

**OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY**

**LESSON SERIES**

**Old Testament Survey - Unit I - Part 3**

**The Book of Numbers  
The Book of Deuteronomy**

for

**CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE  
CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

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## **THE BOOK OF NUMBERS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the book of Numbers we see the children of Israel depart from Mt. Sinai and march to Kadesh-barnea. At Kadesh-barnea the attitude of unbelief is crystalized into actual disobedience. The light is focused on faith, and they failed. "So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief" (Heb. 3:19). After Kadesh-barnea they began to wander until that entire generation died in the wilderness (two notable exceptions were Joshua and Caleb). The years of wandering were a veritable saga of suffering, a trek of tragedy, and a story of straying.

Numbers gets its name from the census in the first chapter and the one in the twenty-sixth chapter. Numbers is know as "a divine history of the wanderings of the Israelites in the wilderness for about 38 years and 10 months, commencing with the first movement of the camp after the tabernacle was reared."

KEY : 14:29-31

These verses outline the experiences of the children of Israel during the time of wandering until the new generation came to the east bank of the Jordan in the land of Moab.

### **COMMENTS:**

It was 150 to 200 miles from Mt. Sinai to Kadesh-barnea - a journey in that time of 11 days (Deuteronomy. 1:2), They spent 30 days at Kibroth. They spent 40 years on a journey that should have taken 40 days. At Kadesh-barnea walking was turned to wandering. They did not advance an inch after Kadesh-barnea; at the end of the wanderings they came back to the same place (Numbers 20:1).

That their number was decimated is seen by a comparison of the two census:

- 603,550 fighting men (1:46)
- 601,730 fighting men (26:51)
- 1,820 loss (They were told to "be fruitful and multiply.")

The census in the first chapter furnishes a yardstick by which a total figure can be estimated. Dr. Melvin Grove Kyle gave to his students this approximation which he considered a conservative figure.

- 600,000 fighting men (1:46)
- 400,000 women
- 200,000 older men
- 800,000 children
- 100,000 mixed multitude
- 2,100,000 Total (tribe of Levi not included)

**From Egypt to Mount Sinai**

The first 10 chapters deal with the order of the camp. Israel was not a mob crossing the desert. Every man had to know who he was and where he belonged in the camp.

**From Mt. Sinai Onward**

The Tabernacle was the center of the camp and the twelve tribes were arranged according to the situation of the Tabernacle. They marched according to their position. The tribe of Levi was directly around the Tabernacle according to their families.

The 40 years of wandering and the unbelief at Kadesh-barnea is not recorded in the "faith" chapter of Hebrews (chapter 11). The record of their unbelief is recorded in Hebrews 3:7-19. This is the "doubting chapter."

The years of wandering were not exactly wasted God taught them many precious lessons during this period.

The rebellion of Korah led to the confirmation of the priesthood of Aaron by the budding of the almond rod. This has become a picture of the priesthood of Christ which is based on His resurrection.

The offering of the red heifer in chapter 19 sets forth the method God uses to keep believers clean. Chapters 16 through 19 all have to do with the priesthood.

**But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin (1 John 1:7)**

The constant complaining of the people led to the judgment by serpents. and the provision of the serpent of brass as the remedy. This teaches us that Christ was made sin for us.

Numbers 22-25 gives us the account of Balaam, one of the badmen of the Bible, a rogue of revelation, a scoundrel of Scripture, a villain of the volume. He was a strange character. He was a heathen prophet with magical powers (Num. 22:6). He is specifically labeled a soothsayer (Joshua 13:22). He received the rewards of "divination" (Num. 22:7). He confessed that he used these methods (Num. 23:3).

He gave four of the most remarkable prophecies in the Scriptures regarding Israel:

- 1<sup>st</sup> prophecy-Num. 23:8-10
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prophecy-Num. 23:20-24
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prophecy-Num. 24:5-9
- 4<sup>th</sup> prophecy-Num. 24:17-24 (This is a source from which the wise men could have known about the star.)

He had some knowledge of God and God used him (Num. 22:9,20,22,31).He is a strange anomaly. The Scriptures have a great deal to say about him - Num. 31:16; Deut. 23:4,5; Joshua 13:22; 24:9,10; Neh. 13:2; Mic. 6:5; Jude 11; 2 Pet. 2:15; Rev. 2:14.

Scripture distinguishes between the *way* of Balaam, the *error* of Balanin, and the *doctrine* of Balaam.

