Deuteronomy Outline

DEUTERONOMY (COVENANT INSTRUCTION CONTINUES: COVENANT RENEWED WITH 5TH GENERATION)

Moses Renews the Covenant: (Moses' Last Days) (Dt 1:1 ‑ Dt 34:12) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

(**Note 1**: “Transjordan” = the East Side of Jordan)

(**Note 2**: Deuteronomy bears a striking resemblance to treaties found in Hittite, Syrian, and Mesopotamian cultures. These date

from the 17th to the 13th centuries B.C. and are generally unilateral treaties given by a great king to a vassal state.

With some variations, they have a basic 6 part structure: **Preamble**, **Prologue**, **Stipulations**, **Preservation and**

**Proclamation** of the Covenant, **Witnesses**, and **Sanctions**. Deuteronomy has additional material, and the order varies.

Treaty headings are in bold, below.)

(**Note 3**: The first 4 books of the Pentateuch could be considered its Historical Prologue. Material from those books is referred

to by quotation or allusion frequently in Deuteronomy. The 4 are a sweeping, extended Prologue; and the shorter Prologue

in Deuteronomy concentrates on Israel’s more immediate history, especially their victories; and it draws out the

implications of these, especially assurance. The Preamble, if any, in these 1st 4 books is in Ge 1:1, since it clearly

implies that God, as creator of everything, has the right to establish and maintain the relationships of blessing and

judgment found throughout the Pentateuch, and indeed in the whole of Scripture. The reason, purpose, and meaning of the

Pentateuch are, therefore, implicit in the words “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”)

1. Moses' Farewell Address (Dt 1:1 ‑ Dt 33:29) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

a. Address: Part 1 ‑ History ‑ Covenant Preamble & Prologue (Dt 1:1 ‑ Dt 4:49) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

(**Note**: 1:1-5 may be a later explanatory addition - cf., v. 5)

1. **Preamble** (intro giving reason, purpose, or meaning of document) (Dt 1:1 ‑ Dt 1:5 ) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

(**Note**: The Reason for the address was to “declare” the law; 874 “dig, engrave, explain”; BDB, 91 make distinct, plain)

2. **Prologue** (intro by a principal party often foreshadowing more) (Dt 1:6 - Dt 4:49) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

(**Note**: Moses recounts the incidents after leaving Mount Sinai, especially the battles, and encourages Israel to obey

the law in order to avoid God’s wrath and to inherit his blessing.)

a. God commanded them to possess Canaan (Dt 1:6 - Dt 1:8 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. In preparation, Moses established judges to share his burden (Dt 1:9 - Dt 1:18) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

c. But in Kadesh-barnea they lost Canaan 40 years by unbelief (Dt 1:19 - Dt 1:46) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

d. When the unbelieving generation was dead they began conquests(Dt 2:1 - Dt 3:17) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. They bypassed the blessed nations (Dt 2:1 - Dt 2:23) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

a. After leaving Mt Seir they bypassed Edom (Dt 2:1 - Dt 2:8a) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. They also bypassed Moab (Dt 2:8b - Dt 2:23) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. They conquered the cursed nations (Dt 2:24 - Dt 3:17) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

a. They conquered Sihon, the King of Heshbon (Dt 2:24 - Dt 2:37) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. They conquered Og, the king of Bashan (Dt 3:1 - Dt 3:17) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

e. When the first conquests were over, Moses exhorted them (Dt 3:18 - Dt 4:49) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. Exhortations just after the first conquests (Dt 3:18 - Dt 3:29) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

a. To Israel - Fight (Dt 3:18 - Dt 3:20) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. To Joshua - Fear no one (Dt 3:21 - Dt 3:29) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. The Exhortation - blessing on Joshua - success near (Dt 3:21 - Dt 3:22) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. The History Behind the Exhortation - curse on Moses (Dt 3:23 - Dt 3:29) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. Exhortations just before the new (anticipated) conquests (Dt 4:1 - Dt 4:49) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

a. Entering the land depends on serving God as revealed (Dt 4:1 - Dt 4:40) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. Rules for cities of refuge in Transjordan (Dt 4:41 - Dt 4:43) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. Address: Part 2 ‑ Law ‑ Covenant Provisions (Dt 4:44 ‑ Dt 30:20) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. **Stipulations** (Laws) (Dt 4:44 - Dt 27:8 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

