

COMPLETED EDITION: 03-13-2017

A STUDY OF THE BOOKS OF

NUMBERS

AND

DEUTERONOMY



TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS

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The Book of NUMBERS

Introduction:

1. The book of Numbers is also called “the Book of Wanderings.”¹
2. It takes its name from the two wanderings and two numberings of the Israelites.
 - a. The first numbering was at Mount Sinai.
 - b. The second numbering was on the plains of Moab.
3. Most of the book describes Israel’s experiences as they wander in the wilderness: a redemptive history of Israel where the book of Exodus leaves off.
 - a. Genesis is the book of origins.
 - b. Exodus is the book of redemption.
 - c. Leviticus is the book of worship and fellowship.
 - d. Numbers is the book of the service and walk of God’s redeemed people.
4. It is a record of the failure of the redeemed people in the face of every divine provision for their welfare and success; an eleven day journey turned into a forty-year agony.
 - a. We must decide if we remain in a wilderness or trust in God to pass through it.
 - b. Jewish writings entitle the book “In the Wilderness.”
 - c. The Greek Septuagint gave it the title *Arithmoi*, “Numbers.”
 - d. It has also been called the “Book of the Journeying,” the book of “Murmurings, and the “Fourth Book of Moses.”
 - e. The book is a warning against the dangers of unbelief.
5. Numbers, therefore, relates the history of Israel's 40-year wandering in the wilderness.
 - a. Most of the events recorded occurred in the **second** and **fortieth years** of that period.
 - b. Only two specific incidents from the other 38 years are told: Korah and Aaron's rod.
 - c. The book is an account of God's patience, pardon, and protection for his Chosen People in the desert.
6. Numbers shows how the Israelites were chastened and trained in the wilderness as preparation for their entry into Canaan.
 - a. The story is sad because of the people's unbelief, grumbling, and rebellion.
 - b. It is encouraging because of what it shows about God's willingness to forgive, restore, and bring the faithful to victory.

¹ Merrill Unger, *Unger's Bible Dictionary*, “Book of Numbers.” (Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press, 1966) p. 799.

7. The “wilderness wanderers” are given special attention in the New Testament regarding the consequences of unfaithfulness to God.²

a. They are used as a warning in the book of **Hebrews, chapters three and four**.

- 1) Christians are partakers of the heavenly calling, and Christ is the Apostle and High Priest of their confession.
- 2) Christ was faithful to God and has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses.
- 3) Christ has built His own house, whose temple we are.
- 4) **THEREFORE**; we should not harden our hearts as they did in the wilderness.
- 5) Christians are warned about having an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God.
- 6) Christians must hold fast to their confession and their confidence must be steadfast.
- 7) The Israelites heard God’s word through Moses; however, they rebelled and as a result died in the wilderness.
- 8) Their unbelief in God’s word prevented them from obeying; thus, resulting in their deaths in the wilderness.
- 9) **THEREFORE**; **let us fear** lest we come short of our rest in heaven.
- 10) The word they heard was not united with faith (not digested properly).
- 11) Joshua did not give them the desire rest; therefore, there remains a greater rest ahead.
- 12) **THEREFORE**; **let us be diligent** to enter the rest lest any fall because of disobedience.
- 13) The word of God is powerful if we let it rule in our hearts.
- 14) Let us hold fast our confession.
- 15) **THEREFORE**: **let us come boldly** to the throne of grace obtain mercy and help in time of need.

b. They are used as a warning in **1 Corinthians 10:1-13**.

- 1) The Rock, Jesus Christ, was with them as they were baptized into Moses in the cloud and the Red Sea.
- 2) God gave them spiritual food and drink supplied by the Rock, Christ.
- 3) However, God was not well pleased with most of them; therefore, their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.
- 4) These things happened for our example to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they did.
- 5) Christians should not become idolaters as they did.
- 6) Christians should not tempt Christ as they did.
- 7) Christians should not complain as they did.

² H. L. Ellison, *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, Vol. IV (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing Com., 1974), pp. 461-466.

- 8) These things are written for our admonition.
 - 9) God will help us with the temptations that come our way.
8. The book opens at Sinai in the second year after the nation's escape from Egypt and closes on the eve of the entry into Canaan.

Discussion:

I. Background to the Book of Numbers. ³

- A. Moses was the original compiler of the materials in this book.
 - 1. This is the consistent tradition of both Jews and Christians.
 - 2. Its detailed and accurate account of the desert events points to Moses as the eyewitness author.
- B. Numbers 33:2 tells how Moses kept a "stage by stage" record of the wilderness movements of the Hebrews.
- C. The journey from Egypt to Canaan could have been completed in a matter of weeks.
 - 1. It was the unbelief of the people that turned it into a 40-year trek.
 - 2. God waited for a whole generation to die off before allowing the younger generation to possess Canaan.
 - 3. Only Joshua and Caleb survived from the older group.
- D. Surely the book was intended originally to remind the younger generation of the unbelief of their fathers and to call them to faithfulness in their new land.

II. The Message of the Book of Numbers:

- A. Numbers is a call to faithfulness.
- B. Can a called, chosen, and saved people fall away from God and perish?
 - 1. Several false theologies contain the doctrine of "once saved always saved."
 - 2. Divinely recorded history tells us that the saved can become unsaved. 1 Cor. 10:1-13.
 - 3. The Bible repeatedly warns against falling away through unbelief. Deut. 28:1, 15; Heb. 3:12-19; 6:1-8; Jas. 5:19-1
- C. Men always "wander in circles" when they disregard the Lord: we move forward only as we trust God and walk by faith.

³ The Background and Message material are from: *A Book-By-Book Study of the Old Testament* by R. B. Shelly as resourced in the Bibliography, pages 21, 22. It has excellent Old Testament resource material outlines.

NUMBERS TIME LINE

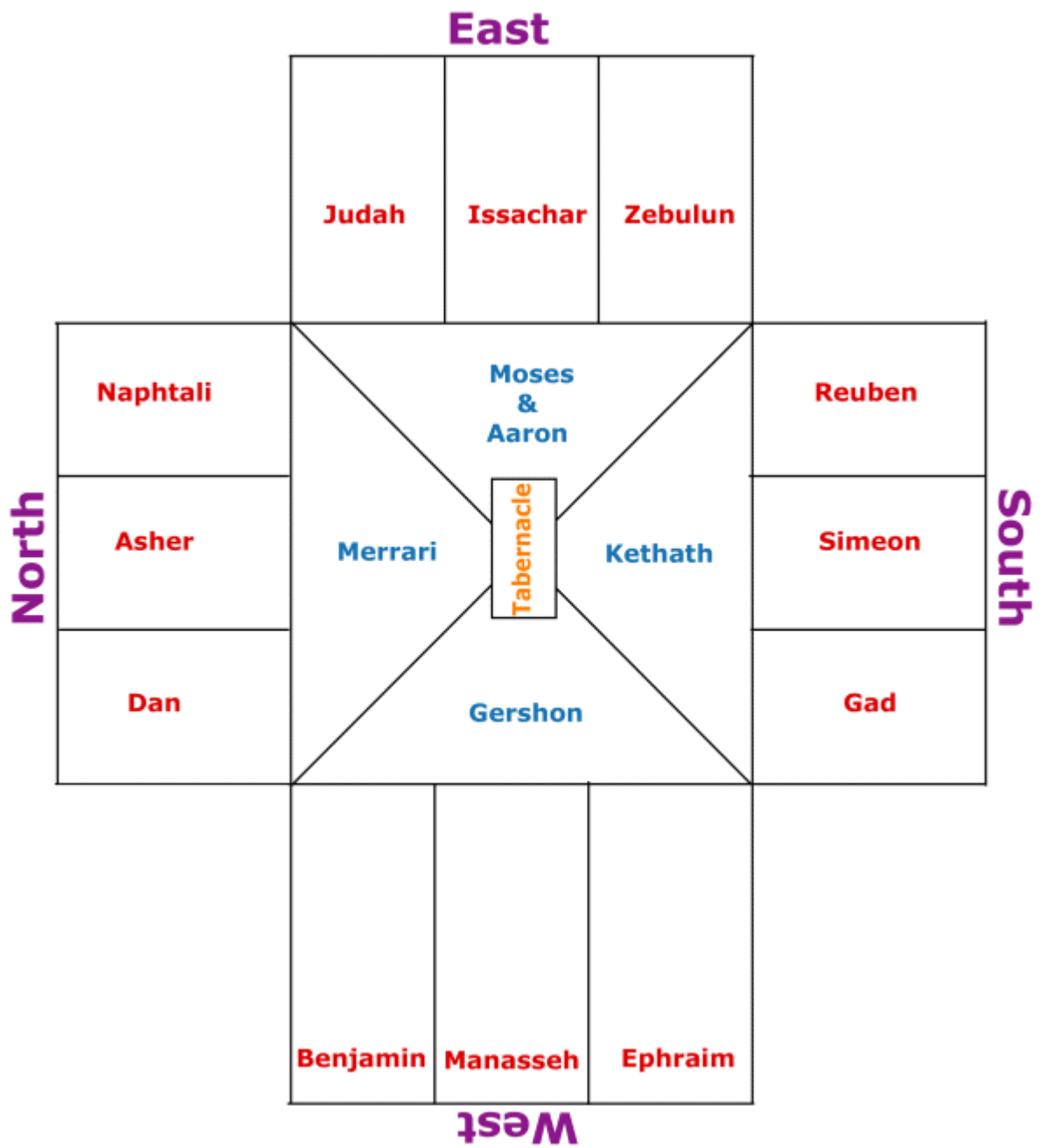
Chronological Events in the Book of Numbers