- "**The way of Balaam**" (2 Pet. 2:15) was that he prostituted his gift for gain, he was covetous, he commercialized his office.
- "**The error of Balaam**" (Jude 11) was that he concluded a righteous God must curse Israel. He was unaware of the grace of God revealed in God's redemption of Israel out of Egypt.
- "**The doctrine of Balaam**" (Rev. 214) was his counsel to Balak. Finding that he could not curse Israel, he showed Balak how to break down the wall of separation by marriage with women Of Moab (Num. 31:15,16).

At chapter 25 the new generation has come of age. The generation that came out of Egypt has died in the wilderness.

Preparation is made for entering the promised land.

**The contents of the book of Numbers may be grouped into three main divisions:**

1. **The Camp at Mount Sinai and Preparations for the Departure for the Land of Canaan;**
2. **The Journeyings from Mount Sinai to the Plains of Moab;**
3. **Israel's Encampment in the Plain of Moab.**

#### **OUTLINE**

#### **1. THE CAMP AT MOUNT SINAI AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE DEPARTURE FOR THE LAND OF CANAAN, CHAPTERS 1 - 10:10**

- **The first census of the people, Chapter 1**
- **Israel organized to be Mobilized, chapter 2**
- **Trinitarian Benediction, chapter 6:24-26**

#### **2. THE JOURNEYINGS FROM MOUNT SINAI TO THE PLAINS OF MOAB, CHAPTERS 10:11 - 22:1**

- **Murmuring and complaining of the people, Chapters 11 to 12**
- **The Twelve Spies and their Report, chapters 13 to 14**
- **Rebellion and Consequences, chapter 16**
- **Miriam's Death - Moses disobedience - Aaron's death, chapter 20**
- **The Brazen Serpent - Type and the Truth, Chapter 21**

#### **3. ISRAEL'S ENCAMPMENT IN THE PLAINS OF MOAB, CHAPTERS 22 - 36**

- **The Error of Balaam, Chapters 22 to 24**

- **The Second census of the People, chapter 26**
- **Joshua Chosen As Moses Successor, chapter 27:10-23**

## **THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

"The Book of Experience and Obedience"

**WRITER:** Moses

Moses talked with **God face to face**.

Moses knew God.

"He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel" [Psalms 103:7].

The children of Israel] saw the acts of God but did not know Him. Moses knew His ways. Deuteronomy is the result of this intimate knowledge plus the experience of 40 years in the wilderness.

Deuteronomy 34:5-12 was probably written by Joshua and belongs to the Book of Joshua. When the Book of Joshua was written, it was placed on the scroll of the Pentateuch, making a Hexateuch.

**TITLE:** Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy means "second law." This is not to infer that it is a repetition of the law as given to Moses on Mt. Sinai. It is the law interpreted in the light of as years' experience in the wilderness. New situations and problems arose which were not covered by the law specifically. There needed to be an application of the law to life situations. (A notable example of this [Num 27] is the case of the inheritance of the daughters of Zelophehad who had left no sons.)

Deuteronomy therefore, is more than a mere recapitulation of the law of Sinai, it is another illustration of the law of recurrence (29:1). Specific laws that needed emphasis are repeated and enlarged upon (e.g., the 10 Commandments in chapter 5). Deuteronomy is a commentary on the Mosaic law.

**KEY:** Love and obey

- Love of God 4:37; 7:7-8; 23:5
- Obey God - 4:40; 11:26-28; 30:8-20
- Love for God - 6:4-5; 30:6,16,20

This book teaches man to love and to obey God. The word "love" occurs 22 times, "obey" occurs 10 times. The motive for obedience is love. The Lord Jesus said, "If ye

love me, keep my commandments." The true motive for obedience is stated in Deuteronomy 6:4,5. God's love for man is the motive for His government and the giving of laws. Man's love of God is the motive for his obedience. This is not the Gospel, but the principle of it is here. This is the pathway of blessing. It is likewise the answer to those who do not find love in the Old Testament. There is love in the Old Testament, and there is law in the New Testament. Moses pleads with them to obey.

Why obey? Pleading of Moses:

- Israel belonged to God (14:1)
- God loved them (4:37)
- God wanted to preserve and prosper them (4:1)
- Their show of gratitude (4:7,8)

**COMMENTS:**

A new generation had arrived on the east bank of the Jordan River (Dent. 1:5) one month before entering the Promised Land (Deut. 1:3). Those of the generation which had left Egypt were dead and their bones were bleaching beneath the desert skies because of their unbelief and disobedience.

- They had broken God's law - sins of Commission;
- They had failed to believe God - sins of Omission.

The law was "weak through the flesh."

