

Plotline of Numbers and Deuteronomy: Numbers 1:1 <-> Numbers 21:4-9 <-> Numbers 36:13 <-> Deuteronomy 1:1 <-> Deuteronomy 4 <-> Deuteronomy 7:6-11 <-> Deuteronomy 10:12-13 <-> Deuteronomy 34:1, 9-12

God's Self-Revelation: How is the Triune God revealed?

God is faithful. Though Israel is unfaithful to God, YHWH remains faithful to His covenant. YHWH desires to bless Israel and not curse ultimately (Numbers 6:22-27 and 22-24). "YHWH bless you and keep you!"

Christ is the in Wilderness with the Israelites (see 1 Cor. 10:1-1).

Triune God is Revealed in Numbers: God the Father revealed in speaking to Moses on top of mountain and in the Tent of Meeting/Tabernacle; Christ the Son of God prefigured, foreshadowed, and spiritually present in and through Tabernacle, especially in substitutionary atonement and propitiation; Holy Spirit present as cloud by day and fire by night.

Man's Sinful Condition: What is FCF (Fallen Condition Focus)?

Ungrateful grumblers, manic mumblers who murmur against God's good ways, word and will.

Pastoral/Practical-Experiential Wisdom: How then should I live?

Christ is the faithful Israelite and High Priest who brings God's blessing to Israel. When Jesus Christ was in the wilderness, He trusted God's good ways, His word ("It is written"), and His most holy will *on our behalf as Savior and our example*). Jesus was lifted up as the "cursed snake" on the pole/cross. When sick sinners, poisoned with our sins look to Him in faith, we are immediately healed!

^{ESV} Numbers 21:9 So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

^{ESV} John 3:14-15: And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

Book of Deuteronomy: the Constitutional Covenant of Israel

"Deuteronomy" comes from 17:18: "And when he [a future king of Israel] sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests". Should be translated best as "a copy of this law" (ESV); it is deposited as a witness in the ark, the very throne of God on earth).

Outline of Covenant Document/Sermon Series of Torah by Moses

- I. Deuteronomy 1-5 (Historical Prologue of the Covenant and the Law)
- II. Deuteronomy 6-26 (Stipulations of the Covenant)
- III. Deuteronomy 27-28 (Blessings/Curses of the Covenant)
- IV. Deuteronomy 29-34 (Witnesses to the Covenant/Moses and Joshua)

Theme: “The Old Covenant Mediator’s Final Words from God for the People of God about Torah-Covenant-Faithfulness in the Land in Response to the grace YHWH has Lavished Upon Them.”

ESV Deuteronomy 1:5-11: Beyond the Jordan, in the land of Moab, Moses undertook to explain this law, saying, ⁶ "The LORD our God said to us in Horeb, 'You have stayed long enough at this mountain.' ⁷ Turn and take your journey, and go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all their neighbors in the Arabah, in the hill country and in the lowland and in the Negeb and by the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates. ⁸ See, I have set the land before you. Go in and take possession of the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their offspring after them.' ⁹ "At that time I said to you, 'I am not able to bear you by myself.' ¹⁰ The LORD your God has multiplied you, and behold, you are today as numerous as the stars of heaven. ¹¹ May the LORD, the God of your fathers, make you a thousand times as many as you are and bless you, as he has promised you!"

ESV Deuteronomy 4:1-2: "And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. ² You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you."

Torah (Commandment/Teaching/Law) Outline of Deuteronomy (Interestingly, “These are the words” is the Hebrew title of this book):

1. “These are the words” (Deut. 1:1)
2. “This is the law [Torah]...” (Deut. 4:44)
3. “This is the commandment –the statutes and ordinances” (Deut. 6:1)
4. “These are the words of the covenant” (Deut. 29:1).
5. “This is the blessing” (Deut. 33:1)

Thematic Outline:

1. Covenant Document (see outline for “Suzerain-Vassal Treaties” in the Ancient Near East)
2. Covenant Commandments/Law of God
3. Covenant Mediator Sermons
4. Covenant Blessings/Curses

The Book of Deuteronomy constitutes the theological core of the Old Testament. Importantly, it is the one of the most cited Old Testament books in the New Testament, along with Genesis, Isaiah, and the Psalms.

