# Deuteronomy Chapter Links

This book will be separated into chapters because each chapter will have 100–300 pages of (mostly) original commentary. This will completely replace the much shorter exegesis of the **book of Deuteronomy**, which was done back in 1997, is less than 700 pages total, and can be found here (<u>HTML</u>) (<u>PDF</u>) (<u>WPD</u>). Whether God will give me the opportunity to be able to exegete and post this entire book, chapter by chapter, remains to be seen.

The individual chapters are packed with information. Each chapter hyperlinked below will have the complete word-by-word exegesis of the chapter in the original Hebrew. Also included are modern-day applications of the information found in Deuteronomy. Moses gave these series of lessons over 3500 years ago, so why should we study them at all? In every chapter, there will be a myriad of up-to-date applications. Although Moses was teaching a peculiar people at a particular time in their history in the context of a specific world culture much different from ours, there will be things which carry over to us even today. Every chapter listed will contain many applications to today's world and today's politics.

Updated June 23, 2016.

#### Although there are links below to Deut. 5, it is not yet complete.

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## Summary of the Chapters, posted when completed and uploaded

#### **Deuteronomy Introduction** (HTML) (PDF) (WPD)

#### The Second Law

The book of Deuteronomy consists primarily of a series of lectures which Moses delivers to the children of Israel-the second generation from exodus (whom I call the generation of promise)—before they enter into the Land of Promise without him. God will take Moses shortly after delivering these messages.

The Introduction to the book of Deuteronomy is probably a little too long at 70+ pages. This is actually a pivotal book in the Old Testament. In previous books, Moses is very careful to distinguish between the words of God and narrative and what he says. However, when we get to the book of Deuteronomy, such demarcations are only occasional; and there are times when a command from God cannot be distinguished from a command from Moses. The idea is, this begins the concept of the inspiration and authority of Scripture.

The authorship of Deuteronomy and the time during which it was written has been a discussion for over 100 years, with many claiming that Moses did not write this book. Although I believe that scholars have put this wrong-headed theory to rest, the arguments for and against will be herein repeated, in case you have not seen them before. Also contained in this section are some logical arguments that I don't believe have been used before.

The influence of Deuteronomy on the rest of the Old Testament and the New is profound. We will find more citations and references to Deuteronomy than any other Old Testament book. Most of these citations will be quoted specifically.

There are several outlines, both short and detailed ones; and several charts, which help to sum up this great book in a glance.

This is the first installment of a phenomenal journey as well as the most thorough examination of this book. 88 pages.

### Deut. 1 (HTML) (PDF) (WPD)

Moses on the Importance of Established Authority

From the very beginning, you will learn things about Moses and the book of Deuteronomy that are not found in any other commentary (there are <u>dozens of commentaries</u>, if not hundreds). Of the dozens which I looked through, few had any idea as to who the man Moses was; why writing this book was even necessary in the first place; or how the contents of Deuteronomy relate to you and your life directly. Furthermore, none of them seemed to recognize the over-arching theme of Deut. 1, which is obedience to authorities established by God and the consequences of rejecting God's authority, which obedience is the natural response of faith in what God has told them.

However, there are important concepts in the book of Deuteronomy which other commentaries understood—such as, *why* Joshua leads the people of Israel into the Land of Promise rather than Moses. This can be found in a few commentaries besides this one.

There are some non-moral issues found in the Pentateuch (like yoking together two incompatible animals; like mixing cotton threads with wool threads). If you have ever wondered why, this will be explained in the introduction to Deut. 1, and then, of course, covered in great detail when that passage is itself examined.

Included in this study is the **Great Analogy of the Exodus**. This has been dramatically distorted by both Liberation Theology and Black Liberation Theology; however, there



is a great analogy which is revealed and explained in the New Testament; and it is both simple and obvious.

In writing this, I did a great deal of reading of other commentators. One of the topics I never saw addressed formally was, **Why Does Moses Need to Give a Second Law?** God gave Moses the Law and Moses spoke that Law to the people. Why would Moses need to, a second time, present the Law to the people of Israel? This will be fully explained.

