



The book of Deuteronomy

DESCRIPTION SHEET

Author

Deuteronomy is the last book of the Pentateuch. Not only does the book explicitly state the authorship of Moses (1: 1; 4:44; 31: 9, 22; 33: 4), but ancient Jews and Christian traditions recognize Moses as the author. However, it should be noted that the storyline about the death of Moses was added by another person, probably Joshua, because he was one of Moses' close assistants and the one who was to succeed him.

Date

In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses and the people were in the territory of Moab, near the Jordan River. Some believe it was written in 1407 BC. It should be noted that this book was written in the form of a treaty, compared to those of overlords and vassals of the ancient Near East. It was a form of contract from which the two parties agreed on a set of viewpoints. It is in this perspective that we must read the book of Deuteronomy.

Main theme and Target audience

In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses is at his golden years of life and he is addressing the young generation of Israel (Caleb and Joshua). The older generation had died in the desert because of their rebellion. Long before entering the promised land, Moses took the time to do two important things. First, He made an important reminder of God's journey with these people out of Egypt, and how God intervened to deliver them from the other nations that attacked them. Second, he explained the law of the Lord, emphasizing the responsibility of fully submitting to the laws and ordinances of God. It was only by obeying God that these people could enjoy their blessing. Otherwise, God brought judgment on the latter. So, to summarize Deuteronomy, the main purpose of the book was to prepare the people to enter the Promised Land.

Plan of the book of Deuteronomy

1. Introduction: the historical framework of Moses' speech (1: 1-4).
2. The first moment of the speech: historical prologue (1: 5-4: 43).
3. The second moment of the speech: specific mentions on the alliance at Sinai (4: 44-28: 68).
4. The third moment of the speech: renewal of the alliance (29: 1-30: 20).
5. Conclusive Events: Change of Leadership, Guidelines for Reading the Law of the Lord, Final Event in the Life and Death of Moses (31: 1-34: 12).