TIME	PLACE	EVENTS
1st month 15th day		Departure from Egypt
	Marah, Elim Wilderness of Sin	Crossing the Red Sea People Murmur
2nd month 15th day		Quails and Manna
	Rephdim	Water from the Rock Battle with Amalek
3rd month ? day	Sinai	Ten Commandments, Covenant, Law
		Moses 40 days in Mountain Golden Calf Second 40 days in Mountain
2nd year 2nd mo 1st day		Tabernacle Built
		Census
2nd yr 2nd mo 20th day		Travel from Sinai after a year
	Taberah	Fire, Quails, Plague
	Hazereth	Sedition of Miriam and Aaron
	Kadesh-barnea	Spies sent out People Rebel Moses Intercedes People Defeated More Laws Korah — 14,700 die Aaron's budding rod

38 yrs in wandering in	the WILDERNESS	SINNING
40th yr 1st mo	Kadesh–barnea (the second time)	Miriam's Death
		Water from Rock
		Moses' Sin
		Final Start for Canaan
		Edom Refuses passage
40th yr 5th mo 1st day	Mt. Hor	Aaron's Death
40th yr 11th mo 1st day		Israel Defeats Canaanites
	South from Mt. Hor	Serpents
	East borders around Edom	Conquer Amorites & Bashan
	Plains of Moab	Balaam — Sin of Peor
		24,000 Slain Census
		Destruction of Midianites
		2 1/2 Tribes settle East of Jordan
		Moses Farewell & Death
41st year	CANAAN	Crossing Jordan; Passover; Manna Ceases

NUMBERS: the Book of Wanderings

OLD GENERATION				TRANSITION OF GENERATIONS				NEW GENERATION			
First Census 1:1-54	Arrangement of Camps 2:1-34	Priestly Duties 3:1-4:49	People's Purification 5:1-10:10	Journey to Kadesh-Barnea 10:11-36	Israel Com-plains 11:1-12:16	At Kadesh-Barnea 13:1-14:45	In the Wilderness 15:1-21:35	Moab & Balaam 22:1-25:18	Second Census 26:1-65	Regulations Reiterated 27:1-30:16	Division of the Land 31:1-36:13
PREPARATION AT SINAI				WANDERING IN THE WILDERNESS				PREPARATION AT JORDAN			
A FEW WEEKS				39+ YEARS				6 MONTHS			
GOD'S FAITHFULNESS				GOD'S SUSTENANCE				GOD'S GRACE			
9:15-23				14:26-38				26:63-65			
KEY VERSE: "Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs, which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice, shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it", (14:22-23).											



III. Extended Outline of the Book of Numbers by Chapters: ⁴

A. Chapter One: The first Census of Israel;

1. The families are named and numbered.
2. The tribe of Levi was left unnumbered.
3. The Levites were appointed to the duties of the Tabernacle.

B. Chapter Two: The Tribes and Leaders by Armies;

1. The tribes, their numbers and leaders are listed.
2. They broke camp according to families.

C. Chapter Three: The Sons of Aaron and the Levites;

1. Aaron's sons are recorded and listed.
2. The Levites' service in the Tabernacle is described.
3. The Levites are now included in the census numbering.
4. The firstborn males above a month old of the Levites were numbered.
5. Those numbered, paid redemption money to Aaron and his sons.

D. Chapter Four: Duties of the Sons of Various Families;

1. The duties of the sons of Kohath were detailed.
2. The duties of the sons of Geershon were detailed.
3. The duties of the sons of Merari were detailed.

E. Chapter Five: Isolation Rules;

1. Ceremonially unclean persons are to be isolated.
2. Sins committed are to be confessed, and restitutions be made.
3. An atonement offering is then to be made afterwards.
4. Commandments are given regarding unfaithful wives.
5. Commandments are given regarding jealousy where there is no evidence of unfaithfulness.

F. Chapter Six: The Law of the Nazirite;

1. The law of the Nazirite is specified.
2. This is separation of one's self to God.
3. Offerings regarding this law are detailed.
4. Instructions on how Aaron is to bless the nation of Israel are given.

⁴ The main headings in bold in this outline are from: the *New King James Version* published by Broadman & Holman as resourced in the Bibliography, pages 115-155.

G. Chapter Seven: Offerings and Blessings of the Leaders;

1. Moses blessed and anointed the Tabernacle and all furnishing associated with it.
2. All the leaders of Israel made an offering (heads of households, tribal leaders, leaders over those who were numbered).
3. The offerings were given to the Levites and others who cared for the Tabernacle, its furnishings, and its surroundings.
4. All that was offered is described in detail.

H. Chapter Eight: The Lamps, Cleansing and Dedication;

1. Instructions are given to Aaron regarding the care of the lampstand.
2. The Levites are cleaned ceremonially and dedicated.
3. Qualifications of those who serve the Tabernacle are detailed.

I. Chapter Nine: The Second Passover and the Cloud and Fire;

1. Moses is commanded to instruct Israel to observe the Passover.
2. The cloud covered the Tabernacle by day and Fire by night.
3. When the cloud left, they followed; when it stopped, they camped.

J. Chapter Ten: The Silver Trumpets and Departure from Sinai;

1. The blowing of trumpets would give signals regarding assemblies, fighting their enemies, and coming to the festivals.
2. They follow the cloud to a new destiny, and the order of the march is described.

K. Chapter Eleven: The People Complain;

1. The people complained and God sent fire on the outskirts of the camp.
2. Moses complains about the pressures of the people, and he tells God he is unable to bear it alone.
3. God had Moses select seventy elders to help him.
4. God had His Spirit rest upon them, and they prophesied for the first and last time.
5. A wind from the Lord provided quail for the people to eat.
6. God cursed them because of their lustful appetites.

L. Chapter Twelve: Aaron and Miriam Spoke Against Moses;

1. Aaron and Miriam complained that Moses had married an Ethiopian woman.
2. They also expressed envy regarding God's choosing of Moses as a prophet.
3. Miriam was given leprosy, but Moses pleaded for their forgiveness.
4. God forgave them and commanded that Miriam be isolated for a week outside of the camp.

