

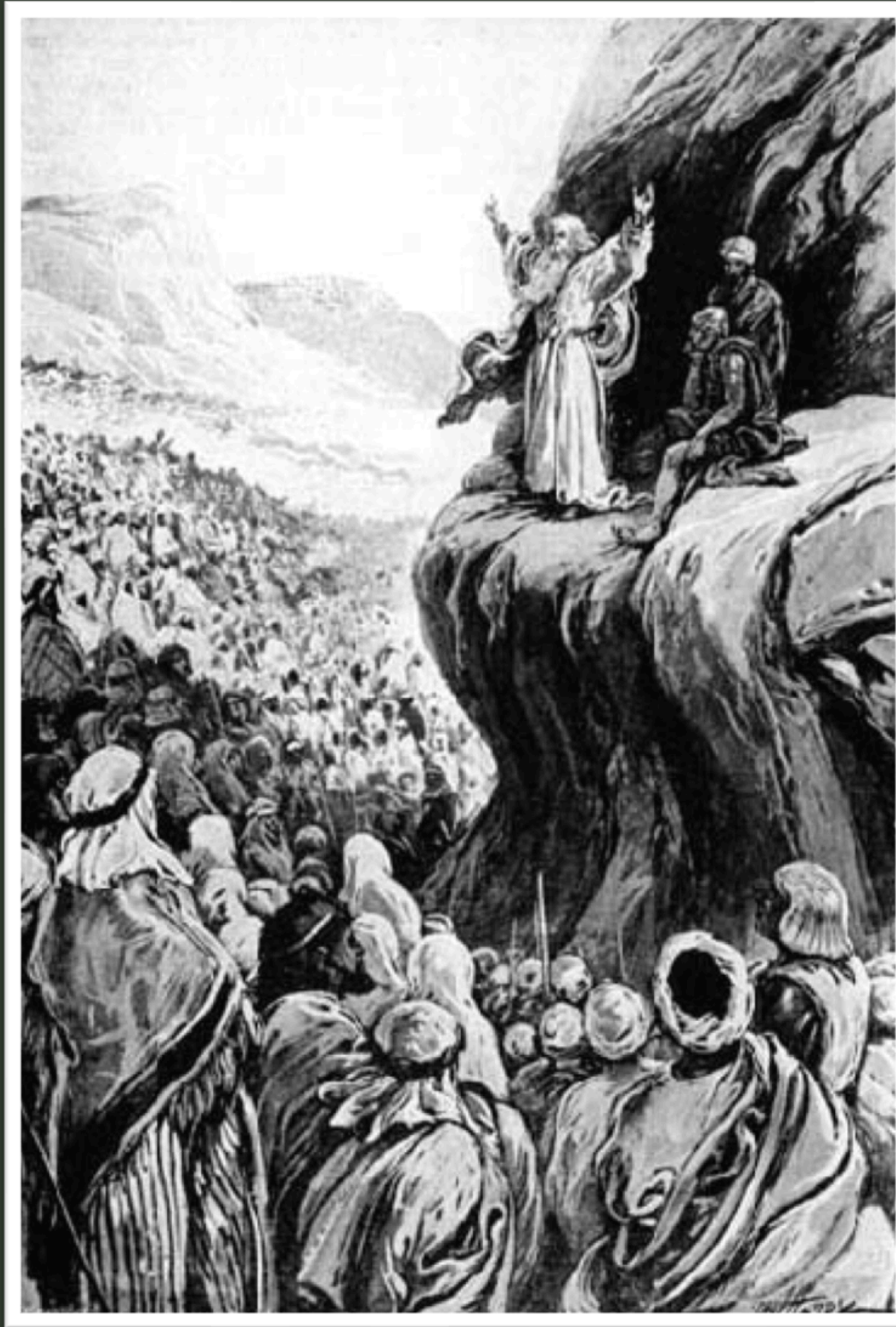
Introduction to Deuteronomy

Campbell Baptist Church

Sunday School 2025

Jake Tomc





Where We've Been and Where We're Going

1. Nature of Deuteronomy: What is it?

2. Introductory Content

- (a) Structure(s) & Overview of the Book
- (b) Authorship & Date

3. Theological Distinctives

- (a) The God of Israel
- (b) The Israel of God
- (c) Covenant
- (d) Land
- (e) Torah



(2) Introductory Content

Authorship & Date

Two Key Questions:

(1) Who Wrote It?

