



NUMBERS & DEUTERONOMY

A ONE MONTH BIBLE STUDY

The Other 39 Years of the Exodus Journey

AGES:
16+

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Introduction:

ALL ABOUT THIS STUDY

Did you know that the Book of Exodus only covers ONE YEAR of the Hebrew people's 40-year wilderness journey? Did you ever wonder what happened during those other 39 years? The Books of Numbers and Deuteronomy hold the answers with great stories and thought-provoking revelations.

Sometimes Christians find these books difficult to read because the stories are imbedded in lists of names and places, speeches, renumerations, and things historians would be interested in studying.

BUT HELP IS HERE!

This study features mostly the stories in Numbers and Deuteronomy, so you can feel like you left off in the Book of Exodus and picked right up in Numbers! These stories from the Exodus journey may feel familiar (you've likely heard them before). The entire 40 years was filled with adventures, and here is the chance to revisit the Israelite people and learn some of the lessons they found so challenging. With this study, we can understand better the purpose of these books—what they tell us about Bible history, and what they tell us about God Himself.

We Are Skipping Some Chapters

Many of the passages in these two books are of great interest to theologians who focus on the lengthy lists such as censuses and rules. However, we've put aside the lengthy lists and focused on the stories for the purpose of this study. When we are excited to know the stories from the Book of Exodus surrounding the Ten Commandments, we are also excited about the rest of this journey.

We do recommend reading the books in their entirety at some point in the future if you haven't already. They are filled with material that give evidence to God's nature and His desire for obedience. The Law is often no more than good behavior spelled out in examples.

How this Study Works

Many of the passages in these two books are of great interest to theologians who focus Numbers and Deuteronomy are the last two books in the Pentateuch following Genesis, Exodus, and the law book Leviticus. (The Pentateuch contains the five books considered to be written by Moses, which are also the five first books of the Old Testament.)

You will have four weeks of study, with five days of study each week. Additionally, at the end of each week we include a Week in Review section. Because this study can be tuned to each individual, we recommend that you take more or less time as needed. The goal here is not just to finish the study, but also relate more closely and find application to all God's commandments and the Hebrew slaves.

Despite all its comprehensive materials, the study is neither difficult nor terribly time

consuming. A day's work can be done in 40 minutes, but it can take longer, depending on how much time you'd like to give to the Application Questions, and Further Bible Verses each day. The Week in Review will provide a chance to go over the big picture and glean a bit more of the messages.

The study is designed to be highly individualized, good for small groups and cell groups, but also great for individuals who are looking to improve their knowledge base.

What's to be done each day?

Our Table of Contents, following this introduction, shows the comprehensive list of chapters that will be covered in the course. Each day of the month-long study is clearly marked so that you'll always know where to pick up.

Each day you will complete the following mini-segments:

1. **DAILY READING:** You will read one or two chapters in each session, and sometimes the reading will include a study tool such as one of our timelines or our map.
2. **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS:** You'll be given six or seven questions that require either filling in the blanks, picking a multiple-choice answer, or answering True/False. Each verse is provided where the answer can be found, and the answers are also included at the end of each day's materials.
3. **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:** You'll receive two or three longer questions requiring thought and written answers. These are often an effort to get students to think of the passage in terms of how it affects them in postmodern times. These are highly subjective, so they don't come with answers, but you'll find many are covered in the ANSWERS section under APPLICATION HELP. Some questions will not require any help while others will contain prompts, explanations or further information.
4. **RECOMMENDED BIBLE VERSES:** While the miracles that occurred on the Exodus journey are certainly unforgettable, God repeats what He says to the Hebrew people in many other parts of the Bible. We will guide you to them. We suggest you take the time to read scriptures that emphasize the ones you are reading that day.
5. **ANSWERS & HELP:** The Short-Answer Questions are answered here, and may help when answering the Application Questions.
6. **MAP OF THE EXODUS:** This will give you the opportunity to see where all these places are from the text, which may help in making sense of the reading material. This map should be kept available during your studies so you can get a clearer picture of what's along the journey, what other nations were involved, etc.
7. **WEEK IN REVIEW:** Following each week, or each five days of study, you'll find a Week in Review section that reinforces what you learned that week. You can work on the Week in Review either as you go along (answering a question each day) or by applying one study session at the end of each five-day study week. It can be the sixth day of study.
8. **DEEP DIVES:** The fact is, these readings include some of the most difficult passages to understand given today's culture, such as God calling a genocide in Numbers 31. Hence the Application Help in several cases include Deep Dives to help Christians understand these topics better. These explanations may bring personal peace about difficult issues, but also withstand the condescension and misunderstandings that come from reading them.

