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Tualatin Presbyterian Church

Deuteronomy Outline

Introduction: Deuteronomy, from Greek meaning ‘seconding the law’, and the book is often dismissed as just a rehash of Exodus. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Of all the books of the Pentateuch Deuteronomy exerted the most influence over the life of Israel as well as the church, being the most quoted book in the New Testament. Cleverly written, Deuteronomy is essentially a sermon Moses gives to the people right before Israel enters Canaan. Historically, Deuteronomy was recovered by King Josiah (640-609 BCE) in the Southern Kingdom of Judah and provided the basis for what scholars call the “Deuteronomic Reformation”, emphasizing religious reform, centralization, and is marked by the tension between God’s conditional blessing based upon obedience, and God’s unconditional grace as seen in the story of David. The Deuteronomic history refers to Deuteronomy through the book of Second Kings and acts almost as a book with a book in the Hebrew Bible.

Section One: Moses’ First Address

Chapter 1: The set up with Moses speaking in the 40th year

Chapter 2: Summary of the journey and the battles

Chapter 3: Defeat of King Og and Moses’ request to enter Canaan denied

Chapter 4: Importance of revelation at Horeb

Section Two: Moses’ Second Address

Chapter 5: The 10 commandments

Chapter 6: The Shema (Hear, O Israel...)

Chapter 7: The holiness of Israel; destruction of the altars and other syncretistic practice

Chapter 8: Remember the law when times are good

Chapter 9: Israel’s success depends on God- not on Israel’s own power

Chapter 10: The second pair of commandments and ark; what does the lord require?

Chapter 11: Remember the exodus and second part of Shema

Chapter 12: Demolish altars and syncretistic practice

Chapter 13: Beware false prophets and even family that pull you away

Chapter 14: Food cleanliness

Chapter 15: Jubilee year

Chapter 16: Passover and booths

Chapter 17: Allowance of a king, local and modest

Chapter 18: Levites and prophets

Chapter 19: Cities of refuge and other criminal law

Chapter 20: Warfare; offering peace first; the ban

Chapter 21: More laws: bloodguilt, female captives, unruly kids

Chapter 22: Property laws- including adultery

Chapter 23: Rules for assemblies

Chapter 24: Marriage laws, and treatment of outsiders

Chapter 25: More laws- fair weights and measures

Chapter 26: First fruits and “wandering Aramean” speech

Chapter 27: Rites of affirmation and curses

Chapter 28: Blessings and curses

Section Three: Moses’ Third Address

Chapter 29: Covenant inclusive of those not even yet born

Chapter 30: More on the covenant

Section Four: Moses’ Death

Chapter 31: Transfer of power to Joshua

Chapter 32: Song of Moses

Chapter 33: Blessing of tribes

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Chapter 34: Moses seeing the promised land and dies

Texts to know: The Shema (6:4-9); the 'wandering Aramean' speech (26:1-11); Moses seeing but not entering the law (34:1-5)