

OLD TESTAMENT 1

UNIT NINE

THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

STRUCTURE

- Introduction (1:1-5)
- The First Address (1:6-4:43)
- The Second Address (4:44-28:68)
- The Third Address (29-30)
- Moses' Final Words and Death (31-34)

FORM

- Parallels between Deuteronomy and ancient near-Eastern state treaties.
- Preamble
- Historical Prologue
- Stipulations
- Covenant Sanctions

DATE

- Josiah's "Book of the Law"
- Different Views
 - Written by Moses (apart from the final chapter).
 - Dated from Josiah's time.
 - Post-exilic.

PURPOSE

- To expound the law (1:5)
- Addressed to a new generation, not present at Mount Sinai.
- Moses interprets for them the covenant of Sinai.
- Application of the law to the situation which the people are about to enter.

OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK

- Introduction (1:1-5)
 - In the plains of Moab, in the fortieth year since the exodus.
- The First Address (1:6-4:43)
 - A review of Israel's history since Sinai.
 - The promise of God to this people will still be fulfilled.
 - Moses appeals to the people to obey the commandments of God.
- The Second Address (4:44-28:68)
 - The new generation are said to have been involved in the events at Sinai.
 - God's action at Sinai involved generations beyond those present at the time.
 - Moses is the authoritative, God-appointed interpreter of the law.
 - The laws in Deuteronomy look ahead to the new life of the people in the promised land.
- The Third Address (29-30)
 - The covenant is reaffirmed.

OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK

- Moses' Final Words and Death (31-34)
 - Joshua is commissioned as Moses' successor.
 - A routine is established for regular reading of the law.
 - Moses' role as mediator of God's will is not to be filled by Joshua, that role is taken at least in part by the Book of the Law.
 - Deuteronomy closes with the death of Moses.