

Deuteronomy I

Introduction

- I. IMPORTANCE OF THE BOOK
 - A. Reasons for and against studying the book
 - i. Arguments against studying it.
 - 1. It is Old Testament
 - 2. It is not a part of Paul's teachings
 - 3. It was written to the Jews – "therefore it's not for me"
 - 4. It may not have been written by Moses
 - ii. Reasons for studying it.
 - 1. It's historical
 - a. It gives the Bible student a look into the lives of the Jewish people.
 - b. This historical look will give you a better understanding of the rest of the Bible, and how God dealt/deals with his people.
 - 2. It reconfirms the Law
 - a. The Law that was formerly delivered is now reviewed with a new generation of people.
 - b. It is more largely explained—to which are added instructions and conditions of blessings in Canaan.
 - B. The necessity of the book
 - i. A new generation had come on the scene
 - 1. The former generation had perished in the wilderness as was promised by God.
 - 2. A new land was about to be possessed by them and they needed to hear the law that had been delivered beforehand.
 - 3. New jobs were about to be taken up by this generation, they would transition from being nomads to dwelling in and possessing a land.
 - ii. It was to prepare this new generation to inherit the land.
 - 1. This new generation had not heard the original giving of the law and would need to be instructed before entering the land.

2. This generation needed to be instructed on the laws that they were to live by in the land.
- II. TITLE OF THE BOOK
- A. "The Fifth Book of Moses, called Deuteronomy"
 - i. It is the fifth book of the Bible
 - ii. It is the fifth book of the Bible by Moses
 - B. "The Second Law"
- III. ITS EARTHLY AUTHOR – (Deuteronomy 1:1)
- A. His Name
 - i. Moses
 1. His Life
 - a. A son of Levi (Exodus 2:1-2)
 - b. Given up by his mother for his safety (by way of the Nile River), and found by Pharaoh's daughter. (Exodus 2:3-6)
 - c. Raised by his mother, and went on to live in the house of Pharaoh. (Exodus 2:7-10)
 2. The *Three 40 years* of the life of Moses:
 - a. The First 40 – spent as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.
 - i. Not much is known about this time except for his being found by Pharaoh's daughter, nursed by his mother, and then going on to live in Pharaoh's house.
 - ii. At the end of these 40 years Moses went out to visit his people and slew an Egyptian trying to defend his brethren (Exodus 2:11-15; Acts 7:21-25)
 - b. The Second 40 – spent on the backside of a desert.
 - i. The second set of the forty years of Moses' life saw him living the life of a shepherd in Midian. (Exodus 2:15-25)
 1. Marries Zipporah and has two sons by her (Exodus 2:22; Acts 7:29)
 2. During this forty years the Pharaoh dies (Exodus 2:23)
 3. God calls Moses while he is tending the sheep of his father-in-law (Exodus 3:1-10)
 - ii. At the end of Moses' second forty God calls him to deliver the children of Israel. (Acts 7:30-36)

- c. The Final 40 – spent delivering and leading the Children of Israel out of Egypt and to the Promised Land.
 - i. The final 40 years of the life of Moses begins with him and Aaron speaking to Pharaoh. Moses is now 80 and Aaron 83. (Exodus 5:1-2)
 - ii. From Exodus chapter five through the books of Leviticus, Numbers and till the end of Deuteronomy Moses spends the remaining one hundred and twenty years (the last forty years) of his life in what God had prepared him for in his first eighty.
- ii. Questions Surrounding the Validity of the Authorship of the Book
 1. Since the writings of Paul the Devil, and those that do his work have tried to corrupt the word of God (2 Corinthians 2:17), or at the very least cast doubt on it. One of these attacks in the last 200 to 300 years has been directed against Moses and his authorship of the first five books of the Old Testament. Such attacks have come from non-Christians as well as professing Christians.
 2. Example 1: The New American Bible (Catholic) come these notes:
“The book was probably composed over the course of three centuries from the eighth century to the exile and beyond. It bears some relation to “the Book of the Law” discovered in the Jerusalem Temple around 622 B.C. during the reign of King Josiah...” – Taken from page 179 of the New American Bible Revised Edition, 2010.
 3. Example 2: The Documentary Hypothesis:
 - a. This system has been in place for some time and has its roots from a Jewish rabbi from the 12th century named Ibn Ezra. While he believed in the Mosaic authorship of the books of the Law, he noticed that some verses seemed to have some odd phrasing that seemed out of place. However, he never pursued to resolve them.
 - b. From this shred of doubt came other “scholars” that spread more doubt on the scriptures. Fast forward to the late 1800’s and a man by the name of Julius Wellhausen emerged on the scene, restating the Documentary Hypothesis with great skill and persuasiveness.

