

Structure: Covenant Renewal Document Deuteronomy

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Similarities	“It is beyond question that the <u>structure of Deuteronomy</u> is <u>related</u> in some way to the <u>structure of the political treaties</u> of the ancient Near East” (Thompson, <i>Tyndale Old Testament Commentary</i>, 26) “Mendenhall demonstrated that <u>Deuteronomy contained all the essential elements of these Hittite treaty texts and in precisely the same order</u>. He therefore concluded that the author(s) or redactor(s) of Deuteronomy must have patterned their work after the Hittite model.” (Merrill, <i>New American Commentary</i>, 27)
Differences	“<u>The normal structure</u> of prologue, stipulation, and so forth <u>is punctuated and interrupted</u> by allusions to the original covenant ... and by frequent parenesis exhorting obedience from now on in contrast to past patterns of disloyalty.” (Merrill, <i>A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament</i>, 77) “The book does, however, <u>far exceed in length</u> any such treaty published to date” (LaSor, Hubbard and Bush, <i>Old Testament Survey</i>, 112) “The Hittite treaties have very <u>short</u> and generalized <u>curse formulas</u>, but Deuteronomy contains a <u>long</u> and elaborate series of curses after the fashion of the Aramean and Syrian treaties.” (Craigie, <i>New International Commentary on the Old Testament</i>, 26)

Preamble <i>Introduces the suzerain</i>	¹ These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel beyond the Jordan in the wilderness ... ³ In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month ... ⁵ Beyond the Jordan, in the land of Moab, Moses undertook to explain this law	1:1-5
Historical Prologue <i>Recounts the suzerain's past gracious dealings with the vassal</i>	¹⁹ Then we set out from Horeb and ... we came to Kadesh-barnea. ²⁰ And I said to you ²¹ "See, the Lord your God has set the land before you. Go up, take possession" ... ²⁶ Yet you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of the LORD ... you did not believe the LORD your God ... ³⁴ And the LORD heard your words and was angered, and he swore, ³⁵ "Not one of these men of this evil generation shall see the good land that I swore to give to your fathers" (1:19-46) ¹ Then we turned and journeyed into the wilderness ... ² Then the Lord said ... "pass through the territory of your brothers, the people of Esau" ... ⁸ So we went on, away from our brothers ... And we turned and went in the direction of the wilderness of Moab ... ¹⁹ And when you approach the territory of the people of Ammon, do not harass them" (2:1-25) ²⁶ "So I sent messengers ... to Sihon ... saying, ²⁷ 'Let me pass through your land' ... ³⁰ But Sihon ... would not let us pass by him ... ³¹ And the Lord said to me, 'Behold, I have begun to give Sihon and his land over to you' ... ¹ Then we turned and went up the way to Bashan. And Og the king of Bashan came out against us ... ² But the Lord said to me, 'Do not fear him, for I have given him ... into your hand.' (2:26—3:22)	1:6—4:43
	¹ And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you ... ⁶ Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples ... ¹⁵ Therefore ... Since you saw no form ... at Horeb ... ¹⁶ beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves ... ³² For ask now ... ³³ Did any people ever hear the voice of a god speaking out of the midst of the fire? ... ³⁵ To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord is God; there is no other besides him ... ⁴⁰ Therefore you shall keep his statutes and his commandments (4:1-40) ⁴¹ Then Moses set apart three cities in the east beyond the Jordan, ⁴² that the manslayer might flee there (4:41-43)	4:1-43
General Stipulations <i>Outlines the vassal's consequent responsibilities</i>	⁴⁴ This is the law that Moses set before the people of Israel ... when they came out of Egypt, ⁴⁶ beyond the Jordan in the valley opposite Beth-peor, in the land of Sihon the king of the Amorites	4:44-49
	² The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb ... ⁴ The Lord spoke with you face to face at the mountain ... He said: ⁷ "You shall have no other gods before me. ⁸ You shall not make for yourself a carved image ... ¹¹ You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain ... ¹² Observe the Sabbath ... ¹⁶ Honor your father and your mother ... ¹⁷ You shall not murder ... commit adultery ... steal ... bear false witness ... covet"	5:1-32

