

Handout: Deuteronomy Lesson 1

Time line of events from the first Passover in Egypt to the arrival on the Plains of Moab:

Year	Day and month	Event	Scripture
Year 1	14 <sup>th</sup> day of 1 <sup>st</sup> month (Abib = March/April)	The first Passover sacrifice in Egypt on the day before the 10 <sup>th</sup> plague that struck at midnight (sundown became the next day).	Ex 12:1-14, 29-30
	15 <sup>th</sup> day of 1 <sup>st</sup> month (Abib = March/April)	At sundown, when the day became the 15 <sup>th</sup> , the people ate the sacred meal of the Passover victim. At dawn they began their journey out of Egypt.	Ex 12:8, 29-34; Num 33:3
	1 <sup>st</sup> day of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> month (Sivan = May/June)	The Israelites arrived at Mt. Sinai.	Ex 19:1
Year 2	1 <sup>st</sup> day of the 1 <sup>st</sup> month (Abib = March/April)	The Desert Sanctuary was consecrated.	Ex 40:1, 17
	1 <sup>st</sup> week of 1 <sup>st</sup> month (Abib = March/April)	The Aaronic priests were ordained over a 7 day period and began their ministerial service on the 8 <sup>th</sup> day.	Ex 1, 12-15; Lev 8:1-36; 9:1
	between the 9 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> of the 1 <sup>st</sup> month (Abib = March/April)	The Levites were dedicated as lesser ministers.	Num 8:5-22
	14 <sup>th</sup> of the 1 <sup>st</sup> month (Abib = March/April)	The Israelites commemorated the Passover at Mt. Sinai.	Num 9:1
	1 <sup>st</sup> of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> month (Ziv = April/May)	The census of the tribes was taken.	Num 1:1
	14 <sup>th</sup> of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> month (Ziv = April/May)	All those Israelites who were ritual unclean and could not participate in the Passover on the 14 <sup>th</sup> of Abib celebrated the Passover a month later.	Num 9:9-12
	20 <sup>th</sup> of 2 <sup>nd</sup> month (Ziv = April/May)	The Israelites left Mt. Sinai/Horeb.	Num 10:11
	30 <sup>th</sup> of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> month (Ziv = April/May)*	The Israelites arrived at Kadesh-Barnea where their failure to trust God led to a judgment of 38 years of desert wandering until the old generation died out.	Num 14: 32-35; Dt 1:2; 2:14
Years 2 - 40 = wilderness years		A total of 40 years passed, counting from the year of the Exodus from Egypt.	
Year 40	1 <sup>st</sup> of the 5 <sup>th</sup> month (Ab = July August)	Aaron died and was succeeded as high priest by his son Eleazar (Miriam died in the 1 <sup>st</sup> month).	Num 20:1, 28; 33:38
	1 <sup>st</sup> of 11 <sup>th</sup> month (Sebat = January/February)	The new generation of Israelites arrived on the Plains of Moab, camping on the east bank of the Jordan River across from Jericho.	Num 22:1; Dt 1:13

Handout 2: Deuteronomy Lesson 1  
SUMMARY OF THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

Biblical Period	#3 THE TWELVE TRIBES/SINAI COVENANT				
Covenant	SINAI COVENANT				
Scripture	1:1-----4:44-----29:1-----34:12				
Focus	FIRST HOMILY	SECOND HOMILY		THIRD HOMILY	
Division of Text	Preamble and Historical Review	Ethical Stipulations of the Sinai Covenant and the Sanctions for covenant failure		Succession Arrangements: Renewal of the Covenant with the new generation	
Topic	God's actions for Israel	Israel's obligations to God: religious, civil and social laws (Deuteronomic Code)	Covenant blessings for obedience and curses/judgment for covenant failure	What God will do for Israel in the future if Israel is obedient	Joshua's ordination & the Song of Moses
Location	On the Plains of Moab on the east side of the Jordan River across from Jericho				
Time	c. 70 days on the Plains of Moab (Dt 1:3, 34:8; Josh 4:19)				
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**Covenant Treaty Format of Deuteronomy**

1. Preamble	Deuteronomy 1:1-5
2. Historical Prologue	Deuteronomy 1:6 – 4: 49
3. Ethical Stipulations	Deuteronomy 5:1 – 26:19 (Deuteronomic Code = chapters 12-26)
4. Sanctions	Deuteronomy 27:1 -1 30:20
5. Succession Arrangements	Deuteronomy 31:1 – 34:12

The only part missing from secular Near Eastern treaties is the section recording the witnessing of the document by pagan gods. Since Yahweh is both the Great King and Israel's God, He is responsible for judging Israel's covenant failures (Dt 29:24/25-28/29).