(**Note**: Moses begins this section by exhorting Israel to “hear,” “learn,” and “obey.” These and similar exhortations

are repeated throughout Deuteronomy, but are especially prominent in chapters 5-27. Examples include Dt 1:18;

4:1-2,5-6,9-10,14-15; 5:1,28-33; 6:1-9,16-18; 7:11; 8:1,11; 10:12-13; 11:8,22-23,32; 12:1,28,32; 13:4,18;

18:15-20; 19:9; 26:16; 27:1,10; 28:1,14-15; 29:1,12,29; 30:1-3,6,15-16,19-20; 31:12-13; 33:4,10. The people

respond positively, saying “we will” hear and do - 5:27; it “shall be” our righteousness to do all - 6:25;

and they “avouched” or “vowed” to keep YHWH’s ways - 26:17. In response, YHWH ratified the covenant by

accepting them as his people - 26:18-19.)

a. The Ten Commandments (covenant of **their God**, at Horeb - 5:2) (Dt 4:44 - Dt 13:18 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

(**Note**: This section and the next, “The Civil Laws,” emphasize the mutual “ownership” between YHWH and Israel. Here

YHWH is called Israel’s God - “Your God,” - a phrase used repeatedly throughout the section to indicate that

YHWH “belongs” to them in a special sense. In the next section the emphasis shifts, and Israel is repeatedly

called not just the “people” of YHWH, but the “children of YHWH,” emphasizing that Israel belongs to YHWH in

a special sense. Both of these designations are used throughout the respective sections to motivate Israel

to obedience.)

1. Introduction (Dt 4:44 - Dt 5:5 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. Declaration of the 10 Commandments (Dt 5:6 - Dt 5:21) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. Exposition (Dt 5:22 - Dt 13:18) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. The Civil Laws (for the **children** of YHWH) (Dt 14:1 - Dt 27:8 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. Holiness (cf., 14:2 & 21) (Dt 14:1 - Dt 14:21) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

a. Disfigurement (on the body) (Dt 14:1 - Dt 14:2 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. Unclean Food (in the body) (Dt 14:3 - Dt 14:21) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. Convocations (Festivals, Feasts) (Dt 14:22 - Dt 16:17) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

a. Feasts with multi-year intervals (Dt 14:22 - Dt 15:18) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. The Triennial (Three-Year) Tithe (Dt 14:22 - Dt 14:29) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

(**Note**: The regulations for this are similar to “the (sometimes) delayed aspect of the Passover” mentioned

below.)

2. The Septennial (Seven-Year) Release (Dt 15:1 - Dt 15:18) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

a. Debtors - Cancel the debt (Dt 15:1 - Dt 15:6 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. Slaves - End the slavery & give him a large gift (Dt 15:7 - Dt 15:18) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. Feasts with annual intervals (Dt 15:19 - Dt 16:17) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. Described (Dt 15:19 - Dt 16:15) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

a. Passover (Unleavened Bread) (Dt 15:19 - Dt 16:8 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. The (Sometimes) Delayed Aspect of the Passover(Dt 15:19 - Dt 15:23) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

[**Note**: Of this aspect of the Passover, Davis says, “Later, in view of the new circumstances in which

it was foreseen that the people would be placed in Palestine, and the inconvenience and

expense of the journey to the sanctuary, a delay was authorized in presenting the firstling

at the house of God. The firstling might be kept beyond the eight days originally prescribed

until the time of the annual festival; and the flesh, instead of falling as a perquisite to

the priest, was given to the pilgrim who brought the animal, and to his family, to eat at the

sanctuary (Deut. xv.19,20). But defective animals were eaten at home without religious

ceremony (21-23). - “Firstborn or Firstling” in John D. Davis, A Dictionary of the Bible

