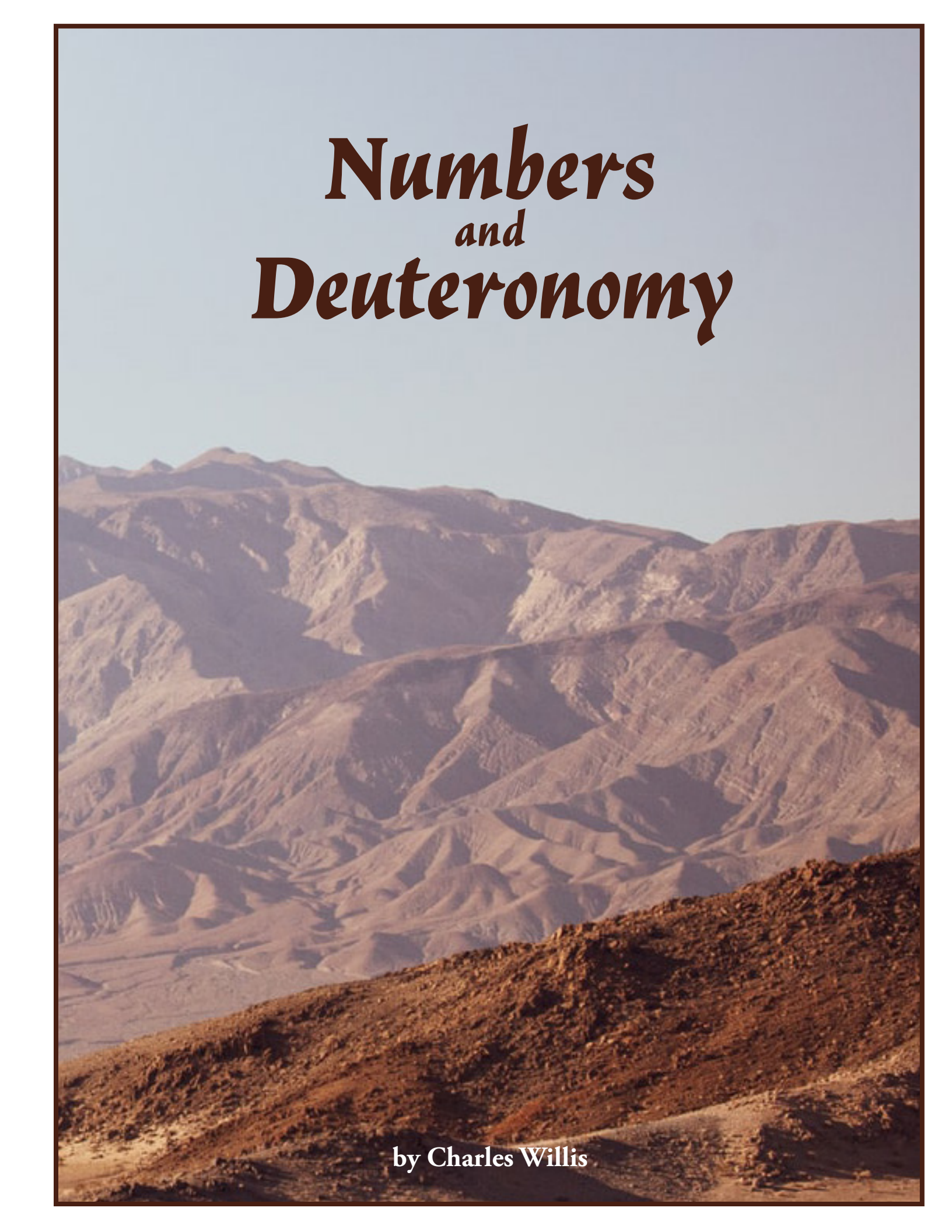




Numbers *and* ***Deuteronomy***

by Charles Willis

Numbers and Deuteronomy

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Introduction to Numbers

TITLE

The earliest title of this book comes from the first word in Hebrew and showed the book was arranged for memorization and recitation. Later the book title was changed based on the fifth word of the text (census), which is retained in Hebrew Bibles today. The Greek and Latin translations dating to the first century A.D. refers to the book by the Greek name *Arithmoi*, from which we get the English “Numbers.” The book contains two census accounts.

