

Story so far....

Genesis: God's perfect creation; Sin disrupts God's order: relationships broken; Abraham: God plans His solution; Jacob's family end up in Egypt

Exodus: Jacob's family is now a nation in slavery; God picks Moses as leader; The exodus; God speaks at Sinai

Leviticus: Sacrifice, cleanliness and holiness

Numbers: Counting of the people, rebellion & 40 years wandering in the wilderness

Deuteronomy...

What's in a name?



- Final book in the Torah: pause in the journey
- Name:
 - Hebrew: ‘these are the words’ /‘instruction’
 - Greek: means ‘second law’ but misleading as no second law; reiteration
- Authorship/date: disagreement
- Importance– quoted by the OT prophets & by Jesus
- Structure: speeches; treaty; chiasm

Speeches of Moses



Record of Moses' final words - 3 speeches to the children of Israel before he died:

- 1) [1:1-4:43](#) historical review & exhortation
- 2) [4:44 -28:68](#) exhortation to covenant loyalty followed by law, covenant renewal, blessings & curses
- 3) [29:1-30:20](#) summary and concluding challenge

(Epilogue [31](#): last acts of Moses & death)

Suzerain - vassal treaty

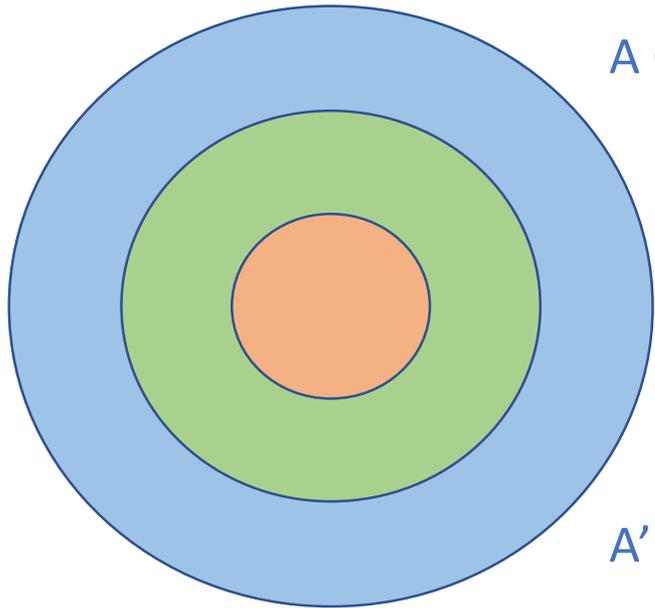


Ancient Near Eastern treaty: king establishes formal treaty with new subjects; offers protection & provision if behave otherwise punishment:

- **Preamble** – speakers & addresses (1:1-5)
- **Historical prologue** – relationship of parties (1:6 - 4:49)
- **General stipulations** – broad terms of treaty (5-11)
- **Detailed stipulations** – laws of behaviour (12-26)
- **Sanctions & rewards** – motivations for observing the treaty (27-28)
- **Witnesses** (31:19; 31:19; 32)

Chiastic

Concentric literary pattern: literary device in which a sequence of ideas is presented moving in to establish a central point of truth and then repeated in reverse order.



A Outer frame: a look backward (1-3)

B Inner frame: the great peroration (4-11)

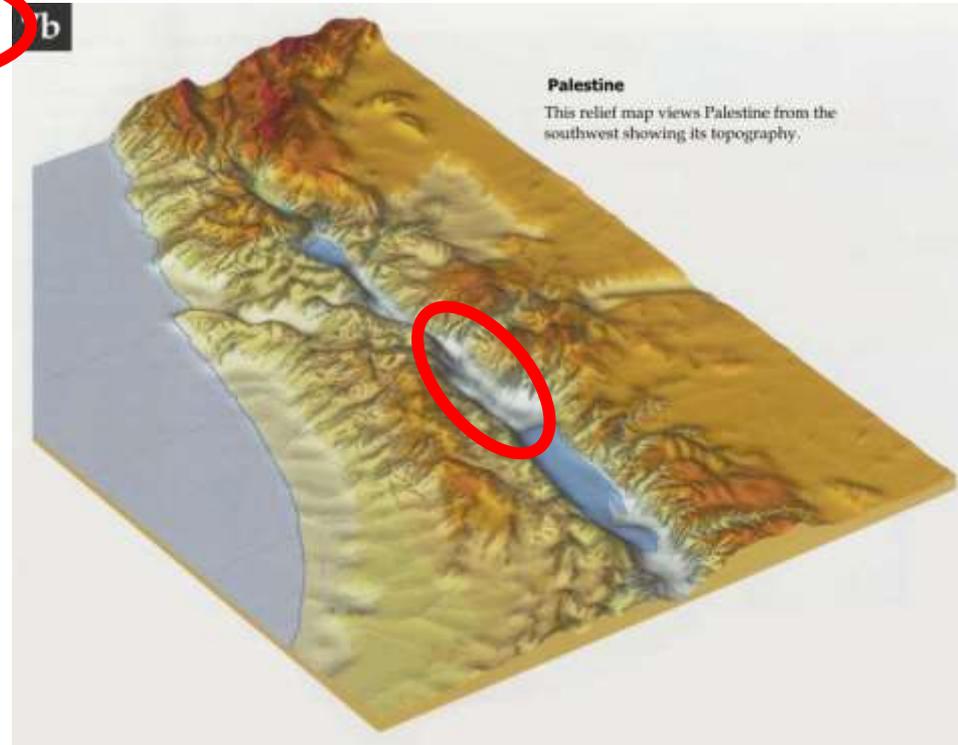
C Central core: covenant stipulations (12-26)

