



## Deuteronomy

### Jesus Christ, Our True Prophet

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## Deuteronomy

The Hebrew Bible gives to the book of Deuteronomy the name *Devarim* ("Words"), from Deut. 1:1 ("*These are the words Moses spoke to all Israel...*")

The LXX title *Deuteronomion* means "second law" or "second law-giving" because the book contains a restatement of laws given in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers.

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## F-L-I-G-H-T

**F** – Deuteronomy is the fifth book of the Torah, the five books of Moses. All but the last chapter of the book are attributed to Moses. Joshua, Moses' successor, probably wrote the last chapter after Moses' death. Moses wrote the book after he gave the three messages in the book and sometime before his death in 1406 BC.

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## F-L-I-G-H-T

**L** – After the forty years of wandering described in the book of Numbers, the Israelites were finally ready to enter the Promised Land. The key word here is *covenant*, speaking of the special relationship that God established with his people. The book can be organized around the three farewell messages Moses gave while the Israelites camped on the plains east of the Jordan River before crossing it.

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**F-L-I-G-H-T**

- I** – First Speech: Review of the Past (1-3), Second Speech: Regulations for the Present (4-26), Third Speech: Readiness for the Future (27-30), Rest at the End of an Era (31-34)
- G** – Deuteronomy is the book that Jesus quoted most often while on earth. The scarlet thread of redemption is most evident in a prediction Moses made: *“The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.”* (18:15)

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**F-L-I-G-H-T**

- G** – Translators capitalize “Prophet” because they recognize it refers to the Messiah, Jesus Christ. *The Lord said, “I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.”* (18:18) Christ fulfilled the Mosaic ideal.

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**F-L-I-G-H-T**

- H** – Moses’ retelling of the vital features of the law took place on the plains of Moab east of the Jordan River. The Hebrews had traveled from Kadesh, past the Dead Sea, and were about to enter the Promised Land. The book of Deuteronomy says that Moses died at Moab. He was 120 years old and died around 1406 BC.

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**F-L-I-G-H-T**

- T** – Deuteronomy was a reinforcement of the **value God places on relationship with him.** God not only made it clear what his people must do to draw close to him, he also showed that he wanted them to. **Faith means acting on God’s commands.** Moses summarized the importance & power of this when he said, *“Choose life that both you and your descendants may live...[and] love the Lord your God, that you may obey his voice, and that you may cling to him, for he is your life.”* (30:19-20a)

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### Five Books of Moses

Book	Role	Aspect
Genesis	God's sovereignty	The plan of God
Exodus	God's charity	The redemptive power of God
Leviticus	God's sanctity	The person of God
Numbers	God's severity	The providence of God
Deuteronomy	God's solemnity	The principles of God

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### False Claims of the Documentary Hypothesis

- Moses did not write the Pentateuch. It is attributed to four sources referred to as JEDP.
- The book of Deuteronomy was written shortly *after* the reforms of the Judean King Josiah (around 622 BC) to justify Josiah's agenda.
- Deuteronomy is essentially a pious fraud: pious in the sense that it attempted to provide historical precedent for religious reform, fraudulent in the sense that the whole book was artificially produced.

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### Arguments for Mosaic Authorship

- Claim of Deuteronomy itself over & over. "These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel..." (1:1,5; 31:9)
- Jesus (Matt. 9:18), Paul (1 Cor. 9:9), & the author of Hebrews (Heb. 10:28) identify Deuteronomy as the "law of Moses."
- Many evangelical writers have made a strong case for the fact that the literary structure of Deuteronomy closely resembles that of second-millennium BC political treaties (time of Moses).

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### Sh'ma Yisrael

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

The word translated "one" is *echad*, which doesn't mean an absolute singularity, but a compound unity.

Could also be translated –

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD **alone**.*

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### Greatest Commandment

*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. (6:5)*

Jesus referred to this as “*the first and great commandment*” (Matt. 22:38)

### Between Your Eyes & On Your Gates

*You shall bind them as a sign **on your hand**, and they shall be as frontlets **between your eyes**. (6:8) Tefillin*

*You shall write them **on the doorposts of your house** and **on your gates**. (6:9) Mezuzah*

### Beware, Lest You Forget

God wanted his people to **remember** the blessings that living by his commands carried, even if it meant looking back to the wilderness: *And you shall **remember** that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. (8:2) Remembering* is an on going theme in Deuteronomy.

### Threats to Relationship With God

DON'T –

- Let memory fail you (8:2 *remember*; 8:11 *do not forget*)
- Let vanity possess you (8:14 *your heart will become proud*)
- Let prosperity intoxicate you (8:13 *your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase*)
- Let security deceive you (8:19 *if you...follow other gods and worship and bow down to them*)