
Restatement of the Law

— Good news for the whole world —

Order & Structure of Deuteronomy

Who, what, when,
where & why

Deut. 1-4: Prologue

Chapter 5: Ten Commandments

Chapter 6-12: Hear & Obey

Chapters 13-25: Commentary

**Chapters 26ff: Blessings and
Cursings; Epilogue**

Marriage as Metaphor for God/Israel Relations

- One Husband/One Wife
- Jealous affections for fidelity of the other
- Breach of covenant dissolves the bond
- Reconciliation prohibited (Death penalty offense. cf. Deut. 24.4)

On Hosea, “Idolatry is worse than ordinary prostitution because ... the fee is always being paid with the husband’s money, as he is the sustainer of the world”

Moshe Halbertal, Idolatry c.1

Suzerainty as Metaphor for God/Israel Relations

- Historical Prologue
- Stipulations Enjoined on the Subordinate
- Deposit of the Treaty in the Temple
- Blessings & Cursings
- Witness to the Treaty
- Covenantal Succession
 - Continuation in leadership
 - Transmission to subsequent generations

See Berman, Created Equal, 28-40, Kline, Treaty of the Great King, 58

Historical Prologue (Deut. 1-3 & 4)

- Modernized Covenant at Sinai
 - “After he had slain Sihon ...” (1.4)
 - C.f. “After the children of Israel were gone out of the land of Egypt” (Ex. 19.1)
- Now there’s a mediator
 - “These be the Words that Moses spake” (1.1, 4.1, 2, 5, 10)
 - Mediatorial Deuteronomy (c.1-30) repeated to Israel every seventh year (See 31.9-13);
 - C.f. “Then God spake all these words saying ...” (Ex. 20.1; 18-21; Dt. 5.22)
- Stipulations are from God and remain the same (Deut. 6)
 - “These are the selfsame commandments, statutes and judgments which the Lord our God commanded me [Moses] to teach you [Israel] ...” (6.1)
 - Chapters 6-26 and chapter 28 (blessings and cursings) were given to Moses at Sinai and held until now, when relevant (See Kaufman, *Structure*, 109)

Stipulations Enjoined on Subordinate

- 1st Comm: (Jehovah) God owns you (5.6-10, 12.1-31)
- 2d Comm: (Idols) God is your source of law & life (5.6-10, 12.1-31)
- 3d Comm: (Name) Act different from mankind
- 4th Comm: (Sabbath) Remember your humbled state
- 5th Comm: (Authority) Law comes from God, not men
- 6th Comm: (Murder) Make life alive
- 7th Comm: (Adultery) Live an unadulterated life
- 8th Comm: (Theft) Keep life, liberty & property
- 9th Comm: (False-Witness) Treat the oppressed with fairness & dignity
- 10th Comm: (Covetousness) Don't even think about it

Depositing Treaty in Temple

- Law from Sinai deposited in the Ark (Ex. 25.16; 40.20)
 - Original two tablets given to Moses (Ex. 31.18) were broken at 32.19
 - Two new tablets given to Moses (Ex. 34.1) were deposited in the Ark
- Deuteronomy 5-30 added to the Ark (Deut. 31.26) [cf. Dt. 27.1-8]

Blessings & Cursings (Deut. 27.11 to c.29)

Apostate despisers of grace and holiness would discover the covenant curses were no idle threats. Similarly, the faithful might be confident that the covenant blessings were no empty promises. ... Yahweh the Creator, not Baal, was the bestower of fertility in the field, flock and family. It was the Lord how had subjected man to nature's curse for his sin and he was able therefore to deliver the Israelites from the curse of Egypt's notorious diseases ... just as he had rescued them from Egypt's infamous pharaoh.

Kline, Treaty of the Great King, 69

Blessings & Cursings (Deut. 27.11 to c.29)

28.3-6	Where you are, home, work, life, etc.	28.15-19
28.7, 12-13	Far Away/At Home/ With God /At Home/Far Away	
	Cursed where you are, home, work, life, etc.	28.16-19
	Forsaking God leads to epidemic, drought and war	28.20-26
	Vexation & Frustration	28.27-37
28.8-11	Failure & Frustration	28.38-48
	Enslavement by foreign nations	28.49-57
	Summary of Curses	28.15, 58-68

You Can Do It!

- Circumcise your heart (Deut. 10.16, cf. 30.6)
- The word is very near ... do it (Deut. 30.14)

“The Lord did not require of Israel something incomprehensible or unattainable ... [T]he covenant demand is one of the revealed things given to God’s people to be obeyed.” Kline, Treaty at 133-34

“All were called to obedience, and all were deemed capable of obedience.”
Wright, Old Testament Ethics, 31

By Two or Three Witnesses ...

- Heaven & Earth (30.19-20; 4.26; 32.1; 31.28)
 - Deuteronomic treaty contains ... a rhetorical imitation of ... containing the invocation of the gods of the lord and vassal as divine witnesses (cf. 4.26, 31.28, 32.1) See Kline @ 134
- Deut. 5-30 added to Ark “that it may be a witness against thee” (31.26)

One of the standard divisions in the secular suzerainty treaties was that containing the invocation of the gods of the lord and vassal as the divine witnesses of the covenant oath. ... Yahweh was of course the divine Witness as well as the Lord of this covenant. Kline, Treaty 134

Tri-partite Covenantal Agreement: God, Man & Gov't

Dynastic Succession

- Joshua will be the new leader (4.21-22; 34.9-12)

Covenantal Succession

- Rehearse these words (c.4):
 - In your heart (6)
 - To your home (7)
 - In what you do and see (8)
 - In the public square (9)
- Public display of all the law erected at side of Jordan (27.1-9, Jos. 4)

Lessons Learned: Don't Trust in Yourself

- “I am sure that after my death, ye will utterly be corrupt and turn from the way which I have commanded you. Therefore, evil will come upon you. ... Thus Moses spake in the audience of the Congregations of Israel.”
31.29-30
- [On Deut. 28.58] “Moses was thus severe in his exactions, in order that the people, being convinced of their condemnation, should betake themselves to the mercy of God; *for no one longs after Christ, unless he first abandons all confidence in his works, and rests all his hope of salvation in gratuitous pardon.*” Calvin's Commentaries, 3.iii.262

Lessons Learned: Remember the Fundamentals

- Our God is one
- Foreign gods and laws treason
- We govern ourselves so we don't need to be regulated (2 Cor 3.17)
- We are a nation of priests (i.e., equal before God)
 - Civil government is by consent of the people
 - Poor are entitled to dignity
- We are to be a peaceful people
 - No profit in foreign or domestic war (discourages war)
 - No standing army
 - No cavalry
 - No foreign political alliances

Wines, Commentaries on the Laws of the Ancient Hebrews, ii.395-412

Lessons Learned: There is Peace in the Sabbath

Thrice every year all the males were required to repair to the capital. With such a law in operation, how could a nation engage in schemes of foreign conquest?

Wines, Commentaries on the Laws of the Ancient Hebrews, ii.412

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