B' Inner frame: covenant ceremony (27-30)

A' Outer frame: a look forward (31-34)

(outer – connected by Joshua; inner – blessings/curses & ceremonies)

Location



Moses, Joshua, Caleb & the post-exodus generation of Israelites (600k men over 20 years old)

East side of Jordan river, looking towards promised land – possible link to John the Baptist & baptism of Jesus

Walk through Deuteronomy

Chapter	Description
1-3	Historical review of wilderness wanderings
4 – 11	Call to covenant faithfulness
12-26	Detailed laws: instructions on worship; leaders; civil society; social justice
27-28	Blessings and curses for those who keep and break the law
29-30	Review of the covenant and concluding challenge
31	Joshua to succeed Moses
32-33	A song for the future & final blessings
34	Death of Moses

What does it mean to be & live as the people of God?

The land your God gives you...

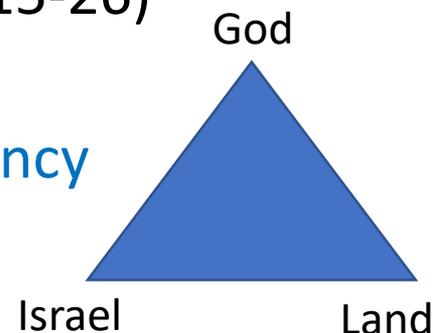
Discussion: the land God gave Israel (8:6 - 9:6)

- What is the relationship between God, Israel and the land?
- If the land was a gift from God why did the Israelites have to go in and possess it?
- What warnings are stated? (see also 30:15-17)

The land your God gives you...



- God's promise to Abraham (Gen 12:1,6-7) not as a result of Israel's righteousness (9:5-6)
- God has given land to other people (2:5,9, 12,19) but not Himself
- Gift from God but Israel to take possession of it (fear, faith, flesh)
- **Dynamic** – if Israel faithful the land will be fruitful (7:13; 11:13-15; 28:1-14) or if unfaithful, cursed(11:16-17; 28:15-26)
- Serious warnings – permanent ownership & **conditional occupancy** (4:40)



Call to Covenant faithfulness

Discussion: Covenant (Ch6; 7:7-15)

- What is the basis of the covenant?
- Why did the covenant need renewing?
- In what ways were Israel to actively remember the covenant & why was it necessary?
- Any parallels for us today?

Call to Covenant faithfulness



- **Renewal of Sinai covenant**
 - God's commitment to Israel - Exodus/promised land; treasures possession
 - Moses calls new generation to be more faithful than their parents and they will enjoy long life
 - recital of 10 commandments
- **Imperatives**: hear; love; impress; talk; tie; write –as individual, in family & public (6:4-9)
- **Public reading** every 7 years (31:9-13) - placed next to ark of covenant;
- King - **create a copy/read it every day** (17:18-20)
- **Comfortableness can lead to forgetfulness** (6:10-12) & to exile (30:15-18)

Call to Covenant faithfulness

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

(Deut 6:4 – first verse of the Shema, vv6-9)

- Hear: listen & respond (obey)
- Love: emotion & decision; first time Israelites called to love God
- With all your...
 - Heart: intellect, will, intention
 - Soul: inner self – emotions, desires, personal characteristics
 - Strength: physical, economic & social strength

Love relationship at the heart of the covenant

Laws for life in a new land



- **Deuteronomic code** (Ch 12-26): many laws repeated from other books (Exodus; Leviticus):
 - worship – one God in one temple; also in care for the poor;
 - leaders – appointments; to be under the law
 - civil & criminal laws: marriage, family, business
 - social justice: for the poor widows, orphans & immigrants
- **To live as a unique people under God** modelling wisdom & understanding (4:6)
- **All of life under God's law** - integration
- **Comparison**: the law God is giving to Israel v those practised by current occupants of the land (morally corrupt; child sacrifice; pluralistic; fertility cults etc)

Future failure & faithfulness

- Torah concludes with **prediction of Israel's continuing rebellion & resulting exile** (30:15-18; 31:15-16).
Whole song to their predicted rebellion (Ch32)

BUT not the end of the story...