- c. The system presented: The Documentary (JEDP) Hypothesis
 - i. **J** documents are the sections, verses, or parts of verses written by one or more authors who preferred to use the name Jehovah to refer to God. It proposed that this author wrote about 900-850 B.C.
 - ii. **E** documents are the texts that use the name *Elohim* for God and were supposedly written around 750-700 B.C.
 - iii. **D** stands for Deuteronomy, most of which was written by a different author or group of authors, perhaps around the time of King Josiah's reign in 621 B.C.
 - iv. **P** stands for Priest and identifies the texts in Leviticus and elsewhere in the Law that were written by a priest or priests during the exile in Babylon after 586 B.C.
- 4. The Biblical Witness to the Authorship by Moses
 - a. The witness in the books by Moses
 - i. The LORD told Moses to write a memorial in the book (Exodus 17:14)
 - ii. Moses wrote all of the words of the LORD (Exodus 24:4; 34:27)
 - iii. Moses wrote their (the Children of Israel) going out (Numbers 33:1-2)
 - iv. Moses wrote the law for the Children of Israel (Deuteronomy 31:9-11)
 - b. The witness in the rest of the Old Testament
 - i. The book of the law (Joshua 1:7-8; Joshua 8:31-32 [cp. Deuteronomy 27:2, 8])
 - ii. The law of Moses (1 Kings 2:3)
 - iii. The book of Moses (Ezra 6:18 [cp. Numbers 8:9-26]) (Nehemiah 13:1 [cp. Deuteronomy 23:3-5])
 - iv. The curses promised (Daniel 9:11-13 [cp. Leviticus 26:14-46; Deuteronomy 28:15-68])

- v. Remember the law of Moses given in Horeb (Malachi 4:4 [cp. Exodus 20:3-21])
- c. The witness of the New Testament
 - i. The witness of Christ concerning Deuteronomy (Mathew 19:8 [cp. Deuteronomy 24:1])
 - ii. The witness of Christ concerning Exodus (Mark 12:26 [cp. Exodus 3:2-6, 16])
 - iii. The witness of Christ of His coming in Gen., Numbers, and Deuteronomy (John 5:45-47 [cp. Genesis 3:15; Genesis 49:10; Numbers 24:17-18; Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19])
 - iv. The Book of Acts and the witness of the coming of Christ (a Prophet) (Acts 3:22 [cp. Deuteronomy 18:15])
 - v. The Book of Romans and Paul's witness (Romans 10:5 [cp. Leviticus 18:5])
- d. The witness confirmed
 - i. The three witness confirmation (2 Corinthians 13:1)
 - 1. We have seen that Moses' own writings are a witness that he was the "earthly" author of the disputed books.
 - 2. We have seen that even in the Old Testament scripture supports the claim of Moses' authorship.
 - 3. We have also seen that the Lord Himself supports that He gave Moses these words to pen.
 - 4. We even go a step further and see that Luke and Paul confirms Moses' words. (Acts 3:22; Romans 10:5)
 - ii. A threefold cord is not quickly broken (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

- B. His Writings
 - i. Moses was used of God to write five books of the Bible. *“The Law of Moses”*
 - 1. Genesis – contains 50 chapters, and 1533 verses.
 - 2. Exodus – contains 40 chapters, and 1213 verses.
 - 3. Leviticus – contains 27 chapters, and 859 verses.
 - 4. Numbers – contains 36 chapters, and 1288 verses.
 - 5. Deuteronomy – contains 34 chapters, and 958 verses.
 - ii. Moses also wrote the 90th Psalm
 - 1. Psalm 90 – contains 17 verses.
 - iii. The total writings of Moses
 - 1. 187 chapters, plus Psalm 90
 - 2. 5,868 verses
- IV. THEME OF THE BOOK - (Deuteronomy 5:32; Deuteronomy 32:46)
 - A. Key Theme – “Remembrance and Instruction”
 - i. One sees an overall theme of instruction throughout the book of Deuteronomy. Moses is giving the children of Israel the Law so that they might be ready to enter the Promised Land.
 - ii. Moses also draws their attention to where God had brought them from as a people, so that they might understand God’s goodness and mercy upon them.
 - B. Key Phrasing – Understanding the Book – (Deuteronomy 31:12)
 - i. First Key – “observe to do”
 - 1. This phrase occurs fourteen times in fourteen verses throughout the book of Deuteronomy, beginning in Deuteronomy 5:32 and ending in Deuteronomy 32:46.
 - 2. A command to the nation as a whole (Deuteronomy 6:3; Deuteronomy 28:1)
 - 3. A command that was to be taken personally (Deuteronomy 24:3; Deuteronomy 31:12)
 - ii. Second Key – “Obedience” – (Deuteronomy 10:12, 13)
 - 1. The LORD had called on Israel to fear Him, to walk in His ways, to love Him, and serve Him with all their hearts.
 - 2. If they would do the above, then the keeping of God’s commandments would be possible. (Deuteronomy 5:33)

V. STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK

A. High Level Divisions

- i. The First Address by Moses (Chapters 1-4)
- ii. The Second Address by Moses (Chapters 5-26)
- iii. The Third Address by Moses (Chapters 27-30)
- iv. The Final Words of Moses (Chapters 31-34)

B. Detailed Divisions

- i. An Historical Account of Israel's Journey Given (Chapters 1-3)
- ii. An Exhortation to Obedience (Chapter 4)
- iii. The Law Given from Sinai (Chapters 5-11)
- iv. Divers Laws and Ordinances for the Land and the People (Chapters 12-26)
- v. Instructions for Setting up the Laws and Remembrance of Them (Chapter 27)
- vi. An Exposition the Blessings and Curses (Chapters 27-28)
- vii. The Mosaic Covenant Declared Again (Chapter 29-30)
- viii. Moses' Final Charge (Chapter 31)
- ix. The Song of Moses (Chapter 32)
- x. The Blessing of Moses (Chapter 33)
- xi. The Death of Moses (Chapter 34)