
Restatement of the Law

— Good news for the whole world —

Order & Structure of Deuteronomy

Who, what, when,
where & why

Deut. 1-4: Prologue

Chapter 6-12: Hear & Obey

Chapter 5: Ten Commandments

Chapters 13-25: Commentary

Chapters 26ff: Blessings and
Cursings; Epilogue

Time, Place & Structure
What Makes a Nation Great
How Do You See God?



Time & Place

Deuteronomy 1-4

Time & Place: Moses's last words

These be the words which Moses spake unto all Israel, on this side of the Jordan ... (There are eleven days journey from [Mt. Sinai]).

And it came to pass in the first day of the eleventh month, in the fortieth year ... began Moses to declare this law, saying, "The Lord our God spake unto us, ... 'Behold, I have set the land before you' ... that land which the Lord sware unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob"

Deut. 1.1-8

You missed the turn. Now we're late

- Eleven day journey from Sinai
 - Forty-years since Exodus & Sinai Covenant
 - Two-hundred fifteen years since Jacob entered Egypt
 - Four-hundred fifty-five years since Covenant given to Abraham
 - Two-thousand five-hundred-fifty years since Adam
-
- Five-hundred years before Kingdom Period
 - One-thousand five hundred years before Christ
 - Three-thousand five hundred years ago

Structure of Deuteronomy

Preliminary Remarks to Ten Comm.	Deut. 1-5
To whom does Moses speak	Deut. 6-12
Moses's Exposition on Moral Law	Deut. 12-26
Blessings and Cursings	Deut. 27-33

Unimpeachable Divine Law: All Else Commentary

Due largely to its role in Deuteronomy, the Decalogue has even since been viewed as the primary and essential code of biblical religious law -- the Code to which, for the Rabbis, Philo, and the New Testament, for Jew and Protestant Reformers, and for the Bible Commentators throughout the ages was and is the eternal and unimpeachable divine law upon which all else is but commentary. It was then only natural for systematizers such as Philo and Calvin to view the Ten Commandments of the Decalogues as the general headings under which the specific enactments of Pentateuchal law may be grouped.

Stephen A. Kaufman, *The Structure of Deuteronomical Law*, MAARAV (1978-79)

Moses's Exposition on the Moral Law: Deut. 6-25

Commandment

Deuteronomy

1-2

6-11

3

12-14

4

15-16.17

5

16.18-18.22

6

19.1-21.9

7

21.10-23

8

22

9-10

23-25

Fr. W. Schultz, *Das Deuteronomium* (1859)

Moses's Exposition on the Moral Law: Deut. 6-25

<u>Moral Law</u>	<u>Exposition</u>	<u>Topic</u>	
I-II: 5.6-10	12.1-31	Worship	
III: 5.11	13.1-14.27	Name of God	
IV: 5.12-15	14.28-16.17	Sabbath	
V: 5.16	16.18-18.22	Authority	
VI: 5.17	19.1-22.8	Homicide	
VII: 5.18	22.9-23.19	Adultery	
VIII: 5.19	23.20-24.7	Theft	
IX: 5.20	24.8-25.4	False Charges	
X: 5.21	25.5-16	Coveting	Kaufman, <i>Structure</i>

What makes a nation great?

Deuteronomy 4.1-8

A Rule of Law to Unite the People

Behold, I have taught you ordinances and laws as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do ... Keep them, therefore, and do them: for that is your wisdom and your understanding.

What nation is so great, unto whom the gods come so near unto them, as the Lord our God is?

What nation is so great that hath ordinances and laws so righteous, as all this Law which I set before you this day.

Deut. 4.5-9

How do you see God?

Deuteronomy 4.9-24

I can't see a word you are saying

Take heed ... the Lord spake unto you out of the midst of the fire, and ye heard the voice of the words but saw no similitude save a voice ... For ye saw no image in the day that the Lord spake unto you in Horeb ... Corrupt not yourselves and make you a graven image, etc. Deut. 4.12, 14-23

He declared unto you his covenant which he commanded you to do, even the Ten Commandments, and wrote them upon two Tables of stone. ... Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the Lord your God which he made with you. Deut. 4.13, 23

Bibliography

Stephen A. Kaufman, *The Structure of Deuteronomistic Law*, MAARAV (1978-79)

R.J. Rushdoony, Commentaries on the Pentateuch: Deuteronomy, Ross House Books, California (2008)

Richard H. Hiers, Justice and Compassion in Biblical Law, Continuum Publishing Group, New York (2009)

Jonathan Burnside, God, Justice & Society: Aspects of Law and Legality in the Bible, Oxford University Press (2011)