

# Book Review of Daniel Block's Deuteronomy Trilogy

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BY CLOYCE SUTTON II

Old Testament scholar Daniel Block has written extensively on the book of Deuteronomy. He wrote the commentary on Deuteronomy in the *NIV Application Commentary* series (Zondervan Academic, 2012), a superb commentary. But he also wrote three collections of essays about Deuteronomy that are exceptional reading:

- *How I Love Your Torah, O LORD! Studies in the Book of Deuteronomy* (Cascade Books, 2011)
  - Contents: (1) The Grace of Torah; (2) Reading the Decalogue Right to Left; (3) Bearing the Name of the LORD with Honor; (4) How Many is God?; (5) The Joy of Worship; (6) The Burden of Leadership; (7) The Privilege of Calling; (8) The Power of Song
- *The Gospel According to Moses: Theological and Ethical Reflections on the book of Deuteronomy* (Cascade Books, 2012)
  - Contents: (1) Deuteronomy: A Theological Introduction; (2) Recovering the Voice of Moses; (3) Will The Real Moses Please Rise? An Exploration into the Role and Ministry of Moses in the Book of Deuteronomy; (4) Preaching Old Testament Law to New Testament Christians; (5) "You Shall Not Covet Your Neighbor's Wife": A Study in Deuteronomistic Domestic Ideology; (6) All Creatures Great and Small: Recovering a Deuteronomistic Theology of Animals; (7) Other Religions in Old Testament Theology; (8) No Other Gods: Bearing the Name of YHWH in a Polytheistic World; (9) "In Spirit and Truth": The Mosaic Vision of Worship
- *The Triumph of Grace: Literary and Theological Studies in Deuteronomy and Deuteronomistic Themes* (Cascade Books, 2017)

Each collection of essays combines both textual and thematic studies. *How I Love Your Torah* contains primarily textual studies. *The Gospel According to Moses* is primarily thematic, and also has several essays that relate Deuteronomy to its larger Ancient Near Eastern setting. *The Triumph of Grace*, as its subtitle suggests, deals with literary and theological themes in Deuteronomy. Much of its content is oriented toward themes within the book, and themes that carry over throughout other parts of the Old Testament, and even in the whole Bible.

For probably 25 years or more, Deuteronomy has been one of my favorite Old Testament books, and I've done a fair amount of study on it. Yet, for me, this is some of the most thought-provoking material I've seen on it. While you won't agree with all of his conclusions, it will help you appreciate all the more the depth and relevance of this wonderful portion of the Old Testament that God spoke through his servant Moses.

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