

Deuteronomy

The One and Only

Study 1 – Introducing Deuteronomy

Introduction

The English name Deuteronomy consists of a combination of two Greek words. *Deuteros* (meaning second) and *nomos* (meaning law). The title came into our Bible via the Latin Vulgate and its use has led many to think that Deuteronomy is a 'second law' or perhaps more precisely, a second giving of the Law of God to the people of Israel. The name for the book in the Hebrew Bible is *Elleh Hadevarim* (these are the words). The title is taken from the opening words of the book and is a much better title for the book. As we shall see, Deuteronomy is an exposition, that is, an explanation and an application of the Law given at Sinai for the benefit of a new generation of Israelites who were about to enter the Promised Land. Put differently, Deuteronomy is a sermon or, more accurately, a collection of three sermons preached by Moses at the end of his life and intended to help this new generation to avoid the sins of their fathers, to wholeheartedly obey the LORD and so doing to enjoy the life of blessing and rest that He had promised them.

But it is also important for us to remember that Deuteronomy is also part of Christian Scripture and that as such, it is both able to make us wise for salvation in Christ Jesus as well as to teach, rebuke, correct and train us in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:15-17). Thus as we approach Deuteronomy in this series of studies we do so to hear what the Lord is saying to us in the power of His Spirit and through His Word.

Read Deuteronomy 1:1-5; 4:1-2; 4:44-46; 29:1-2; 31:1-29; 34:1-12



Investigate

1. What are the key words and ideas in these verses? (make a list of them and note any words that you do not understand)

2. Whose words are recorded in Deuteronomy? (1:1; 4:44, 29:1-2)

3. To whom were these words spoken? (1:1-3; 4:1; 29:1-2)

4. Where and when were these words spoken? (1:1-5; 4:46)

5. What were the words about? (4:44; 29:1)

6. Why were they spoken? (1:5; 31:1-3)

Apply



In what way have the passages for this study informed or challenged your thinking?



In what way have the passages for this study spoken to your heart?



What needs to change in your daily life as a result of this study?