

# THE PENTATEUCH IV: DEUTERONOMY

## WEEK 1

Patrick Reeder

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# OUTLINE

## INTRODUCTORY MATTERS

## DEUTERONOMY IN CONTEXT

Authorship Basics  
Review

## HISTORICAL AND LITERARY FEATURES

Deuteronomic “History”  
Literary Arguments

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is the fourth and final course on the Pentateuch, covering Deuteronomy specifically. Deuteronomy is a speech from Moses to Israel as the nation prepares to enter Canaan. Deuteronomy is a perfect book with which to conclude the series because (i) naturally, it is the last book of the Pentateuch; (ii) it contains detailed summaries of the Law and the narrative contents of the previous books. Furthermore, Moses offers special pleas to heed the revealed Word of God both in the Pentateuch itself and in the words of the prophets to follow.

## COURSE EXPECTATIONS

- ▶ **Attendance** You must attend 4 of 5 classes to receive credit.
- ▶ **Readings** You must turn in at least 3 of 4 of the reading “journals,” one of which MUST BE the final assignment: due on the last week, you find and cite as many extra-Deuteronomic Pentateuchal references within Deuteronomy as possible. Try to supply at least one from each chapter.

# COURSE OUTLINE

Date	Week	Topic	Reading
5/11	1	Review & Introduction	—
5/18	—	No Class	—
5/25	2	History, Covenantal Intro	Deut 1-11
6/1	3	Covenantal Features up to IV	Deut 12-16
6/8	4	Covenantal Features up to X	Deut 17-26
6/15	5	Pentateuchal Types, Summary	Deut 27-34

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# WHY MOSES?

What evidence is there that Moses wrote the Pentateuch?

## THE BIBLICAL CASE FOR MOSES

Here are a few lines of thought that indicate that Moses wrote the Pentateuch with some very small exceptions (final pages of Deuteronomy):

1. The cultural standard at the time was that Moses wrote it and Jesus never challenges that.
2. Jesus makes direct reference to parts of the Pentateuch with remarks like “Moses wrote...” etc. (Mark 7:10, Luke 24:44, John 7:23)
3. There are numerous internal cues that Moses wrote certain sections (Exodus 34:37, Numbers 33:2, Deuteronomy 1:1)



# THE HISTORICAL CASE FOR MOSES

Here is a more “historical” case for Moses:

1. Moses was unanimously believed to be the author through all recorded history until the European Enlightenment.
2. Deuteronomy and 2nd Millenium BC Hittite Suzerain-Vassal Treaties
3. The author and audience are familiar with Egypt and Sinai, and less so with Palestine.
4. Moses and the Criterion of Embarrassment

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# THEMES IN PENTATEUCH

- SEED The Most Persistent Theme in Genesis
- THE LAND Canaan is promised to Abraham's Descendants and is the goal of wilderness journeys
- THE NAME God is making himself known to Israel (Ex 6:3) and all the nations (Ex 7:5)
- OWNERSHIP God owns Israel, not Pharaoh
- PURITY God will only dwell among the pure.

# MAJOR LESSONS IN GENESIS

What are some lessons from Genesis?

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## What are some lessons from Genesis?

1. The Fall and Creation: our dominion over the earth is perverted—we toil by it and return to it; our fruitfulness and multiplication is perverted—women suffer in child birth and men and women are alienated.
2. The Fall: suffering is on us (Cf. Gen 3:17 and Romans 8:22)
3. All major characters are liars. This is in contrast with God's fidelity to his own word.
4. God judges but he also saves (Noah:Flood::Believers:Fire)
5. For many characters, frequency of revelation is connected to degree of revelation. (Cf. Abraham and Jacob)

# MAJOR LESSONS IN EXODUS

What are some lessons from Exodus?

# MAJOR LESSONS IN EXODUS

## What are some lessons from Exodus?

1. God is supreme over Egypt and its gods
2. God's miraculous displays of power are two steps ahead of the people's grumbling unbelief
3. God desires to dwell among his people
  - EXO 25:8 Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them.
  - EXO 29:46 They shall know that I am the Lord their God who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that I might dwell among them; I am the Lord their God.
4. ...but He is a holy God (Exodus 20; 32-34)

# MAJOR LESSONS IN LEVITICUS-NUMBERS

What are some lessons from Leviticus or Numbers?



## MAJOR LESSONS IN LEVITICUS-NUMBERS

What are some lessons from Leviticus or Numbers?

1. God is holy and glorious!
2. God desires to dwell among his people
3. Degree of closeness to God requires an appropriate degree of purification/ sanctification:
  - ▶ People (Scaled: Alien-High Priest)
  - ▶ Space (Scaled: Sheol-Holy of Holies)
  - ▶ Time (Scaled: Natural Life Processes-Day of Atonement)
  - ▶ Food (Scaled: Unclean-Most Holy Sacrificial Food)
  - ▶ Clothing (Scaled: Mixed Fibers-High Priestly Garments)
4. Accountability (hence, judgment) are scaled to degree of revelation—a consistent theme throughout Scripture.

