Neither shalt thou steal.

9 5:20

Neither shalt thou bear false witness against thy neighbour.

10 5:21

Neither shalt thou desire thy neighbour's wife … or any thing that is thy neighbour's.

The sabbath commandment here adds: "remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence" (5:15).

The Laws of the Covenant, Blessing and Curse

DEUTERONOMY 12–26

The Laws of the Covenant

The laws apply the Ten Commandments to the life of the nation in the land.

12–13
Worship
At the place the LORD shall choose; no other gods, no false prophets.

14:1–16:17
A Holy People
Clean food, tithes, the year of release and the three feasts.

16:18–18:22
Leaders
Judges, the king, priests and Levites, and the Prophet to come.

19–21
Justice and Life
Cities of refuge, true witnesses, and rules for war.

22–25
Home and Neighbour
Marriage, the poor, the stranger, the widow, just weights.

26
Firstfruits and Tithes
Thanksgiving for the land: “A Syrian ready to perish was my father.”

Three Feasts a Year (16:16)

1 **16:1–8**
Passover and Unleavened Bread
Remembering the night of the exodus.

2 **16:9–12**
Feast of Weeks
Seven weeks after the harvest begins.

3 **16:13–15**
Feast of Tabernacles
Seven days of rejoicing after the ingathering.

DEUTERONOMY 27–30

Blessing and Curse: Choose Life

Like covenants of that day, Deuteronomy ends with blessings for keeping it and curses for breaking it, and calls heaven and earth as witnesses.

IF YE OBEY	IF YE WILL NOT OBEY
“Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field” 28:3	**“Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field”** 28:16
“The LORD shall cause thine enemies … to be smitten before thy face” 28:7	**“The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies”** 28:25
“The LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail” 28:13	**“he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail”** 28:44

> *“I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.”*
>
> Deuteronomy 30:19 (KJV)

Even after the curses, God promises restoration to those who return: “the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart … to love the LORD thy God” (30:6).

The Prophet Like Moses and Moses' Last Words

DEUTERONOMY 18:15–19

A Prophet Like unto Moses

God promised to raise up a Prophet like Moses, and the New Testament says this Prophet is Jesus Christ.

> *"I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put My words in His mouth; and He shall speak unto them all that I shall command Him."*
>
> Deuteronomy 18:18 (KJV)

ACTS 3:20–22

Peter

Peter preached that this Prophet is Jesus, whom heaven has received.

ACTS 7:37

Stephen

"This is that Moses, which said … A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up."

JOHN 6:14

The Crowd

"This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world."

DEUTERONOMY 31–34

Moses' Last Words

Moses hands the leadership to Joshua, writes the law, sings his song, blesses the tribes and dies on mount Nebo.

1 31:1–8

Joshua Charged

"Be strong and of a good courage … He will not fail thee, neither forsake thee"

31:7–8

2 31:9–29

The Book of the Law

Written by Moses, given to the priests, kept in the side of the ark, read every seven years.

3 32

The Song of Moses

"He is the Rock, His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment"

32:4

4 33

Moses Blesses the Tribes

"The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms"

33:27

5 34:1–4

Mount Nebo

From the top of Pisgah the LORD shows Moses all the land of promise.

6 34:5–12

Moses Dies

At 120, "his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated." The LORD buries him in Moab.

Jesus and Deuteronomy, Key Themes and Key Verse

LOOKING FORWARD

Jesus and Deuteronomy

The Lord Jesus quoted Deuteronomy often. In the wilderness He answered every temptation from it.

8:3 · MATTHEW 4:4

The First Temptation

"man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD"

6:16 · MATTHEW 4:7

The Second Temptation

"Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God"

6:13 · MATTHEW 4:10

The Third Temptation

"Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve Him"

6:5 · MATTHEW 22:37–38

The First and Great Commandment

"thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart"

Paul quotes Deuteronomy too: Christ was "made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree" (Galatians 3:13; Deuteronomy 21:23), and "the word is nigh thee" (Romans 10:8; Deuteronomy 30:14).

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

Love the LORD

Wholehearted love for God is the heart of the law.

6:5; 10:12; 30:6

Remember

Remember what God has done; forget not the LORD.

8:2, 11; 15:15

One God

The LORD alone is God; no other gods, no images.

4:35, 39; 6:4

Covenant

Israel bound to the LORD as His own people.

5:2; 7:9; 29:12

Obedience and Blessing

Obedience brings blessing; rebellion brings the curse.

11:26–28; 28

Chosen by Love

God chose Israel because He loved them, not for their merit.

7:7–8; 9:4–6

God's Word

Man lives by every word of the LORD; teach it to your children.

6:6–7; 8:3; 32:46–47

Justice and Mercy

Care for the poor, the stranger, the fatherless and the widow.

10:18; 24:17–22

The Land

The good land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

1:8; 8:7–10; 34:4

KEY VERSE

"And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

Deuteronomy 6:5 (KJV)