

### Handout: Deuteronomy Lesson 1

#### Time line of events from the first Passover in Egypt to the arrival on the Plains of Moab:

Year	Day and month	Event	Scripture
Year 1	14 <sup>th</sup> day of 1 <sup>st</sup> month (Abib = March/April)	The first Passover sacrifice in Egypt on the day before the 10 <sup>th</sup> plague that struck at midnight (sundown became the next day).	Ex 12:1-14, 29-30
	15 <sup>th</sup> day of 1 <sup>st</sup> month (Abib = March/April)	At sundown, when the day became the 15 <sup>th</sup> , the people ate the sacred meal of the Passover victim. At dawn they began their journey out of Egypt.	Ex 12:8, 29-34; Num 33:3
	1 <sup>st</sup> day of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> month (Sivan = May/June)	The Israelites arrived at Mt. Sinai.	Ex 19:1
Year 2	1 <sup>st</sup> day of the 1 <sup>st</sup> month (Abib = March/April)	The Desert Sanctuary was consecrated.	Ex 40:1, 17
	1 <sup>st</sup> week of 1 <sup>st</sup> month (Abib = March/April)	The Aaronic priests were ordained over a 7 day period and began their ministerial service on the 8 <sup>th</sup> day.	Ex 1, 12-15; Lev 8:1-36; 9:1
	between the 9 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> of the 1 <sup>st</sup> month (Abib = March/April)	The Levites were dedicated as lesser ministers.	Num 8:5-22
	14 <sup>th</sup> of the 1 <sup>st</sup> month (Abib = March/April)	The Israelites commemorated the Passover at Mt. Sinai.	Num 9:1
	1 <sup>st</sup> of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> month (Ziv = April/May)	The census of the tribes was taken.	Num 1:1
	14 <sup>th</sup> of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> month (Ziv = April/May)	All those Israelites who were ritual unclean and could not participate in the Passover on the 14 <sup>th</sup> of Abib celebrated the Passover a month later.	Num 9:9-12
	20 <sup>th</sup> of 2 <sup>nd</sup> month (Ziv = April/May)	The Israelites left Mt. Sinai/Horeb.	Num 10:11
	30 <sup>th</sup> of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> month (Ziv = April/May)*	The Israelites arrived at Kadesh-Barnea where their failure to trust God led to a judgment of 38 years of desert wandering until the old generation died out.	Num 14:32-35; Dt 1:2; 2:14
Years 2 - 40 = wilderness years		A total of 40 years passed, counting from the year of the Exodus from Egypt.	
Year 40	1 <sup>st</sup> of the 5 <sup>th</sup> month (Ab = July August)	Aaron died and was succeeded as high priest by his son Eleazar (Miriam died in the 1 <sup>st</sup> month).	Num 20:1, 28; 33:38
	1 <sup>st</sup> of 11 <sup>th</sup> month (Sebat = January/February)	The new generation of Israelites arrived on the Plains of Moab, camping on the east bank of the Jordan River across from Jericho.	Num 22:1; Dt 1:13

Handout 2: Deuteronomy Lesson 1  
SUMMARY OF THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

Biblical Period	#3 THE TWELVE TRIBES/SINAI COVENANT				
Covenant	SINAI COVENANT				
Scripture	1:1-----4:44-----29:1-----34:12				
Focus	FIRST HOMILY	SECOND HOMILY		THIRD HOMILY	
Division of Text	Preamble and Historical Review	Ethical Stipulations of the Sinai Covenant and the Sanctions for covenant failure		Succession Arrangements: Renewal of the Covenant with the new generation	
Topic	God's actions for Israel	Israel's obligations to God: religious, civil and social laws (Deuteronomic Code)	Covenant blessings for obedience and curses/judgment for covenant failure	What God will do for Israel in the future if Israel is obedient	Joshua's ordination & the Song of Moses
Location	On the Plains of Moab on the east side of the Jordan River across from Jericho				
Time	c. 70 days on the Plains of Moab (Dt 1:3, 34:8; Josh 4:19)				
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**Covenant Treaty Format of Deuteronomy**

1. Preamble	Deuteronomy 1:1-5
2. Historical Prologue	Deuteronomy 1:6 – 4: 49
3. Ethical Stipulations	Deuteronomy 5:1 – 26:19 (Deuteronomic Code = chapters 12-26)
4. Sanctions	Deuteronomy 27:1 -1 30:20
5. Succession Arrangements	Deuteronomy 31:1 – 34:12

The only part missing from secular Near Eastern treaties is the section recording the witnessing of the document by pagan gods. Since Yahweh is both the Great King and Israel's God, He is responsible for judging Israel's covenant failures (Dt 29:24/25-28/29).

*Torah*: derived from the Hebrew word *horah*, "to teach, to instruct", Torah refers to instruction in religious, social and civil law, prophetic teaching, moral exhortation, and didactic narrative (*JPS Torah Commentary: Deuteronomy*, page 5). In the book of Deuteronomy, Moses often refers to "this Torah" (Dt 4:8, 44; 27:26; 28:58; 31:9, 11, 24).

The Hebrew word for "covenant" is *brt*. It is a cognate word that occurs as a Semitic loanword in Egyptian texts that have survived from the Nineteenth Dynasty and later. In Egyptian texts, the word occurs in the context of:

- Contracts for contractual labor
- Covenant treaties