(2) When Was It Written?

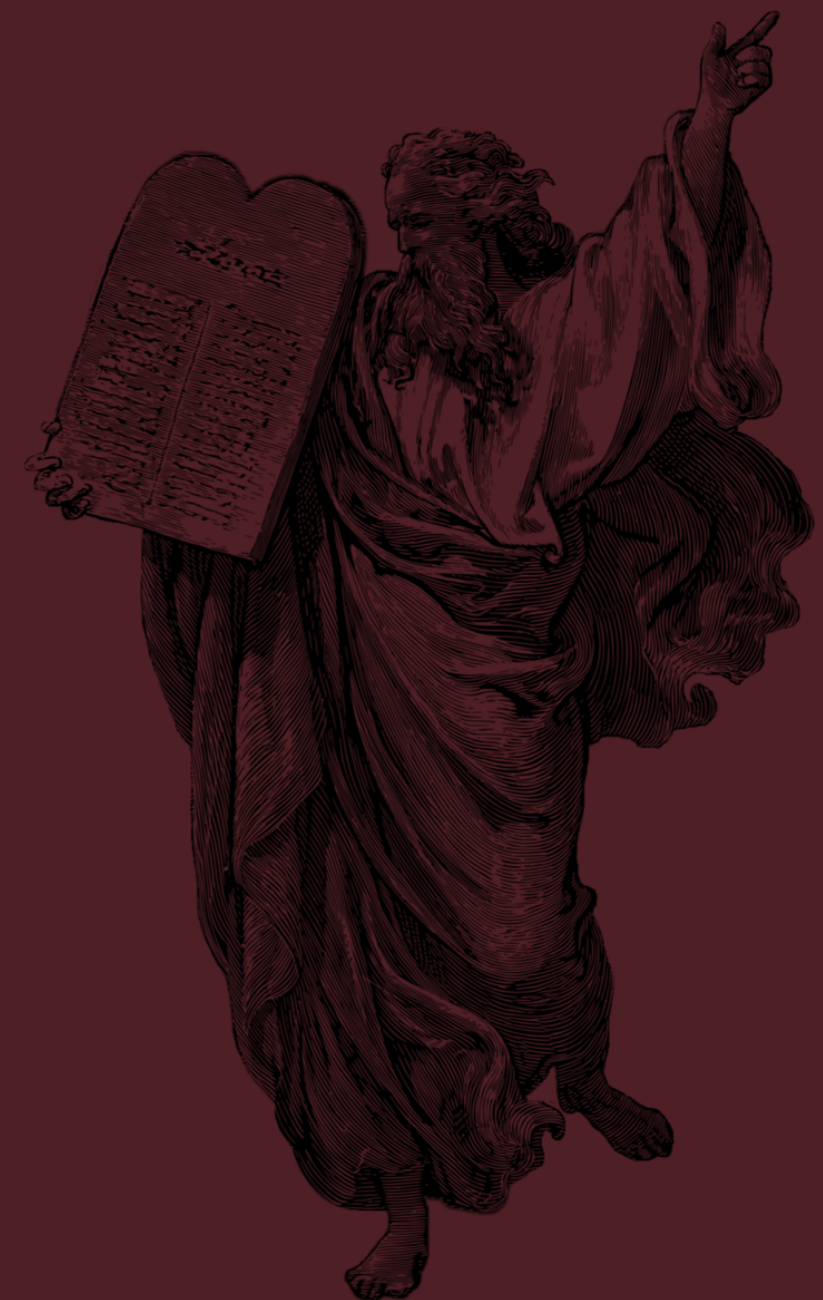


(2) Introductory Content

Authorship & Date

1. Who Wrote It?

- “Essential Mosaic Authorship” (see Deut 31:9–13; cf. Luke 16:29; John 1:45)
- Anonymous Narrator
 - References to Moses in third person in narrative stitching (1:1–5; 4:41–46; 5:1; 27:1, 9)
 - Implications of writing from later context
 - “...beyond the Jordan” (1:1)
 - “...to this day” (2:22; 3:13; 10:8; esp. 34:6)
 - Other parenthetical historical notes



