

Structure of Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy comprises two ‘treaties’ laid out in the form of Assyrian Vassal treaties. The first one, described here as the ‘Treaty with God’, contains at its heart the Ten Words (or Commandments) and the commitment to One God; It is found predominantly in the first half of the book (1:9 to 10:5). This ‘Treaty’ predates the discovery of hidden book in 622 BCE. The other treaty, which contains the long passage of religious and secular laws known as the ‘Torah’, is predominantly in the second half of today’s Book of Deuteronomy beginning at chapter 11 verse 2. This 2nd law treaty was incorporated after 622 but before the first exile (597 BCE). The curses associated with the enforcement of these treaties are gathered together between 27:11 and the 28:68. Both the treaties contain within them comments in the form of poems or reflections. The reflections can largely be attributed to Baruch by comparison with similar language originating in the passages in Jeremiah where his authorship is well established. Over time other material has been inserted – often flagged by introductory phrases such as ‘And at that time...’ From 31:28 onwards the book incorporates two major poems, ‘The Song of Moses’ and ‘The Blessing of Moses’. Whilst much of today’s book is pre-exilic in origin, there are some sections such as the curses of 28:38-62 which are exilic.

Chapter	Content	Treaty with God	The 2nd Law (Treaty)	Poems and reflections	Other material	Comments
1:1-8	Introductions to whole book					Probably the result of merging several sources. The references to Sihon and Og here (v4) and later 2:4 & 34 look like late additions
1:9-18	Appointment of a Judiciary					"at that time..." (v 9)
1:19-2:25	Historical introduction to the treaty					
2:26-3:11	Capture of land of Og & Sihon					"at that time we took the towns..." (2:4 & 34). Probably a late addition
3:12-3:17	Allocation of land East of Jordan					
3:18-22	Instructions to the Trans-Jordanian Tribes					at that time (v 18)
3:23-29	Introduction to death of Moses and appointment of Joshua as Successor					Late insertion: "at that time too", (v 23): 'El' in 3:23. See introduction to Moses death below 31:1-8
4:1-24 & 32-40	Reflection: Remember Horeb. Baruch					4:19 links to Jeremiah 8:2 & 19:13 & 4:20 links to Jeremiah 11:4: 'El' in 4:24 & 31
4:25-31	Encompassing Reflection: Baruch					DTR2 4:25-31 is exilic matching 30:1-11. See Weinfeld (1991) p 216. Also note 4:29 = Jer29:13 in sentiment (letter to exiles)
4:41-43	Note about towns of refuge					Follows 3:12-17
4:44-49	Introduction to law given at Horeb					Reference to Sihon and Og v 47 suggests this was inserted later.
5:1- 5	Announcement of the Ten Words					"So now, Israel,..."
5:6-21	The Ten Words (Commandments)					Compare Exodus 10:1-17

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5:22 - 6:3	Conclusion of the Ten Words					
6:4-9	Yahweh our God; Yahweh is one. The "Shemah"					
6:10-19	Short poem on the danger of prosperity					El' in v 6:15
6:20-25	Teaching the children					
7:1-11	Dealing with worshippers of other gods					Depends on Exodus 23 (covenant Code); El' in 7:21
7:12-16	Rewards for obedience					
7:17-26	Military rewards for obedience					
8:1-20	Extended poem: the danger of prosperity					
9:1-29	Essay on rebellion: golden calf; Moses fasting; Deuteronomic version of the tablets; Setting is before the crossing					See Exodus 8:15 & 31:18. 'finger of God' suggests P. The golden calf incident is enclosed within 2 passages where Moses fasted for 40 days and 40 nights
10:1-5	Deposition of the tablets					
10:6-9	Parenthetic priestly insertion concerning Aaron's death.					
10:10-11	Continuation of Essay from 9:1-29					Links to 40 days and 40 nights associated with the First law at Horeb (9:1-29)
10:12-11:1	Reflection: The essence of the law: Baruch					10:16 links to Jeremiah 4:4
11:2-7	Introduction & Historical Exposition for 2nd Law					
11:8-17	Description of the Land.					
11:18-21	Arrangements for Teaching the Children					Follows Shema closely see also 6 above
11:22-25	"You will dispossess nations larger and more powerful than yourselves"					An invitation to war. But intended as a blessing?
11:26-32	Curses introduced; "I am putting before you..."					
12:1-26:15	The book of the law - the Torah. This was compiled from material collected over a long period,					
26:16-19	Conclusion of Treaty 'this day'.					
27:1-10	Inscription of the law. Shechem ancient foundation ceremony					
27:11-26	Covenant renewal ceremony (12 curses) - recitation; Shechem. First and last curse are Deuteronomic; others relate to Covenant code or Holiness code.					
28:1-19	The blessings & curses associated with the 2nd Law					See 11:26 above, "See, I am putting before you..." Note also similarity to sentiment of Jeremiah 17:24 ff (604);

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28:20-35	Curses for disobedience associated with the 'Treaty with God'					Curses Mimic Assyrian curses in Vassal Treaty. El used in 28:32
28:36-37	Other Curses					
28:38-62	More curses (pre-exilic?)					
28:63-68	More curses (exilic)					return to Egypt refers 2 Kings 25:26 - end of DH!
29:1	Title of oath					
29:2-9	Linking passage					reference to Sihon and Og v8; references to good and bas (Genesis) v9..
29:10-29	Taking the oath					
29:21-28	Taking the oath: exilic addition					Contains reference to Annals of Ashurbanipal - "and a later generation will say..."
30:1-3	Encompassing reflection resumes from 4:25-31 above.					30:1-3 matches 4:29-31 in sentiment and phrases; Weinfeld (1991) p 216. Also note 30:2-3 = Jeremiah 29:14. 30:6 'circumcise your hearts' matches 10:16 above and Jeremiah 4:4.
30:11-14	Encompassing reflection continues: "Surely this word is not too difficult..."					
30:15-20(end)	Encompassing reflection concluded: 30:17-18 matches 4:25-28					May be a post exilic reflection on 11:26-32 ("See I am putting (have put) before you ...)
31:1-8	Moses death foreseen. The new leader, Joshua, introduced					DH language, "Be strong and bold".
31:9-13	Instructions for reading the law in the place Yahweh will choose during the festival of booths.					Reference to 'festival of booths' (v 10) is probably exilic,
31:14-15	Death of Moses announced					
31:16-22	Introduction to Song of Moses					vv 16-22 may be P
	Joshua Commissioned					Uses DH language: 'be strong and bold'.
31:23						
31:24-27	Deposition of scroll					
31:28-30	Introduction to Song of Moses continued					Heaven and earth called to be witnesses - as in the Song
32:1-44	Song of Moses inserted. Note 'El' in vv 4,12,18,21 & 26					
32:45-47	Concluding words (for whole book)					
32:48-52 end	Yahweh instructs Moses to ascend Mount Nebo and die there.					repetition of Numbers 27:12-14. (P text)
33:1-end	Blessing of Moses Inserted. El used in v 26					El used in v 26
34:1-9	Moses death reported.					Texts from J, E and P

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34:10- 12(end)	Final comment added by author of Deuteronomic History					