Fourth Revised Edition, 1924, Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, p. 233]

2. The Regular Aspect of the Passover (Dt 16:1 - Dt 16:8 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. Weeks (harvest, firstfruits, Pentecost) (Dt 16:9 - Dt 16:12) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

c. Tabernacles (Booths) (Dt 16:13 - Dt 16:15) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. Summarized (Dt 16:16 - Dt 16:17) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

3. Rules Concerning the Rulers (Dt 16:18 - Dt 18:22) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

a. Judges and Officers (Dt 16:18 - Dt 17:7 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. Priests and Levites (Dt 17:8 - Dt 17:13) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

c. Kings (Dt 17:14 - Dt 17:20) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

d. Levites (Dt 18:1 - Dt 18:8 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

e. Prophets (Dt 18:9 - Dt 18:22) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

4. Heritage Laws (Dt 19:1 - Dt 21:23) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

a. Cities of Refuge on Jordan’s West Side (Dt 19:1 - Dt 19:13) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. Retaining True Boundary Markers (Dt 19:14) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

c. Purging the Land of False Witnesses (Dt 19:15 - Dt 19:21) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

d. Cleansing and Preserving the Land in Warfare (Dt 20:1 - Dt 20:20) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

e. Purging the Land from Innocent Blood (Dt 21:1 - Dt 21:9 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

f. Marrying a Female Captive (Dt 21:10 - Dt 21:14) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

g. Community Status - Maintaining and Losing (Dt 21:15 - Dt 21:23) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. Rights of the Firstborn (Dt 21:15 - Dt 21:17) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. Stoning a Rebellious Son (Dt 21:18 - Dt 21:21) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

3. Hanging one Worthy of Death (Dt 21:22 - Dt 21:23) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

5. Laws Protecting the Community, Individuals, & the Land (Dt 22:1 - Dt 26:19) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

(**Note**: The laws in this section seem random, but like other lists in the Bible, they are often linked by various

rhetorical devices, especially parallelism in this list. For example, **synonymous parallelism** repeats the

same thought in somewhat different language; **antithetic parallelism** contrasts one thought with another;

**synthetic parallelism** adds a new thought to the previous thought; **climactic parallelism** builds layers of

thought on the same word; **emblematic parallelism** uses a simile or metaphor to convey the thought. -

Adapted from John H. Walton, “Types of Hebrew Parallelism,” in Chronological Charts of the Old Testament,

[Grand Rapids:] Zondervan, 1978, p. 75)

a. Care for the livestock of others (Dt 22:1 - Dt 22:4 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. Do not be a transvestite - strong sanction (Dt 22:5) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

c. Protect mother birds - strong sanction (Dt 22:6 - Dt 22:7 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

d. Care for others - put a protective parapet on roof (Dt 22:8) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

e. Avoid certain mixtures (Dt 22:9 - Dt 22:11) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. Do not mix diverse seeds for planting (Dt 22:9) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. Do not mix an ox and an ass for plowing (Dt 22:10) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

3. Do not mix wool and linen (flax) in a garment (Dt 22:11) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

f. Garments should have tassels on the 4 corners (Dt 22:12) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

g. Sexual Laws (Dt 22:13 - Dt 22:30) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. Charges of adultery - exoneration or death (Dt 22:13 - Dt 22:21) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. Catching a married woman in adultery - both die (Dt 22:22) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

3. Sex with a betrothed virgin (Dt 22:23)- Dt 22:27) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

a. For consensual sex both die (Dt 22:23 - Dt 22:24) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. For rape only the man dies (Dt 22:25 - Dt 22:27) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

4. Sex with an unbetrothed virgin - man must marry her (Dt 22:28 - Dt 22:29) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