(2) Introductory Content

Authorship & Date

1. Who Wrote It?

- Illustrating Biblical editors...
 - Proverbs 25:1
 - John Macarthur & Phil Johnson / Mark Dever & Jonathan Leeman

(2) Introductory Content

Authorship & Date

1. Who Wrote It?

- God is the divine author of all of Scripture
- God uses human authors to write Scripture under his divine superintendence
 - “Essential Mosaic Authorship”
 - Divinely inspired narrator

(2) Introductory Content

Authorship & Date

(2) When Was It Written?

- Two key issues:
 - (i) Date of the Conquest (either late 15th century BC or 13th century BC)
 - (ii) Witness of the Book
 - i. Due to “centralization” and “secularization,” many place in Josiah’s day (late 7th century BC; cf. 2 Kgs 23)
 - ii. Many features point to much earlier context
 - Archaic language & literary style
 - Names of inhabitants of Transjordanian territories
 - Comparison to Hittite covenant/treaty documents
 - Content of the book fits well with pre-conquest context
 - NT links book with Moses

**Due to internal testimony of Deut (1:1; 4:44-45; 31:9), as well as OT and NT connection between Torah and Moses (2 Chron 35:12; Neh 8:1; Mark 7:10; Luke 24:44; Rom 10:5), essential Mosaic authorship some time in the second millennium (i.e., time of Moses) makes most sense.*

(2) Introductory Content

Authorship & Date

(2) When Was It Written?

- Key Dates on Biblical Timeline
 - (1) Abraham—2000 BC
 - (2) Exodus—1446 BC/1250 BC
 - (3) United Monarchy—1000 BC
 - (4) Fall of the Northern Kingdom—722 BC
 - (5) Fall of the Southern Kingdom—587/586 BC
 - (6) Return to the Land—539/538 BC