There are several topics in this chapter which are not often discussed. (1) Moses speaks of the first no-water situation and how, because of the behavior of the people, God wanted to kill them all; and Moses interceded on their behalf. Then God said, "Okay, you got it Moses; I will let them go into the Land of Promise; I won't kill them all." So, why does God first threaten to do something like this, and then, just because Moses says a few words, then backs off. Did Moses really cause God to change His mind? What Moses does here is actually quite significant. (2) In one verse, Moses appears to be blaming the people he is speaking to for his sin—the sin which is keeping him from going into the land with them. Since this is the inspired Word of God, he cannot do that. If he is to blame for his own sin (which he is), then he cannot shift this blame to anyone else—not while speaking the Word of God. Therefore, one of his statements here has to be explained. (3) Also, during this speech, Moses does a couple of public speaking tricks (for lack of a better word) to grab the attention of his audience and to focus them on specific things. I don't believe that anyone has ever discussed this before.

Some discussion will be given to the **Law Code of Hammurabi**. No doubt, you have heard that Moses used this code as the basis for the Mosaic Law. This is discussed.

Included in this study is God's Promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; The Morality of Taking the Land of Promise; and The Sovereignty of God versus the Free Will of Man;

Also important to this study is, how the sermons of Moses help us to define the concept of inspiration. There are at least 4 types found in this study which look forward to Jesus and the cross. 345 pages.

## Deuteronomy 2 (HTML) (PDF) (WPD)

#### Moses Recounts the Jews Traveling East of the Jordan

One aspect of Deut. 2 that is fascinating is, Moses is teaching the people about historical events which have just happened. All of these events are fresh in their minds, and yet Moses takes the time to talk about them and explain them in the light of the will of God.

One of the difficult passages in the Old Testament is where God is said to harden a man's heart; or where God puts fear into the hearts of some army. These are topics which have been discussed for thousands of years. Do we have free will? Are we nothing but pawns in God's game? God wants us to make a left turn, and boom, do we then make a left turn, even though we were intending to go right? Where is our free will? Moses recounts God putting the fear of his people into the hearts of his enemies; and of God hardening the heart of King Sihon. In this chapter, we will examine these topics and see that, not only does God not necessarily get into our thinking and change it, but that there are some clues in this passage which suggest how the thinking of some people changes. God may have caused the events leading up to the change of thinking, but the

people herein mentioned still change their own minds. Understanding this topic has been considerably advanced in this chapter, although I don't believe that I am quite yet there.

Deut. 1–4 is all about teaching the Israelites their own history, and then correctly interpreting this history. The Christian should never be afraid of human history; and should never become disillusioned by the spin and distortion put on human history by liberals, humanists, communists and other anti-Christian forces. Many times this is done with a simple, but dishonest graphics such as the one from <u>Pinterest</u> to the right (accessed December 16, 2013), which proclaims "No WAR was ever fought in the name of Atheism!" (Apparently completely forgetting about the communist revolutions in Russian, China, Cuba and elsewhere; where more people die in those countries during peacetime than die during most wars). In this chapter study, as in every other, time is spent on giving modern, upto-date applications.



One area of disagreement among scholars and a confusion to most readers of the Bible concerns the wandering Jews in the desert. There is this mistaken notion that the Jews were led by Moses in the desert for most of 40 years. This is patently untrue. Most of the time that they were in the desert-wilderness was spent at Kadesh-barnea, and there is an abundance of Scripture, with dates, to show that is true. Furthermore, Moses knew the geography of where they were and where the various peoples of that day lived. This was his training. So Moses was never confused about where they were at any given time. In case you have ever wondered about this so-called wandering, a reasonably clear timeline will be laid out in Deut. 2.

There is another very important and difficult discussion in this chapter: the requirement that some peoples are devoted to God and destroyed completely. The second item will always be difficult for men to understand and go along with. How many of us are wholeheartedly in favor of there being a hell? I understand the rationalization behind it; but I cannot imagine the horror of being thrown into hell forever. Therefore, it is difficult for myself and most others to fully appreciate the concept of a people being completely wiped out at the command of God. When dealing with such topics, we have to bear in mind that God is perfect love and perfect justice, and that these two attributes cannot cancel one another out; nor can one suffer while the other is dominant. And, every bit as important is the discussion as to whether this has any application to us today.

