

DEUTERONOMY: Introduction

Many years before the events of Deuteronomy, God promised to give the land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants. The Pentateuch is largely the story of His people waiting for this promise to be fulfilled. And now — they're finally almost there!

After the wilderness wandering recorded in the book of Numbers, Deuteronomy finds God's people poised on the edge of the Promised Land. Before they enter the land, Moses speaks his final sermons to the people who have followed him since the exodus. He reminds them of God's guidance and care for them, and he encourages them to continue to follow Him.

Deuteronomy is the record of these final sermons of Moses:

Deuteronomy 1:1–4:43 — Moses' First Sermon

Deuteronomy 4:44–26:19 — Moses' Second Sermon

Deuteronomy 27–30 — Moses' Third Sermon

Deuteronomy 31–34 — Epilogue

Keep these ideas in mind as you read the final book of the Pentateuch:

- Pay attention to the way that **God's covenant with Israel** is central. How has God kept the covenant? What parts are yet to be fulfilled? What does the covenant teach about God's character, and how does it require His people to live?
- Deuteronomy ends with the death of Moses. **Consider Moses' life and example** as you read his farewell sermons to God's people.
- As you come to the **conclusion of the Pentateuch**, pay attention to the way Deuteronomy reiterates some of the major themes and ideas from Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers.