

The Four Messages of Deuteronomy

Vss.	Purpose of Message	Prominent or Distinguishing Features
1:5-4:40	<i>"Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, so that you may live and go in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you" (4:1).</i>	Sermon 1 features a retelling of Israel's history from Mount Sinai to the valley of Beth-Peor, a tale of grace giving Israel every reason to love God and heed His Word. <i>"For the LORD your God has blessed you in all that you have done; He has known your wanderings through this great wilderness. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you; you have not lacked a thing" (2:7).</i>
5:1-26:19	<i>"Then Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: 'Hear, O Israel, the statutes and the ordinances which I am speaking today in your hearing, that you may learn them and observe them carefully'" (5:1).</i>	Sermon 2 , by far the longest, consists almost entirely of a restating of the Ten Commandments (5:6-21) and a rigorous description of many specific laws that clarify them (6:1-26:15).
27:1-29:1	<i>"Then Moses and the elders of Israel charged the people, saying, 'Keep all the commandments which I command you today'" (27:1).</i>	Sermon 3 pronounces a range of blessings and curses connected to Israel's response to the Law: <i>"All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the LORD your God" (28:2). "But it shall come about, if you do not obey the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you" (28:15).</i>
29:2-30:20	<i>"These are the words of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the sons of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He had made with them at Horeb" (29:1).</i>	Sermon 4 calls on Israel to pledge themselves to love and obey God. <i>"You stand today, all of you, before the LORD your God . . . that you may enter into the covenant with the LORD your God, and into His oath which the LORD your God is making with you today" (29:10, 12).</i>