5. A man may not marry or have sex with father’s wife (Dt 22:30) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

h. Laws for membership in the covenant community (Dt 23:1 - Dt 23:8 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. Some who must be excluded (Dt 23:1 - Dt 23:6 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

a. Anyone who is sexually mutilated

b. A bastard (mamzer) (Dt 23:2) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

(**Note**: “A *mamzer* is someone born of a union between a man and woman whose marriage could never be

valid, such as a union between brother and sister or other such forms of incest, or from a

married woman who bore another man’s child.” - Tanach: The Artscroll Series, The Stone Edition,

Rabbi Nosson Scherman (ed.), Brooklyn, New York: Mesorah Publications, Ltd., 1996, comment on

Deuteronomy 23:3, p. 480.)

c. An Ammonite or a Moabite (Dt 23:3 - Dt 23:8 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. Some who may be included - Edomites & Egyptians (Dt 23:7 - Dt 23:8 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

i. Laws for cleanliness during war (Dt 23:9 - Dt 23:14) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

j. Protect escaped slaves from masters (Dt 23:15 - Dt 23:16) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

k. No Israelite will be a whore or sodomite (Dt 23:17) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

l. Forbidden monetary offerings - profit of whore or dog (Dt 23:18) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

m. Laws on charging interest - only to foreigners (Dt 23:19 - Dt 23:20) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

n. Law of vows (Dt 23:21 - Dt 23:23) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

o. Law of gleaning a neighbor’s crop (Dt 23:24 - Dt 23:25) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

p. Divorce Laws (Dt 24:1 - Dt 24:4 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

q. A newlywed cannot be conscripted (Dt 24:5) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

r. Lower or upper millstones may not be taken as pledges (Dt 24:6) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

s. Kidnappers shall die (Dt 24:7) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

t. Obey the priests about leprosy, remembering Miriam (Dt 24:8 - Dt 24:9 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

u. Acquiring and restoring pledges (Dt 24:10 - Dt 24:13) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

v. Pay workers promptly (Dt 24:14 - Dt 24:15) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

w. No one shall be executed for the sins of others (Dt 24:16) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

x. Protect strangers, fatherless, and widows (Dt 24:17 - Dt 24:22) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. Do not pervert their judgment (Dt 24:17a) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. Do not hold the widow’s garment in pledge (Dt 24:17b- Dt 24:18) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

3. Leave gleanings of all your crops for them (Dt 24:19 - Dt 24:22) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

y. Lashes shall not exceed 40 (Dt 25:1 - Dt 25:3 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

z. Do not muzzle an ox which is threshing grain (Dt 25:4) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

aa The law of Levirate marriage: marry brother’s widow (Dt 25:5 - Dt 25:10) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

bb Losing a hand for immodest conduct during a fight (Dt 25:11 - Dt 25:12) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

cc Use just weights and measures (Dt 25:13 - Dt 25:16) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

dd Destroy Amalek (Dt 25:17 - Dt 25:19) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

ee Laws of the firstfruit offerings (Dt 26:1 - Dt 26:15) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. The General Command to Obey (Dt 26:16 - Dt 27:7 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. Given (Dt 26:16) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. Mutual Vows between Israel and YHWH (Dt 26:17 - Dt 26:19) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

3. Witness Stones & Altar in Mount Ebal with Law Inscribed (Dt 27:1 - Dt 27:8 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. **Sanctions** (Curses and Blessings) (Dt 27:9 - Dt 30:20) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

(**Note**: Similar material occurs in Dt 11:26-32, but the overwhelming motif in the book is blessing, as a search for

this and related words in an exhaustive concordance such as Strong’s will reveal.)

a. Preparation to Hear the Curses and Blessings (Dt 27:9 - Dt 29:1 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. The command to obey because they belonged to God (Dt 27:9 - Dt 27:10) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. Positioning the people to recite the blessings & curses (Dt 27:11 - Dt 27:13) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

