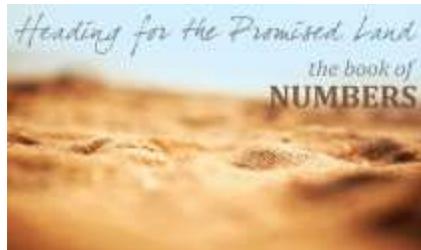


THROUGH THE BIBLE
October 11, 2017

DEUTERONOMY

A Review of What We Did Last Week
Lesson 5 in the Workbook / Numbers



Page 32 – *Why was it so important that God show support for his chosen leaders?*

It was for the protection and preservation of the nation. Israel would not have the ability to survive the wars (that they soon would encounter) without their commitment to the leaders God had chosen. God would fulfill his promise to Israel but the people had to learn how to listen to the leaders that God put in place.

Page 33 – *What was Moses' sin and why did God punish him so severely?*

These were the very beginning stages of the nation of Israel. If God set the precedence that it was permissible for the leadership to defy his law then God would be setting a poor example for the entire nation. Disobedience showed a lack of respect for God. God expected a high degree of obedience from those in positions of authority and judged them more severely because of the influence they had on others. Moses was no exception.

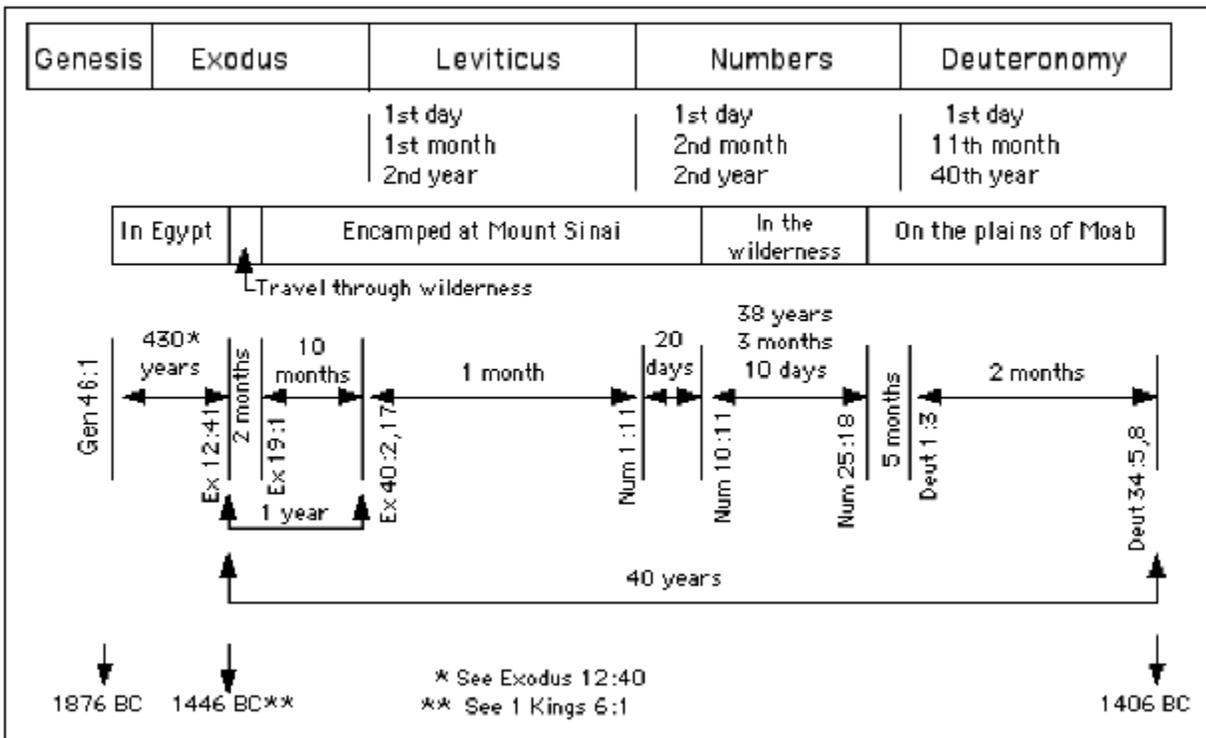
Page 33 – *What is the New Testament significance of being punished by venomous snakes?*

Jesus turns to this incident when describing how he will be *lifted up* on the cross.
Those who believe in him will have eternal life.

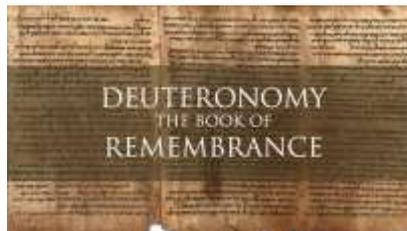
Page 34 – *What significance does Numbers have for us today?*

It serves as a reminder that we are to turn away from evil things and do what is right.
Our grumbling turns into rebellion which leads to disobedience.
It renews our hope in the faithfulness of God.
God supports our needs and his chosen leaders.
God faithfully leads us, protects us, and guides us.

Chart 3 Relationship of Geography and Time Events in Pentateuch



DEUTERONOMY



Deuteronomy is the last of the five books of the Law or *Pentateuch*.

It is the most quoted book of the Bible in the New Testament.

The book is the product and teaching of Moses.

It was the first serious step toward the creation of an official canon of sacred literature.

It was binding on all of the people on matters of faith and conduct.

Later this designation was extended to include the whole Pentateuch.

The name of the book comes from the combination of two Greek words –

deuteros and *nomos* which together mean the *second law* or *repetition of the law*.

In Hebrew it means a *copy of the law* (17:18).

The book records much of the law already described in Leviticus and Numbers.