The concept behind our MOST POPULAR VERSES, and what VERSION OF THE BIBLE we use:

We try to create our studies in ways that any version of the Bible can be used. Nonetheless we gravitate in research to the two most popular translations so as to keep with common language to examine challenging constructs. This study was created using the **KJV (King James Version)** and the **NIV (New International Version)**.

The most popular verses (MPVs) are featured each day as well as taking up an entire study section at the end. Their popularity today is derived by software that recognizes how many times a scripture is searched on popular websites. All of the 30,000+ scriptures in the Bible have a ranking number. At present, the #1 position goes to John 3:16.

With just a little time each day over the next 30 days (with one day of rest each week), you will have a wonderful opportunity to know the ENTIRE story of the Exodus journey better. By the end of the month, you will relate to the wandering Hebrew people and find remarkable how their desert journey can mirror our walk with Christ—the good, the difficult, and the beautiful.

THE ENTIRE EXODUS

The Books of Exodus,
Numbers and Deuteronomy
(1446-1406 BC)



Notable places from Bible times

Places from the Exodus story

Small regions, borders unknown

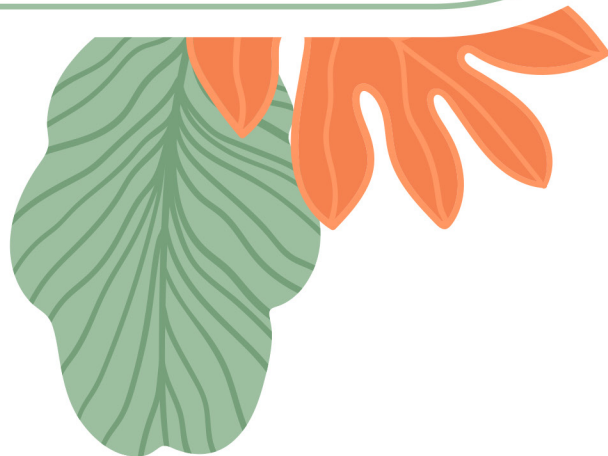
Established cities or landmarks





NUMBERS & DEUTERONOMY

Introduction-Numbers 12



WEEK 1

Intro:

Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Numbers/Deuteronomy

The Book of Exodus actually covers only the first year of the Exodus journey. The other 39 years are covered between the Books of Numbers and Deuteronomy!

Once extracted from the lengthy records and lists, the stories in Numbers and Deuteronomy are equally compelling as those in the Book of Exodus, and they are just as exciting and heartfelt. With this study, you have the opportunity here to know all the stories about the Exodus journey—from Rameses, Egypt to Jericho in the Promised Land—instead of just the first few.

You'll also be able to see what God was like as a commander for the new nation as they struggled to mature, as well as to survive among heathen nations.

Instead of a Bible reading, today we are asking you to read this FAQ about the Exodus journey. These are general questions for which we provide answers. The Application Questions at the end are for reflection.