Also included in this study is an abundance of maps and graphics, so that you will have a full understanding of where Moses led his people. 268 pages.

## Deuteronomy 3 (HTML) (PDF) (WPD)

## Trust God for the Future as He was Dependable in the Past

If you read Deuteronomy 3 first, you ought to have two questions: (1) how could God leave Moses behind and let the rest of Israel go into the Land of Promise? And (2) how did the Israelites defeat 60 cities in a relatively short period of time?

As in the previous chapter, much of what we find in Deuteronomy 3 is review of events which have just taken place. Everyone in attendance knows these events. Moses explains them so that their spiritual meaning will be understood.

Moses will remind the people of the tremendous victory over Og of Bashan; how the land east of the Jordan will be give to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  tribes (Reuben, Gad and Manasseh), but how they must continue to help their brothers to take the land west of the Jordan River.

Moses also reminds them that Joshua will lead them at the point of crossing the Jordan and forward; he will lead them into victory over the peoples of Canaan. And they can look back on what God has done for them recently in order to have confidence that God will continue to be with them in battle. Moses himself will not go forward. He will die east of the Jordan River, never having set foot in the Land of Promise.

There are many important and unique doctrines found in this chapter: *Why Won't Moses Enter* 



the Land with the Children of Israel? And What can we as individual believers take from Moses going this far and no further? And, What are we, cops of the world? These are relatively short doctrines, but there is a lot of information and application to our lives today found in these doctrines. Also very important in the theological realm is, *Why Joshua leads the people instead of Moses*. There is a great deal of typology which is involved here. However, when you see it all explained, all kinds of things will make perfect sense. 241 pages.

## Deuteronomy 4 (HTML) (PDF) (WPD)

#### What the Israelites Have Seen and Heard Gives Confidence

#### **Quotations:**

George Orwell: To see what is in front of one's nose needs a constant struggle.<sup>1</sup>

Matthew Poole: the true greatness of a nation does not consist in pomp or power, or largeness of empire, as commonly men think, but in the righteousness of its laws.<sup>2</sup>

**Quotations about idolatry:** 

Emilio Estevez: What I find interesting is that the people that follow your Twitters are called 'followers.' Talk about false idolatry, right? <sup>3</sup>

Deut. 4 completes the great first sermon of Moses, east of the Jordan River, delivered before Israel is to cross over the Jordan without him. At the end of this chapter, there are two short narratives: the setting up of the cities of refuge east of the Jordan; and an introduction to Deut. 5 (which should have been placed with Deut. 5, but was not).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> From <u>http://www.gardendigest.com/see.htm</u> accessed May 16, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Matthew Poole, *English Annotations on the Holy Bible;* ©1685; from e-Sword, Deut. 4:8 (slightly edited).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> From http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/idolatry.html accessed May 17, 2015.

There is an extremely important doctrine in this chapter entitled *The Bible is Whole and Complete*. Moses, in Deut. 4:2 says "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." (ESV). But Joshua writes the final chapter of Deuteronomy; Joshua then writes the book of Joshua; and then various men write the book of the Judges. So, are they not adding to the *word* that Moses commanded the people of God? This doctrine explains; and is a part of rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

Contained in this examination of Deut. 4 is perhaps the best, easiest to understand outline of this chapter, which is a series of object lessons, which the Israelites were to think about and learn from.

Moses explains to this generation that they are unique—they have seen the great signs and wonders done by God and they have heard God's voice. Therefore, they are commanded to tell all that they have seen and heard to their children and grandchildren.

Topics discussed in this chapter: Deuteronomy and the Suzerain treaties; sexually addictive behavior and homosexuality; homosexuality prohibitions in the Bible and the mixing of divers fabrics; ancient law codes; how to determine if you are in



a good church; the national greatness of Britain; why the United States has been so greatly blessed; correctly interpreting and understanding current history (current events); and chapter and verse divisions.

Doctrines discussed in this chapter: The Fear of the Lord; Idolatry—Ancient and Modern; Categories of Reasons Why Moses Will Not Go Into the Land (which is excellent); and The Exclusivity of God and the Jews.

