

The Fifth Book of Moses Called DEUTERONOMY

Deuteronomy is the 5th book of the Bible and the final book authored by Moses. It completes a work often referred to as "The Pentateuch" meaning 5 Books and includes Genesis through Deuteronomy.

Moses as the author of Deuteronomy is attested to by:

The book itself

Deuteronomy 31:24

When Moses had finished writing the words of this law in a book to the very end

Other OT writers

2 Kings 14:6

But the children of the murderers he did not execute, according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, in which the Lord commanded, saying, "Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their fathers; but a person shall be put to death for his own sin."

The New Testament writers

Acts 3:22

Moses said, "The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you."

Jesus Himself

Matthew 19:7

They said to him, "Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?"

As well as by the most ancient tradition of the Hebrew people

It is understood that since Moses' death is recorded in the closing chapters that the appendix was written by someone else. It has been suggested by many that it was Joshua who penned the final chapter.

Title

Deuteronomy is the name given to this book in the Septuagint (A second century BC translation of the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek). Deuteronomy literally translated means 2nd Law.

In some ways this is an appropriate title because Deuteronomy serves as a recap of the Law given in Exodus - Numbers.

However it is an unfortunate title in that it limits our understanding of the book thinking it is simply a restating of regulations previously given. Deuteronomy offers the believer so much more than that.

The Hebrew title for the book is *elleh haddebarim*, "**These are the words.**" This is taken from the opening verse of chapter one.

Deuteronomy 1:1

"These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel on this side of the Jordan in the wilderness, in the plain opposite Suph, between Paran, Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab."

This is also a suitable title since Deuteronomy is actually a collection of sermons given by Moses to Israel just before they crossed the Jordan. The word "Law" is a translation of the Hebrew word "Torah" and means much more than regulations.

Torah means direction, teaching, instruction, or doctrine. In the strict sense the word means instruction designed to teach us the truth about God.

Torah is more closely related to the Greek word "diaskolos" or teaching than it is to the word "nomos" or law.

There are at least two other related Hebrew words derived from the same root as torah.

The first is the word for teacher, *Moreh*. A Moreh is one who imparts instruction to his/her students.

The second is parent, *horeh*. This indicates to us that one of the primary roles for a parent is to teach and instruct the child

It might do us good to think of Moses more of a pastor than a law giver. As he stands before the congregation he gives a series of messages designed to help them understand God and their relationship with Him. In many ways he is pleading with the people to walk with and serve the Lord.

Deuteronomy 30:19

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

Date of Deuteronomy:

Deuteronomy contains several messages or sermons directed at the second generation as they prepare to enter Canaan. These messages were given during the final days leading up to Israel entering the Promised Land.

The first sermon was delivered on the 1st day of the 11th month (Deut 1:3), and the Israelites crossed the Jordan 70 days later, on the 10th day of the 1st month, Joshua 4:19.

Subtract 30 days of mourning after Moses' death Deut. 34:8, and we're left with 40 days.

So this collection of sermons was given over a period of 40 days as Israel awaited the trumpet blast that would send them across the Jordan.

It is worth noting that it was the Word of God and the people's willing acceptance of it that really prepared them for the battles they would face.

The year was approximately 1400B.C.

Location of the writing

Israel camped in what is Modern day Jordan across from the city of Jericho. The site is referred to Biblically as "The Plains of Moab" or as "The Acacia Grove." It is not difficult to picture the massive army of Israel encamped in tents around the Tabernacle and gathering daily to hear messages from Moses. Their day may have begun with the aroma of the morning sacrifice filling the air as the families gathered manna to prepare meals for their families. At some point the people would all gather together before Moses where he would communicate the words of this book to them.

- The plains of Jordan

- The view from Nebo

Like the book of Leviticus, Deuteronomy has no movement. Israel is encamped in the plains of Moab and remains settled as they listen to the Word of God expounded upon by Pastor Moses

While the geographical site where this book takes place is in the Plains of Moab, Moses will take us on a journey through Israel's travels from Egypt to the borders of the Promised Land. During this journey he will revisit the Law of God as well as the successes and failures of the people.

Purpose of Writing

Again Deuteronomy means 2nd Torah and was given to the 2nd Generation just prior to entering Canaan in order that they might have a proper understanding of who God is and what He expects out of His people.

Deuteronomy 2:14

And the time we took to come from Kadesh Barnea until we crossed over the Valley of the Zered was thirty-eight years, until all the generation of the men of war was consumed from the midst of the camp, just as the Lord had sworn to them.

The book was designed to remind the next generation of the Word of God and to call them into covenant relationship with God.