M. Chapter Thirteen: Spies Are Sent into Canaan.

1. Twelve men from twelve tribes were chosen to spy out the land of Canaan
 - a. Israel was made up of 11 tribes plus 2 half tribes making a total of twelve tribes.
 - b. No spy was sent from the tribe of Levi.
 - c. Therefore, 10 spies plus one each from the two half tribes made a total of 12 spies that were sent into the land of Canaan.
2. They took forty days to spy out the land God had given them.
3. Their report proclaimed that there was an abundance of food.
4. Nevertheless, they also said that the cities were well fortified and people of the new land were strong.
5. The people were afraid, and all the spies except Caleb and Joshua said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.”
6. They saw themselves as grasshoppers among giants.

N. Chapter Fourteen: Israel Refused to Enter Canaan and are Punished;

1. They all complained against Moses and Aaron.
2. Moses and Aaron fell on their faces, but Joshua proclaimed that if they follow God’s will, He will deliver the land and the people to them.
3. The people wanted to stone him with stones.
4. The glory of the Lord then appeared before all the children of Israel.
5. God said to Moses that He was ready strike them all down and start over.
6. Moses pleaded in their behalf: “The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation. Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.”
7. God had mercy on them; however, only Joshua and Caleb would enter the land along with the next generation after the present generation died in the wilderness.
8. They would wonder in the wilderness for forty years.
9. An attack was attempted to invade Canaan but they were attacked and defeated.

O. Chapter Fifteen: Additional Laws About Offerings and Sin;

1. Laws regarding grain and drink offerings are detailed.
2. Laws concerning unintentional sins are detailed.
3. Laws concerning violating the Sabbath are related.
4. God commanded them regarding tassels on garments which would remind them to keep His commandments.

P. Chapter Sixteen: A Rebellion Arose Against Moses and Aaron;

1. Korah, Dathan, and Abiram with some 250 leaders and gathered themselves against Moses and Aaron.
2. They accuse Moses of exalting himself before others.
3. Moses reminded the sons of Levi that they were chosen by God to serve the congregation.
4. Moses asked them to meet him and God the next day so the Lord can make His will known.
5. When they met, the Lord split the ground beneath the feet of those who rebelled against Moses and it swallowed them up.
6. The next day the people complained against Moses and Aaron saying, “You have killed the people of the LORD.”
7. God sent a plague among them and killed 14,700 people.

Q. Chapter Seventeen: Aaron’s God-given Sign, the Rod That Budded;

1. Twelve rods from the tribes with their names written on them were presented as instructed by God.
2. Aaron’s rod budded which gave testimony to God’s choice.

R. Chapter Eighteen: Duties of Priests and Levites;

1. They would attend to the needs of the Tabernacle.
2. God commanded offerings to support the priests.
3. God commanded tithes to support the priests and tabernacle services.
4. God commanded a tithe from the priests’ contribution be given to Aaron.

S. Chapter Nineteen: Laws of Purification;

1. God commanded the offering of a heifer outside the camp as a sin offering.
2. Laws of purification to protect from diseases are listed.

T. Chapter Twenty: Moses’ Error at Kadesh and the Deaths of Miriam and Aaron;

1. Miriam died in Kadesh and was buried there.
2. The people complained about not having water.
3. Moses got upset with the people because of their complaints.
4. He struck the rock to get water and failed to give God the glory.
5. Israel is refused passage through Edom.
6. Eleazar took the place of Aaron as High Priest, and Aaron died on Mount Hor.

U. Chapter Twenty-One: The Canaanites are Defeated at Hormah; the Bronze Serpent; King of Sidon and King Og Defeated;

1. King Arad fought against Israel and lost.
2. Israel defeated a number of her enemies; King Sihon and King Og.
3. The people complained against Moses so the Lord sent fiery serpents among them.
4. The Lord had Moses to erect a bronze serpent on a pole, and anyone who looked upon it after being bitten, was healed.
5. Israel then moved to Oboth, Ije Abarim of Moab, Zered, Arnon, Beer, Mattanah, Nahaliel, Bamoth, and to the top of Psgah which looks down on the wasteland.
6. They dwelt in the land of the Amorites.

V. Chapter Twenty-Two: Balak of Moab and the Prophet Balaam;

1. Balak was concerned about the strength of Israel and sent men to Balaam to ask him to ask God to curse Israel.
2. Balaam inquired of God, and God said, ‘No...for they are a blessed people.’
3. Balak sent men again to Balaam and offered him whatever was necessary for him to curse the people; however, Balaam said he “could not go beyond the word of the Lord, but he would check again.
4. Lord told Balaam to go on but he would bless Israel instead.
5. His leaving angered the Lord so the Angel of the Lord stood in Balaam’s and the donkey’s way.
 - a. The donkey refused to go any further and it spoke to Balaam.
 - b. The Lord opened the eyes of Balaam and told him to go to Balak, but he will speak only what the Lord put into his mouth.

W. Chapter Twenty-Three: Balaam Blesses Israel;

1. Seven altars were built and seven bulls and seven rams were offered.
2. When Balaam spoke, Israel was blessed and God was glorified.
3. Barak was upset with Balaam, but Balaam said he could only speak what God had placed in his mouth.
4. Again, seven more altars were built and seven bulls and seven rams were offered.
5. When Balaam spoke again, he glorified the strength of God and declared that nothing could work against His plan for Israel.
6. Balak then took Balaam to the top of Peor and built seven more altars and offered seven more bulls and seven more rams.

X. Chapter Twenty-Four: Balaam Continues to Bless Israel;

1. Balaam took up an oracle which praised the Lord and blessed Israel.
2. The words of Balaam angered King Balak.

3. Balaam responded with a fourth prophecy which included the coming birth of Jesus Christ.

Y. Chapter Twenty-Five: Israel's History in Moab;

1. The people committed harlotry with the women of Moab.
2. The people offered sacrifices to the gods of Moab.
3. Eleazar, a son of Aaron, ran a spear through a Midianite woman and a guilty Israelite, and the Lord praised his zeal; thus, God's anger was prevented from consuming all of Israel.
3. God sent a plague among them killing 24,000.
4. God ordered Moses to harass and attack the Midianites because they seduced Israel with their schemes.

Z. Chapter Twenty-Six: The Second Census of Israel;

1. Moses and Eleazar were commanded by God to take a census of Israel twenty years old and above.
2. None of the original company of Israel was numbered for they died in the wilderness journey except for Joshua, Caleb, the Levites, and the priests.

AA. Chapter Twenty-Seven: Laws of Inheritance and Joshua's Inauguration;

1. Laws were given to regulate inheritance when there are not sons born in a family.
2. God chose Joshua to share in having authority over Israel.

BB. Chapter Twenty-Eight: Various Offerings;

1. Instructions are given regarding Daily Offerings.
2. Instructions are given regarding Sabbath Offerings.
3. Instructions are given regarding Monthly Offerings.
4. Instructions are given regarding Passover Offerings.
5. Instructions are given regarding Feast of Weeks Offerings.

CC. Chapter Twenty-Nine: Additional Offerings;

1. Instructions are given regarding the Feast of Trumpets Offerings.
2. Instructions are given regarding the Day of Atonement Offerings.
3. Instructions are given regarding the Feast of Tabernacles Offerings.

DD. Chapter Thirty: The Law Concerning Vows;

1. When vows are made, they are not to be broken.
2. Vows in different relationships are detailed.

EE Chapter Thirty-One: Vengeance on the Midianites;

1. God commands Moses to take vengeance on the Midianites because of their schemes against Israel.
2. Israel killed the kings of Midian and took the women and children captive.
3. Moses commanded them to kill every male child and the Midianite women who were guilty of sexual immorality.
4. Afterwards, they were commanded to clean everything.
5. God gave instructions on how to divide the plunder.

