

Missouri State University
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REL 101 – Literature and World of the Hebrew Bible

Guide for the Segments on
The Book of Deuteronomy

Segments to be viewed for this topic:

Introduction

1. [Introduction to Deuteronomy/Review of McBride's comments](#) [12:40 minutes]
 - How does McBride characterize Deuteronomy?
 - What is meant by “normative guide” and “virtual surrogate for Moses”
 - What books did Deuteronomy influence?
 - To when does McBride date Deuteronomy
 - What passage narrates its discovery
2. [Theocracy in the ancient Near East](#) [14:02 minutes]
 - Define theocracy
 - Know the elements of the ancient Near Eastern model of a theocracy
 - Know Hammurabi, Shamash, and Marduk
 - Know the basic facts of Hammurabi's law code and stele
 - Understand the elements and significance of the picture at the top of the law code
3. [Reforming Judah's theocracy \(“Constitutionalism”\)](#) [8:24 minutes]
 - Know the definition of constitution and constitutionalism
 - Understand what kind of a shift this means for the model of a theocracy
 - Know the role of Moses

Limiting Power: In general, know the danger posed by each office listed below, and how Deuteronomy limits this power.

4. [Deut 17:14–20](#) [10:35 minutes]
 - How the text places the king and the people on the same level
 - The king's responsibilities toward the law
 - Three restrictions placed on the king
5. [Deut 17:8–13](#) [8:24 minutes]
 - Where do legal processes begin?
 - How are the levitical priests and the Judge supposed to make their decisions? What are the limits on their decisions?
 - What is the role of Levites in relationship to the law?

Be sure to take the quiz over this material, which is available only through the course website.
See the details there for instructions.

6. [Deut 18:1–8](#) [7:55 minutes]
 - How were the Levites limited?
 - To whom does the law attempt to direct their loyalty? How does it seek to do this?
 - In what way do the Levites parallel Jerusalem?
7. [Deut 18:15–22](#) [11:53 minutes]
 - In what way did the prophets resemble Moses in regard to the model of theocracy?
 - What were the limits placed on the prophets?
 - What was the test used to identify a true prophet?

Centralizing worship:

8. [Deut 12:2-12](#) [11:33 minutes]
 - What was the purpose of centralizing worship?
 - Why are Beersheba and Arad important archaeological sites in regard to this text?
 - What was Kuntillet Ajrud? What was found there?
 - Where should worship of Yahweh be centered?
 - What would be placed in the Jerusalem temple?

Other considerations

9. [Shema](#): an exclusive covenant with Yahweh [8:27 minutes]
 - What is meant, in the context of the ancient near East, by the command to “love” Yahweh? What is the ancient Near Eastern parallel referred to this regard?
 - What are the three aspects of how a person is to love Yahweh, and what is meant by each?
10. [Deut 5:6-21: The Ten Commandments](#) [8:31 minutes]
 - Where do the Ten Commandments appear in the Hebrew Bible?
 - What is one major way the two lists differ from each other?
 - What is the content and intention of the following commands:
 - First command
 - To not misuse Yahweh’s name
 - To bear false witness

For segments 4 through 10, be able to identify which Biblical passage (down to the chapter and verses) addresses with official, set of officials, or issue. On the quiz, I may ask you to match a passage with an official(s), such as “Which passage contains the law over the king?”

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