AUTHOR

Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible (the Hebrew refers to them as the Torah). This was at the command of God. Just as Moses was about to come down from mount Sinai (having received all the words of God), he was commanded to “*Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel*” (Exodus 34:27–28; see also Numbers 33:1–2). Throughout Numbers we will repeatedly see the phrase “The Lord spoke to Moses.”

DATES OF THE WRITING

There are two widely accepted datings for the Exodus from Egypt. These two dates would therefore impact the dating of the book of Numbers. The Exodus is dated at 1440-1400 B.C. (the early date) and 1290–1270 B.C. (the late date). What is not contested is that the book of Numbers relates directly to the book of Exodus and both have the same author.

PURPOSE OF THE WRITING

The book covers a transitional period between the first generation that came out of Egypt during the Exodus (and died in the wilderness) and the next Generation who took the promised land under Joshua. We read of historical accounts, and speeches by Moses of their need to be faithful and obedient to the covenant.

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

The book has been organized in many different ways, and many outlines can be correct. I have chosen to use the outline written by Dennis Cole in his commentary on the book*. The divisions make sense to me as the account seems to shift at these points. The first seven lessons in our study will follow this outline.

1. Census and Consecration (Numbers 1–6)
2. The Tabernacle and Celebration (Numbers 7–10)
3. Complaints and Rebellion (Numbers 11–17)
4. Duties and Rebellion (Numbers 18–21)
5. Rebellion and Sin (Numbers 22–25)
6. Census and A New Generation (Numbers 26–30)
7. War and Entry into the Promised Land (Numbers 31–36)

*The New American Commentary - Numbers - By Dennis Cole, pp 45–52

Numbers 1 – 6

1. What is the time setting of the book of Numbers (1:1)?
 2. What is meant in 1:18 “they registered by ancestry in their families, by their fathers households”?
 3. How many men over age 20 were able to go to war (1:46)?
 4. Why was the tribe of Levi not included in this census (1:47–54)?
 5. Attempt to create a drawing of the arrangement of the Israelites camp (chapter 2).
 6. What made the fire strange (3:4)? (see Leviticus 16:12)
 7. Why did God make the Levites different from all the other tribes (3:5–13)?
 8. How many male Levites from one month old and up were counted (3:14–39)?
 9. What were the duties of the Levites:
 - A. Sons of Gershon (3:25–26; 4:21–28)
 - B. Sons of Kohath (3:27–32; 4:1–15)
 - C. Sons of Merai (3:33–39; 4:29–49)
 10. Explain the redemption of the firstborn (3:40–51).
 11. What rules did God give to keep the camp undefiled (5:1–4)?
 12. What did God require of a guilty person (5:5–10)?
 13. What was the test of adultery (5:11–31)?
 14. What was a Nazorite vow (6:1–8)?
 15. How were Aaron and his sons to bless Israel (6:22–27)?
-

Numbers 7 – 10

1. When Moses completed the tabernacle, what did the leaders of the 12 tribes contribute (7:1–5)?
 2. Why did Moses give nothing to the sons of Kohath (7:5–9)?
 3. God told Moses “*Let them present their offering, one leader each day, for the dedication of the altar*” (7:11). Describe the types of things the leaders offered (7:12–88).
 4. Describe what God is commanding about “*mounting the lamps*” (8:1–4).
 5. For the Levites to qualify to perform the service of the Lord, what did God require (8:5–13)?
 6. What was the significance of God choosing the Levites for service (8:14–22)?
 7. What exception did God make regarding the Passover observance (9:1–14)?
 8. Who controlled the camping schedule for the nation of Israel and how was this done (9:15–9:23)?
 9. What did God command be built and that it be included in religious feasts (10:1–10)?
 10. How long did Israel camp at the wilderness of Sinai? (Ex. 19:1–2; Numb. 10:11–13)
 11. From 10:14–28 create a chart of the “*order of march*” as the nation traveled.
 12. Did Moses’ father-in-law travel with the Israelites (10:29–32)?
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Numbers 13 – 17