FF. Chapter Thirty-Two: Some Tribes Settle East of the Jordan;

1. The tribes of Reuben and Gad wanted to settle on the east side of Jordan.
2. Moses asked them, "Shall your brethren go to war while you sit here?"
3. Moses also asked them, "Now why will you discourage the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the LORD has given them?"
4. In essence, Moses was also asking, "Has God saved you just to sit and watch your brethren fight the battles necessary to inherit the promised land west of the Jordan River?"
5. They agreed to send their men into battles with the other tribes while they worked at settling east of the Jordan.
6. The Lord gave Gad, Reuben, and the half tribe of Manasseh land on the east side of Jordan.

GG. Chapter Thirty-Three: Israel's Journey from Egypt Is Reviewed;

1. Moses wrote down the starting point of their journeys from place to place.
2. Aaron died on Mount Hor during the fortieth year of the journey in the wilderness.
3. Instructions are given for the conquest of Canaan.
 - a. Drive out all of the inhabitants and tear down all of the idols.
 - b. Divide the land by lot for the tribes.
 - c. If they do not drive them out, Israel will suffer the consequences.

HH. Chapter Thirty-Four: Boundaries of Canaan Are Appointed;

1. The southern border would be along the boundary of Edom.
2. It will go east to the Salt Sea (Dead Sea).
3. It will go west to the Brook of Egypt (Today called "Wadi El Arish").
4. The western border will be the Great Sea (Mediterranean Sea).
5. The northern border will be to Mount Hor.
6. The eastern border will be along the Jordan River and end at the Salt Sea.
7. Leaders were appointed to Divide the land.

II. Chapter Thirty-Five: Cities for the Levites and Cities of Refuge;

1. Cities were appointed for the Levites to live in.
2. Cities were provided for refuge regarding certain crimes.

JJ. Chapter Thirty-Six: Rule for the Marriage of Female Heirs;

1. Inheritance is to be kept within each of the tribes.
2. These commandments and judgments were commanded by the Lord to the children of Israel by the hand of Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho.

IV. Thesis and Premise of the Book of Numbers: ⁵

A. The taking of a census among the Hebrew people.

1. The first census was taken 13 months after the exodus. Num. 1:1.
2. It included only the men of age 20 and over who were eligible for military service. Num. 1:2-3, 45.
3. It excluded the Tribe of Levi. Num. 1:4-54.
4. The total number was 603,550. Num. 1:46; 2:32.
5. This is a large figure which suggest a nation of two or three million souls.
 - a. At the time of the descent into Egypt in Joseph's time, there were only 75 people.
 - b. Could 75 people multiply to over 2,000,000 in a period of 430 years? Cf. Ex. 12:40.
6. Delitzsch (Pentateuch II. 30) has shown how this figure could result in ten generations from an average of three sons and three daughters to every married couple of the first six generations and an average of two sons and two daughters in the last four generations.
 - a. Liberal scholars profess great skepticism about such a large number.

⁵ The Thesis, Premise, Summary, and Conclusion material are from: *A Book-By-Book Study of the Old Testament* by R. B. Shelly as resourced in the Bibliography, pages 22-25. Excellent Old Testament resource material outlines.

- b. The Bible claims the great number to be a result of God's blessing on the Hebrews to make them especially fertile (Ex. 1:7, 12).
 - c. The promise to Abraham was being fulfilled - Genesis 12
 - d. Only the great number given in the text would make sense of Pharaoh's fear of the Hebrews (Ex. 1:9).
 - 7. Recent attempts to explain the "thousands" of Numbers as "family units" or "captains" are unjustified and unnecessary.
 - 8. Note: The second census of the book counted 601,730 men. Num. 26:51.
 - a. The harsh desert life took its toll on their fruitfulness.
 - b. Thousands perished because of God's punishments against their faithlessness.
- B. Walking by faith versus walking by sight. Cf. 2 Cor. 5:7.
- 1. Two to three million people in the desert.
 - a. The land was desolate.
 - b. Water was scarce to non-existent, and food was not available.
 - 2. God asked the people to trust Him to supply all.
 - 3. Repeatedly, however, they grumbled, challenged Moses, and otherwise showed their faithlessness.
 - 4. Nineteen days after ordering the census, God told the people to walk toward the Promised Land. Num. 10:11.
 - 5. No more than three day's journey from Sinai (10:33-36), the problems began:
 - a. Complaining at Taberah. Num. 11:1-3.
 - b. The cry for meat. Num. 11:4-35.
 - c. Moses is opposed by Miriam and Aaron. Num. 12.
 - 6. The nation was sentenced to 40 years in the wilderness because of their actions at Kadesh. Num. 13:ff.
 - a. Moses was prepared to lead the people directly into Canaan.
 - b. Twelve spies were sent to bring back a report of the land.
 - c. Only two had faith enough to say they could proceed confidently: Joshua and Caleb.
 - d. The camp sided with the faithless ten and wanted to return to Egypt; Joshua and Caleb made an eloquent but vain plea. Num. 14:4-10.

- e. God spared the nation from extinction only because of Moses' intercession, but he condemned it to wandering in the desert until the older generation died off. Num. 14:11-38.
 - f. The people were then ashamed and decided to take Canaan, but the Lord was no longer party to the plan and they were defeated. Num. 14:39-45.
7. How stern is the warning to all subsequent generations from this event: walk by faith and not by sight! Cf. 1 Cor. 10.

C. The wrath of a Holy God.

- 1. The book of Numbers records several instances of divine anger and wrath. Num. 14:10-12; 15:32-36; 16:31-35; et al.
- 2. Some critics freely speak of these events as "sub-Christian" and distinguish sharply between the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament.
- 3. The fault here is not with God but in his critics.
 - a. We are so tolerant of evil that we cannot appreciate a harsh attitude toward it.
 - b. We are unwilling to face the fact of God's wrath because we know our own sinfulness so well.
- 4. Divine wrath is as holy as divine love; it is not capricious and unpredictable, as human wrath often is.
- 5. The God presented in the New Testament is of the same nature as the one in the Old Testament. Matt. 23; John 2:13-25; Acts 5:1-11; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 20:11-15.

D. Anticipations of Christ in the book of Numbers.

- 1. The brass serpent in the wilderness was a type of Jesus' death by crucifixion. John 3:14-15.
- 2. Jesus referred to the daily manna in explaining his role as the "bread of life." John 6:32-40.
- 3. Balaam prophesied of a star out of Jacob. Num. 24:17.
- 4. Paul declares that Jesus was active throughout the wilderness events to provide for the people's needs (1 Cor. 10:4); how much more does he supply our needs today.

V. A Summary to the Book of Numbers.

A. Preparing to leave Sinai. Num. 1:1-10:10.

Thirteen months after the exodus, God called for a census to be taken of the nation (1:1-16). The men above 20 were numbered (1:17-46), and the tribes were assigned marching positions (2:1--Exempted from the army census (1:47-54), the Levites were numbered separately and assigned their duties (3:1-4:49).

Before the march began, laws were given about excluding the unclean from camp (5:1-4), restitution (5:5-10), and trying a person accused of marital infidelity (5:11-31). A special Nazirite vow was provided for anyone wishing to live a specially consecrated life (6:1-27). Special offerings were made for the Tabernacle (7:1-89). The priests were sanctified to their work (8:1-26), and the first Passover memorial was observed (9:1-14). At this point in the narrative, the functions of the cloud of guidance (9:15-23) and the trumpet signals were explained (10:1-10).

B. Journeying from Sinai to Moab. Num. 10:11-2.

The events of 38 years are described in the next section. On signal from God, the march toward Canaan began (10:11-36). The complaints of the people also began (11:1-9) and Moses asked the Lord for help in leading them (11:10-15). Seventy elders were appointed (11:16-30), and God sent quail to stop their complaint about the lack of meat (11:31-35). When Moses married a Cushite woman, Aaron and Miriam complained about his leadership and were punished by God (12:1-16).

Following the spies' report at Kadesh, a great rebellion caused the people to be turned back into the desert (13:1-14:45). This was the event which turned a march of a few weeks into one which was to last 40 years—one year for each day the spies were in the land of Canaan.