1. Are Numbers and Deuteronomy even relevant to Christians today?

If David vs. Goliath or Jonah and the big fish are relevant, then so are these stories—maybe even more so! Many people think that God provided one miracle after another during the Old Testament historic period. However, this isn't so! There are only two periods in history where God came so astonishingly and physically close that He could be heard aloud by people. One period Christians know best is that of the ministry of Christ. The only other was during the Exodus journey, which we are studying! If you want to know what God sounds like, asks of people, and how He responds when we ask for things, then these passages will tell you more than most others.

God's voice and presence were clear, front and center, during the Exodus journey like they never were before or since, save during the ministry of Christ. A great deal about God's nature and the history of our faith come clear only by reading these passages, and they are a relevant path to Christ.

2. If these two books are so amazing, why don't more pastors and teachers utilize them?

Many pastors and teachers avoid these books for two reasons. First, the stories are imbedded in lists and records, and extracting them be quite challenging (We have extracted them for you!). Second, these books actually contain several of the most challenging passages in the Bible for modern-day people to understand. It can be quite intimidating to try and to make clear God's motivations in calling for genocides, punishments, and invasions.

3. What part of the Exodus journey does each book cover?

Here is a quick summary of the three books of the Pentateuch containing historic stories about the Exodus journey—Exodus, Numbers and Deuteronomy:

- The Book of Exodus only covers year one of the 40-year Exodus journey. It covers the Ten Commandments and the making of the golden calf idol, which took place in month three or possibly four of the journey. Afterward, the people only leave Mount Sinai after staying there for a year.
- Numbers picks up where the Book of Exodus leaves off. It contains many of the stories of the Hebrew people's 39 years in the wilderness, even though it starts with a 10-chapter census we are skipping.
- Deuteronomy all takes place on Mount Nebo, east of the Promised Land. It is filled with Moses' sermons. He carefully covers the details of the stories, but in the past tense, reminding the Israelites of everything they learned. Some of the stories are redundant to those that actually occurred in Exodus and Numbers, so it gives readers another view or voice to many great Exodus stories.

4. Isn't the death of Moses in Deuteronomy?

Yes, and it is the only book of the Bible to cover it. The death is also mentioned briefly in the Book of Jude.

5. I'm terrible in math! Should I be intimidated by the Book of Numbers?

A lot of people think the Book of Numbers is all facts and figures and census concerns. That is only because the first 10 chapters cover a census. But the rest contains great stories, so we start on Chapter 11. This is a great reminder that the Bible is not written like a novel, where information is placed in the easiest way to be retained and understood. It is a historical record, a documentation. But once you get past this challenge, you will be able to see God's nature, His desires and dislikes much more clearly.

6. What stories are in the Book of Numbers?

Here is a list. Some may sound vaguely familiar and may give you an urge to read them. There are some other short narratives in Numbers, but we are only looking at these more detailed ones:

- Numbers 11: The Israelites complain; the Lord sends quail
- Numbers 12: Miriam and Aaron oppose Moses
- Numbers 13-14: God extends the journey from possibly only 11 days to 40 years
- Numbers 16: The Kohath rebellion
- Numbers 17: The budding of Aaron's staff
- Numbers 20: 1-13: Water pours from the rock
- Numbers 21:4-9: The bronze snake; defeat of two kings
- Numbers 22-23: Balaam's donkey speaks God's truth
- Numbers 25: Moab seduces Israel
- Numbers 27: Women are awarded property for the first time in history
- Numbers 31:1-24: The Midianites: Wait, Did God just call for a genocide??

7. What stories from Deuteronomy will this study cover?

Again, Deuteronomy covers essentially the sermons of Moses given just before the conquest of Jericho (covered in Joshua). In those sermons he tells the stories of what happened. We will cover some of those:

- Deuteronomy 1: A backdrop for the future
- Deuteronomy 4: Praying forward/looking back
- Deuteronomy 5: The Ten Commandments
- Deuteronomy 9: The golden calf
- Deuteronomy 10: The remaking of the tablets
- Deuteronomy 34: The death of Moses

8. Will we have to read any of the Law? Why should we want to?

We'll take one day to read a smattering of laws in Deuteronomy and with good reason. The author of Psalm 119 (the longest Psalm with 178 verses) used a recurring theme to create the lengthy poem about how much he loves to read God's laws and His Word. The author is actually speaking of the Levitical Law in Numbers and Deuteronomy, the same laws that often seem really strict and include directions for stoning people. So why would he say this?