Remember to think of the Former Prophets (Historical Books) as orbiting around Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy is the sun and the Former Prophets are the planets in our solar system.

Israel will fail the covenant, and like Adam, they will transgress God’s commands and be sent “East of Eden” into exile (cf. Hosea 6:7). Moses tells the people plainly: “And when all these things [curses from Deut. 29] come upon you ... which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you [exile], and return to the LORD your God, you and your children ... then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you...” (Deut. 30:1-3).

Gospel of Grace Proclamation: There will be grace in the end. Because of God’s covenant commitment, a remnant from Israel will possess the land that has been promised, in all of its cosmic glory and beauty: “*For the LORD your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them*” (Deut. 4:31).

^{ESV} **Deuteronomy 30:1-6:** *"And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you, ² and return to the LORD your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, ³ then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. ⁴ If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there he will take you. ⁵ And the LORD your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. ⁶ And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, **that you may live.**"*

Important for Understanding God's Law Revealed through Moses:

^{ESV} **Deuteronomy 5:1-7:** *"And Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the rules that I speak in your hearing today, and you shall learn them and be careful to do them. ² The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. ³ Not with our fathers did the LORD make this covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today. ⁴ The LORD spoke with you face to face at the mountain, out of the midst of the fire, ⁵ while I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the LORD. For you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up into the mountain. He said: ⁶ "'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.' ⁷ "'You shall have no other gods before me."*

- The Giving of Law in Torah/Moses is in larger context of the Covenant of Grace. It is part of the Covenant of Grace (note Exodus 2:23-25; 20:1-2).
 - **Note the link between Mt. Sinai and Mt. Horeb** (both part of God's revelation under Moses as part of the one Covenant of Grace)
 - **Important:** The Mosaic Covenant rests squarely on a covenantal (relational) rather than a legal relationship. ***Law is not preeminent, but covenant. Law is subservient to covenant.*** "The nation of Israel already was in covenantal relationship with the Lord through Abraham (O. Palmer Robertson).
- Mosaic Covenant advances the revelation and promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Seed, Land, and Blessing). As biblical scholar says clearly: "...It is important to realize that these national covenants (Moses/David) ***do not supercede*** the ancestral covenants (Adam, Noah, and Abraham). Rather, the latter are ***the theological backbone*** supporting the national covenants and against which they must be understood."
 - a. Israel a chosen, holy nation (people of Abraham)
 - b. Israel will dwell in the land with God in holiness
 - c. Israel will be an example and blessing before the nations, demonstrating how mankind was created to live in this world with God
- **The Law's Threefold Purpose:**
 - a. Reveal sin (in revealing God's character and holiness)
 - b. Restraining sin (in community/in the world)
 - c. Revealing the will of God and the way to "walk and talk" with God in holy fellowship and communion.

- The revelation of the Law is not only joined to the revelation of atonement (tabernacle/priesthood), but the revelation of the Law is intended to lead to the revelation of atonement (S. Myers, class notes).
- Revelation of Triune God in the Working Out of Salvation Revealed in the Law of Moses:
 - a. God the Father reveals His majestic holiness and the sinfulness of man in the law.
 - b. God the Son is revealed in tabernacle/priesthood as Savior with atoning blood to make Israel clean, pure, and holy before God.
 - c. God the Holy Spirit is revealed (God's presence/ fire by night and cloud by day is an "image of the Spirit" according to M. Kline) as the one who provides grace for believing Israel to "walk and talk" with God in holiness and to live before the watching, sinful world as a Kingdom of Priests/Holy Nation (Exo. 19:3-6).