As usual, this is the most complete examination of this chapter available. 419 pages.

## Deuteronomy 5 (HTML) (PDF) (WPD)

Posted, but still a work in progress.

## Deuteronomy 16 (HTML) (PDF) (WPD)

#### 3 Feasts; Choosing Judges; Outlawing Idolatry

In Deut. 16, Moses spends most of this chapter discussing the 3 feasts which require a gathering of the people of Israel to one place. Then, from the feasts, which represent communion with God, Moses speaks of choosing judges and officials throughout the new land, who, they themselves, represent God's judgment to the people.

Moses then speaks of idolatry, which is not allowed, and represents the greatest violation of the laws of God.

Doctrines covered in this chapter: The Passover; the Feast of Unleavened Bread; the Feast of Weeks; and the Feast of Booths. Jesus as our Passover; the Asherah and Idolatry.

Important topics and discussions found in this chapter: the misguided JEPD theory (that the Law of Moses was not written by Moses but by a variety of people, aka Documentary Hypothesis); since

the United States provides both the gospel and Bible teaching, a discussion about opening up our borders to all who want to come here; the forgiveness taught to the Jews in Scripture as opposed to century-old grudges held by Muslims; revolutionary equality before God (slaves were encouraged to come to the feasts); revolutionary concepts of justice (which we take for granted today); the Holy Spirit as the Divine Editor of Scripture; alleged similarities to contemporary heathen feasts; and how a good judicial system contributes and encourages prosperity in a nation.

**Deuteronomy 16:19 (NIV)** (a graphic); from <u>twitter.com</u>; accessed June 20, 2016.

Like nearly every chapter in Scripture, there are practical



applications to our lives today; and there is clearly a connection between the concepts of justice found in this chapter and our judicial system that we have today in the United States. 247 pages.

## Deuteronomy 17 (HTML) (PDF) (WPD) Laws for Idolatry, the Death Penalty,

#### Laws for Idolatry, the Death Penalty, a Higher Court, a King

Deut. 17 is simply a continuation of Deut. 16, somewhat arbitrarily divided. Moses continues speaking to a number of mostly unrelated issues (although one can sense a train of thought): Moses speaks of the sort of sacrifice which is unacceptable, and, having spoken about the right way to worship God, he then speaks of those who are idolaters, who are subject to penalty of death for their idolatry. One must be careful here—Israel was not to execute someone merely on the

testimony of a single person. That leads, logically, to the courts, and how sometimes and issue might come before the court that was impossible for a judge to decide. He was given the option to take this case to a higher court, with the understanding that he must obey and enforce the decision of the higher court. That is essentially



the exercise of executive power, which brings to mind the idea of a king—the next topic that Moses explores in this chapter.

A reasonable question to ask is, since God knew that the Israelites would eventually demand a king, why did He not just let them have Moses and then Joshua as their first two kings? The exegesis of

Deut. 17 will clearly answer this guestion.

This same section has been criticized as having been added hundreds of years later, in order to justify the concept of a king in Israel (some people *cannot* accept the idea of prophecy in the Bible and they reject it every time they come across it). I will demonstrate that no one added to the Word of God here, and provide not only a doctrine lifted from Dr. Bob Utley, but provide additional logical arguments to show that adding a passage like this to the Bible would be impossible to do.

There is also a question about the king and war horses. There is a verse in this chapter (Deut. 17:16) which seems to indicate that a king over Israel should not have a cavalry. This will be explained correctly; along with an excellent up-to-date application. I am unaware of any commentator explaining this verse correctly, let alone give it an application that we can all understand.

Sometimes, in just a few words, Moses conveys some amazing truths. The book of Deuteronomy is a great advance on the concept of inspiration of Scripture; and what he says here in this chapter—and you will miss it if you simply read through the chapter—is he equates his own words with the words of God. This is the same Moses, in the book of Exodus, is so careful to distinguish what God says from everything else.

How do you understand the laws found in the Torah, and apply them to client nation United States? Many believers struggle with this. What do we disapprove of? What laws do we follow? Are there laws that we can disregard in the United States today? Deut. 17 talks about a king, limiting his wives, gold and silver, and horses. Is there any application of this to today's world? A discussion of this is begun.

