

The Law XIV – Deuteronomy I

July 22, 2006

Deuteronomy is the fifth book of the [Hebrew Bible](#). It is part of [Judaism's Torah](#) - the first segment of the [Tanakh](#). It later became part of [Christianity's Old Testament](#). Its [Hebrew](#) name is *Devarim* מִדְּבָרִים ("words"), which comes from the opening phrase "Eleh ha-devarim" ("Chapter 1 Verse 1 = These are the *words*..."). The term can also stretch to mean "discourses" or "talks", as is generally the case with the Greek word "[logos](#)". The name is also purported to mean "The Fifth", "The Book of Admonitions", "The Second Law" or "A Repetition of the Law".

While it is most likely written by Moses, the last chapter was most likely written by Joshua as Moses was dying.

Deuteronomy covers about a 2 month period of time just before the Israelites entered Canaan. It is a series of farewell addresses by Moses to the Israelites as he prepares to die and they prepare to enter the land that he cannot enter.

Deuteronomy 1

- 1 These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel on this side of the Jordan in the wilderness, in the plain opposite Suph, between Paran, Tophel, Laban, Hazereth, and Dizahab.
- 2 It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by way of Mount Seir to Kadesh Barnea.
- 3 Now it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spoke to the children of Israel according to all that the LORD had given him as commandments to them,
- 4 after he had killed Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt in Heshbon, and Og king of Bashan, who dwelt at Ashtaroth in Edrei.
- 5 On this side of the Jordan in the land of Moab, Moses began to explain this law, saying,
- 6 "The LORD our God spoke to us in Horeb, saying: 'You have dwelt long enough at this mountain.
- 7 'Turn and take your journey, and go to the mountains of the Amorites, to all the neighboring places in the plain, in the mountains and in the lowland, in the South and on the seacoast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the River Euphrates.
- 8 'See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the LORD swore to your fathers-to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob-to give to them and their descendants after them.'
- 9-18 Tribal Leaders are appointed
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- 19-33 Israel's refusal to enter the land of Canaan
-
- 34-46 The Penalty for Israel's rebellion
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Deuteronomy 2

- 1-25 The Desert Years

The Law XIV – Deuteronomy I
July 22, 2006

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- 26-37 King Sihon was defeated
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Deuteronomy 3

- 1-11 King Og was Defeated
-
- 12-22 The land east of Jordan was divided
-
- 23 "Then I pleaded with the LORD at that time, saying:
- 24 'O Lord GOD, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do anything like Your works and Your mighty deeds?
- 25 'I pray, let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, those pleasant mountains, and Lebanon.'
- 26 "But the LORD was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me. So the LORD said to me: 'Enough of that! Speak no more to Me of this matter.
- 27 'Go up to the top of Pisgah, and lift your eyes toward the west, the north, the south, and the east; behold it with your eyes, for **you shall not cross over this Jordan.**
- 28 'But command Joshua, and encourage him and strengthen him; for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which you will see.'
- 29 "So we stayed in the valley opposite Beth Peor.

Deuteronomy 4

- 1 "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you.
- 2 "**You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.**
 - How much have people added to and taken away from these 5 books over the years?
- 3 "Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal Peor; for the LORD your God has destroyed from among you all the men who followed Baal of Peor.
- 4 "But you who held fast to the LORD your God are alive today, every one of you.
- 5 "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess.
- 6 "**Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'**

The Law XIV – Deuteronomy I

July 22, 2006

- God's intent was to make Israel an example of how people would prosper if they followed His Way
- Even though good times came when Israel obeyed and bad times came when they disobeyed, they failed to keep the Law faithfully with its original intent
- 7 "For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him?
- 8 "And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?
- **9 "Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren,**
 - They forgot what they had seen
 - The Law departed from their hearts
- 10 "especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.'
- 11 "Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven, with darkness, cloud, and thick darkness.
- 12 "And the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice.
- **13 "So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.**
 - The covenant was a two-way agreement
 - We have not kept our end of the agreement
- 14 "And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that you might observe them in the land which you cross over to possess.
- 15 "Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire,
- 16 "lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female,
- 17 "the likeness of any animal that is on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air,
- 18 "the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that is in the water beneath the earth.
- **19 "And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them,** which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.
- 20 "But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be His people, an inheritance, as you are this day.