1. What was God's response to complaints (11:1–3)?
 2. What is implied about the "*rabble who were among them*" who "*had greedy desires*" (11:4–6)?
 3. What does Moses complain to God about and how does God respond (11:10–17)?
 4. How does God respond to the complaints of the people (11:18–21)?
 5. Did Moses sin in 11:21–23?
 6. How does God show his choice of seventy men (11:24–30)?
 7. How did God fulfill his word and deal with the "*greedy*" men (11:31–35)?
 8. Why did Aaron and Miriam speak against Moses (12:1–2), and how did God respond to their complaint (12:3–16)?
 9. What was the report from the spies who went into Canaan (13:25–33; 14:1–5)?
 10. What was the report from Joshua and Caleb (13:30; 14:6–9)? Why was their's different?
 11. What was God's attitude regarding this complaint (14:10–12)?
 12. Why did the Lord pardon their iniquity (14:13–20)? What punishment did God bring upon them (14:21–35)?
 13. What happened to the spies who brought a bad a report (14:36–18)?
 14. What happened when the people of Israel did what was right in their own eyes (14:39–45)?
 15. What is God's attitude toward Gentiles who wanted to worship Him under the Law of Moses (15:14–16)? Apply this to Rahab (Joshua 6:25).
 16. Explain how God saw a difference in unintentional sin, and intentional sin (15:22–31).
 17. What was the punishment for breaking the Sabbath law (15:32–40)?
 18. What was Korah's complaint (16:1–3)? What was Moses' attitude about this (16:4–11)?
 19. What was the complaint of Dathan and Abiram (16:12–14)?
 20. What was God's response to their complaints (16:25–35)?
 21. What was done as a remembrance for the nation (16:36–40)?
 22. What complaint arose the next day and how did God respond (16:41–50)?
 23. What did God do to "*lessen the grumbings*" (17:1–13)?
 24. Why should we study these things (1 Corinthians 10:5–11)?
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Numbers 18 – 21

1. What “*bestowed service*” did God give to Aaron and his sons? What punishments did God warn of (18:1–7)?
 2. What did God give to the priests as an allotment to support them? What is a “*covenant of salt*” (18:8–20)?
 3. What did God give for all the sons of Levi, and require of the sons of Levi (8:21–32)?
 4. What was the purpose of the sacrifice of the red heifer (9:1–10)?
 5. What would make a person unclean? What would happen if they were not purified (9:11–19)? How does this add to our understanding of Hebrews 10:29?
 6. What did the people complain about and how did God respond (20:1–8)?
 7. What was Moses’ sin, and how did God respond (20:9–12)?
 8. How did God prove Himself holy (20:13)?
 9. How was the nation of Edom the brother of Israel (20:14)?
 10. What was the attitude of Edom toward Israel (20:15–22)?
 11. Why did Aaron die (20:23–29)?
 12. How did Israel show faithfulness (21:1–3)?
 13. How did Israel show a lack of faith (21:4–5)?
 14. What was God’s response, the people’s attitude, and what demonstrates God’s mercy (21:6–9)?
 15. What does Jesus teach based on the “*bronze serpent*” (John 3:14–15)?
 16. What land did Israel possess? Can it be found on a map? (21:10–35)?
-

Numbers 22 – 25

1. What is the attitude of King Balak? Who does he send for, and for what purpose? (22:1–6; Deuteronomy 23:4)
 2. What was the response of Balaam and God (22:7–14)?
 3. Why did Balaam return with the men from Balak (22:15–21)?
 4. Why was God angry with Balaam (22:22)? How was His anger demonstrated (22:23–35)?
 5. Where did God meet Balaam (22:41–23:4)? What was God’s message for Balak (23:5–10)?
 6. What message did God give to Balak from the top of mount Pisgah (23:11–24)?
 7. How does Balaam demonstrate faithfulness (23:4–24:9)?
 8. What message does Balak receive about the future (24:10–25)?
 9. What new testament applications are made from the story of Balaam (2 Peter 2:15; Jude 1:11; Revelation 2:14)?
 10. What “*plague*” did Phinehas stop, and how did he do it (25:1–9)?
 11. How did God bless Phinehas (25:10–13)?
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Numbers 26–30

