

In the Book of Deuteronomy, we are told that before he retired from service on the top of Mount Nebo, the Prophet Moses publicly proclaimed the Law of God one last time.

Some people think this Book is just a copy of what had already been recorded in the earlier sections of the Torah, but this is not entirely the case. In the opening lines of the very first chapter Moses states that the purpose of the writing is to "expound this law." Therefore, Deuteronomy is an explanation, a sort of commentary, of what had been recorded in the earlier portions of the Law, not merely a repetition of it.

The central theme of the Book is that God has saved and blessed His Chosen People. Moses also reviews the Ten Commandments, but emphasizes the meaning of the First Commandment, calling the people to put the Lord first in everything, so that they may have life and continued blessing.

Recall also that Moses is expounding here God's Law to the new generation of Israelites as they are about to enter the Holy Land, those whose parents had died in the wilderness. They were only children when they saw His mighty miracles.

Having reminded them of these things, Moses then reminds them of their responsibility as parents to tell their children who had not actually witnessed these mighty works for themselves.