Most of the laws, in spite of our vast cultural differences, are clear examples of how to show love, consideration or kindness—to women, to animals, to each other, to foreigners, and to God Himself. Many laws stem from our lack of understanding and may have to do with germs and lack of medicines that we have today. Once you start reading God's laws, you may not want to stop!

9. How could Moses have written Deuteronomy if his own death is in the book?

Most scholars believe the last chapter of Deuteronomy, covering the death of Moses, and possibly the last three chapters were written by his scribes to complete the story of his life as part of their records.

10. Will we be better able to understand why God would order invasions and genocides, order virgins to be saved, order women and children killed, and other horrors?

Some students love the idea of being able to answer skeptics with their annoying references to the Old Testament being lies or fiction. Bring it on, we say! We do sympathize with people trying to work their way through the Old Testament without good teaching aids. You can rest assured that what God ordered, He did for a reason, and He is interested in letting us know as much as we can about it. We've included some information on why God may have done the things He did, digging into the history behind the egregious nations and commentary of great scholars on the subject.

Some skeptics enjoy the argument, "The Old and New Testament 'Gods' have to be two different beings. The Old Testament God seems so mean!" And some incidents they reference are from Numbers and Deuteronomy. Can you help reconcile these manifestations of God into one vision? Let's make way for our first Deep Dive here to better acquaint us with a strong answer.



DEEP DIVE #1:

Thoughts to reconcile the Old and New Testament God

Yes, this **IS** the same God who told us to pray for those who persecute you and love your enemies. As this is a very popular question, let's take one of several deep dives here and now:

One principle we should understand and be aware of throughout this study is that God did not draw near to individuals in the Old Testament, unless:

1. They were special and chosen by Him to accomplish special things;
2. They were great examples and committed in their faith and worship. One of the only ones known to do so was Job, of whom the Book of Job is written.

People in the Old Testament were not even encouraged to speak God's name. It was considered disrespectful (and this is where the spelling of God as "G-d" comes from). In the New Testament, we are encouraged to call Him Father. That is quite a leap forward.

This is why Jesus called His New Covenant the Good News. His death and resurrection enabled us to draw near to God—to become less like players on a sports team responding to a coach's shoutouts, and more like children sharing a home with their Heavenly Father. We can draw near to the Throne of Grace with confidence (Hebrews 4:16), calling God "Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15). Since Christ is our Chief Priest, God relates to us individually as His children, not only welcome on His playing field, but welcome in His home.

As we approach the stories of this study, you will see this analogy of God as Israel's Old Testament coach or drill sergeant become clear.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Look at the list of stories, first in the Book of Numbers and then in Deuteronomy. How many of them have you actually read in the past? Has anything been preventing you from reading them before? If so, what was it and how can you get past that now?

- 02** Did our FAQ answer all your questions? If not, write some down below, as the study will likely touch upon them.



Numbers 10:11-36-11:35: The People Grumble for Meat

READ NUMBERS 10:11-11:35

While starting about a third of the way through the Book of Numbers, it is important to know the setting, background, and time stamp at this juncture in Numbers. Here is a brief description of what happened in Numbers 1 through the first part of Numbers 10.

These chapters contain a census for creating an army. No setting, no stories. It begins where Exodus left off. The stories begin in Chapter 11, and the year is approximately 1445 BC.