Deuteronomy as Constitutional Covenant (and as similar to a Suzerain-Vassal Treaty)

- 1) Preamble (Sovereign King is introduced and His Lordship is declared over the people)- Exodus 20; Deut. 5:23-27
- 2) Historical Prologue (summarizes relationship of the covenantal parties and particularly the Sovereign King's past acts of benevolence and mercy to his people)- Exodus 20:2; Deut. 4:32-38
- 3) Stipulations (responsibilities/obligations for heart-loyalty and full covenantal commitment; conditions/requirements as part of agreement) of the Covenant- Exodus 20:3-7; Deut. 6:4-6
- 4) Depositing of the Covenant in the Sanctuary for Periodic Reading (provisions were made by Sovereign King for official depositing the covenantal records/duplicate copies of treaty documents)- Deut. 17:13-20
- 5) Witnesses to the Covenant (summoning witnesses, even inanimate, creation objects as witnesses to covenant made)- Deut. 30:19-20
- 6) Curses and Blessings of the Covenant (curses for covenant disobedience/disloyalty/breaking covenant; blessings for covenant obedience/faithfulness/loyalty/keeping of the Covenant)- Lev. 26/Deut. 28

- Prophets will serve in later RH as “Covenant Prosecutors” with creation as witness called by YHWH to the stand.
- Important Individuals who will come in time to provide rule and guidance to Israel:
 1. Messianic King (Deut. 17:14-20)
 2. Prophet Greater than Moses (Deut. 18:9-22)

God’s Self-Revelation: How is the Triune God revealed?

God is righteous law-giver. God is Covenant LORD. God is Israel’s Warrior and Heavenly Father (especially Deut. 32).

Triune God is revealed: (1) The Father speaks to Moses from throne in Tent of Meeting; (2) Son is symbolized/typified in atonement/sacrifices/priesthood; (3) Spirit is revealed as God’s presence in cloud (comfort) and fire (illumination).

Man's Sinful Condition: What is FCF (Fallen Condition Focus)?

Man cannot enter the Paradise-Promised Land apart from God’s power and grace. Our Pioneer, the LORD Jesus Christ has gone before us and blazed a trail for us to follow in reliance upon His grace and Spirit (Heb. 12:1ff).

Jesus Christ fulfills as God-Man the obligations of the Covenant of Grace for all elect, believing sinners. **Unconditional covenant** = Made possible because God on behalf of sinful man will fulfill demands of covenant faithfulness and obedience; **conditional covenant** = God as man (Jesus Christ the Son of God) will be faithful on behalf of his elect, and die as a propitiating sacrifice and atonement for our sins.

The Covenant of Grace is both unconditional and conditional and this is a real tension revealed in redemptive-history, yet Jesus Christ both fulfills covenant for us and relieves this tension as God-Man.

Pastoral/Practical-Experiential Wisdom: How then should I live?

God sends His faithful king to make His people righteous and to lead them by His power and grace in righteousness. Christ is the Prophet greater than Moses who reveals God’s righteous law and teaches Israel. He comes not to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to fulfill them (Matt. 5:17-20, 48).

Four options with regard to God's law today: 1. Ignore the law altogether; 2. Focus on the parts of the law that you keep; 3. Focus on the parts of the law that you do not keep; 4. Keep the law of God in Christ (as we are taught in Romans 8:3-4). We should remember true love lived out in Christ by His grace is the fulfillment of the law, and brings great joy! (John 15:9-11). **We should choose only option 4 by God's grace!** As the Apostle Peter says:

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:9-12).

***ESV Deuteronomy 34:** Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, 2 all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, 3 the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. 4 And the LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, 'I will give it to your offspring.' I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there." 5 So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD, 6 and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. 7 Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated. 8 And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended. 9 And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. 10 And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, 11 none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, 12 and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.*

***ESV Matthew 17:1-6:** And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³ And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵ He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified.*