After some additional laws were given (15:1-41), a new rebellion broke out under Korah (16:1-14). God destroyed the rebels (16:15-40), and then the whole camp began to murmur that the punishment was too severe. For their murmuring, they were cursed with a deadly plague (11:41-50). It killed 14,700 victims above the number which had already died in Korah's rebellion. Since the original rebellion involved a challenge to Aaron's high priesthood, a sign from God was given to vindicate his position (17:1-13). The duties and rights of the priests and Levites are stated (18:1-32), and the function of the water of purification is specified (19:1-22).

The sin of Moses at Kadesh which barred him from the land of Canaan is related (20:1-13).

The Edomites refused to allow the Hebrews to pass through their territory (20:14-21). Thus the people began to move southward. At Mount Hor, Aaron died and was buried (20:22), then attacked by a Canaanite chieftain in the area, and God gave Israel

the victory over him (21:1-3). Beset by these new problems, the Israelites began to murmur again, and God sent fiery serpents among them (21:4-9). As the people approached the area east of Jordan (21:10-20), Moses asked permission to pass through the territory of the Amorites under King Sihon (21:21-22). Sihon replied with an attack by his army, was killed, and his territory possessed by the Hebrews (21:23-25).

C. Preparing to enter Canaan. Num. 22:1-36:13.

The people were in the valley of the Jordan, across from Jericho (22:1). Balak, fearing them, hired Balaam to curse them (22:2-41). Instead, God caused him to bless Israel (23:1-24:25). As the Hebrews were camped near Moab, they began to take some of the Moabite women as prostitutes and to worship Baal (25:1-5). A plague was sent among them which killed 24,000 of the Israelites (25:6-18).

The second census of the book was taken following the plague, and 601,730 men above age 20 were numbered (26:1-51). Plans for dividing up the new land were made (26:52-27:11), Joshua was chosen to replace Moses (27:12-23), and several laws about sacrifices and vows were given (28:1-30:16).

With the Midianites destroyed (31:1-54), Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh were given their share of land in the Transjordan—with the understanding that they would fight with their brothers to clear the pagans out of Canaan (32:1-42). After a summary of Israel's journey from Egypt to Moab (33:1-49), the book closes with some details of the plan for dividing Canaan among the tribes about to enter it (33:50-36:13).

Conclusion:

1. The older generation has died, and the younger generation has been prepared for Canaan.
2. Numbers closes with the people ready to take possession of the Promised Land in fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham.
3. After Moses' farewell instructions (recorded in Deuteronomy), the people will enter the land.⁶

⁶ Ibid.

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The Book of

DEUTERONOMY



Charles R. Williams

The Book of DEUTERONOMY

Introduction to the Book:

1. Deuteronomy is principally concerned with three farewell discourses of Moses at the end of his career as Israel's statesman, leader, and prophet.⁷
 - a. The distinctive feature of the book is its hortatory (i.e., warning, advising, encouraging) nature.
 - b. All its appeals may be summed up in the words of Deut. 6:4-12.
 - c. Jesus called this the first and greatest of all the commandments: Matt. 22:37-38.

2. The name of the book today is "Deuteronomy."
 - a. The name is derived from the Greek Septuagint translation and means "second law."
 - b. This is based on the fact that it consists of a restatement of the law given in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers.
 - c. The earliest name of the book was *Haddebbharim*, which means "The Words," taken from the opening phrase in 1:1, "These are the words..."
 - d. The book has been called "five-fifths of the Law" since it completes the five books of Moses.
 - e. The Jewish people have also called it *Mishneh Deuteronomion Touto*, "This Second Law."
 - 1) Actually, Deuteronomy is not a second law, but an adaptation and expansion of the original law given at Mt. Sinai.
 - 2) There is a vast amount of legal detail, but its emphasis is on the everyday individual rather than the priests.
 - 3) The book has also been appropriately called "The Book of Remembrance."

3. The Law of Moses was given first at Mt. Sinai to an older generation which was now dead.
 - a. It is now given a second time to the younger generation as it prepares to receive the Promised Land.
 - b. It is thus a reminder of what God expects of His people.

⁷ The Introduction, Background, Purpose, and Significance materials are from: *A Book-By-Book Study of the Old Testament* by R. B. Shelly as resourced in the Bibliography, pages 27-28. Excellent Old Testament resource material outlines.

4. It covers a relatively short span of time.
 - a. At the site of their last encampment on the plains of Moab, Moses pleads with the people to honor their God.
 - b. The book closes with an account of Moses' death, which was probably written by Joshua.
5. Based on the date assigned the exodus earlier in these notes, we are now at ca. 1407 B.C.

TIME CHART: DEUTERONOMY

1407 BC	Moses' Summary of Israel's History	<u>Deuteronomy 1 - 4</u>
1406 BC	Recapitulation of the Law	<u>Deuteronomy 4:44 - 31</u>
1406 BC	The Song of Moses	<u>Deuteronomy 32</u>
1406 BC	Moses Blesses the Twelve Tribes	<u>Deuteronomy 32:48</u>
1406 BC	Blessings of Moses	<u>Deuteronomy 33</u>
1406 BC	The Death of Moses	<u>Deuteronomy 34</u>

Discussion:

I. Background to the Book of Deuteronomy.

- A. The book was produced by the Holy Spirit through Moses.
 1. Moses' words are recorded throughout the book: Deut. 1:1; 4:44; 29:1.
 2. The book claims Moses wrote it: Deut. 31:9, 26.
 3. Jesus attributed the book to Moses: Matt. 19:7; Mark 7:10; Luke 10:28.
 4. The account of Moses' death (34:1-12) was surely added by someone else—probably Joshua.
- B. It was written in Moses' 120th year, just as the 40-year period in the desert was ending and the people were preparing to enter Canaan: Deut. 31:2
- C. The purpose for writing the book was to remind the people of the nation's history and to-call them to a close walk with God in the new land.
 1. History showed that there is no other way but to "trust and obey."
 2. Their future in Canaan could be a prosperous one if this lesson were to be remembered. Cf. Deut. 30:15-20.

II. The Purpose and Significance of the Book of Deuteronomy.

- A. The theme of the book is obedience.
 - 1. God blesses the obedient and punishes the disobedient.
 - 2. James 1:22 admonishes us to be “doers of the word and not hearers only.”

- B. Our proud human spirits balk at commands and resist authority.
 - 1. Moses argued that everything depended on the obedience of the people—life, land, victory in war, prosperity, happiness, etc.
 - 2. To disobey God is not to be free but is rather to be foolish.

- C. Obedience is no less important under the gospel than it was under the Law of Moses.
 - 1. Several of Paul's statements about law and grace in Romans have been grossly misinterpreted so as to minimize human responsibility in salvation.
 - 2. But no one is clearer than Paul about the responsibility of obedience: Rom. 1:5; 16:19, 26.

A Brief Outline of Deuteronomy: Three Divisions

Introduction Chapters: 1 through 4

I. Address of Moses: Historical (1:1 to 4:49)

- A. Preparing to travel from Horeb (Sinai) to Kadesh Barnea (1:6-18)
- B. Journey to Kadesh Barnea (1:19-21)
- C. Spies were sent and people refused to invade Canaan (1:22-40)
- D. People repent, but are defeated by the Amorites (1:41-46)
- E. Forbidden to meddle with Edomites, Moabites, and Ammonites (2:1-12)
 - a. God's wisdom may not always be understood by man, but we must walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7).
 - b. Compromises weaken distinctives.
- F. Thirty-eight years from Kadesh Barnea, until they were to come over the brook Zered (2:13-15)
- G. Forbidden to meddle with the Ammonites (2:16-23)
- H. Defeat of Sihon, king of Heshbon (2:24-37)
- I. Defeat of Og, king of Bashan and distribution of land (3:1-20)
 - 1. Gilead and surroundings given to the tribe of Manasseh (3:14-15)
 - 2. Gilead south to the valley of Arnon given to Gad and Reuben (3:16-17)
 - 3. Manasseh, Gad and Reuben to help in conquest of Canaan (3:18-20)
- K. Promise of victory over Canaan (3:21-29)
 - 1. Moses not allowed to enter Canaan (3:23-27)
 - 2. Joshua to lead the people into Canaan (3:28-29)
 - 3. This was promised in Genesis 17:8.
- L. Exhortation to keep the law that was confirmed at Sinai (4:1-13) Notice 4:2, and tie to Revelation 22:18-19 and Proverbs 30:6
- M. Warning against idolatry (4:14-40)
- N. Cities of refuge on the East of Jordan appointed (4:41-43)
 - O. Summary of the law (4:44-49)