It is also Moses' farewell address to the people of Israel.

The style of writing is much different than in the first four books of the Bible. It is so different that many of the events mentioned are not in chronological order. It is a revival of Mosaic teaching as it was understood in the 7th century B.C.E. It was meant to call the people back to the original faith of the Mosaic period.

Deuteronomy is repetitious but unique in its structure.

It is written in the form of a suzerain-vassal treaty.

Preamble	Chapter 1:1-5	
Historical Prologue	Chapters 1:6-4:43	(First Address)
Stipulations of the Covenant	Chapters 4:44-26:19	(Second Address)
Curses and Blessings	Chapters 27-30	(Third Address within 29-30)
Succession Arrangements	Chapters 31-34	
Provisions for Public Reading		

In Genesis	God is Creator	God makes us stewards of creation
In Exodus	God is Deliverer	God expects obedience
In Leviticus	God is Holy	God expects holiness
In Numbers	God is Faithful	God expects faithfulness

As to the nature of God – So far God has been seen as a God of judgment and wrath.

In Deuteronomy we are introduced to God as love.

As in the other books of the Bible, God expects something in return.

This time God expects us to love him as he loves us.

We are to love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our strength.

Love becomes the true fulfillment of the law. It must be combined with reverence.

In Genesis 17 – Circumcision is the means by which the covenant is sealed.

In Deuteronomy 10:16 and 30:6 – The circumcision is of the heart.

Preamble (Chapter 1:1-5)

The people of Israel just finished wandering in the wilderness for forty years.

Now they stand on the plains of Moab (east of the Jordan) prepared to enter Canaan.

Moses is giving his final address to the people before he dies.

The message is proclaimed with great urgency and the community is called to listen.

Historical Prologue (Chapters 1:6-4:43)

Moses recounts what happened during the past forty years.

When compared to the same events found in Numbers, Moses paints a different scene.

He does not focus only on the rebellion but on the love of God for his people.

It leads into encouragement for the present.

For Moses, remembering is critical! They are to remember –

their deliverance from Egypt

the way God guided them during their time of wandering in the wilderness

the way God supplied their needs during those forty years

how they stumbled and disobeyed and were disciplined

The word *discipline* shares a common root with the word *disciple*.

Spiritual discipline is the way we follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.
Remembering the past keeps us faithful, humble, and obedient.
In Numbers the pattern was grumbling, rebellion, and disobedience.

At first Moses focused specifically on the events that were difficult for him –
when he had to have help in managing a large group of people
the spies' negative report
his own punishment

Moses appears to be a tired, old man who has carried a tremendous burden.
His accounts reveal his own unique perspective and often contradict the original narrative.
His mood of frustration quickly passes as he remembers how God provided for them.

Stipulations of the Covenant Chapters 4:44-26:19

Moses turns his attention to the requirements that bound them as a covenant community.
In Deuteronomy 5:6-21 the Ten Commandments are repeated (Exodus 20:2-17).
Deuteronomy 6:4-8 (the *Shema*) became the Jewish *confession of faith*.
The basis for ethical responsibility is not only dutiful obedience to a law code.
It is an inward, personal response to God's sovereign deeds of kindness and benevolence.
Love and justice are perfectly combined.

Starting with 12:1 we read what is called the *Deuteronomistic Law Code*
Laws dealing with the purity of worship
Regulations concerning tithes, the Sabbatical year, and the festivals
Public authority and leadership
Issues of life and death (murder, warfare, capital offenses)
Issues of general conduct
Liturgy and thanksgivings

Soft Hearts and Open Hands
Justice
The Sanctity of Life
Social Conscienceness

Curses and Blessings Chapters 27-30

The people of Israel were to exhibit the spirit of loving obedience.
Almost every chapter of Deuteronomy contains the command to obey.
God wants his people to prosper.
God loves his people and knows what is best for them.
Obedience is how the people demonstrate their love for him.
In obedience to God they find ultimate fulfillment and meaning for their lives.

Israel had a choice (just as we do) but God was clear about the consequences of certain choices.
This is a final appeal by Moses to a new way of being – of a new covenant.
He pleads with them, warns them, encourages them, and confronts them.
To obey is the true test of fulfilling the covenant of love.
Obedience would result in richness of life for all of Israel.

In the ancient Near East these treaties contained a list of gods that served as witnesses.
Deuteronomy 30:19 serves in place of this section of the treaty.

The law was intended to be the social expression of the covenant bond.

A parity covenant is reciprocal.

Both parties are equal in rank.

They bind themselves to each other through bilateral obligations.

The suzerainty covenant is more unilateral.

A king *gives* a covenant and within the covenant the others find protection and security.

The others are under obligation to obey the commands issued by the king.

The covenant is not just an assertion of power over the other people.

The acts of benevolence on behalf of the others evoke a response of grateful obedience.

Succession Arrangements / Provisions for Public Reading (Chapters 31-34)

Joshua is designated as the successor to Moses.

Stipulations were made for reading this law during the Feast of Tabernacles.

At the end of Deuteronomy we read about the death of Moses and his burial.

At the end of Deuteronomy we also see a transition to a new generation.

The people are entering the Promised Land (finally).

They will have new experiences and a new relationship with this God of love.

To maintain a steady relationship with God they are to remember that ...

the goodness of God increases faith

being obedient resets priorities and redirects paths

Assignment for October 18

Lesson 6 in the Workbook

Read Joshua (or the portions outlined in the workbook)

Prayer

Please Note

Class will run through November 15

We will break for the holidays

Class will resume on January 3

Spiritual Retreat – November 18, 19 (and 20)

Advent Chapel Services – Every Tuesday at 12 pm (30 minute service)

November 28 through December 19