

REDO

A Closer Look at the Book of Deuteronomy



The Name

1. The Hebrew Bible renders the title “The Words” or “These Be The Words” based on the opening words of the text.
2. Many other have also referred to it as “Doublings” or “Repetitions” based on Deuteronomy 17:18.
3. The English title is derived from the LXX and means “second law” or “repeated law.”



The Purpose

1. The chief purpose of Deuteronomy is the repeating of the law (rehearsal theology).
2. Two important lessons are emphasized within this repetition.
 - a. God will bless and reward the faithful (Deuteronomy 30:19).
 - b. God will punish the wicked (Deuteronomy 4:2).



The Timeframe

1. The Book of Deuteronomy has more chapters than Leviticus and almost as many as Numbers; however, it covers a much shorter period of time.
2. This declaration of the law began on the first day of the eleventh month during the fortieth year of the wilderness wandering.
3. Deuteronomy records about two months of Bible history.
 - a. Adam Clark believes that the time covered by Deuteronomy is exactly five weeks.
 - b. Others have estimated the time to be about 70 days.



The Breakdown

1. Chapters 1:1-4:43 record the historical review of the journeys.
2. Chapters 4:44-26:19 describe the laws by which the nation of Israel was to live.
3. Chapters 27:1-30:30 issue some warnings and predictions relative to Israel.
4. Chapter 31 is the entrusting of the written law to the leaders of Israel.
5. Chapters 32-34 record Moses’ farewell address and death.

Deuteronomy Is A Book That Never Should Have Been Written!

1. The above assertion is respectfully made. Deuteronomy was written to the second generation of the children of Israel who had not yet reached the Promised Land because of unbelief.

2. It is clear that if the first generation of the children of Israel would have obeyed God, the events of Deuteronomy would have never taken place. Numbers chapters 13 and 14 are the background of this book.
 - a. The 40 years of wilderness wondering would have never happened.
 - b. They would be **in** the Promised Land instead of only **near** it.

Deuteronomy Is A Book That Shows We Can Learn From Our Mistakes.

1. Moses repeatedly points to the failings of the earlier generation.
2. He pleads with Israel to learn from these short falls.
3. Mistakes **do not** have to be repeated.

This Book Shows Just How Difficult It Is To Learn From Our Mistakes.

1. Yes, the children of Israel finally entered the Promised Land.
 - a. They still had problems with idolatry.
 - b. They still had heart problems (Matthew 22:37-40; Deuteronomy 6:5).
 - c. They still found themselves being distracted by the things of this world.
2. We are always only one generation away from success or ruin.
 - a. The first generation failed, but the second succeeded.
 - b. "...There arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph" (Exodus 1:8) must be among the saddest words in the Bible.
3. Lest any parent, preacher, or other person think we can relax our standards and rules, we must remember that everything can change in just one generation.
 - a. Standards of modesty must not change (Exodus 28:42).
 - b. Standards for church attendance must not change (Hebrews 10:25).
 - 1) We are still required to seek first the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 6:33).
 - 2) Vacation season is upon us, so we must be sure we do not take a vacation from worship services!
 - c. Standards of dealing with conflict cannot be rewritten (Matthew 18:15-17). In certain cases the church is to act.
 - d. Standards about the Christian's work cannot be rewritten (1 Corinthians 15:58).
 - e. Standards regarding sound doctrine cannot be subverted (2 Timothy 4:2, 3 & Titus 2:1).
 - f. Demands for brotherly love (Hebrews 13:1) must not be ignored.
 - 1) We are not charged to only love the people we like.
 - 2) Body members should be equally appreciated.
4. Our mistakes can be corrected, and our influence can be repaired!