The Law XIV – Deuteronomy I

July 22, 2006

- 21 "Furthermore the LORD was angry with me for your sakes, and swore that I would not cross over the Jordan, and that I would not enter the good land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.
- 22 "But I must die in this land, I must not cross over the Jordan; but you shall cross over and possess that good land.
- 23 "Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God which He made with you, and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of anything which the LORD your God has forbidden you.
- 24 "For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.
- **25 "When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the LORD your God to provoke Him to anger,**
- 26 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed.
- **27 "And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you.**
 - The 12 tribes were scattered – throughout the middle east and Europe and later to the United States
 - The remaining tribes, Judah and Benjamin are the roots of current day Israel – the Jews – which are few in number compared to other countries
- **28 "And there you will serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell.**
- **29 "But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.**
- 30 "When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice
- 31 '(for the LORD your God is a merciful God), ***He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.***
 - That is good news for us today!
- 32 "For ask now concerning the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether any great thing like this has happened, or anything like it has been heard.
- 33 "Did any people ever hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and live?
- 34 "Or did God ever try to go and take for Himself a nation from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?
- 35 "To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD Himself is God; there is none other besides Him
 - Moses is recapping all the reasons why Israel should know that God is the one true God

The Law XIV – Deuteronomy I

July 22, 2006

- 36 "Out of heaven He let you hear His voice, that He might instruct you; on earth He showed you His great fire, and you heard His words out of the midst of the fire.
- 37 "And because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them; and He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power,
- 38 "driving out from before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land as an inheritance, as it is this day.
- 39 "Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.
- **40 "You shall therefore keep His statutes and His commandments which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD your God is giving you for all time."**
- 41-43 Moses set up the cities of refuge east of the Jordan
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- 44 Now this is the law which Moses set before the children of Israel.
- 45 These are the testimonies, the statutes, and the judgments which Moses spoke to the children of Israel after they came out of Egypt,
- 46-49 just gives the locations of the Israelites
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Deuteronomy 5

- Moses begins a repetition of the Law
- 1 And Moses called all Israel, and said to them: "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them.
- 2 "The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb.
- **3 "The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive."**
 - Including those of us who are alive today!
- 4 "The LORD talked with you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire.
- 5 "I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the LORD; for you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up the mountain. He said:
- 6 "I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.
- 7 "You shall have no other gods before Me.
- 8 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image-any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;
- 9 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

The Law XIV – Deuteronomy I

July 22, 2006

- 10 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.
- 11 'You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.
- 12 'Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.
- 13 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
- 14 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.
- 15 And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.
 - Remember that you were a slave to sin!
- 16 'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.
 - The only commandment with a promise
- 17 'You shall not murder.
- 18 'You shall not commit adultery.
- 19 'You shall not steal.
- 20 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 21 'You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.'
- 22 "These words the LORD spoke to all your assembly, in the mountain from the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice; and He added no more. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone and gave them to me.
- 23 "So it was, when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, that you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders.
- 24 "And you said: 'Surely the LORD our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We have seen this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives.
- 25 'Now therefore, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the LORD our God anymore, then we shall die.
 - Moses reminds them of their fear of God's presence
- 26 'For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?
- 27 'You go near and hear all that the LORD our God may say, and tell us all that the LORD our God says to you, and we will hear and do it.'

The Law XIV – Deuteronomy I

July 22, 2006

- 28 "Then the LORD heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me, and the LORD said to me: 'I have heard the voice of the words of this people which they have spoken to you. They are right in all that they have spoken.
- 29 'Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!
- 30 'Go and say to them, "Return to your tents."
- 31 'But as for you, stand here by Me, and I will speak to you all the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which you shall teach them, that they may observe them in the land which I am giving them to possess.'
- 32 "Therefore you shall be careful to do as the LORD your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.
- 33 "You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.

Deuteronomy 6

- 1 "Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess,
- 2 "that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.
- 3 "Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you-'a land flowing with milk and honey.'
- 4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!
- 5 "**You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.**
 - This is the greatest commandment!
- 6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.
- 7 "**You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.**
- 8 "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.
 - In your mind at all times
- 9 "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
- 10 "So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build,
- 11 "houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant-when you have eaten and are full-
 - What do we know about cities which “you did not build?”

The Law XIV – Deuteronomy I

July 22, 2006

- Jesus said that He was going to “prepare a place for you”
- Revelation says that He will bring the New Jerusalem down from Heaven where He is now building it – a place for us to live – forever!
- 12 "then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.
- 13 "You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name.
- 14 "You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you
- 15 '(for the LORD your God is a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.
- 16 "You shall not tempt the LORD your God as you tempted Him in Massah.
- 17 "You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you.
- 18 "And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land of which the LORD swore to your fathers,
- 19 "to cast out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has spoken.
- 20 "When your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is the meaning of the testimonies, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God has commanded you?'
- 21 "then you shall say to your son: 'We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand;
- 22 'and the LORD showed signs and wonders before our eyes, great and severe, against Egypt, Pharaoh, and all his household.
- 23 'Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers.
- 24 'And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day.
- 25 'Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the LORD our God, as He has commanded us.'