

NUMBERS: A REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Israel (ch.1). The numbering as it appears in the initial chapter may not seem to be too significant when it is first read, but when we learn that all of these men (with the exception of Joshua and Caleb) were to die...the census takes on a great meaning. As a result of the sin committed by the nation of Israel in ch.13-14, all of the people were condemned to wander in the wilderness for a period of 40 years. During this length of time all of those men perished. Thus, in the book of Numbers we learn that God is not a respecter of persons. Israel, though they were the chosen people of God, still received the wrath of God when they sinned. The example of ch.13 is perhaps the greatest incident of this type, but it is by no means the only one found in the book. Many times within the book we notice that 1) the nation rebelled against the authority of Moses and Aaron, 2) the children of Israel murmured because of the manna, and 3) the Israelites complained because they had no water. As a result of their complaints, murmurings, and rebellions they learned that "in great crises they could not distrust Jehovah who had revealed so clearly to them His presence and power, and not suffer the consequences of that distrust". [Dickson, p.167] In addition to that, the people of Israel learned a great lesson in humility. "And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live." (Deut.8:2-3) During the forty years of wandering in the wilderness the nation of Israel was being tested/proved for the time that they were going to live in the land of Canaan. Hopefully, when they entered the land of Canaan they would rely on their experience in this period of wandering and continue to lean upon the Lord for all of their needs. To remember such a great period of history, the Israelites were to keep the feast of the tabernacles once each year. The keeping of this feast would serve to remind them (and their future generations) of the time spent "tabernacling" (camping) in the wilderness. Also within the book of Numbers we see the Christ typified as the brazen serpent which is to be lifted up (John 3:14; Numb.21:9). Finally, from the book of Numbers we learn a great lesson of obedience and disobedience to the Lord. Balaam, a supposed prophet of God, who was not to speak anything other than what God commanded him to speak...did otherwise...and lost his life. (ch.31:8,16)

DEUTERONOMY

The book of Deuteronomy constitutes the last book of the law (Penteteuch, books of Moses). The name means "second law" and represents the repetition of many of the previous laws rather than a totally new law. The work contains many admonitions to obedience to the word of God and many warnings should the people disobey. This theme of obedience/disobedience is oft repeated in the form of blessings and curses which will result from the respective actions of the children of Israel. The conclusion of the book depicts the death of Moses, the leadership of Joshua, and the final preparation of the nation of Israel to enter the promised land.

CHAPTER ONE

1. Much of the material to be mentioned in our study of Deuteronomy will have already been studied in conjunction with our studies of Gen.-Numb. For that reason we will simply refer to the places in those books where we first notice these events. We may then turn to the corresponding page in our notes.
2. Note that these words (i.e. the book of Deut.) were spoken by Moses unto the children of Israel prior to the entrance into the promised land (vs.1).
3. Verse 3 states that this is taking place 40 yrs., 11 months, and 1 day after the departure from the land of Egypt.
4. The land which is about to be received by the entire nation of Israel is that land which God initially promised to Abraham (vs.8, Gen.12).
5. Verses 9-18 recount the appointment of judges. (see Ex.18 and Numb.11)
6. Verses 19-46 repeat the narrative of Numbers 13 & 14.

CHAPTER TWO

1. The first 23 verses of this chapter repeat the accounts of the traveling in the wilderness by the nation of Israel. Within these verses we note:
 - a. In vs. 7 we learn that the children of Israel lacked nothing during the 40 years.
 - b. In vs. 14ff we learn that 38 years passed from the incident at Kadesh-barnea and the present time when the children of Israel were waiting to enter the land of Canaan. During this length of time all of the men numbered in Numbers 1 perished with the exception of Caleb and Joshua.
2. The last section of this chapter depicts those events which transpired immediately prior to the entrance into the land of promise. During this time the nation of Israel fought and defeated Sihon. (cf. Numb.21:21ff)

CHAPTER THREE

1. The first twelve verses of this chapter repeat the story told in Numbers 21:31-35 about the battle with and the defeat of Og of Bashan.
2. From verse 13-20 we see the account of the narrative of Numbers 32 repeated. This account dealt with the inheritance of Gad and Reuben and half of the tribe of Manasseh on this side of the Jordan.
3. Verses 21-25 emphasize the great works which the Lord has already performed on behalf of the nation of Israel. The question asked in vs.4 ("what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to they might?") is designed to teach Israel that here is no other like the almighty Jehovah God.
4. Verses 26-29 repeat the fact that Moses would not be allowed to go into the land of promise, but that he would be allowed to view it prior to his death. The actual entrance into the land would be under the guidance of Joshua, the successor of Moses.