Deuteronomy 5:1-3

"And Moses called all Israel, and said to them: "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them. The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The Lord did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive."

The abiding lesson of Deuteronomy is that obedience is essential to health, happiness and heaven itself.

Brief Summary:

The book contains 34 chapters, 958 verses, and 28,461 words. Almost every verse is filled with exhortation, instruction, warning or promise

Deuteronomy can be divided into 4 smaller sections based upon the subjects it covers.

1-4 Reviewing their journeys - "A reflection on the Past"

The first three chapters recap the trip from Egypt to their current location, Moab.

Chapter 4 is a call to obedience, to be faithful to the God Who was faithful to them.

5-26 Restating the Law - "Focus upon the Present"

The Ten Commandments, the laws concerning sacrifices and special days, and the rest of the law are given to the new generation. Blessings are promised to those who obey and a curse is promised to those who break the law. We will see this clearly in chapters 27-28

27- 30 Warning to people - "A Look into the Future"

The theme of blessing and cursing continues in chapters 27-30. This portion of the book ends with a clear choice set before Israel:

"I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing." God's desire for His people is found in what He recommends: "choose life" (30:19)."

Israel is warned regarding what will come upon them when they choose to ignore the Word of God and walk in their own ways.

Deuteronomy 28:49

The Lord will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand,

Deuteronomy 28:52

"They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the Lord your God has given you.

31-34 Swan Song of Moses

In the final chapters, Moses encourages the people; appoints his replacement, records a song; and gives a final blessing to each of the tribes of Israel. Chapter 34 relates the circumstances of Moses' death and the book of Deuteronomy ends with a short obituary on his life.

It is worth noting that a life devoted to the Lord and the proclamation of His word ended with a song of praise. True service and study should always lead us back to worship.

Highlights

An analysis of Deuteronomy reveals some very interesting truths about the book.

The Old Testament Survey Series points out

Three fundamental truths are taught in Deuteronomy.

The first is that Yahweh is unique.

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord” (6:4). Besides him there is no other (4:35). Yahweh is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome (10:17). Therefore, he detests images (7:25).

The second fundamental truth is that Israel is a unique people.

“For you are a holy people unto the Lord your God: the Lord your God has chosen you to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth” (7:6). God would not abandon nor destroy this people for he had made a commitment to their forefathers by an oath (4:31). “He brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he swore unto our fathers” (6:23).

A third fundamental truth is that a unique relationship existed between God and Israel.

Israel had entered into a covenant with Yahweh (29:13). Yahweh was their father (32:6). Israel must therefore love and not merely fear him (6:5) “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, and to love him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, to keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command you this day for your good” (10:12f.).

Reflection is a key element of this book.

The word “remember” is used 16 times in Deuteronomy. Moses also uses the word “forget” - 14 times, “take heed”, “be careful”, “be diligent”, “keep”, “beware”, “watch” – a combined total of 74 times.

This is significant in light of the fact that this was given to a new generation.

Deuteronomy is old truth for a new generation.

This is essential for today. What our modern culture and even our church culture needs more than anything is to be reminded of the unchanging truths tucked away in the Word of God.

"Give me that old time religion

It's good enough for me

Makes me love everybody

It's good enough for me

It was good for Hebrew children

And it's good enough for me

It was tried in the fiery furnace

It's good enough for me

It will do when I'm dying

It's good enough for me

It can take us all to heaven

It's good enough for me"

We also find the Hebrew word for - “sons”, “children”, “descendants”, “grandchildren” - 124 times, “father” – 71 times, “wives” – 7 times. “little ones” – 11 times.

If "**Remember**" is the major theme, then the key passage is

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise

up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

This is the text we should all be taking home with us and applying to our own lives.

- *If you are single your focus should be loving God and tucking His word away in your heart to share with others in the future*
- *If you are married you should be loving God and tucking His word away in your heart alongside your spouse.*
- *If you have a family you should be loving God and tucking His word away in your heart as well as looking for every chance He gives you to communicate the truths of God to your children.*

Some of the things they were exhorted to remember include:

Deuteronomy 5:15

And remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

This is repeated in 15:15, 16:12, 24:18, and 24:22

Deuteronomy 7:17-19

“If you should say in your heart, ‘These nations are greater than I; how can I dispossess them?’— you shall not be afraid of them, but you shall remember well what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt: the great trials which your eyes saw, the signs and the wonders, the mighty hand and the outstretched arm, by which the Lord your God brought you out. So shall the Lord your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid.

When Israel was overwhelmed by the Giants they would face in the Land they were to reflect back upon the victories God wrought on their behalf while they were in Egypt.