## LITERARY CRAFT

Hebrew literature uses the center for emphasis (unlike modern writing emphasizing the beginning and end).

A	Ex 15:22-25	Provision of Water (Marah)
B	Ex 17:1-7	Water from Rock
C	Ex 17:8-16	Amalekite Battle
D	Ex 18	Relief for Moses
E	Ex 18:27	Moses' In-Laws
F	Ex 19:1-2	Enter Sinai
X		Sinai
F'	Nu 10:10	Exit Sinai
E'	Nu 10:29-32	Moses' In-Laws
D'	Nu 11	Relief for Moses
C'	Nu 14:39-45	Amalekite Battle
B'	Nu 20:1-13	Water from Rock
A'	Nu 21:16-18	Provision of Water (Beer)

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## JOSIAH, HILKIAH CONSPIRACY

Members of 19th C. source critical school of thought use Deuteronomy as a milestone in their “dating.” The origins of this idea come from the sense that Deuteronomy does exhibit unity and is closely linked to the reforms of Josiah.

The rough idea is this:

- ▶ When Hilkiah brings the Law to Josiah’s attention in 2 Kings 23, it is brand new.
- ▶ Josiah takes this content to introduce sweeping reforms (destruction of idolatry, centralization of cultic activity)
- ▶ This is primarily to solidify political control.

# PROBLEMS

Immediate reason to balk: previous independent arguments in favor of Mosaic authorship.

For more on this very issue:

1. Comparable Arguments could put its authorship at the time of Solomon. (Cf. Deuteronomy 17:16,17; I Kings 10:26-11:2)
2. Comparing with Chronicles, Josiah seems to have begun reforms *before* the "discovery" of the law.
3. If a mere power move, it was stillborn:
  - ▶ It violates classical suzerain-vassal strategy.
  - ▶ Josiah's father and sons were idol worshipers. What do you think this implies?

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## HITTITE SUZERAIN-VASSAL TREATY

Deuteronomy and other early documents exhibit 2nd millennial treaty structure:

Feature	Description	Deut	Josh 24
Introduction	Identify Author	1:1-5	24:1-2
Historical Prologue	Survey past rel'n treaty parties	1:6-3:29	24:2-13
Stipulations	List of obligations	Chs 4-26	24:14-25
Document Statement	Instructions for Storage & Public Reading	27:2-3	24:26
Witnesses	"Gods" witnessing Oath	Chs 31-32	24:22,27
Curses & Blessing	Dieties' Response to Adherence/Violation	Ch 28	24:20

## HITTITE SUZERAIN-VASSAL TREATY

*It is vitally important to understand that the documents of each phase are sharply different in format and full content in the phases before and after them. There is no ambiguity . . . Thus this sequences presents us with a very clear and precise framework for dating examples such as newly excavated and published finds, and also the Sinai covenant. (Kitchen, 285)*

*Sinai [Exodus 20] and its two renewals [Deuteronomy, Joshua 24]—especially the version in Deuteronomy—belong squarely within phase V, within 1400-1200, and at no other date. The impartial and very extensive evidence (thirty Hittite-inspired documents and versions!) sets this matter beyond any further dispute. (ibid., 287,8, emphasis original)*



## JUDGES AND DEUTERONOMY

Judges is considered very early even on revisionist theories:

- ▶ Decentralized government, worship (at least, pre-David, possibly pre-Saul)
- ▶ Expression "to this day" in the following implies pre-Davidic: Judges 1:21b—so the Jebusites have lived with the sons of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day (Cf. 2 Sam 5:7).

The following facts seem to place *Deuteronomy* before *Judges*:

- ▶ A key piece in Deuteronomy is the command to completely remove the nations from around them (Deut 7:2). (These commands are sprinkled throughout Exodus-Numbers.)
- ▶ The primary point of Judges is that Israel's failure to obey YHWH's injunctions has caused exactly what was predicted.
- ▶ There is no mention of the specific peoples (Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, Jebusites) under ban in 2 Kings 23 or parallel.

## DECALOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Word	Description	Parallel	Connection
I	Other Gods	Chs 6-11	Drive out, Love Yhwh Only
II	Images	Ch 12	One place of worship
III	Honor Name	Ch 13	Kill false prophets
*	Appendix	14:1-21	Food Laws
IV	Sabbath	14:22-16:17	Acknowledging True Owner
*	Appendix	16:1-17	Festival Observance
V	Parents	16:18-18:22	Authority/tradition respected
VI	Murder	19:1-21:9	Case Law on Murder
*	Anomaly	21:10-22:12	
VII	Adultery	22:13-30	Sexual/marital integrity
*	Anomaly	23:1-18	Camp Regulations
VIII	Theft	23:19-24:7	Preserve others belongings
IX	False Witness	24:8-25:19	Avoid abusing justice
X	Coveting	26:1-15	Tithing

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