Summary of Deuteronomy

Recap of the trip from Egypt to Moab (1-3)

Call to obedience (4)

Restatement of the laws (5-26)

Discussions of the blessings and curses (27-30)

Moses’ farewell (31-34)

Key Verses

Deuteronomy 4:2

Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I gave you.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (Hebrew Shema)

Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about the when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Deuteronomy 11:26-28

See I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse – the blessing if you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today; the curse if you disobey the commands of the Lord your God and turn from the way I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them. Rather, be openhanded and freely lend whatever they need. ...Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart, then because of this the Lord will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to. There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore, I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.

Deuteronomy 30:11-17

Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach…. No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it…… For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws…

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

Deuteronomy 32:46-47

He said to them, “Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you – they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.

Themes of Deuteronomy

Covenant

Deuteronomy restates God’s love for Israel, the blessings of walking in covenant with God and the stipulations of the covenant. (Deuteronomy 28)

Choice

Choice is an integral part of God’s relationship with humanity

God chose the Israelites

Yet the Lord set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you the descendants above all nations (Deuteronomy 10:15)

God invites the Israelites to choose him

This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live. (Deuteronomy 30:19)

Love

Twenty-five times love is mentioned as the basis and evidence of God’s relationship with Israel

But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath, he swore to your ancestors that … he redeemed you from the land of slavery (Deuteronomy 7:8)

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God he is the faithful God keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments (Deuteronomy 7:9)

And now Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all of your heart and with all of your soul (Deuteronomy 10:12)

Faithfulness

Moses called on the people to take the promised land as a fulfillment of God’s promise to bring the Israelites to the promised land

Types of Law

Moral law (Mishpatim)

These are often translated as the ordinances and relate to justice and judgment. Their purpose is to promote the welfare of those who obey.

Examples are Ten Commandments, and regulations on justice, respect, and sexual conduct. The moral laws provide examples of how to love God and love others as well as penalties for failure to obey the ordinances.

Ceremonial law (Hukkim or Chuqqah)

These are translated as the “custom of the nation” or the “statutes”.

These laws focus attention on God and related to Israel’s worship. These laws focus on regaining standing with God (sacrifices and ceremonies), remembrances of God’s work (feasts and festivals) and specific religious practices to distinguish the Israelites from the pagan neighbors Dietary and clothing restrictions)

Judicial or civil law

These laws dictate Israel’s daily living. (Deuteronomy 24:10-11)

Purpose of the Law

Reveal the holy character of God to the nation of Israel

(Leviticus 19:2, 20:7-8, Psalm 19:7 – the law of the Lord is perfect)

Set apart the nation of Israel from all other nations

Defines sin and exposes its heinous nature

Through the law we became conscious of our sin (Romans 3:20)

Confirms the need to be separate from sin

Many of the regulations were designed to make Israel distinct from the surrounding nations and people – not only worship but diet, clothing, and appearance.

Provide forgiveness through sacrifice and offerings for people who had faith in the Lord

(Leviticus 1-7)

Provide a way of worship

(Leviticus 23)

Provide direction for the physical and spiritual health of the nation (Exodus 21-23, Deuteronomy 6:4-19, Psalm 119:97-104)

Provides assurances that God will not forsake his children

Recognizes that people will fall short of God’s standard of holiness and spurn his Laws but God promised to “vindicate his people” (Deuteronomy 32:36) and make atonement for his land and people ((Deuteronomy 32:43)

New Testament Passages regarding the Law

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not even the stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. (Matthew 5:17-18)

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth (Romans 10:4)

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16)

For he himself is our peace, who made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing the wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. (Ephesians 2:15-16)

Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So, we, too, have put our faith in Jesus Christ that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified. (Galatians 2:16)

Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way, you fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2)