CHAPTER FOUR

1. In this chapter we see the first of many exhortations to obedience to the nation of Israel by the man Moses (cf. vs.1-8).
2. Note the principle advocated in vs. 2 of this chapter. (Compare that with Rev.22:18)
3. Note that all of those who remained faithful to the Lord remained alive (vs.4).
4. Note the greatness of the Lord and of the nation of Israel that is described in vs.5-8.
5. Verses 9-14 contain a reminder of those events which occurred at Mount Sinai. Within this passage note the admonitions to remember, keep, do, and teach the statutes which the Lord gave Israel (cf. vs.9,10,14).
6. The next section (vs.15-40) contains further warnings against idolatry. In this passage we note:
 - a. God reminds Israel that he led them out of Egypt. (vs.20)
 - b. God is described as a jealous God (vs.24), and therefore will not tolerate the worship of any false gods.
 - c. God's continuing care for the children of Israel (vs.31,32,33,34,35-40).
 - d. God chose the nation of Israel because he loved them (vs.37,cf.Deut.7:7-8).
 - e. The greatness of God is exhibited (vs.32-40) and also the privilege that Israel has in being the chosen of God (vs.32-40).
7. The last verses (41-49) list the selection of the cities of refuge.

CHAPTER FIVE

1. The first 6 verses constitute a reminder of the commands given at Sinai.
2. Verses 7-21 repeat those 10 commandments (cf. Ex.20).
3. The people feared to hear the voice of the Lord and requested Moses to ask God to speak only to him (i.e. Moses). The Lord thought such was appropriate and therefore Moses became the spokesman for the Lord. This brings out an unusual fact. The children of Israel here wanted Moses to speak to them what the Lord said, yet they later challenged his authority to do so (cf. Numb.review). (vs.22-33)
4. Note again the constant emphasis on teaching: 5:1,27,29,31,et.al.

CHAPTER SIX

1. This chapter begins with a further admonition to teach and do (vs.1).
2. The first few verses (1-8) contain more exhortations to be obedient to the Lord.

3. Verse 5 contains what we often refer to as the "great commandment". (cf. Lev.19:18; Mt.22:36ff)
4. Note the exhortation to teach the statutes of the Lord to the children of Israel (vs.6-9;cf.also Deut.11:18-21). The laws of the Lord were to be kept ever before them, hence the symbolism of "they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes."
5. The remaining part of the chapter (vs.10-25) contain further warnings against disobedience. Note also that vs.20-25 contain more instructions to teach the descendants of Israel.

CHAPTER SEVEN

1. Israel is told to be a separate/holy people. (vs.1-5)
2. Verses 6-11 further emphasize the holiness of Israel (vs.6), but their holiness is not because they are special in and of themselves (per se), but rather because God loved them (vs.7-8).
3. The remaining portion of the chapter (vs.12-26) contain yet further details of the blessings of obedience.
 - a. Note that such blessings are conditional. (vs.12..."if")
 - b. Note that the nation is again reminded of their deliverance from the land of Egypt (vs.18ff.).
 - c. Verses 20-26 contain promises made by the Lord with regard to delivering the people of Israel out of the hand of their enemies. (cf.vs.19)

CHAPTER EIGHT

1. Note in vs. 1 that Israel is encouraged to "observe to do". This sort of admonition is prevalent throughout the book of Deuteronomy.
2. Vs.2-3 explain part of the learning process that the nation went through while in the land of wandering.
3. Note the provisions of the Lord in vs. 4.
4. Verses 5-10 contain descriptions of the abundant bounty to be Israel's in Canaan.
5. Verses 11-20 condemn disobedience to the Lord's will. Verse 19 states the consequences of such disobedience.