	¹ Now this is the commandment ... that you may do them in the land ... ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might (6:1-9) ¹⁰ And when the Lord your God brings you into the land ... ¹² then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt (6:10-25) ⁶ For you are a people holy to the Lord ... ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you ... ⁸ but it is because ... keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers (7:1-26) ² And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness ... ¹¹ Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments (8:1-20) ⁴ Do not say in your heart ... 'It is because of my righteousness that the Lord has brought me in to possess this land,' whereas it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is driving them out before you ... and that he may confirm the word that the Lord swore to your fathers (9:1—10:11) ¹² And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord ... ¹³ and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good? (10:12—11:32)	6:1—11:32
Specific Stipulations	¹ These are the statutes and rules that you shall be careful to do in the land ... you shall seek the place that the Lord your God will choose ... ⁶ and there you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices ... ¹ If a prophet ... arises ... and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods' ... that prophet ... shall be put to death (12—13) ⁴ These are the animals you may eat ... ¹ At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release ... ¹ Observe the month of Abib and keep the Passover (14—16) ⁸ If any case arises requiring decision ... you shall come to ... the judge ... ¹⁴ When you come to the land ... ¹⁵ you may indeed set a king over you whom the Lord your God will choose ... ¹ The Levitical priests ... shall have no inheritance among their brothers ... ²⁰ But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded ... shall die (17—18) ¹ When the Lord your God cuts off the nations ... ² you shall set apart three cities ... so that any manslayer can flee to them ... ¹ When you go out to war against your enemies ... ¹ If in the land ... someone is found slain ... ¹ You shall not see your brother's ox ... going astray and ignore them ... ¹ No one whose testicles are crushed ... shall enter the assembly of the Lord ... ¹ When a man ... writes her a certificate of divorce ... may not take her again to be his wife ... ¹ If there is a dispute ... the guilty man deserves to be beaten ... ³ Forty stripes may be given him, but not more ... ¹ When you come into the land ... ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground ... ³ And you shall go to the priest ... and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God. (19—26)	12:1—26:15

	¹⁶ This day the Lord your God commands you to do these statutes and rules. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul.	26:16-19
Document Clause <i>Preserves the covenant agreement</i>	² And on the day you cross over the Jordan to the land ... you shall set up large stones and plaster them with plaster. ³ And you shall write on them all the words of this law ... you shall set up these stones ... on Mount Ebal ... ¹² When you have crossed over the Jordan, these shall stand on Mount Gerizim to bless the people: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph, and Benjamin. ¹³ And these shall stand on Mount Ebal for the curse: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali.	27:1-26
Blessings and Curses <i>For obedience or disobedience</i>	¹ And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you ... ³ Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. ⁴ Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb ... ¹⁵ But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. ¹⁶ Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field. ¹⁷ Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ¹⁸ Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb ...	28:1-68
	¹⁰ You are standing today ... ¹² so that you may enter into the sworn covenant of the Lord (29:1-15) ¹⁸ Beware lest ... ²⁷ Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled ... bringing ... all the curses written in this book, ²⁸ and the Lord uprooted them from their land ... and cast them into another land (29:16-28) ¹ And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse ... among all the nations where the Lord your God has driven you (30:1-10) ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live (30:11-20)	29:1—30:20
	¹ So Moses continued to speak ... “The Lord has said to me, ‘You shall not go over this Jordan.’ ³ The Lord your God himself will go over before you” ... ⁷ Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him ... “Be strong and courageous, for you shall go with this people into the land”	31:1-8
Document Clause	⁹ Then Moses wrote this law and gave it to the priests ... ¹⁰ And Moses commanded them, “At the end of every seven years ... you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing ... that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God”	
	¹⁶ And the Lord said to Moses ... ¹⁹ “Now therefore write this song and teach it ... that this song may be a witness for me against the people of Israel.” ²⁴ When Moses had finished writing the words of this law in a book ... ²⁵ Moses commanded the Levites ... ²⁶ “Take this Book of the Law and put it by the side of the ark of the covenant ... that it may be there for a witness against you.”	31:9-29

Witnesses <i>To the making of the covenant</i>	³⁰ Then Moses spoke the words of this song until they were finished, in the ears of all the assembly of Israel: “Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak, and let the earth hear the words of my mouth ... ⁴ The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he. ⁵ They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his children because they are blemished; they are a crooked and twisted generation... ⁴⁴ Moses came and recited all the words of this song ... ⁴⁶ he said to them, “Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today”	31:30—32:47
	⁴⁸ That very day the Lord spoke to Moses, ⁴⁹“Go up ... Mount Nebo ... and view the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel for a possession. ⁵⁰ And die on the mountain” (32:48-52) ¹ This is the blessing with which Moses ... blessed the people of Israel before his death. ² He said, ⁶“Let Reuben live, and not die, but let his men be few.” ⁷ And this he said of Judah... ⁸ And of Levi he said... ¹² Of Benjamin he said... (33:1-29) ¹ Then Moses went up ... Mount Nebo ... And the Lord showed him all the land ... ⁵ So Moses the servant of the Lord died (34:1-12)	32:48—34:12