*Torah*: derived from the Hebrew word *horah*, "to teach, to instruct", Torah refers to instruction in religious, social and civil law, prophetic teaching, moral exhortation, and didactic narrative (*JPS Torah Commentary: Deuteronomy*, page 5). In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses often refers to "this Torah" (Dt 4:8, 44; 27:26; 28:58; 31:9, 11, 24).

The Hebrew word for "covenant" is *brt*. It is a cognate word that occurs as a Semitic loanword in Egyptian texts that have survived from the Nineteenth Dynasty and later. In Egyptian texts, the word occurs in the context of:

- Contracts for contractual labor
- Covenant treaties

## Handout 3: Evidence of Moses as the Inspired Writer of the Pentateuch in Scripture and the Testimony of the Church Fathers

*Moses put all Yahweh's words into writing... Exodus 24:4a*

*Do not imagine that I am going to accuse you before the Father: you have placed your hopes on Moses, and Moses will be the one who accuses you. If you really believed him you would believe me too, since it was about me that he was writing ...*

~ Jesus addressing the Jews of Jerusalem in John 5:45-46

### Evidence from within the Pentateuch

Passages in the books referring directly to Mosaic authorship	-Ex 17:14; 20:22-23:33; 24:4,7; 34:27 -Num chapter 32; 33:2 -Dt 31:9, 24-26
Legal documents within the Pentateuch attributed to Moses	-Ex 12:1-28; chapters 20-31; chapter 34 -Lev chapters 1-7; chapter 8; chapters 13-25; chapter 27 -Num chapters 1, 2, & 4; 6:1-21; 8:1-22; chapters 15 & 19; 27:6-23; chapters 28-30; chapter 35 -Dt chapters 1-33

### Evidence from other Old Testament Books

Evidence from the historical writings:	-Josh 1:7, 8; 8:31-32; 23:6; -1 Kng 2:3; -2 Kng 14:6; 23:25; -1 Chr 22:13; -2 Chr 5:10; 23:18; 25:4; 30:16; 33:8;34:14; 35:12; -Ezra 3:2; 6:18; 7:6 -Neh 1:7,8; 8:1, 14; 9:14; 10:29; 13:1
Evidence from the wisdom books and the prophets	-Sir 24:23/32-33 -Dan 9:11, 13 -Mal 3:22/4:4

### Evidence from the New Testament Books

Evidence found in the Gospels	*= Jesus' testimony -Mk 12:19 -Lk 2:22; 5:14*; 16:29-31*; 20:8; 24:27*, 44* -Jn 1:17, 45; 5:45-47*; 7:19*, 23*; 8:5; 9:29
Evidence from Acts, the Epistles of Paul and Revelation	-Acts 3:22; 6:14; 13:39; 15:1, 21; 26:22; 28:23 -Rom 10:5 -1 Cor 9:9

	-2 Cor 3:15 -Heb 9:19; 10:28 -Rev 15:3
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### Evidence from the testimony of the Church Fathers

Origen, c. 185-254 AD: theologian and Biblical scholar; head of the Catechetical School in Alexandria, Egypt	<i>You have heard that Moses wrote this down by the word of the Lord. Why did the Lord want him to write it down? [..]. He wrote them down, then, “by the word of the Lord” so that when we read them and see how many starting places lie ahead of us on the journey that leads to the kingdom, we may prepare ourselves for this way of life. Homilies on Numbers 27.2, 7</i>
St. Athanasius, c. 295-373 AD: Bishop of Alexandria	<i>On the contrary, through His Word, God made all things to exist out of what did not exist and out of what had no previous existence, as He said through Moses: “In the beginning God made the heavens and the earth ... Treatise on the Incarnation of the Word, 2.3</i>
St. John Chrysostom, c. 344/354-407 AD: Bishop of Constantinople	<i>Notice this remarkable author, dearly beloved, and the particular gift he had, I mean, while all the other inspired authors told either what would happen after a long time or what was going to take place immediately, this blessed author, being born many generations after the event, was guided by the deity on high and judged worthy of narrate what had been created by the Lord of all from the very beginning. [..]. Since we therefore listen to these words not as the words of Moses but as the words of the God of all things coming to us through the tongue of Moses... Homilies on Genesis 2.5</i>
St. Basil the Great c. 330/357-379 AD: Bishop of Caesarea	<i>We are proposing to examine the structure of the world and to contemplate the whole universe, not from the wisdom of the world but from what God taught his servant when he spoke to him in person and without riddles. Hexaemeron 6.1</i>