CHAPTER NINE

1. The first 5 verses contain further promises by the Lord to destroy the nations of Canaan. (NOTE: In vs. 4-5 we learn that the Lord is not doing so because of the exceeding righteousness of the nation of Israel, but rather because of the exceeding wickedness of the inhabitants of Canaan. cf. Rom.10:1ff)
2. The next section (vs.6-21) contain further information about the sins of the children of Israel as Mount Sinai (Horeb).
3. Verse 22 indicated the names of the places in addition to Horeb where Israel sinned.
4. Note verse 24.
5. Verses 25-29 depict the account of Moses intercession in behalf of Israel. (Ex.32:11f)

CHAPTER TEN

1. Verses 1-11 contain the narrative of the second tables of the law.
2. The last portion of the chapter contains further exhortation to Israel by Moses.
3. Note vs. 16. Many have often thought that Israel was never expected to keep the laws of God in their heart. This passage shows that position to be false. cf. Rom.2:24ff

CHAPTER ELEVEN

1. The first 7 verses describe the greatness of the Lord as shown through the deliverance of Israel out of the hands of Egypt. Verse 7 specifically states that the Israelites knew this to be true because they saw it. (cf.Acts2:22)
2. Verses 8-25 contain more blessings to be Israel's in the land of Canaan as well as further instructions to teach.
3. The ever present warnings and exhortations continue in vs.26-32 with an explanation of the blessing and the curse which is to be set before Israel. The blessing is for obedience and the curse is for disobedience.

CHAPTER TWELVE

1. Exclusivity of worship is further demanded by having one place of worship (vs.1-16).

2. Verses 17-28 deal with legislation concerning the eating of holy things, remembrances of the Levites, and rules concerning offerings.
3. Verses 29-32 dictate even more warnings against idolatry.
4. Note verse 32. (cf. Deut.4:2; Rev.22:18ff)

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

This entire chapter deals with the punishments and consequences of idolatry. The first portion of the chapter (vs.1-11) concerns idolatry among individuals, and the latter section of the chapter (vs.12-18) deals with idolatry among cities. In both cases those guilty of idolatry were to be killed (vs.5,9,10,15).

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

1. Verse 1 contains prohibitions with regard to pagan rituals.
2. Verse 2 contains further emphasis of the holiness of the nation of Israel.
3. Verses 3-21 deal with eating restrictions (see Leviticus 11).
4. Further rules are set out concerning tithes (vs.22ff).
 - a. The children of Israel were to offer tithes of the fruit of their fields (vs.22).
 - b. They were to offer this tithe in one place (vs.23).
 - c. If they lived a great distance from the appointed place of worship they were allowed to convert their tithes into money and purchase something upon coming to the place of worship.
 - d. The Levites were not to be forgotten in the tithes (vs.27).
 - e. Every third year the tithes were to be given to the Levites, the strangers, the fatherless, and the widows (vs.28-29).

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

1. The first 6 verses of chapter fifteen deal with the 'year of release' (otherwise known as the sabbath year). [cf. Ex:21, et.al.]
2. Verses seven and following deal with rules about lending to the poor. Note that verse 9 contains a warning to the abuses of lending to the poor or refusing to do so when the 'year of release' is near.
3. God would bless them for showing kindness to the poor (vs.10). Note also that vs. 11 states "the poor shall never cease out of the land". Compare this with the statement of Christ in Matthew 26:11.
4. The following section (vs.12-18) deals with the treatment of servants. The children of Israel were to deal kindly with them. As further impetus for the proper treatment of servants the nation of Israel is reminded of their period of servitude during the days of Egyptian bondage. (cf. vs.15)
5. The last passage in this chapter (vs.19-23) deals with the consecration of the firstlings of the flock. They were not to be used for farming service, but were rather to be used in sanctification to the Lord. (vs.19)
6. If any of the firstlings were blemished they were not to be sacrificed to the Lord (vs.21).

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

1. This chapter gives further information with reference to the keeping of the three appointed feasts: passover, feast of weeks (or Pentecost), and the feast of harvest (or tabernacles). (cf. Ex., Numb. for other references to these feasts.)
2. The one additional aspect that is mentioned with regard to the keeping of the feasts in this passage is that they are all to be kept in the place to be appointed by the Lord (vs.6,11,16).
3. The last part of this chapter (vs.18-22) deals with the appointment of judges.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

1. This chapter contains miscellaneous regulations; some of which have already been discussed in the first four books.
2. Rules are given with regard to sacrifices (vs.1), idolaters (vs.2ff.), witnesses necessary to convict (vs.6), and rules concerning difficult judgment (vs.8-13).
3. The last section of the chapter deals with the choice of a king (to be made by God), and the requirements for his rule (vs.16-20)
4. Note that the king is to judge according to the law of the Lord (vs.18ff).