The passages marked in Numbers 10 give you the backdrop and setting and circumstances. They tell some truly interesting things:

1. The people are getting ready to leave Mount Sinai, which is where they got the Ten Commandments, made the golden calf idol, and then created the Tabernacle and Ark of the Covenant.
2. The people had been at Mount Sinai for a year.
3. They are moving into another desert, the Desert of Paran (see your map, which contains some famous places that you will get to know during your studies).

MOST POPULAR VERSE

“Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised on oath to their ancestors?”

**Numbers 11:12
(Moses speaking to God)**

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 What did the Israelites name the place where God sent down fire? (11:3)

- 02 How many men did God tell Moses to choose from among the elders to share the burden of the people? (11:16) _____
- 03 How long did God tell the Israelites they would eat meat? (11:20) _____
- 04 Who were the two elders who stayed in the camp? (11:26) _____, _____
- 05 True/False: Moses wished that all the Israelites were prophets. (11:29)
- 06 What did God send for the Israelites to eat? (11:31) _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01 The people are complaining in Numbers 11:5, looking back and remembering how “good” things were when they were slaves. They seem to have forgotten that God Himself was rescuing them. Have you ever experienced a time where things got worse before they got better? What kind of encouragement would you give to someone to help them face a similar situation?

- 02 Look at Moses’ words in today’s most popular verse above, 11:12. He is using sarcasm while talking to God! What does this tell you about how we can approach God?



Numbers 12: Miriam & Aaron Oppose Moses

READ NUMBERS 12

The end of Numbers 11 told us that the incident with the quail happened in the Desert of Paran, and the people named the place Kibroth Hattaavah (graves of craving). This is because there they buried those who were failing their “bootcamp” and complained for better food. They then moved on to Hazeroth (see the map), which is where this chapter takes place.

MOST POPULAR VERSE

“Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.”

Numbers 12:

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** True/False: Moses was humbler than anyone else on earth. (v. 3)
- 02** According to verse 6, God reveals Himself to prophets in _____ and _____.
- 03** True/False: God spoke to Moses differently than other prophets. (v. 8)
- 04** After God had spoken to Miriam and Aaron, Miriam's skin became _____ (v. 10)
- 05** How long was Miriam shut out of the camp? (v. 14) _____
- 06** Where did all this take place? (v. 16) _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Look at verse 12:1, which reveals Moses as having married a Cushite woman. Look up the word Cushite in a dictionary. Now look at Genesis 10 and try to pick out the ancestor in the Table of Nations from which this wife descended. What about this woman may have sparked the ill feelings from Miriam and Aaron?

- 02** Miriam and Aaron had a grievance against Moses, and in doing so launched a rebellion and were subsequently punished. God chose to remind them that Moses was His representative and His chosen leader. What can we learn from Miriam and Aaron about any grievances we might have with our own spiritual leaders?



DEEP DIVE #2:

What Caused the Argument over Moses' Wife?

1. It might be a surprise that Moses had even one wife, let alone two. Some Christians know of his wife Zipporah, whom he met after killing an Egyptian and escaping to Midian (Exodus 2). According to the historian Josephus, this Cushite wife's name was Tharbis (alternatively Adoniah). She was "a Cushite princess of the Kingdom of Kush, who married Moses prior to his marriage to Zipporah." (Some Christian sources deny Josephus' idea that she was a first wife, but one reason it's fun to explore Numbers and Deuteronomy is that such intrigue surfaces!)

The fact is, Moses may have married a woman of significantly darker skin and may have sparked one of the first racial arguments among the people. Cushite means "African," and the wife's language is indigenous to the future African nations of Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, and Kenya.

In Genesis 10:6, the Table of Nations implies Moses' Cushite wife is a descendent of Noah's least-favored son Ham (whose eldest son is named Cush). Hence the argument could conversely have been about her lack of any Jewish blood.