II. Address of Moses: The Law (5:1 to 26:19)

- A. The Ten Commandments explained (5:1-21)
- B. The demonstration of God's might at Sinai and Israel's promise to keep the whole law as delivered through Moses (5:22 to 6:25)
 - 1. The law is to be obeyed (6:1-3).
 - 2. The law to be taught to the children (6:4-9) [6:5 ties with Matthew 22:36-37]
 - 3. Admonition to keep the law (6:10-16) 6:13 [see Matthew 4:10, 6:16; Matthew 4:7; Deuteronomy 8:3 and Matthew 4:4]
 - 4. Keep the law faithfully and God will bless (6:17-25)
- C. Conquest of Canaan (7:1-26)
 - 1. Israel was to destroy seven nations (7:1-2).
 - 2. They were not to intermarry with the people of Canaan (7:3-4).
 - 3. The idols and religion of Amorites to be destroyed (7:5)
 - 4. Jehovah favors Israel - Israel to keep the law of God (7:6-11)
 - 5. Israel assured of God's blessings (7:12-16)
 - 6. Victory is promised (7:17-26).
- D. In view of God's favor, they must be obedient to God's law (8:1-20).
- E. Warning against self-righteousness (9:1-29)
 - 1. Israel was given the land because the Amorites were evil (9:4).
 - 2. Israel was given the land because of the faithfulness of Abram (9:5).
 - 3. The nation often provoked God (9:7-29).
- F. Rewards and punishments (10:1)
 - 1. Restoration of the two tables of stone (10:1-7)
 - 2. Priesthood continued (10:8-11)
 - 3. Exhortation to obedience (10:12-16)
 - 4. Love and care of strangers and needy (10:17-21)
 - 5. Increase of the nation from 70 to present number (10:22)
 - 6. Reminder of God's protection and provision (11:1-7)
 - 7. Remember and keep the words of God (11:8-9)
 - 8. Canaan a good land and a gift from God (11:10-12)
 - 9. Keep the commands and be blessed (11:13-25)
 - 10. A blessing or a curse (11:26-32)
- G. Additional laws explained (21: to 26:19)
 - 1. Explanation of ceremonial laws (12:1 to 16:17)
 - a. Idols to be destroyed (12:1-3)

- b. Offerings and sacrifices to be made at specified place (12:4-16)
- c. Tithes of corn, wine, firstlings, herds, or flocks to be eaten in the specific place God puts his name (12:17-19)
- d. Levites must not be forsaken (12:20-28).
- e. Importance of keeping the law repeated (12:29-32)
- f. Promoters of idolatry to be executed (13:1-18) 13:l-3
- g. There is warning of false prophets (See Matthew 7:15, 2 Peter 2:1-9, and I John 4:1).
- h. Clean and unclean things (14:1-21)
- i. Law of tithing (14:22-29)
- j. Treatment of poor and needy (15:1-11)
- k. Release of debtors every seventh year (15:12-18)
- l. Observe Feast of Passover, Feast of Weeks, Feast of Tabernacles (16:1-17)

2. Explanation of civil laws (16:18 to 20:20)

- a. Conduct of judges (16:18-20)
- b. Groves and images forbidden (16:19-20)
- c. Only the best is to be sacrificed to God (17:1)
- d. Idolaters to be stoned (17:2-7)
- e. Priests to be teachers and arbiters (17:8-13)
- f. Selection and conduct of Kings (17:14-20)
- g. Treatment of priests and Levites (18:1-8)
- h. Avoid abominations of the heathen (18:9-14)
- i. A coming prophet to be honored (18:15-22) Galatians 3:24-29 -

Notice in 18:18 that the prophet would come from their brethren. Tie this to Genesis 22:18. Notice also, Acts 3:22-26, Matthew 21:11, and John 6:14, Christ our prophet. Notice Hebrews 3:1 and Hebrews 5:8-10, Christ our priest. He is also our King, Daniel 7:13-14 and John 18:36-37.

- j. Cities of refuge (19:1-13)
- k. Landmarks not to be moved (19:14)
- l. Treatment of witnesses - true and false (19:15-21)
- m. Conduct of war (20:1-20)

3. Explanation of social laws (21:1 to 26:19)

- a. The guilt of innocent blood forgiven (21:1-9)
- b. Captive women taken to wife (21:10-14)
- c. Inheritance rights of the firstborn (20:15-17)
- d. Treatment of stubborn and rebellious son (21:18-21)
- e. Punishment by hanging (21:22-23)
- f. Caring for brother's (neighbor's) property (22:1-4)
- g. Cross dressing between sexes condemned (22:5)
- h. Rules for nesting birds, a new house, sowing vineyards, plowing,

mixed cloths in garments, fringes on garments forbidden, law of virginity for new wife, rules of sexual purity (22:6-30)

Various laws governing who may enter the congregation, sanitation, slaves belonging to others, prostitution and sodomy, usury, vows, eating from the vineyard and field of another person (23:1-25)

- i. Additional rules for divorce, military service for newlyweds, taking a working man's tools, menstealers, leprosy, recovering collateral for a loan, wages of the laborer, gleaning, justice, and charity (24:1-22)
- j. More laws about number of stripes, muzzling a working ox, obligation of having children for a deceased brother, immodest woman, unjust weights, Amalek to be punished (25:1-19)
- k. Offering of the firstfruits in the Promised Land (26:1-11)
- l. Remembering the Levites, and the poor and needy (26:12-15)
- m. Exhortation to keep the law in faithful obedience (26:16-19)

III. Address of Moses: How God will Bless Israel (27:1 to 34:12)

A. On entering the land (27:1 to 28:68)

1. A monument to be erected on Mount Ebal on which they were to write the words of the law (27:1-8)
2. Admonition to keep the law (27:9-10)
3. People to be divided into two groups with one on Mount Ebal and the other on Mount Gerizim (27:11-13)
4. Levites pronounce curses on those who do not keep the law, and the people agree (27:14-26)
5. Blessings for obedience (28:1-14)
6. Curses for disobedience (28:15-68)

B. Establishing the Covenant in Canaan (29:1 to 30:20)

1. Necessity of obedience (29:1-9)
2. The congregation of Israel to affirm the covenant (29:10-15)
3. The wrath of God will be poured out on idolatry (29:16-28)
4. Secret things belong to God; revealed things belong to man (29:29) [See Acts 1:6-7 and Isaiah 55:8]
5. Mercy to the penitent (30:1-10)
6. Covenant not too hard to understand (30:11-14) Matthew 11:28-30
7. Death and life set before them (30:15-20)

C. Change in leadership (31:1 to 34:12)

1. Assurance of victory (31:1-6) 1 Corinthians 15:57-58
2. Moses gives charge to Joshua before all Israel (31:7-8)
3. Written law delivered to the priests (31:9-13)
4. Moses and Joshua called before Jehovah (31:14-21)
5. Moses wrote song and a copy of the law (31:22-27)

6. Elders gathered to hear the song of Moses (31:28-30)
- D. The song of Moses (32:1-43)
1. Still another exhortation to fidelity to the law (32:44-46)
 2. Moses sent to Nebo to see the land and die (32:47-52)
- E. The death of Moses (33:1 to 34:12)
1. Moses blesses the tribes (33:1-29)
 2. Israel mourns the death of Moses (34:1-8)
 3. Joshua replaces Moses (34:9)
 4. Moses is praised (34:10-12)

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An Extended Outline of the Book of Deuteronomy by Chapters: ⁸

A. Chapter One: The Previous Command to Enter Canaan Is Given;

1. God commands Israel to prepare to enter the promised land of Canaan.
2. Tribal leaders are appointed.
3. Israel refused to enter the land.
4. The penalty for rebellion is announced.