Moses gives to this new generation his final instructions from the Lord before he relinquishes leadership of the nation through death. He reviews the desert experiences, reemphasizes certain features of the law reveals their future course in light of the Palestinian Covenant, teaches them a new song, blesses the twelve tribes, and then prepares to die. A requiem to Moses concludes the book.

This new generation was unfamiliar with the experiences of Mt. Sinai, and they needed to have the law called to their attention and interpreted in the light of their experience and future dwelling in the Promised Land.

This Book of Deuteronomy has been the center of attack by the critic. The authorship of the book was first challenged. The original criticism was that Moses could not have written it because there was no writing in existence in Moses' day: That has subsequently been soundly refuted. The critic stated that the purpose of the book was to glorify the priesthood at Jerusalem, but neither the priesthood nor Jerusalem is mentioned in Deuteronomy.

The probable reason for the satanic attack upon the Book of Deuteronomy is that the Lord Jesus Christ quoted exclusively from this book in beating back Satan's temptation. Little wonder Satan hates the book.

- 1<sup>st</sup> temptation - Matt. 4:4; Luke 4:4 compare Deut. 8:3

- 2<sup>nd</sup> temptation - Matt. 4:7; Luke 4:12 compare Deut. 6:16
- 3<sup>rd</sup> temptation - Matt. 4:10; Luke 4:8 compare Deut. 6:18 and 10:20

The Old Testament prophets quoted from Deuteronomy frequently. Also there are over 80 references to it in the New Testament.

Deuteronomy exalts the Word of God:

"And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way; and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" [Deut. 6:7].

### **STRIKING FEATURES:**

1. **Greatest doctrinal statement in Old Testament:**  
"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one Lord" [Deuteronomy 6:4].
2. **First mention of the Great Tribulation:**  
"But if from there thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice (for the Lord thy God is a merciful God), he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them" [Deuteronomy 4:29-31].
3. **Promise of a coming Prophet:**  
"The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken, according to all that thou desiredst of the Lord thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not. And the Lord said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken. I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him" [Deuteronomy 18:15-18].
4. **Test for determining true and false prophets:**  
But the prophet, who shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously; thou shalt not be afraid of him" [Deuteronomy 18:20-22].
5. **Pre-written history of Israel in the land before they enter the land: Deuteronomy 28-30**

**6. Palestinian Covenant Deuteronomy 29-30:10.****7. The Song of Moses - Prophetic: Deuteronomy 32**

1. Call to hear (1-4)
2. The nation returns evil for the grace of God (5,6)
3. Jehovah's goodness (7-14)
4. Apostasy of the nation (15-18)
5. Judgment of God upon them (19-25)
6. Longing of God for His people (26-42)
7. Nations of the world blessed with Israel (43,44)
8. Lonely and strange death of Moses. (One translation has it, "...died by the kiss of God" - God kissed Moses and put him to sleep. What a lovely thought!): Deuteronomy 34:5-8.

**OUTLINE****I. Reviewing the Journeys, Chapters 1-4****II. Restating the Law -- Love and Obedience, Chapters 5-26**

1. Repetition and Interpretation of 10 Commandments, Chapters 5-7
2. Religions and National Regulations, Chapters 8-21
  1. God's Past Dealings are Assurance for Future - 8
  2. God Knew Israel - Past Was Not Good - 9
  3. God Sent Israel to Egypt; God Brought Them out of Egypt - 10
  4. Promised Land not Like Egypt; Principle of Occupancy - 11
  5. Israel Has Only One Place to Worship in Land - 12
  6. Warning Against and Test of False Prophets, False Gods - 13
  7. Diet for Israel - 14
  8. God's Poverty Program; the Permanent Slave; the Perfect Sacrifice is Christ - 15
  9. Three Main Feasts - All Males Required to Attend (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles) - 16
  10. Sundry Laws - 17
  11. Priests and Prophets: Test of True Prophet - 18

12. Cities of Refuge; Extent of Land and Extremity of Law - 19
13. Laws Regulating Warfare - 20
14. Laws Regarding Murder, Marriage and Delinquent Sons - 21
3. Regulations for Domestic and Personal Relations, Chapters 22-28
  1. Miscellaneous Laws Concerning Brother Relationships, Dress, Building Code, Planting Seed, and Marriage - 22
  2. The World, the Flesh and the Devil - 28
  3. Divorce - 24
  4. Punishment of Guilty (40 Stripes); Law Protecting Widows; Punishment for Crimes; Judgement of Amalek - 25
  5. First Fruits - Thanksgiving - 26

**III. Regarding the Future in the Land 27-30**

(Blessings and Curses)

**IV. Requiem to Moses 31-34**

**END of Lesson**

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