We too face Giants of opposition to our faith, growth, service and sanctification. When we are overwhelmed by our adversaries we must remember the great power of our God

Deuteronomy 8:2-3

And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

Israel was exhorted to remember that there is a purpose behind the things the Lord leads us into. Moses sights 3 purposes behind the difficult roads they were instructed to take.

- First they were designed to humble the people. We learn later in Scripture that God resists the proud.
- Second they were to test the people. This was to show them their need for God.
- Finally they were to reveal what was truly in the people. Trials do not make us fearful, angry, discontent or faithless they simply reveal what is already in our hearts.

Deuteronomy 8:18-19

“And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the Lord your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.

Israel was encouraged to remember that it would be through following God and not forsaking His word that they would truly have success.

Deuteronomy 9:7-8

“Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the Lord. Also in Horeb you provoked the Lord to wrath, so that the Lord was angry enough with you to have destroyed you.

Israel was even reminded to reflect on their failures. This was not to discourage them from moving forward but to discourage them from going back.

Deuteronomy 25:17

“Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt,

Israel was reminded to deal with the Amelakites. The way they attacked Israel makes them a vivid picture of the work of the flesh. If we fail to crucify the flesh with its passions and desires we will find that in our weakness the flesh will gain great victories in our lives.

Another key concept of the book is love.

The word love is used 16 times in Deuteronomy.

Prior to Deuteronomy the word love is only used 8 times and is used predominantly to speak of man's love for one another.

Only once is it used for the love of God.

Exodus 20:6

but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

In contrast the word love is used almost exclusively in Deuteronomy to speak of the love relationship between God and Israel

Deuteronomy 6:5 - Jesus called this the greatest command

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 7:7-8 - explains why God loves them

The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 10:12

“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 and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

Deuteronomy 11:1

“Therefore you shall love the Lord your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always.

Deuteronomy 11:13-14

‘And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today, to love the Lord your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil.

Deuteronomy 15:16 - serves as a picture of love relationship

And if it happens that he says to you, ‘I will not go away from you,’ because he loves you and your house, since he prospers with you,

Deuteronomy 30:6

And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

One way of looking at the book is to consider it as Pastor Moses directing the congregation of Israel to understand that the Word of God is designed to bring us into a love relationship with God. In it we learn who God is and what He desires out of us. It is inconsistent with the teachings of Scripture to think you can love God and disobey His Torah or instructions.

The importance of Deuteronomy

The importance of Deuteronomy to Jesus and the authors of the New Testament is self-evident.

It is the Most quoted OT book in the NT.

Jesus referred to Deuteronomy 10 times.

He references the 10 Commandments on several occasions.

Mark 7:10 - *honor father and mother*

Mark 10:19 - The second tablet is referenced which includes:

Do not commit adultery

Do not murder

Do not steal

Do not bear false witness

Do not defraud

Honor your father and your mother

Matt 5:21,27 - *do not kill and do not commit adultery*

He also refers to Deuteronomy to clarify His position on

The greatest commandment

Dt 6:4-6 and Mk 12:29-30

The value of the Word of God in spiritual warfare

Dt 8:3 and Matt 4:4

Dt 6:16 and Matt 4:7

Dt 6:13 and Matt 4:10

Biblical position regarding divorce

Dt 24:1 and Matt 5:31

The importance of two or more witnesses to verify truth

Dt 19:15 and Matt 18:16

We find several quotations to Deuteronomy in the remaining NT books

Deuteronomy 18:15 The Lord thy God shall raise up to thee a prophet of thy brethren, like me; him shall ye hear:

Acts 3:22-23

For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, [that] every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Acts 7:37

This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

Deuteronomy 30:12-14

It is not in heaven above, as if there were one saying, Who shall go up for us into heaven, and shall take it for us, and we will hear and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, saying, Who will go over for us to the other side of the sea, and take it for us, and make it audible to us, and we will do it? The word is very near thee, in thy mouth, and in thine heart, and in thine hands to do it.

Romans 10:6-9

But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Deuteronomy 32:21

They have provoked me to jealousy with that which is not God, they have exasperated me with their idols; and I will provoke them to jealousy with them that are no nation, I will anger them with a nation void of understanding.

Romans 11:13-14

For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them.

Deuteronomy 32:35

Vengeance is Mine, and recompense;

Their foot shall slip in due time;

For the day of their calamity is at hand,

And the things to come hasten upon them.'

Hebrews 10:30

For we know him that hath said, Vengeance [belongeth] unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

Romans 12:19

Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but [rather] give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance [is] mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Deuteronomy 25:4 Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treads out the corn.