Book of Deuteronomy Overview

Deut. 1-4: The book begins with the historical stage being set in verses 1-7. The setting is on the Plains of Moab on the edge of the promised land. In v.5, there is the first reference to Torah (“this law”). Then the LORD turns Moses’ focus upon the covenantal promise of the land to the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) in v. 8. The LORD reminds Moses of the promises made in Gen. 12:2 and 15:5 in v. 11, 12. The first four chapters focus our attention on a number of key themes that will be clarified and explained throughout the book: commandments-statutes-judgments (1:18; 4:1,5,6,14; 4:40,44f) and covenant (4:13); the Exodus from Egypt (1:30; 4:10f,20); the Land (1:21,22; 2:29,31; 3:2,18,20; 4:1,2,5,14); Repentance (1:41,45; 4:29); Forgiveness (4:31); Rebellion-sin-forgetting what the LORD has done “before their eyes” (1:26f,32,35,43; 4:3,9,23,24f,34); “Remember” (4:9); “Fear not” (1:21,29; 3:2); Wilderness (1:19,31,40; 2:7); God the Divine Warrior (1:30,42; 2:25,33f; 3:2,21-22). There is also a recurring rhetorical question: “What god is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy mighty acts?” (3:24; cf.4:32f). The succession of Joshua is also introduced (3:28). Particularly in chapter 3, the focus seems to be on God’s faithfulness to Israel as Divine Warrior. Israel is conquering her enemies and God through Israel is making a new creation, establishing Israel over the land to be fruitful, and multiply, to replenish the earth, to subdue the land, and have dominion over it (Dt. 3:6f,18-20; cf. Gen. 2:28). Christ’s future ministry is foreshadowed in Moses’ ministry (4:21-22,31). Summary: Historical prologue and the covenantal conditions for possessing the land.

Deut. 5-11: Moses calls to Israel as Mediator who represented them at Horeb (5:5), and proclaims the Torah of God given at Sinai, recorded in Exodus 20 (cf. Dt. 5:6f). He reminds them of their fear of God’s presence at Sinai (5:22f). He reminds them that they heard God from the midst of the fire (5:24f). Chapter five and six reemphasize the importance of covenantal obedience to God’s commandments in order to possess the land. In Dt. 6:4f, Moses tells the Israelites that the imperatives spoken to them in the Torah is founded upon the indicative- - that is, who God is as he has revealed himself to Israel. He tells Israel of the foundational response of love and not fear of God, and the importance of passing on this “good news” to their heritage (6:6f). He tells them in chapter 6 that unbelief is forgetting what God has done for them and thus commanded obedience from them. In Chapter 7, Moses tells them that to destroy the people of the land and avoid syncretism because it will result in idolatry and unbelief (7:3f). God chose Israel because of his divine love for them (7:6-9). Israel is told to trust in God’s provision and protection as they take the land, remembering the Exodus from Egypt, and the mighty power he displayed as their Divine Warrior (7:18f). Chapters 8-11 are reminders of what Moses said in chapter 4, with similar themes listed above running through chapters 1-11. Summary: Because of God’s *works*, they should believe and be obedient to God’s *words*! Christ’s ministry on behalf of his people is foreshadowed in his doing of God’s works and delivering God’s words.

Deut 12:26: The same words begin chapter 12 that are the same words used in 4:1 and 5:1: “These are the statutes and the judgments...” Chapter 12 is concerned with breaking down altars- - ridding the land of idolatry- -and setting up the true worship of God: the worship which God commands to his people. The blood of animals is introduced in sacrificial worship (12:23f). Chapter 13 introduces true prophets of God’s words. Chapter 14 describes clean and unclean foods that Israel is expected to follow in their diet. God is revealing how they are set apart even in their diet to be holy unto the LORD their God (14:3-21). God tells them the importance of giving their firstfruits of all their produce and cattle (14:22f). This is to provide for the Levitical priesthood, but also those who are poor and oppressed: the strangers, the orphans, and the widows (14:27f). Chapter 15 teaches Israel how they are to handle debts and debtors. Chapter 16 introduces Israel to the annual celebration of the Feasts of Passover, Weeks, Unleavened Bread, and Tabernacles, ultimately to remember their Exodus from Egypt (16:1-17). God also reveals the outward and visible

