

Out of Mordor?
November 13, 2016

I. The First Volley (vv. 20–46)

II. The Second Volley (vv. 47–57)

III. The Third Volley (vv. 58–68)

Colophonic Conclusion (29:1 [Heb 28:69])

After all this, so what?

Avoiding Mordor:

Moses' Final Appeal for Covenant Faithfulness

Introduction to Deuteronomy 29–39

1. The Boundaries of the Unit

29:2a

31:1

2. The Structure of the Unit

A Today: Celebrating the Grace of Covenant (29:2–13)

B Tomorrow: Despising the Grace of Covenant (29:14–28)

C' Today: The Mystery of the Ways of YHWH and the Clarity of the Torah (29:29)

B' Tomorrow: Experiencing the Grace of Covenant (30:1–10)

A Today: Accepting the Grace of Covenant (30:11–20)

3. Features of Deuteronomy 29–30

a. The emphasis on “today, this day,” (14x).

b. The vocabulary of the curse (and blessing)

c. References to, “the covenant written in the document of the Torah” (v. 21).

d. References to the לֵב, “heart, mind,” as the seat of the problem and focus of the solution (29:3[4], 17[18], 18[19]; 30:2, 6, 10, 14, 17).

e. Echoes of chapter 4 throughout.

f. The adaptation of ancient Near Eastern treaty vocabulary (בְּרִית, “covenant”) and form, which spans the chapters.

(1) Historical Prologue (29:2b–9)

(2) Declaration of Commitment (29:10–15)

(3) Stipulations (29:15–19)

(4) Appeal to Witnesses (29:30:19a)

(5) Blessings and Curses (30:15–18, 19b–20)

(6) The Motif of Knowledge and Ignorance

- YHWH has not yet given a mind to know nor eyes and ears to perceive (29:4).
- The nations seek to know why yh hjas treated his land this way (29:24).
- What is known is distinguished from what is secret (29:29).
- Knowledge of the will of God is accessible and comprehensible, and immediately available (30:11–14).

4. The Circumstances of this Address