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

1. The initial part of this chapter contains further legislation with regard to the inheritance of the children of Levi (vs.1-8).
2. The second section of the chapter presents more warnings against the committing of heathen and pagan rites (vs.9-14). Israel was not to practice these as the nations around them did. "Pass through the fire" in vs. 10 refers to the offering of children to the god of Molech (cf. Lev.20:2)
3. The last portion of this chapter deals with prophecy.
 - a. A prophecy is made with regard to the Prophet (the Christ) in vs.15. A striking comparison is made between Moses and the Christ as prophets in the book of Hebrews. [cf. Acts 3:22,7:37] Note that vs. 18 says that this prophet would speak all that was to be commanded him (cf. Jn.4:34,ch.17).
 - b. General rules were given for those who claimed to be prophets of God (vs.20-22).

CHAPTER NINETEEN

This entire chapter is given to a further explanation of the cities of refuge and their purpose (vs.1-14) and the requirements for witnesses in order to bring judgment upon an individual (vs.15-21).

CHAPTER TWENTY

1. Verses 1-9 constitute regulations regarding wars. Note that the priests shall speak unto the people (to encourage them), that there were provisions for those who did not have to go to war (new house, new vineyard, new wife, and cowards), and that commanders (captains) were to be appointed.
2. The remaining section of the chapter contains laws that applied directly to the fighting and the spoils after the battles (vs.10-19).
 - a. Peace was initially offered (vs.10).
 - b. If it were refused, the children of Israel were to slay all of the males and take the remainder for themselves. [NOTE: This applied only to those cities which were "very far off from thee" (vs.15) and not to the cities of the land of Canaan as shall be mentioned next.]
 - c. When the children of Israel went into the land of Canaan and fought, they were to utterly destroy everything. This was due to the possibility of the negative influence which would come from the people that were not slain in this fashion. (vs.16-18)
 - d. Only those trees which were not suitable for food could be used in battle (vs.20f).

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

1. The first nine verses deal with unknown murders and the role of the elders of the city nearest the slain man. This was done in order to put away the guilt of innocent blood from among them (vs.9).
2. The following section of the chapter involves various laws (vs.10-23).
 - a. Rules are given for the obtaining of a wife who was captured (vs.10ff). Note: These were only to have been from lands other than the land of Canaan, for the inhabitants of the land of Canaan were to be destroyed (ch.20:a6ff).
 - b. Rules are given for the inheritance of children of multiple wives (vs.15ff).
 - c. Rules are given with regard to a rebellious son (vs.18ff).
 - d. Rules are given concerning the manner in which the body of a slain man is to be handled (vs.22ff).

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

1. Verses 1-4 deal with one's responsibility for the possessions of a neighbor.
2. Verse 5 contains a prohibition with regard to dress. Note the following remarks concerning this passage:

"The expression is quite general. Masquerading one's sex, evidenced from later times as a heathen idolatrous practice, violated the Lord's created order (compare verses 9-11). Distinguishing between the sexes guards against indecency and perversion; flouting sexual distinctions is corruptive in society." [Woods, p.260]

"...keli geber, the instruments or arms of a man. As the word geber is here used, which properly signifies a strong man or man of war; it is very probable that armour is here intended; especially as we know that in the worship of Venus, to which that of Astarte or Ashtaroth among the Canaanites bore a striking resemblance, the women were accustomed to appear in armour before her. It certainly cannot mean a simple change in dress, whereby the men might pass for women, and vice versa. This would have been impossible in those countries where the dress of the sexes had little to distinguish it, and where every man wore a long beard. It is, however, a very good general precept understood literally, and applies particularly to those countries where the dress alone distinguishes between the male and the female." [Clark, p.794]

This passage, therefore, does not explicitly prohibit the wearing of clothes that may be attributed to being "man's attire" or "woman's attire" but is rather a general prohibition to take upon the characteristics of the opposite sex as one's own or natural characteristics.

