

## 2019 Through the Bible Reading: *Bible Study Support*

The Book of DEUTERONOMY	
Background (Who, what, why, when)	<p><b>Overview:</b></p> <p>“Second Law” – The English title for the book of Deuteronomy is taken from the Greek translation of Deuteronomy 17:18, which spoke of the king having “a copy of the law.” However, both the Greek Δευτερονόμιον (<i>Deuteronomion</i>) and its rendering into English meant a “second law,” hence the English name of “Deuteronomy.” The book of Deuteronomy is a given by God through Moses to prepare the younger generation before entering into their promised land of Canaan. God repeats to this new generation all of the laws that were given to their parents who died during the forty-years of wandering in the wilderness after leaving Egypt. This multitude had not experienced the miracle at the Red Sea or heard the law given at Sinai, and they were about to enter a new land with many dangers and temptations. The book of Deuteronomy was given to remind them of God’s law and power. This is the last of the five books of the Pentateuch. Deuteronomy presents a summary of the narrative of Exodus-Numbers and reiterates laws and regulations found in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers.<sup>1</sup></p> <p><b>Themes:</b></p> <p><i>Land</i></p> <p>One of the great themes of Deuteronomy is that the land is a promised gift from God. There are some sixty-six references to the land as God’s gift, and Israel is told sixty-nine times to go and “possess” and “inherit” the land. However, the land of Canaan is not the nation’s natural right—the land belongs to the Lord. It is Israel’s only because the Lord swore on oath to give it to their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.</p> <p><i>Love of God</i></p> <p>Deuteronomy emphasizes the love of God that He continued to pour out on His people, Israel. “The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than any other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt” (Deut. 7:7–8; compare Deut. 4:37; 14:1–2; 26:18–19).</p> <p><i>Remembrance</i></p> <p>Deuteronomy also calls Israel to remember what God has done for them—especially in their redemption from Egypt. Such recollections were to be helpful for the present day but also for the future—how God would act in the final day in history. Remembering was an act that both recalled the past and demanded action.<sup>2</sup> In addition, God challenges His people not to forget his promises and warnings (see Deut. 4:9, 6:12, 8:11). This theme is repeated throughout Deuteronomy and the rest of the Bible (e.g. Hosea 4:6, Rev. 2:5).</p>

<sup>1</sup> Walter C. Kaiser, J. (2016). [Deuteronomy, Book of](#). In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, ... W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

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	Date of Writing is approximately 1406 B.C.
Interesting Facts in Deuteronomy	The core content of the book of Deuteronomy is structured around three major discourses delivered by Moses. The parameters of the discourses are debated, but the starting points are usually held to be Deuteronomy 1:1; 4:44; and 29:1. The content of Deuteronomy includes narrative, law, poetry, and exhortation.
Reasonable Defense for the faith in Deuteronomy	Many New Testament themes are present in the book of Deuteronomy. The foremost among them is the necessity of keeping perfectly the Mosaic Law and the impossibility of doing so. The endless sacrifices necessary to atone for the sins of the people—who continually transgressed the Law—would find their fulfillment in the final “once for all” sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:10). Because of His atoning work on the cross, we need no further sacrifices for sin. God’s choosing of the Israelites as His special people foreshadows His choosing of those who would believe in Christ (1 Peter 2:9). In Deuteronomy 18:15-19, Moses prophesies of another prophet—the ultimate Prophet to come who is the Messiah. Like Moses, He would receive and preach divine revelation and He would lead His people (John 6:14; 7:40).
Memory Verse	<i>“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?”</i> (Deuteronomy 10:12-13 NKJV)
Practical Application to memory verse	D 12 – 6: A <b>HEART</b> that pursues God is guided by the Word of God. By reading and knowing the Word of God you will understand His ways and you will know His commandments and statutes. Know that God loves you and wants the best for you.
Life Application from Biblical Themes in Deuteronomy	<p>The book of Deuteronomy underscores the importance of God’s Word. It is a vital part of our lives. Although we are not under the Old Testament laws for justification, we are still responsible to submit to the will of God in our lives. Simple obedience brings blessing, and sin has its painful consequences.</p> <p>None of us is “above the law.” Even Moses, the leader and prophet chosen by God, was required to obey. The reason that he was not allowed to enter the Promised Land was that he disobeyed the Lord’s clear command (Numbers 20:13). During the time of His testing in the wilderness, Jesus quoted from the book of Deuteronomy three times (Matthew 4). In so doing, Jesus illustrated for us the necessity of hiding God’s Word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him (Psalm 119:11). As Israel remembered God’s faithfulness, so should we. The crossing of the Red Sea, the holy presence at Sinai, and the blessing of manna in the desert should be an encouragement to us as well. A great way to keep going forward is to take some time to look back and see what God has done.</p> <p>We also have a beautiful picture in Deuteronomy of a loving God Who desires a relationship with His children. The Lord names love as the reason that He brought Israel out of Egypt “with a mighty hand” and redeemed them (Deuteronomy 7:7-9). What a wonderful thing to be free from the bondage of sin and loved by an all-powerful God.</p>