1. What was the purpose of the census in chapter 26? How many sons of Israel were numbered over the age of 20?
 2. Why were the Levites not counted in this census (26:57–62)?
 3. How many remained from the census taken by Moses in the wilderness of Sinai (26:63–65)?
 4. What law did God add because of the appeal from the daughters of Zelophehad (27:1–11)?
 5. When God called Moses to his death on the mountain of Abarim, what was Moses' concern and how did God respond (27:12–23)?
 6. In Numbers 28 and 29 God had Moses reiterate the Law regarding sacrifices to God.
 - A. What was the daily sacrifice?
 - B. What did the Sabbath sacrifice?
 - C. What was the first of the month sacrifice?
 - D. What was the Passover sacrifice?
 - E. What is being celebrated in 28:26 (compare with Exodus 23:16)?
 - F. Describe what God demanded on the seventh month (29:1–38).
What is this festival called and what was it for?
 - G. Why did God choose this moment to go over all these requirements (chapters 28–29)?
 7. How serious did God take a vow (7:1–2)? How serious does God take vows today (Matthew 5:33)?
 8. What exception did God allow for vows to be annulled (7:3–14)?
 9. Explain the phrase “*he shall bear her guilt*” (30:15).
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War and Entry Into The Promised Land

Numbers 31 – 36

Lesson #7

1. Why did God want vengeance on Midian (31:1–2)?
 2. There were 1,000 soldiers from each tribe: twelve thousand (31:5). Did the Levites participate as soldiers (Numbers 1:2–3, 49)? How are there twelve thousand soldiers?
 3. What did Moses understand about this vengeance of God on the Midianites, and why was he upset with the leaders of the army (31:14–16)?
 4. Why did Moses and Eleazar tell people specific rules for how to purify themselves (31:17–25)?
 5. What further instructions did God give Moses (31:25–31)? Why these instructions?
 6. What was the attitude of the military leaders whom Moses was angry at (31:48–54)?
 7. What did Moses say was wrong with the request of the tribes of Reuben and Gad (32:1–15)?
 8. What assurance did the tribes of Reuben and Gad give Moses (32:16–19)?
 9. How serious was their pledge before the Lord, and what lessons do we learn from Moses' response (32:20–27)?
 10. What other tribe joined with Reuben and Gad (32:28–42)?
 11. Chapter 33 is a review of the journey of Israel from Egypt to the promised land. How long a period of history might this cover (answer is not found in this text)?
 12. What instructions did God repeat to the sons of Israel, including punishments for disobedience (33:50–56)?
 13. From 34:1–12 try to create or locate a map of the borders God placed on the promised land.
 14. How did God plan to apportion the land to Israel (26:56; 34:16–29)? How did the Lord speak of and treat Ephraim and Manasseh (34:23–24)?
 15. The Levites are not included in the land portions in chapter 34. What did God command be given to the Levites? (35:1–5)?
 16. What is a city of refuge, and who was it for (35:6–16)? How long did they have to stay there (35:22–28)?
 17. What was God's law toward a murderer (35:17–22; 30–32)? Why was this God's law (35:33–34)?
 18. What concern was brought to Moses, and how was it resolved (36:1–13)?
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Introduction to Deuteronomy

TITLE

The title in Hebrew comes from the first two words, literally “these are the words” (Deut. 1:1). “Deuteronomy” is based on the Latin Vulgate “*Deuteronomium*” which is a reflection of the Septuagint “*Deuteronomion*” meaning “second law.” It was referring to Deuteronomy being a repetition of Exodus perhaps based on the phrase “a copy of this instruction” in Deuteronomy 17:18. Regardless of the title, the book is not a mere repetition of Exodus.

AUTHOR

Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible (the Hebrew refers to them as the Torah). This was at the command of God (see Introductory Material to Numbers). The first words in this book literally say “these are the words which Moses spoke.”

DATES OF THE WRITING

The book claims to have been written in the “land of Moab” (Deut. 1:5) at the end of the wilderness wanderings just before Israel’s entrance into Canaan (Deut. 4:44–49; 34:1–4). So the date of the book is contingent upon the date of the Exodus (again, refer to the Introductory Material to Numbers).