B. Chapter Two: The Desert Years;

1. It was time to leave the mountain.
2. King Sihon is defeated.

C. Chapter Three: Others Are Defeated:

1. King Og is defeated.
2. The land east of the Jordan is divided.

D. Chapter Four: Moses Commands Obedience;

1. He encourages them to hold fast to the Lord and His will.
2. He warns them about the sin of idolatry.
3. Moses introduces again the Law of God.

E. Chapter Five: The Ten Commandments Are Reviewed;

1. The Ten Commandments are listed again, and they are reminded of their meaning.
2. The people are afraid of God's presence.

F. Chapter Six: The Greatest Commandment and Caution Against Disobedience;

1. The greatest commandment is to fear the LORD God and keep his statutes.
2. It is emphasized that the LORD our God, the LORD is one!
3. They cautioned against disobedience.

G. Chapter Seven: A Chosen People;

1. They are reminded that they are chosen to carry out God's commandments.
2. They were chosen so that He could keep His promises He made to their fathers.
3. They will be blessed if they obey.

⁸ The main headings in bold in this outline are from: the *New King James Version* published by Broadman & Holman as resourced in the Bibliography, pages 156-190.

H. Chapter Eight: Remember the LORD their God;

1. In everything they do, they are to remember the LORD their God.
2. They will perish like any nation if they fail to follow the will of God.

I. Chapter Nine: Israel's Rebellions Are Reviewed:

1. Moses reminds them of the times they rebelled against God and the consequences.
2. Moses reminds them that he had to pray for them often so that God would not destroy them.

J. Chapter Ten: There Is a Second Pair of Tablets;

1. After their experience at Mt. Sinai, God commanded Moses to make a second set of tablets with the Ten Commandments.
2. Moses was given the essence of the Law. Love Him, serve Him, and obey Him.

K. Chapter Eleven: Love and Obedience Are Rewarded;

1. Moses reminds them that God will reward them if they love Him and obey Him.
2. God promises that if they do this, He will drive out the nations before them.
3. God promises they will keep the land forever if they follow his precepts.

L. Chapter Twelve: A Prescribed Place of Worship Is Given;

1. They are to destroy other places used to worship other gods.
2. They are to offer worship to God only where He prescribes.
3. They are given instructions regarding offerings to God.
4. Do not be enticed to serve other gods.

M. Chapter Thirteen: Punishment of False Teachers, Prophets and Dreamers;

1. False prophets will be punished.
2. Follow only the prophets of God; but others are to be stoned to death.

N. Chapter Fourteen: Practices, Meats, and Tithing;

1. They are not to practice heathen mourning rituals: cutting themselves, etc.
2. They are to eat only clean meats as prescribed by God.
3. Rules are given regarding tithing.
4. They are to be generous to the poor.

O. Chapter Fifteen: Debts, the Poor, Bondservants, and Firstborn Laws;

1. Debts are canceled every seven years.
2. They are to be generous to the poor.

3. Laws are prescribed concerning the first born among their herds.

P. Chapter Sixteen: The Passover, Feast of Weeks, Feast of Tabernacles, and Justice;

1. The Passover and its meaning are reviewed.
2. The Feast of Weeks and its meaning is reviewed.
3. The Feast of Tabernacles and its meaning is reviewed.
4. Justice must be administered by appointing judges and officers.
5. They are not to build wooden images from trees.

Q. Chapter Seventeen: Instructions Regarding Sacrifices, Idols, Principles Which Govern Kings;

1. Blemished animals are not to be sacrificed to God.
2. Capital punishment is advocated.
3. Principles governing kings are outlined.

R. Chapter Eighteen: The Priests and Levites, Wicked Customs, A New Prophet Will Be Raised,

1. God will raise up a prophet who will speak the words of God that all must hear and obey.
2. False prophets must be put to death.
3. You can stone a false prophet if what they prophesy does not come to pass.

S. Chapter Nineteen: Cities of Refuge, Property Boundaries, Witnesses;

1. Cities of refuge are established for the purpose of justice.
2. Property boundaries regulations are detailed.

T. Chapter Twenty: Warfare Principles;

1. Principles governing warfare are outlined.
2. The priests are to first make preparations.
3. They are to destroy those who war against them.

U. Chapter Twenty-One: Unsolved Murders, Female Captives, and other Laws;

1. There are laws concerning unsolved murders.
2. There are rules regarding female captives.
3. There are firstborn inheritance rights.
4. There are rules regarding a rebellious son.
5. There are miscellaneous laws: if a man deserves to be hung on a tree, his body shall not remain overnight (See John 19:31 regarding Jesus' body).

V. Chapter Twenty-Two: Laws Regarding Lost Animals, Building of Houses, Sowing Vineyards, and Sexual Morality;

1. The adage, “finders keepers, losers weepers” is not to be practiced.
2. Laws are given regarding lost animals and the building of houses.
3. Maidens are to prove their virginity if there are suspicions otherwise.
4. An adulteress is to be stoned to death.
5. Laws are given regarding rape.

W. Chapter Twenty-Three: Eunuchs, Illegitimate Births, Moabites and Ammonites, Edomites and Egyptians, Cleanliness, Slaves, Charging Interest on Loans;

1. Eunuchs cannot enter the assembly of worship.
2. Children born to illegitimate children shall not enter the assembly to the tenth generation.
3. Ammonites and Moabites are not allowed to enter the assembly because they did not help Israel on her way to Canaan.
4. Edomites are allowed to enter the assembly because they are descendents of Esau; their children to the third generation may enter.
5. They are not to touch any wicked thing of the enemies.
6. They are to properly take of human waste outside the camp.
7. If a slave escapes and is caught, he is not to be taken back to the master, and he is not to be oppressed.
8. They are not to allow the practicing of sodomy and prostitution in religious rituals.
9. The wages of a harlot and/or dog are to be brought to the LORD.
10. No interest is to be charged to their brothers for borrowed money; however, they may charge interest to foreigners.
11. They may pick grapes and pluck standing grain from their neighbor’s vineyards and fields; however, they may not fill a bucket or use a sickle on them.

X. Chapter Twenty-Four: Divorce, Marriage, Kidnapping and Abuse of Children, Pledges, Oppression, Justice, Leftovers;

1. Laws regarding marriage, divorce, and remarriage are laid down.
2. Laws regarding the kidnapping and abuse of children are detailed.
3. Law regarding pledges and Loans are detailed.
4. They are not to oppress the poor or the stranger in their land.
5. They are not to pervert justice.
6. When harvesting their crops, they are to leave some on the land for the poor.

Y. Chapter Twenty-Five: Justice Regarding the Guilty, Muzzling Oxen, Marriage, Death, and Surviving Brothers, Fair Fighting, Weights and Measures, the Amalekites;

1. When found guilty in a court, they are to be beaten with no more than 40 blows.
2. Do not muzzle an oxen while treading the corn (“The laborer is worthy of his hire.”)
3. Marriage duty of the surviving brother and wife is specified.
4. The wife of a fighter is not to take advantage of her husband’s enemy in a fight.
5. Their weights and measure are to be the same and honest.
6. The Amalekites are to be wiped out because of the way they treated Israel.

Z. Chapter Twenty-Six: Offerings of First Fruits and Tithes;

1. Instructions are given regarding fruits, the Levites, and offerings.
2. They are reminded of how they were mistreated during their stay in Egypt, and how God brought them out.
3. Instructions are given regarding tithing and the taking care of orphans and widows.
4. The proclamation is made that they are a special people of God who are to be holy before God and be blessed as a result.