1 Corinthians 9:9 For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?

1 Timothy 5:18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer [is] worthy of his reward.

Deuteronomy 27:26

Cursed is every man that continues not in all the words of this law to do them: and all the people shall say, So be it.

Galatians 3:10

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed [is] every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Deuteronomy 21:23

his body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but ye shall by all means bury it in that day; for every one that is hanged on a tree is cursed of God; and ye shall by no means defile the land which the Lord thy God gives thee for an inheritance.

Galatians 3:13

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed [is] every one that hangeth on a tree:

Deuteronomy 4:24

For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

Hebrews 12:29

For our God is a consuming fire.

Deuteronomy 31:8

And the Lord that goes with thee shall not forsake thee nor abandon thee; fear not, neither be afraid.

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; [and be] content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Great truths in Deuteronomy

The importance of the Word of God

Deuteronomy 4:1-6

This is one of the foundational passages of the book. In it Moses reminds them not to alter the Word of God for any reason and that if they are confused it is the Word that will give them wisdom. By obeying the word they will prosper and the nation's around them will be drawn to God.

Word was to be learned and taught by parents to children

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

They were to carry the word around with them wherever they went

Deuteronomy 11:18-21

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.

Chapter 13 speaks to the danger and discipline of a false teacher

Deuteronomy 13:3

you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

The Word was to be used as the guideline for the decisions made by judges or rulers

Deuteronomy 17:9

And you shall come to the priests, the Levites, and to the judge there in those days, and inquire of them; they shall pronounce upon you the sentence of judgment.

The Word was to be the subject of the meditation of the King

Deuteronomy 17:18

“Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites.

The Word was to be read to the entire nation every 7 years to be sure each generation was built upon the foundation of the Word

Deuteronomy 31:10-11

And Moses commanded them, saying: “At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles, when all Israel comes to appear

before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses, you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing.

We learned in our studies in Numbers that the Levites were positioned in 48 cities throughout the Land so the people would always have access to the Word of God for direction and judgment in social matters.

Moses also instructs Israel that once they enter the Land and establish themselves they were to gather in the Valley between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim where the leaders would write a copy of the Torah for the people and remind them of all the blessings God had for them if they obeyed and all the curses that would come upon them if they rebelled. He explains the utter folly of thinking we can ignore the instruction of God and experience the blessed life.

Deuteronomy 29:19

and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, "I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart"—as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.

The uniqueness of the people of God

Deuteronomy 4:8

And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?

Deuteronomy 7:6-8

"For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

This was not based upon their strength, their numbers or even their righteousness

Deuteronomy 9:4

"Do not think in your heart, after the Lord your God has cast them out before you, saying, 'Because of my righteousness the Lord has brought me in to possess

this land'; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is driving them out from before you.

Their uniqueness should impact the way they lived

Deuteronomy 14:1-2

"You are the children of the Lord your God; you shall not cut yourselves nor shave the front of your head for the dead. For you are a holy people to the Lord your God, and the Lord has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Their uniqueness required them to follow God

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

"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 and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good?"

Deuteronomy 12:8

"You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes—

Jesus in Deuteronomy

Moses predicted the coming of the Messiah as a Prophet

Deuteronomy 18:15

"The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,

Deuteronomy 18:18

I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.

- The disciples recognized Jesus to be that prophet

John 1:45

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

- The crowds recognized Jesus to be that prophet

Luke 7:16-17

Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people." And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region.

- The New Testament church recognized Jesus to be that prophet

This is the conclusion of Peter's sermon in Acts 3. Jesus is the prophet Moses promised to Israel. He is the one who will redeem us from the curse of sin

Acts 3:26

To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."

We find the promise quoted again in Acts 7:27

A prophet speaks forth the Word of God to the people. Jesus did more than that in that He is the Word incarnate. We understand the Word of God by looking at the person of Jesus. It is in His life that the God reveals Himself to mankind. We cannot know God apart from Christ

Hidden in Deuteronomy is yet another prophecy about the Messiah; it predicts the way in which the Savior would die and the length of time he would remain on the cross.

Deuteronomy 21:22-23

*"If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance; **for he who is hanged is accursed of God.***

Hanging on a pole was a public display of judgment and that individual was cursed.

The NT explains that Jesus took this curse for all humanity when he died on the "cross"

Galatians 3:13

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

1 Peter 2:24

who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

Deuteronomy 21:23 also commanded that the offender's body not be left on the pole overnight, and as we know from the Gospels, Jesus' body was taken down and placed into the tomb before nightfall (see Matthew 27:57 Mark 15:42).