(3) Theological Distinctives

(a) The God of Israel

(b) The Israel of God

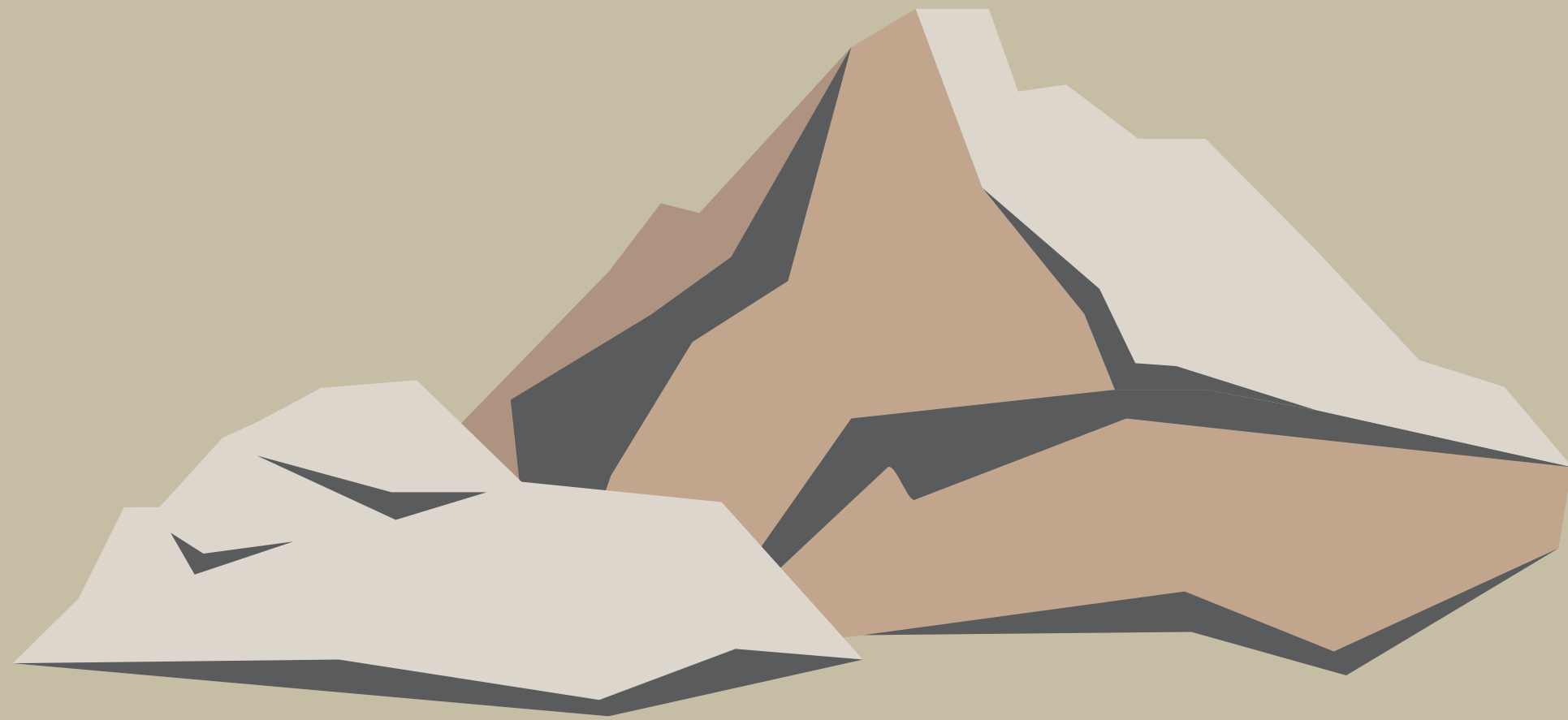
(c) Covenant

(d) Land

(e) Torah

(3) Theological Distinctives

(a) The God of Israel (i.e., Doctrine of God)



- Transcendent & Imminent
- Just & Righteous

(3) Theological Distinctives

(b) The Israel of God

- Origins & Election
 - Why wasn't Israel chosen?
 - Why was Israel chosen? The Missional nature of election.

(3) Theological Distinctives

(b) The Israel of God

- The Merneptah Stele
 - Earliest known reference to "Israel"
 - Inscription by Merneptah, a pharaoh in ancient Egypt reigning from 1213–1203 BC.



