

Deuteronomy and the Creation of Messianic Realities

By Jim Myers

This educational email is part of a series on the **Five Versions of the Ten Commandments**. You can read the entire series on the BHC website by [CLICKING HERE](#). The five versions, three Jewish and two Christian, play important roles in creating different models and realities. In my previous email, [Reading the Words of Moses in Deuteronomy](#), introduced **the concept of canon** that transformed the **Torah** into *a bounded, accepted body of authoritative literature*. The **Torah** is the first five books of the Bible.

- *Genesis is a book of wisdom in which the voice of God dominates the text.*
- *In Deuteronomy the voice of Moses is almost indistinguishable from God's own voice.*

Moses officially began the practice of "explaining" the stories in the previous four books of the Torah – *specifically the stories related to the journey from Egypt to the Promised Land*. Thus, Moses paved the way for the classic form of Jewish religious and intellectual activity -- *the interpretation of Scripture*. This activity strongly influenced Christianity and Islam as well, and it is still a part of religious discourse and development in the Western world today.

The Inauguration of Joshua

"And Yahweh said to Moses, 'Behold, the days approach when you must die; call Joshua, and present yourselves in the tabernacle of meeting, that I may inaugurate him.' So Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves in the tabernacle of meeting. And Yahweh appeared at the tabernacle in a pillar of cloud, and the pillar of cloud stood above the door of the tabernacle." (Deuteronomy 31:14-15)

Take a moment to visualize that powerful scene. Moses brought them to the place where they could see the Promised Land, but Joshua will lead them into it, not Moses. As they stand before the cloud above the tabernacle, Yahweh said the following things to Moses (Deuteronomy 31:16-18).

- *You will rest with your fathers.*
- *This people will rise and play the harlot with the gods of the foreigners of the land, where they go to be among them.*
- *They will forsake Me and break My covenant which I have made with them.*
- *My anger shall be aroused against them in that day, I will forsake them, I will hide My face from them, and they shall be devoured.*
- *Many evils and troubles shall befall them, so that they will say in that day, "Have not these evils come upon us because our God is not among us?"*
- *I will surely hide My face in that day because of all the evil which they have done, in that they have turned to other gods.*

After Joshua was inaugurated, Moses met with the elders of the tribes and revealed what Yahweh had said to him. His words are the basis for future Messianic Realities.

- *The Israelites will enter the Promised Land.*
- *They will forsake Yahweh and worship other gods.*
- *Yahweh will hide His face from them, and powerful nations will conquer them.*
- *At some future point in time Yahweh will send another Moses-like leader to gather them, drive out the foreign oppressors, and they will live and control the Promised Land.*

This created a radical new understanding of “*being conquered by foreign nations.*”

- *The traditional view was that the gods of the conquerors were more powerful than gods of the conquered.*
- *The new view is that the Israelites were conquered because they were not faithful to Yahweh.*

The primary focus of all of the books that come after **Torah** in the Jewish Scriptures – especially **the Prophets** – *is teaching the people what they can do to get Yahweh to turn His face towards them again – and send His anointed leader to guide them.*

*Deuteronomy contains the foundation upon which
the Jewish Jesus created his movement.*

Back in the late 1980s when I created the guideline we use to explore biblical heritages – **my belief system** *will be large enough to include all facts* – many of the things we know today about genetics and neuroscience had not been discovered. We didn’t even have smartphones! We now know that human brains use belief models to generate the realities that we experience as life. The brain creates belief models from information received from its sensory organs.

*New information can result in the creation of new belief models
from which the brain generates new realities for individuals.*

This is science, not religion. *It is well-known and used in political and business circles to manipulate the behaviors of people.* Today, we use an updated version of the guideline above in our explorations – **my reality** *will be large enough to include all facts!*

Exploring Biblical Heritages is about much more than religious beliefs – *it is about examining and brining transparency to human realities.* God isn’t just a belief in a belief system for over two-billion Christians. God is part of the individual realities that drive human behaviors. Today we can identify and examine the belief models behind our realities.

*Exploring Biblical Heritages creates safe, open environments
for people to help each other examine their realities!*

SOURCE

The Five Books of Moses: A New Translation with Commentary by Everett Fox; p. 844.