

**Avoiding Mordor:
Moses' Final Appeal for Covenant Faithfulness
December 4, 2016**

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 YHWH has 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

A. Today: A Review of YHWH's Past Grace (29:2–9)

Note the echoes of other texts.

Note the structure of vv. 2–9:

1. **The Opening (v. 2; cf. 5:1; and the “day of the assembly” in 4:10; 18:16)**
2. **The Review of YHWH's Past Graces (vv. 2c–8)**

But what does verse 4 mean?

Problems with the common interpretation:

- a.
- b.
- c.

3. **The Call for Response (v. 9)**