Doctrines covered in this chapter: the Death Penalty in the Mosaic Economy; the Doctrine of Separation; the Doctrine of the Priesthood; the Doctrine of Authority;

Interesting discussions include: Global Warming as today's Gaia Religion; Papal infallibility (there is claim that a verse in this chapter affirms this false doctrine); the Concepts of Inspiration and the Recognition of the Old and New Testament Canons as an organic process; How easy would it have been to change the Bible around later on in history (adding a few verses here and there); What is

the place of the United States in today's world; the title of Deuteronomy; and Applying the Torah to Modern Nations today.

A sincere attempt is made with each chapter of the Word of God to find parallels in today's society or in today's political system. Since the Bible is the Word of God, we should expect to often find passages which have application to our lives here and now. 269 pages.

## Deuteronomy 20 (HTML) (PDF) (WPD)

#### **Guidelines for Warfare**

Deuteronomy 20 deals with warfare, but with that, a number of other topics which come out in the exegesis of this chapter.

There are, of course, the two facts about Deuteronomy which are ignored by all exegetes of this book. We will flesh out some of the differences between Gen X and the generation of promise. Other topics will include the dishonesty of liberal websites; not being able to fully appreciate the great historical events of your lifetime; the division of responsibilities in the Christian life; how God wants us to be happy in our own lives; one of the oft used false arguments of liberalism; fear and cowardice in battle; some discussion of slavery as found in the Bible; the United States, General MacArthur and Evangelism; and God is a conservationist but not an environmentalist

There are references to the Doctrine of War and the Doctrine of the Military;

Some of the doctrines examined in this chapter include: How God Offering us Peace Parallels Israel Offering Peace to her Enemies; Does God's Treatment of Israel's Enemies Seem Harsh to You?; Genocide in the Bible; What is a Righteous War?; and Why the Bible Sometimes Deals with Non-moral Issues. 150 pages.



#### Deuteronomy 21 (HTML) (PDF) (WPD)

# Regulations about Murder, Marriage and Rebellious Sons

There are two passages from this chapter which are known to critics of the Bible. A soldier could take a woman from the captives in war as his wife. Those who do not like the Bible will paint this in the more unflattering light that they can, but what Moses teaches here actually provided protection for the women of captive nations. The procedure will be fully examined in this chapter,

along with updated examples of this same thing occurring in today's world.

The second passage which is well known, outside those who study Scripture, is a passage where a man and his wife bring their son to the elders and judges of a city to be executed. There several are graphics of this floating about the internet. Although this passage is generally translated well, it is rarely studied, with the result that it is not fully understood.



Deuteronomy continues to be a book rich with meaning and application to today. Studying the Old Testament—studying the Mosaic Law, in fact—does not make you a legalist nor should it result in making you a *Sabbath-keeper*. It allows for you to have the foundation upon which Christianity is based.

Some of the topics covered in this chapter include: How Moses came up with the book of Deuteronomy; The Parallels between the Heifer Sacrificed and Jesus Christ; the protections offered by Moses to captive women taken in war; is there a loophole here for legitimate illegitimate sex; applying the captive wife doctrine to today's world; why God did not outlaw polygamy; instance of moral neutrality; the importance of authority orientation learned from the parents; and applying the execution of the disobedient son to today's world.

Some of the doctrines covered or alluded to in this chapter include: Typology; Scofield's Doctrine of Redemption; the Slave Market of Sin; Polygamy; the Firstborn; Jesus the Firstborn; the 3 Things Liberals Object to in Deut. 21; and the Dual Authorship of Scripture. 176 pages.