PURPOSE OF THE WRITING

Just prior to entering the promised land, Moses works to fulfill the word of God in writing down all that He had been told. Many believe most of the Pentateuch was written at this time. Deuteronomy is most likely of all the Pentateuch to have been written at this time. Moses was to die before entering the land and Joshua was chosen by God as his successor. The new generation of Israelites coming out of the wilderness wanderings needed a written document of the Law. It served as a reminder of the Law (such as in Exodus), but was a document Joshua would refer to (Joshua 1:7). In a way it serves as a renewal of the covenant with a new generation. It contains Moses’ farewell, has poetic passages, and lists itineraries - so it is a covenant style expressed in narrative and speeches.

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

The book (like most Biblical texts) has been organized in many different ways, and many outlines can be correct. I have chosen to use the outline written by Eugene Merrill in his commentary on the book*. Our approach in the study is to examine several chapters per week as we have done in Numbers. Certainly a deeper study can be fulfilling as well.

1. Historical Review (Deuteronomy 1–4:40)
2. The Principles of the Covenant (Deuteronomy 4:41–11:32)
3. Specifics of the Covenant - Part 1 (Deuteronomy 12–18)
4. Specifics of the Covenant - Part 2 (Deuteronomy 19–26)
5. Curses and Blessings (Deuteronomy 27–30)
6. Moses’ Last Words (Deuteronomy 31–34)

*The New American Commentary - Deuteronomy - By Eugene Merrill, pp 38–40

Deuteronomy 1 – 4:40

1. Where were the Israelites at the beginning of this book (1:1–3)?
 2. When did God speak to the Israelites “*at Horeb*” (1:6)?
 3. What solution was taken because Moses said “*I am not able to bear the burden of you alone*” (1:9–18)?
 4. Why did God make the oath in 1:34–40? (see 1:22–33)
 5. How did the people rebel again (1:41–46)?
 6. Locate on a map mount Seir which Israel circled for many days (2:1–7).
 7. What was God’s command when all the men of war died in the wilderness (2:16–25)?
 8. What did God do for the Israelites (2:26–3:11)?
 9. What land did Israel currently possess, and what did God give them (3:12–17)?
 10. What were the men of Ruben, Gad and Manasseh required to do (3:12–20)?
 11. What word did God give Joshua (3:21–22)?
 12. How did God answer Moses’ prayer (3:23–29)?
 13. What does Moses urge Israel to do (4:1–9)?
 14. What does Moses tell Israel to remember (4:1–9)?
 15. What does Moses warn Israel about (4:15–24)? How is this applied to Christians in Hebrews 12:29?
 16. What instructions did Moses give for when they turned away from God (4:25–31)?
 17. How is God compared to idols (4:32–40)?
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Deuteronomy 4:41 – 11:32

1. Why is Moses retelling the events of God establishing a covenant with Israel (5:1–3)?
 2. How much of the Law did God speak to the assembly of Israel's fathers (5:4–22)? What part of Exodus is this repeating?
 3. What good attitude does God praise (5:23–29)?
 4. What more did God give to Moses (5:30–31)?
 5. What message did Moses have for the new generation (5:32–6:9; 6:20–25)?
 6. What warnings did Moses give?
 - A. 6:10–15
 - B. 6:16–19
 - C. 7:1–11
 7. What blessings come from God?
 - A. 7:12–26
 - B. 8:1–10
 8. What problems are promised if they forget God (8:11–20)?
 9. How had Israel provoked God? Why should we remember this?
 - A. 9:1–4
 - B. 9:5–24
 10. What did God relent from destroying Israel (9:25–29)? How has He demonstrated that (10:1–11)?
 11. What did the Lord require of Israel (10:12–22)?
 12. What had the people witnessed so they should believe God (11:1–8)?
 13. What blessings and curses did Moses put before the people (11:9–32)?
-