AA. Chapter Twenty-Seven: The Law Inscribed on Stones, an Altar Built, and Curses Pronounced;

1. Large whitewashed stones were to be set up with all the words of God’s law written on them.
2. An altar was to be built upon which were to be offered sacrifices.
3. They had on this day truly become the “people of the Lord your God,” and they were to observe His commandments and His statutes.
4. Specific curses were pronounced on certain actions and relationships.

BB. Chapter Twenty-Eight: Blessings in Obedience, Curses on Disobedience;

1. Their storehouses will be full if they obey God’s commandments.
2. Curses will be upon their harvests, land, bodies, and minds.
3. They were to serve God with joy and gladness of heart.
4. However, if they complained and disobeyed, God would allow other nations to consume them, and they shall become slaves to foreigners again.

CC. Chapter Twenty-Nine: The Covenant Renewed in Moab;

1. Moses reminds them of what God had done for them.
2. They are encouraged to keep the words of their covenant with God.
3. If they are ever destroyed, the nations will ask why, and the answer will be, “Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of Egypt; for they went and served other gods and worshipped them, gods that they did not know and that He had not given to them.”

DD. Chapter Thirty: The Blessing of Returning to God;

1. If they return to God and obey His voice with all their heart and soul, God will bring them back from captivity.
2. If they return to God, their enemies will be destroyed.
3. They have the choice of good and life or evil and death.
4. They are to love the LORD their God, obey His voice, and cling to Him.

EE. Chapter Thirty-One: Joshua, the New Leader of Israel, the Reading of the Law, Prediction of Moses' Death and Israel's Rebellion;

1. Joshua is chosen to take the place of Moses.
2. Moses encourages them to be faithful to God, be strong and of courage, and be not afraid of other kings or nations.
3. The law is to be read before the people every seven years at the Feast of Tabernacles.
4. Moses is informed that he will die soon.
5. In due time, the people of Israel will rebel against God.
6. Moses wrote a song and rehearsed it before the people to remind them of God's character, promises, and warnings.

FF. Chapter Thirty-Two: The Song of Moses, the Works of God, Remember God's Care, the Atonement of God, Moses' Death;

1. God has rained unending blessings on Israel.
2. God will not forget His people.
3. God will curse them if they forget Him.
4. Moses is to die on Mt. Nebo because he did not hollow God in the Wilderness of Zin, at the waters of Meribah Kadesh.

GG. Chapter Thirty-Three: Moses' Final Blessing on Israel;

1. Moses addressed each of the tribes.
2. They are people saved by God for a special purpose.

HH. Chapter 34: Moses Dies on Mount Nebo, Joshua Was Full of the Spirit of Wisdom:

1. Moses died on Mt. Nebo and was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, But no one knows his grave "to this day."
2. Israel wept for Moses for thirty days.
3. There was never a prophet like Moses whom the Lord knew face to face in Israel.

IV. Thesis and Premises in the Book of Deuteronomy:⁹

A. The doctrine of the unity of God: Deut. 6:4-9. Theme

1. These verses, followed by Deut. 11:13-21 and Num. 15:37-41, constitute the celebrated Hebrew *Shema* (Heb., hear) which is recited twice daily by pious Jews at every synagogue service to this day.
2. God alone is worthy of worship is an emphasis of Christianity as well as Judaism: 1 Cor. 8:5-6.
3. The Bible teaches that God exists in three persons who are fully equal.
 - a. Three individuals but not three Gods: One God; one deity, one divine family, one Godhead.
 - b. Some of the biblical evidence can be found in Matt. 3:16-17; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:3-6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6.

B. Israel as God's "chosen people": Deut. 7:6ff.

1. This motif appears here and recurs frequently throughout Scripture.
2. They were not chosen by partiality or because of their own greatness, etc.
3. They were chosen by love and divine faithfulness to a promise made much earlier to Abraham.
4. Israel seems never to have understood that it was chosen unto responsibility rather than selfish privilege: Deut. 10:12-13.
5. Failing to keep their appointed role, the Israelites were rejected as God's chosen people. Deut. 30:15ff.
6. The church is God's chosen people today, and we must fill the role of service assigned us or be rejected ourselves: Rom. 2:28-29; 3:1-3

C. Why Moses did not enter Canaan.

1. The book of Deuteronomy shows a very sad ending to the career of Moses.

⁹ The Major Thesis, Premises, Summary, and Conclusion material are from: *A Book-By-Book Study of the Old Testament* by R. B. Shelly as resourced in the Bibliography, pages 28-30. Excellent O.T. resource material.

- a. He is speaking his final words to a people he has led for 40 years.
 - b. He knows he will not enter Canaan with them.
2. Why? He did not sanctify the Lord at Kadesh: Deut. 32:51-52; Num. 20:2-13.
 3. Moses' sin was evidently twofold:
 - a. He dishonored the Lord and put Himself forward as the one who was providing for Israel, "Hear now, you rebels: shall we (i.e., Moses and Aaron) bring you forth water out of this rock?"
 - b. He disobeyed the Lord by striking the rock instead of speaking to it.
 4. God is no respecter of persons, so Moses had to die in the wilderness along with the rest of the older generation which had sinned there.

V. A Summary to the Book of Deuteronomy:

A. Moses' first discourse: Deut. 1:1-4:43.

The first address is a survey of the nation's past. After a statement of the setting for his speech (1:1-4), the book tells how Moses reminded the people of the sin which caused the trip from Horeb (Sinai) to Canaan to take 40 years (1:5-46) and of the experiences in the wilderness (2:1-3:29). He exhorted them to obey the Lord (4:1-14), shun idols (4:15-31), and honor their privileged relationship with God (4:32-40). He ended this discourse by setting aside three cities of refuge in the Transjordan area (4:41-43).

B. Moses' second discourse. Deut. 4:44-26:19.

This address is a detailed survey of the basic laws the people were expected to keep. After the setting for the speech is given (4:44-49), Moses is shown repeating the Decalogue (5:1-21) and reviewing the circumstance of its original communication at Sinai (5:22-33). He told the people not only to keep the covenant themselves but also to teach it diligently to their descendants (6:1-25).

He impressed the fact that God was destroying the Canaanites because of their idolatry (7:1-5) and urged Israel to walk uprightly before God (7:6-11:32).

Moses reviewed their duties about true worship (12:1-13:18), clean and unclean animals (14:1-21), tithes (14:22-29), treatment of the poor (15:1-23), and holy days (16:1-17). He then turned to civil matters involving the procedures for social justice (16:18-20). The death penalty is prescribed for idolatry (16:21-17:7). A system of court appeal for hard cases is provided (17:8-13), and provision for a king over Israel is made (17:14-20). The revenue for priests and Levites is specified (18:1-8). The severe penalties for dabbling with the occult (18:9-14) and false prophesying (18:15-

22) are stated. Then follows a long list of laws and penalties for their violation (19:1-26:19).

C. Moses' third discourse: Deut. 27:1-30:20.

The third address by Moses points forward. When the people had crossed over into Canaan, they were supposed to assemble in the land between Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim to pledge themselves to covenant (27:1-26). Moses then traced the blessings which would follow obedience (28:1-14) and the curses which would follow disobedience (28:15-68). He closed with a moving appeal for their faithfulness to God (29:1-30:20).

D. The farewell: Deut. 31:1-34:12.

Moses commended the people to God (31:1-6) and publicly urged Joshua as his successor (31:7-8). He then delivered the law to Israel's leaders (31:9-29). A prophetic song was then composed and delivered to the people (31:30-32:43). His final charge to the people was given (32:44-47), and God summoned him to die: (48-52). As Jacob before him, he blessed Israel by tribes: (1-29). His death is told in the last chapter of the book (34:1-12).

Conclusion:

1. We have concluded our survey of the Pentateuch.
 - a. The people are no longer expecting "new truth."
 - b. They are being encouraged to remember and to be faithful to what God had already revealed.
2. These five books must be kept in mind as background to the entire body of Holy Scripture.
3. Historically, we are about to enter a great new period in Israel's history as the nation goes into Canaan.

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