

Deuteronomy

It is obvious to some, but disputed by others, that the Deuteronomic Code is a Decalogue Code, based on the Decalogue in Exodus 20, slightly rewritten as Deut 5, and expanded in Deut 12-26 to include all civil and criminal law. The material later added to both ends of Deuteronomy obscures that picture, and imposes a different agenda on the text.

(34) To the Jordan. This connecting material, drawn from Numbers, takes us to the Conquest and the moment of entry into the Land.

(35) Admonitions. These six added chapters urge obedience to the laws, and threaten dire consequences if they are disobeyed.

(36) The Decalogue Code. It is agreed to be Deut 12-26, but it can be hard to see just how its provisions relate to the Decalogue.

(37) Updating the Covenant. Deut 26 had ended with a covenant. These new versions would bring it up to the current standard for a valid contract.

(38) The Death of Moses. These four final chapters, with their long celebratory poems, transform Deuteronomy into a biography of Moses.

Everything so far is preparatory to the entry into the Land. Next comes the Conquest, described in Joshua, a dramatic version of what really happened. Once in the Land, the issue then becomes, King or No King? That issue will be taken up, as a sort of thought experiment, in Judges.