

made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, showing the character of God--that he is faithful to keep his promises and covenants. This is the next step in his creation of a people for his name. Having created a nation (in Exodus) he will give them a land to possess. The King is never explicitly called "king" in Deuteronomy, but the titles given to him demonstrate this aspect of his relationship to Israel (and all peoples): "The Lord is God: besides him there is no other (4:35"; "God of Gods, and Lord of Lords, the great God, mighty and awesome" (10:13); and other statements reflect a profound awareness of sovereignty over people and history.

The love of God is mentioned in Deuteronomy for the first time in the Bible (4:37, 7:7,8; 10:15) anticipating the truths of John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:8, and other passages. But the most important aspect of Deuteronomy, however, is its nature as a record of the covenant renewal. The form, following the general outline of the Hittite treaties, illustrates the relationship between the Lord and Israel. He is the Great King to whom, because of his benevolences in the past (1:6--4:39), allegiance is due in the present. He is the covenant-making God who does not reign from afar but is close to his people, initiating and maintaining his relationship with them. This teaching will culminate in Jesus Christ, Immanuel--"God with us."

Significant questions about the book include these at least: How much of Deuteronomy did Moses actually write himself? What are the differences between the Ten Commandments as given in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5? Why are they different? Why are there so many more curses than blessings? How are Christians to relate to the laws of Deuteronomy? To what extent do they or should they control our lives?

In archaeological study the main interest areas in Deuteronomy are in the comparison with the Hittite treaty materials where there is a good bit of correspondence, comparison with the legal codes of Hammurabi, et al, and the Mesopotamian texts regarding the occult which shed some light on the kindred passages in Deuteronomy 18:9-20

Key areas in study include the basic commands of the Lord (5-6), the condensation of the book in 10:12-13, the promise of the Prophet to come (18:14-22), the ways of life and death (30:11-20), and the Song of Moses. These are especially noteworthy in the role played by Deuteronomy as it interprets the history of Israel and puts down the platform for the future. It is no coincidence that novitiates into the Qumran community apparently had to memorize the entire book...and be reviewed on it in years to come.

Aids to the study of this book will be had by reading the entire book at one sitting. This will help to clarify the structure and beauty of the book as a whole. It will mean much more if Genesis through Numbers are fresh in mind because Deuteronomy is based on the history preceding it. As you read notice the elements and passages which lend force to its message of covenantal renewal and call to obedience in that renewed covenant. Some special studies in Deuteronomy might include: looking up all references to the past in Deuteronomy and noting how Moses fits them together and interprets them; studying the New Testament references to Deuteronomy (it is cited more than eighty times!); examining the word "remember" and noting the ways in which God is described throughout the book