Deuteronomy 12 – 18

1. How were the people told to live differently (12:1–12)?
 2. What lies are taught again (12:13–32)?
 3. How are the people to deal with all efforts toward idolatry (13:1–18)?
 4. What food restrictions did God place on Israel (14:1–21)?
 5. What tithes did God require (14:22–29)?
 6. What was to happen to debts every seven years (15:1–18)?
 7. What was required of the firstborn of herd and flock (15:19–23)?
 8. Make a list and a brief description of the required feasts (16:1–17).
 9. How is God's justice expected of the Israelites (16:18–17:13)?
 10. What laws does God give for a future king (17:14–20)? How well did the Israelite kings obey God's law?
 11. How were the Levites supported (18:1–8)?
 12. What aspects of false religions did God forbid (18:9–14)?
 13. Explain the fulfillment of 18:15–19. (see Acts 3:17–26)
 14. How could people recognize a prophet of God (18:20–22)?
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Deuteronomy 19 – 26

1. Why did God establish cities of refuge (19:10–13)?
 2. What sin was committed by moving boundary markers (19:14)?
 3. If a man was guilty of accusing someone falsely, what was his punishment (9:15–21)? Why did God make this law?
 4. God gave laws for war.
 - A. What would man think of the rules in 20:1–8?
 - B. How was God giving the Israelites cities (20:10–15)?
 - C. What specific instruction is given for cities of their inheritance and why (20:16–18)?
 - D. How did God preserve the land (20:19–20)?
 5. How could blood guiltiness be forgiven (21:1–9)?
 6. What laws are given about:
 - A. How to treat a wife (21:10–14).
 - B. How to treat sons (21:15–21).
 - C. How to treat criminals (21:22–23).
 - D. How to treat a neighbor (22:1–4).
 - E. How to dress (22:5, 11–12).
 - F. Sexual sin (22:13–30). How does this help a society?
 7. Who was excluded from the assembly of the Lord (23:1–8)?
 8. What were the “wages of a dog” (NASB 23:18)?
 9. How serious does God view a vow (23:21–23)?
 10. What was the law of divorce (24:1–4)?
 11. Why were wages paid daily (24:14–15)?
 12. How did God provide for the poor (24:19–22)?
 13. Explain the problem with “*differing measures*” (25:13–16).
 14. Explain the offering of first fruits (26:1–11).
 15. What was the year of tithing (26:12–15)?
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Deuteronomy 27 – 30

1. What were the people charged to build on Mount Ebal (27:1–8)? Why do you think this was commanded?
 2. Explain the blessing and the curse (27:11–14). (see Deut. 11:29) Provide two examples of each from 27:15–28:6.
 3. What condition does God place on His blessings (27:10; 28:9, 13–14)?
 4. Summarize the promises God makes to the disobedient (28:15–68).
 5. For Christians:
 - A. What condition does God place on His blessings?
 - B. Summarize the promises God makes to the disobedient.
 6. What had the Lord not given the people (29:4)? Please explain.
 7. What miracles did the people see in the wilderness wanderings (29:5–8)? What conclusion should the people make (29:9)?
 8. Why are the people told to enter the covenant (29:10–13)?
 9. Who was the covenant for (29:14–15)?
 10. How serious did God consider the covenant (29:16–29)?
 11. What promise is given to Israel (30:1–10)? What condition of God is stated three times (30:2, 6, 10)?
 12. Why is this commandment “*not too difficult*” (30:11–14)?
 13. In summarizing the last several chapters, explain what Moses set before the people (30:15–20).
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Deuteronomy 31 – 34

1. What word of encouragement does Moses give the people (31:1–6)? How is this repeated in Joshua 1:6–9?
 2. What command was given to the priests and why (31:7–13)?
 3. Why did God want Moses to write a song (31:14–22)?
 4. What book did Moses write and why (31:24–29)?
 5. How did Moses know the people would do evil in the sight of the Lord (31:24–29)?
 6. From the Song of Moses (chapter 32:1–43):
 - A. List four positive statements Moses makes about God.
 - B. List four negative statements Moses makes about Israel.
 - C. How does Moses describe the anger of God?
 - D. How important did Moses believe this song was (32:44–47)?
 7. What word did God give to Moses (32:48–52)?
 8. Summarize the statements of Moses to each of the tribes (33:1–29).
 9. Where was Moses buried (34:1–6) and what physical blessings did God give Moses (34:7)?
 10. How unique was Moses as a servant of God (34:9–12)?
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