(**Note**: The people were to divide into two groups and face each other on 2 mountains in the Holy Land, Mounts

Gerizim and Ebal. On Gerizim blessings would be pronounced by the tribes of Simeon, Levi, Judah,

Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin. Curses would be pronounced from Ebal by Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan,

and Naphtali.)

b. The Nature of the Curses and Blessings (Dt 27:14 - Dt 29:1 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. Curses (for disobedience) (Dt 27:14 - Dt 27:26) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. Blessings (for listening) (Dt 28:1 - Dt 28:14) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

3. Curses (for not listening) (Dt 28:15 - Dt 29:1 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

c. How to Respond to the Blessings and Curses (Dt 29:2 - Dt 30:20) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. Remember the blessings and obey (Dt 29:2 - Dt 29:29) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. Or in the midst of curses repent and God will restore you (Dt 30:1 - Dt 30:20) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

c. Address: Part 3 ‑ Prophecy ‑ Covenant Prophecies (Dt 31:1 ‑ Dt 33:29) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. **Preservation and Proclamation of the Covenant** (Dt 31:1 - Dt 31:13) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

(Note: This was done in light of the prophesied blessing which was on its way - Dt 31:3,13)

a. Moses assures them that the wars commanded will be successful(Dt 31:1 - Dt 31:8 ) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. Moses delivers a written copy of the law to the priests (Dt 31:9) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

c. Moses has priests read law every 7 years at Tabernacles Feast(Dt 31:10 - Dt 31:13) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. **Witnesses** (Dt 31:14 - Dt 32:47) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

(**Note 1**: This was done in light of the prophesied apostasy which would come in later years - Dt. 31:16,21,29 etc.)

(**Note 2**: H5749 - uwd = duplicate, repeat, testify; H5707 - ed = testify < H5749; H5713 - edah = testimony < H5707;

H5715 - eduwth = testimony < H5707; and compare 5712 edah < H5707)

(**Note 3**: The Covenantal Witness theme occurs in Dt 4:26,45; 6:17,20; 9:19-20; 30:19-20; 31:21; 32:46. The law itself

is called the “testimony” - both the 10 commandments and the broader law: e.g., Ex 31:18; Dt 6:17. It also

occurs by implication in Dt 27:1-8.)

a. YHWH witnesses to Moses & Joshua of Israel’s coming rebellion(Dt 31:14 - Dt 31:21) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. Moses witnessed to Israel in song (Dt 31:22 - Dt 32:44) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

c. Moses commanded Israel to witness to their children (Dt 32:45 - Dt 32:47) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

3. Prophetic Blessing on the Tribes (Dt 32:48 - Dt 33:29) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

a. YHWH sends Moses to mount Nebo to die (Dt 32:48 - Dt 32:52) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. Before he goes to die, Moses blesses Israel (Dt 33:1 - Dt 33:29) - 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. Moses' Death (Dt 34:1 ‑ Dt 34:12) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

a. He sees the Land which Israel will conquer (Dt 34:1 ‑ Dt 34:4 ) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. He dies and is buried by YHWH (Dt 34:5 ‑ Dt 34:6 ) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

c. His “obituary” (Dt 34:7 ‑ Dt 34:12) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

1. His age at death (120 years old) (Dt 34:7a) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

2. His strength: eye undimmed, natural strength unabated (Dt 34:7b) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

3. His mourners - 30 days of mourning (Dt 34:8) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

4. His successor (Joshua) (Dt 34:9) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

a. Full of the Spirit of Wisdom from Moses laying hands on him (Dt 34:9a) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. Obeyed by Israel (Dt 34:9b) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

5. His final assessment (Dt 34:10 ‑ Dt 34:12) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

a. Unique before YHWH (Dt 34:10) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

b. Unique before Pharaoh (Dt 34:11) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan

c. Unique before Israel (Dt 34:12) ‑ 1406 B.C. Transjordan