- **God will be faithful to His promise** and will one day accomplish deep transformation of His people (circumcision of heart) so that they will love God & live (Deut 30:6)

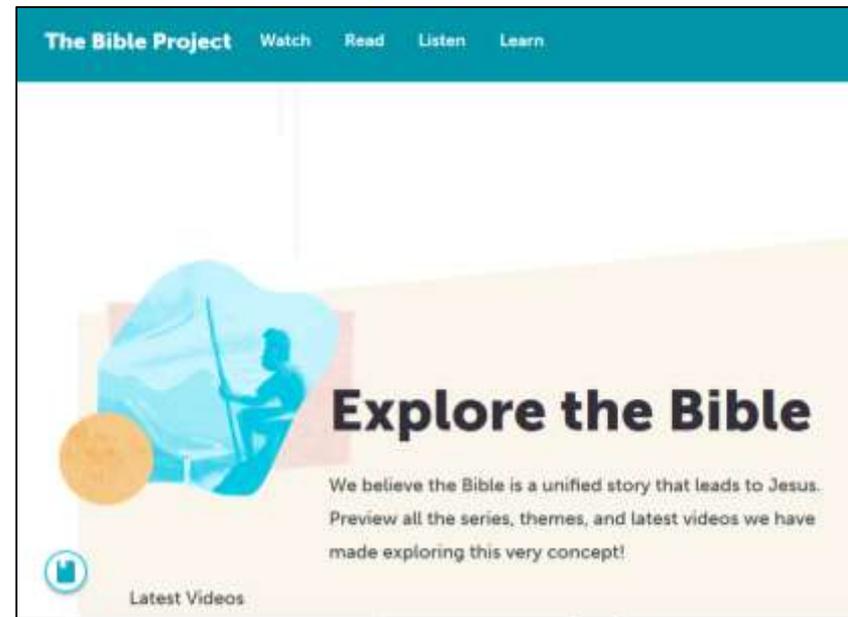
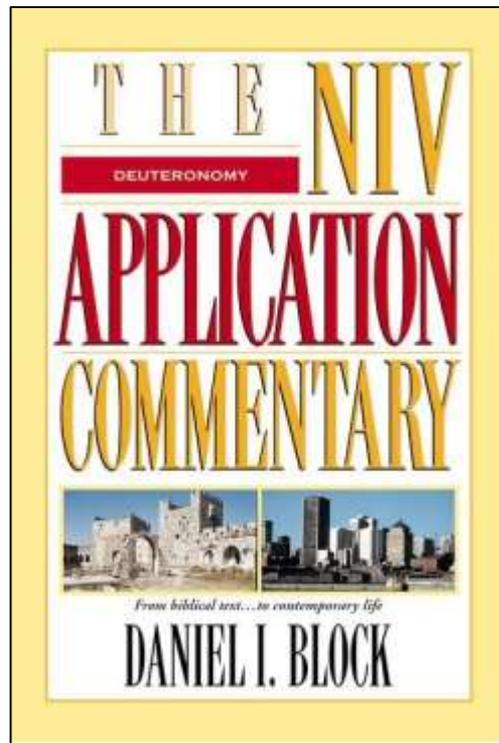
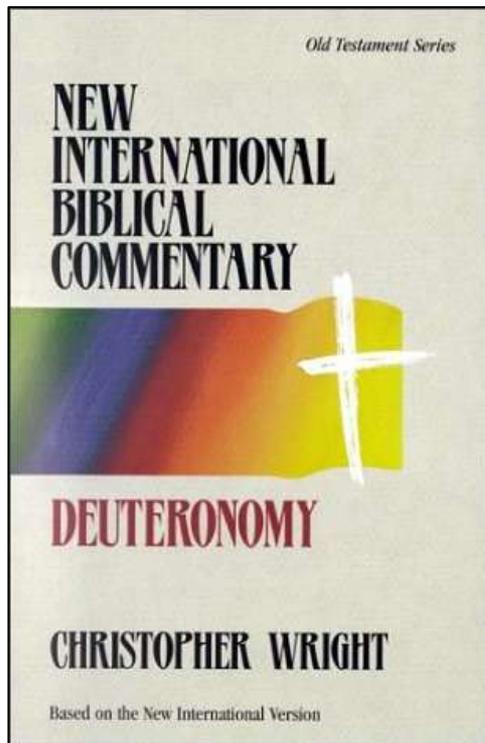
Foreshadowing of Christ & Holy Spirit?

Summary points



- God gifted the land to Israel but Israel needed to take action to possess
- Loving committed relationship is at the heart of the covenant
- God intends His new nation is to be a model of wisdom & understanding to other nations
- Failure is predicted but so is God's faithfulness

Resources



thebibleproject.com