#### Deuteronomy 22 (<u>HTML</u>) (<u>PDF</u>) (<u>WPIB</u>uilding and Farming Codes, Marriage

#### and Adultery Laws

Those who are liberal and politically active today often take swipes at the



Bible, suggesting that God is capricious and arbitrary with the things that He says. This chapter deals with two such topics which can be found at various liberal, anti-Bible and/or pro-gay marriage websites: the banning of cotton/polyester blend clothing and the idea that a rapist can marry his victim. Both of these things are found in Deut. 22, and in each case, that is not really what is found in the Bible. These things have been intentionally or unintentionally distorted to make the Bible seem silly. Now, to begin with, few of these people know what is in the Bible apart what such graphics say; so they post these things out of ignorance and personal bias. However, even when the correct interpretation is given to them, they will continue to keep such dishonest graphics posted. Their intention is to sway hearts and minds and to draw them away from God; whether this is done honestly or dishonestly is not an issue to most liberals, anti-Bible types or gay-marriage proponents. The ends—drawing people away from the Bible—justifies the means.

The reason that I worked on this particular chapter is because of the *marriage equality* graphic above, the one which claims that a marriage between two men is legitimate because the Bible says that a rapist can marry his victim. That did not sound right at all to me; so I believed that a study of this passage was warranted. In doing contemporary research, I came across several dishonest graphics about the Bible posted on the internet, most of them posted multiple times.

There are several diverse topics in this chapter of Deuteronomy, many of which have application to today's world. There is one building code (the only to be found in the Mosaic Law). There are laws on conservation. God places these things in the Bible, not only for the people in the time that this was written, but for our time as well. J. Vernon McGee notes that building codes in the United States are a relatively new thing; but the Bible has a building code written over 3500 years ago. Particular care will be given not only to the examination of this building code, but also to update it and to apply to today's world, using both Texas and California as examples of how to incorrectly do building codes.

Other topics included in this chapter are: the two fundamental things which commentaries do not tell you about Deuteronomy: that Moses was well-educated in the laws of the nations which were known to Egypt and that he was getting a people ready to move into a land, when these people had never farmed before, built a house before, and their parents were not there to tell them how to do it. This explains much of the advice given by Moses throughout the book of Deuteronomy.

Other things which are discussed in this chapter: homosexual acts and mixed-fabric shirts (why should we pay attention to what the Bible says about homosexuality if it also bans cotton-blend shirts?); how laws against j-walking do not invalidate laws against murder (an outstanding analogy); the original *Good Samaritan* law; Israel's tax for the poor; the gender roles of parents; building codes in Israel and applying those codes today; what about mixing different fabrics—isn't that just superstition; "You can't legislate morality" and the changing morality in the United States; what we can use from the book of Deuteronomy today; Bible morality and the sexual revolution of the 1960's; how to understand the mores of Deuteronomy today; what our society has adopted from the legal nuances of Deuteronomy; gay marriage proponents and their dishonest attacks on the Bible; shotgun weddings; how you fix the illegitimacy rate in the United States; the Bible does not require a woman to marry her rapist; and liberal distortions of the Bible. Finally, there is a special extended section, taking many of the laws found throughout the books of Moses, and showing how they are the very foundation for our system of law here in the United States.

Like all chapters of the Bible that I have studied, there is a great deal to be found in Deut. 22. I particularly enjoyed working on this chapter, and am excited about posting it as well. 206 pages

## Deuteronomy 34 (HTML) (PDF) (WPD) Moses' Final Days/Joshua, His Replacement

Deuteronomy 34 is the final chapter of Deuteronomy, and it is narrative which deals with the death of Moses.

There are some extremely important studies in this chapter: The Categories of Reasons Why Moses Will Not Go into the Land; How Moses Is a Type of Christ. Since Moses dies in this chapter, dying grace is a part of this study as well.

Because God shows Moses the land that will be given to Moses, we study both the early boundaries of Israel and the mountains in Israel. We discussed *who buried Moses* (and there is a surprising consensus here).



In some incidental studies, we compared the gospels to one another and what order they were probably written (and how this is related to this final chapter of Deuteronomy). 128 pages.

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#### **Other Deuteronomy References:**

My first exegesis of the **book of Deuteronomy**, which was done back in 1997, is less than 700 pages total, and can be found here (HTML) (PDF) (WPD).

So-so <u>notes</u> and <u>translation</u> of Deuteronomy from **Syndein**'s website; partially taken from **R. B. Thieme, Jr.**'s teaching.

Deuteronomy commentaries at Precept Austin.

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