structure Israel is to have with authorities such as judges and officers representing God's authority in heaven over Israel (Theocracy) (16:18f). Chapter 17 reveals further God's theocratic government. God establishes the structure of the "visible Israel" with Levites, judges, and officers who are to "wield the sword" as God's representative authorities over Israel. The chapter ends with a warning of having a king over Israel. The point seems to be that Israel is a Theocracy with God as king and not a Realpolitic State such as the other pagan nations. Chapter 18 describes the authority of the Levites and their provision as priestly leaders of Israel. There is another warning of false prophets and magicians dwelling among Israel and a promise of a prophet like Moses to be raised up in the future (18:15f) - prophets are raised up by God and thus derive their authority from God to speak his words to Israel. God reveals further laws to govern Israel in the land in chapter 19; laws to protect Israel from murderers and the legal principle of "an eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot" to be meted out (19:21). Chapter 20 gives Israel laws and methods concerning war. These laws are founded upon God, the Divine Warrior (21:1-14). God gives Israel laws concerning marriage, family, specifically those concerning rebellion in the covenantal family (21:15f). Chapter 22 gives laws concerning possessions. Chapter 23 further describes Israel's holiness in worship and that no unbeliever is allowed to enter into covenantal worship (23:22f). Laws against various practices such as usury, vows, etc. are continued in chapter 23. Chapter 24 is concerned with marriage laws and the punishment of stealing in Israel. Chapter 25 and 26 contain further laws concerning death, fighting amongst brothers in Israel, and the first fruits are again emphasized—the belong to the LORD by faith. Summary: God is setting up a government of his holy nation Israel to enforce the laws which he has delivered to Israel, and to punish wrongdoers. Christ is foreshadowed in that he came as prophet, priest and king of his people to inaugurate God's rule over his people upon the earth and to visibly reign.

Deut. 27-28: Moses describes the blessings for covenantal obedience in possessing and living prosperously in the land; he warns the Israelites of curses for covenantal disobedience. Summary: "If you listen diligently to the LORD and observe all the commandments...blessings beyond imagination!" "If you will not listen to the LORD and observe all the commandments...curses beyond imagination!" Order in Israel will be turned to chaos; Eden will become like the wilderness; Israel will be punished like the Egyptians- -the enemies of God.

Deut. 29-30: Moses reminds the Israelites again of what they have seen and heard in Egypt. Again, Moses warns of covenantal disobedience and describes Israel's future as like Sodom and Gomorrah (29:23f). God tells Israel to obey the things revealed and remember the reasons, or the secret things belong to his Divine wisdom (29:29). In chapter 30, God tells Israel they will inevitably disobey the covenant, but if they will return and repent he will forgive them. The great promise of God is that even though Israel is unfaithful to the covenant, God will keep his promises! God will circumcise the hearts of his people so they can live obediently (30:5f). In verses 11-20, God reminds the Israelites that obedience is founded not upon their sacrifices, but ultimately their love for God. Summary: It is love for God that causes them to desire to obey the covenant. Christ fulfilled the law and came and circumcised the hearts of his people fulfilling the promises to Abraham and his seed and taking the curses of the law upon him on the cross.

Deut. 31-34: Chapter 31 describes the final events in Moses' life before the Israelites cross over to possess the promise land under Joshua their mediator. God reminds the Israelites to "be strong and of good courage; to not be afraid" of the people now inhabiting the land they are to possess, for the LORD will go before them and secure their victory (31:6f). Among Moses' last words is a very sober prophecy in 31:29f: Israel will forget all that he had told them and disobey the covenant. Chapter 32 is a veritable gold mine of revelation describing God's attributes and faithfulness to Israel- - to his people. Chapter 33 changes from Moses' first person speech to that of a third person narrator. Chapter 33 describes the blessings to each of

the tribes of Israel. Chapter 34 concludes the book with the death of Moses, his burial, his uniqueness as a prophet of God. From v. 10 it would seem this ending may have been written at a period much later than the first person events described in the previous chapters of Deuteronomy.

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