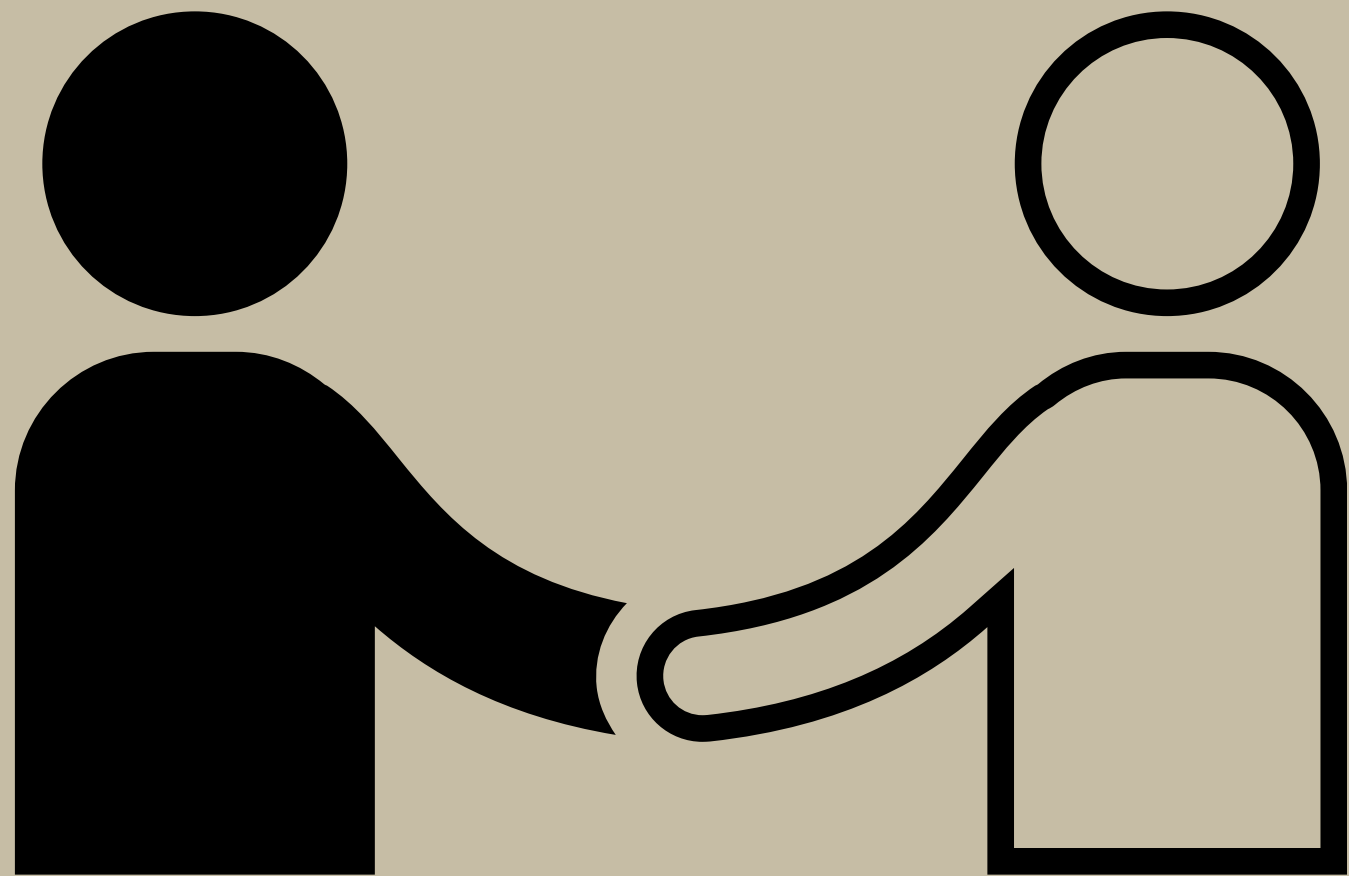
(3) Theological Distinctives

(c) Covenant

- Definitions:
 - "...a solemn and formal means of expressing and a method of establishing and defining a relationship (Averbeck, Old Testament Law, 35).
 - "...a relationship between two parties involving permanent and serious commitments of faithful loyal love, obedience, and trust" (Gentry and Wellum, Kingdom Through Covenant, 165).
 - Covenant formalizes relationship
 - When the term is used of the relationship between God and people, it is intended to help us understand how the holy God does relationship with us as fallen, sinful people (Averbeck, Old Testament Law).

(3) Theological Distinctives

(c) Covenant



- Diplomatic Covenants
 - International treaties (Josh 9)
 - Clan/tribal alliances (Gen 14:13)
- Personal Covenants
 - Personal agreements between neighbors (Gen 31:44)
 - Marriage (Mal 2:14)

(3) Theological Distinctives

(c) Covenant

- Most famous diplomatic covenants:
 - (1) Suzerain-vassal treaties—greater king promises protection to lesser king in return for obedience and tribute.
 - (2) Royal Charter/Land Grant—favor is bestowed by greater king on lesser king with no strings attached.

(3) Theological Distinctives

(c) Covenant



- One of the most important concepts within all of biblical theology.
- At its core, the Bible is a grand story about how a holy God can be reconciled to (have relationship with) sinful people. If covenant governs that relationship, we can see that the biblical story line is really carried along by means of covenant progression.
- So, what are these key covenants that move the biblical narrative along?