

STUDIES IN DEUTERONOMY

Prepared for the Good News Network

Tom V. Taylor

Message # 1: Introduction to the Study of Deuteronomy

Welcome to a study in the Book of Deuteronomy--the fifth book of the Bible. It is the concluding book of the Law or Torah and contains chiefly the great discourses of Moses before he died on Mt. Nebo. Our intention is to study through it on a verse by verse, section by section basis. This will take about 60 of these talks and will require patience and persistence for all of us! Even with this many talks there will be many things not discussed to the degree one might like so it may be necessary to put some things in groups for special study at some later time. The danger in a long series, however, is that it may break the book into so many fragments one may be confused or bewildered and miss the point of the book as a whole. I have prepared, therefore, a sort of program for our studies that indicates how our material is divided and how the subjects are unfolded. If that would be helpful to you, you could obtain a copy from the station to which you listen...and it is always good to send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request. That is all that is needed for that. If you would like my outlined notes for the messages, they are available but there is some cost for that, what, I am not sure. With all of this, I hope you will be in a position where you can follow the study with your Bible..the Word of God is basic to whatever we hope to discuss and it should always be your primary study material. But before we begin our actual work, here are a few introductory things needed for our progress.

1. A simple outline of the Book...

The Law.

- chapters 1-4...historical review
- 5-26...restatement of the law
- 27-28...covenantal terms
- 29-34...concluding material

There is wide acceptance today for an outline of Deuteronomy following the pattern of the ancient Hittite treaties. I will discuss this briefly and an outline that follows this form is this:

- 1:1-5.....preamble
- 1:6-4:40...historic prologue
- 5:1-11:32...general stipulations *general stipulations*
- 12:1-26:15...specific stipulations
- 27:1-28:68...blessing and cursings for acceptance
- 30:1 ff ...witnesses and historic review

More detailed outlines are found in most study Bibles...and you can implement one to suit yourself!

2. A note on authorship