3. Verses 6-12 contain various regulations, some of which have been previously discussed. Regulations are given concerning wildlife, housing, sowing, plowing, garments, and fringes.
4. The remainder of the chapter (vs.13-30) contains laws about chastity. (See Ex.22:16; Lev.18; Lev.20; et al.) (re: vs.17, cf. Woods, 261-2)

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

1. Verses 1-8 contain restrictions with regard to those who might be included in the congregation.
2. Verses 9-14 deal with legislation about sanitation.
3. Verses 15-25 deal with rules concerning: 1) servants, 2) sexual perversions, 3) lending of money, 4) vows, and 5) hospitality.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

1. The first section of this chapter (vs.1-5) contains legislation concerning marriage. (cf. Mt.19:1-9; Mt.5:32; Mal.2:16; et al.)
2. Verses 6-13 have within them rules regarding pledges. Pledges were promises to pay the balance of an amount owed.
3. The last part of this chapter (vs.14-22) deals with the regulations of the treatment of servants, the penalty for sin, and hospitality.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

1. The first section of the chapter contains regulation concerning judgment and punishment (vs.1-3).
2. The following section (vs.5-10) contains rules about Levirate marriage. (cf. Ruth)
3. Verses 13-16 constitute an admonition to honesty in business.
4. The last few verses (17-19) are a command to blot out Amalek. The account mentioned in vs. 18 is not found elsewhere in the Bible, but it is the reason that Israel is to conquer Amalek.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

This entire chapter deals with commands concerning tithing, first fruits, and an exhortation to be obedient unto the will of the Lord. [NOTE especially the summary of the providence of God as mentioned in vs.5-10-]

CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN

1. The first ten verses dictate a command to the children of Israel that they erect stones containing the laws given unto them.
2. The remainder of the chapter (vs.11-26) provides us with a list of the curses that were given at Mt. Ebal. All of these restrictions have been previously mentioned.

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT

Verses 1-14 constitute the blessing which Israel would receive for their obedience, and verses 20-68 make up the curse to be received for disobedience. (cf. vs.25,64, et al.)

CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE

1. The first nine verses form another admonition to be obedient to the will of God.
2. Note vs. 5. The Lord miraculously provided for them by providing them with shoes and clothes which lasted throughout the 40 year period.
3. Verses 10ff contain a reaffirmation of the covenant which the Lord made with Israel.
4. Verses 18-29 form yet another warning against disobedience.

CHAPTER THIRTY

This entire chapter contains provisions for the restoration of Israel when they fall into sin, and it contains further admonitions to obedience and warnings against disobedience. [NOTE: cf. vs. 6,10,15,19]

CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE

1. This chapter constitutes the last address of Moses to the children of Israel.
2. In this chapter Moses speaks of his death (vs.1-5).
3. He encourages the children of Israel to be strong (vs.6ff).
4. The command was given to read the contents of the law every 7 years at the feast of the tabernacles. (vs.9-13).
5. Joshua is commissioned to be the leader for the children of Israel (vs.14).
6. Moses appears before the Lord, and the Lord tells Moses of the future sins of Israel. (vs.15ff)
7. The Lord told Moses to write a song to be a witness against the children of Israel in the day when they fell away from the Lord (vs.19ff). The song is found in the following chapter.
8. In the closing verses of this chapter Moses presents the law to the Levites to be placed in the ark of the covenant (vs.24) and admonishes them to be obedient, and warns them of their future sins.

CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO

1. The first part of this chapter (vs.1-43) is the song which the Lord commanded Moses to write for the children of Israel. The song is a history of the children of Israel and the acts which God performed in their behalf. The song exalts God, admonishes the children of Israel, and depicts prophecies concerning their future sins.
2. The last part of the chapter gives an account of Moses' view of the land of Canaan.

CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE

This entire chapter is the farewell blessings pronounced upon the children of Israel by Moses immediately prior to his death. (NOTE: vs.3,27,29)

CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR

This final chapter of the book of Deuteronomy depicts the death of Moses and the succession of Joshua as the leader of the nation of Israel.

DEUTERONOMY: A REVIEW!

The book of Deuteronomy closes the books of Moses, but it initiates (opens) an entire era of the children of Israel, that of the conquest of the land of Canaan (see page 4 for the time divisions of the Bible). Though we see many things repeated within the book, we also see many new things. Both parts of the Great Commandment are first mentioned here. The emphasis upon not just doing the law, but having the law within the heart is also found here more so than in the previous books. Perhaps one of the greatest contributions is the constant emphasis upon the blessings and the curses of the Lord which would come following obedience or disobedience. The preferred choice would of course be for the obedience resulting in blessings (30:19), but the choice was not God's but the children of Israel's. Further references to purity (cf. Lev.), the might of God (cf. Ex.), etc. are made within the book. Note also the emphasis upon the Prophet in chapter 18 and the Rock in chapter 32. Though the book of Deuteronomy does not take much time, the lessons of the book transcend time and are therefore applicable to us today.