

DEUTERONOMY

The word '*Deuteronomy*' means *second law in Greek*. Strictly speaking, what we have here is not a second set of law compared, but a re-publishing of the law originally given to the first generation of Israelites for the second generation.

The book **Deuteronomy** is the most quoted Old Testament book, 356 times in the OT and 190 times in the NT.

Place: *On the plains of Moab, across from the Jordan* Time: *39th/40th year since the Exodus*

**Why the delay? Why not cross over now?
Why is Moses (the old man) holding us back?**

Theme: *OBEY!*

Key verse: *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.*
(Deut 6:4-5)

Outline: Remembrance of the *past* (**Chapters 1-4**)

Keyword: Remember

*When you obey, what happened? When you disobeyed, what happened?
Remember!*

Commandments for the *present* (**Chapters 5-26**)

- *C5-11 ~ 10 Commandments + Principles*
- *C12-26 ~ Great variety of day-to-day regulations to meet the practical demands of God*

Choices affecting the *future* (**Chapters 27-30**)

If you obey

Then blessings

Else curses

Parting words of Moses (**Chapters 31-34**)

*I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you,
that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing;
therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.*

Deuteronomy 30:19

Obedience in Wider Context:

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.' "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? 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? (Deuteronomy 4:6-8)

All nations would say, 'Why has the LORD done so to this land? What does the heat of this great anger mean?' "Then people would say: 'Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt; for they went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods that they did not know and that He had not given to them. Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against this land, to bring on it every curse that is written in this book. And the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger, in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day.' (Deuteronomy 29:24-28)

Israel as God's Old Testament people have the calling to show the world what God wants, what it means to live as God's people, in God's land, under God's rule. Obeying God's law is the means to fulfilling this holy calling of theirs --- to be a kingdom of priests, to be the light to the nations.

In the same way, we obey God's commandments today, not in order to be saved, but to show our gratitude to God and to be the salt and light of the world for Jesus!

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