(Ham's son Cush was born hundreds of years before the 12 tribes were born and was not a part of Abraham's line. Abraham is the grandfather of Jacob, aka Israel, who fathered the 12 tribes.) However, she must have been a believer somehow entwined with the tribes while they were in Egypt, or why else would a former member of royalty put herself through the dusty grit and hard life of the Exodus journey?

2. Aaron and Miriam's purpose in the rebellion was to claim a position of power. Desiring power can never be a legitimate motivation for rebelling against authority. If our purpose is to magnify our own power, then our aim is untrue, and we have lost the standing to perceive whether our authority figures are legitimate. Our own desires have made us incapable of discerning God's authority in the situation.

Today's leaders don't necessarily manifest God's authority face to face as Moses did. Yet God commands us to respect the authority of all leaders (Romans 13:1-3). This does not mean that leaders must never be questioned, held accountable, or even replaced if necessary. It does mean that whenever we have a grievance against those in authority, our duty is to discern the ways in which their leadership is a manifestation of God's authority. We should respect them for the authority they have, even as we seek to correct, limit, or even remove them from power.



Numbers 13 & 14: God Extends the Journey to 40 Years!

READ NUMBERS 13 & 14

The last verse of chapter 12 states that the people left Hazeroth (known as the place where Miriam contracted leprosy—see your map) and camped in the Desert of Paran again. The Desert of Paran is above the Sinai Peninsula and is quite vast. But it contains the area known as Kadesh Barnea and is where the events of Numbers 13 & 14 take place. As these two chapters are likely the most famous in the Book of Numbers, try to retain Kadesh Barnea as the place where God changed the length of the Exodus journey from 11 days to 40 years!

MOST POPULAR VERSE

“If you put these people to death all at one time, the nations who have heard this report about you will say, ‘The LORD was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on oath, so he slaughtered them in the wilderness.’”

Numbers 14:14-15
(Moses beseeching God)

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** What did Moses ask the leaders to bring back with them? (13:20) _____
- 02** How long did the leaders explore the land of Canaan? (13:25) _____
- 03** Who spoke up and said that they should take possession of the land anyway? (13:30)

- 04** According to chapter 14, verse 10, the Israelites wanted to do this to Moses and Aaron:

- 05** True/False: Moses tells the Lord that if He kills the Israelites, it will make Him look bad to the other nations (14:13-15).
- 06** Who were the only two that were permitted to enter the promised land? (14:30)
_____, _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** From the last few verses in chapter 13, we see these spies as being utter pessimists. They could not conceive of the strength and goodness of God, not even after witnessing the many miracles God had already provided them. How might a pessimistic attitude also interfere with our ability to exercise our faith?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 02** The Israelites had two accounts given to them, from Caleb and Joshua and from the other 10 spies and they had to decide which account to which they were going to listen and give credence. Have you ever been in a situation where you had to decide whose testimony to trust? What were the circumstances? And what kind of decision criteria might have helped Israelites?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Numbers 16: The Kohath Rebellion

READ NUMBERS 16

This chapter is considered one of the most challenging for Christians to understand, as it shows God slaughtering 250 people in a nightmarish scene. Let's see what happens while still at Kadesh Barnea, and a rebellion arises against Moses.

MOST POPULAR VERSE

"Separate yourselves from this assembly so I can put an end to them at once."

Numbers 16:21

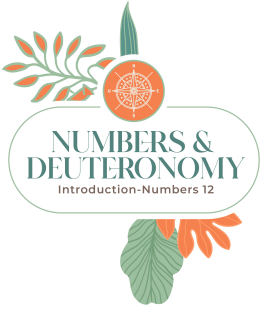
TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** What tribe was Korah from? (v. 1) _____
- 02** How many men rose in opposition with Korah? (v. 2) _____
- 03** What were the names of the two men who refused to come to the tent of meeting? (v. 12) _____, _____
- 04** True/False: The Israelites blamed Moses and Aaron for the deaths of Korah and his followers. (v. 41) _____
- 05** Who made atonement for the people? (v. 46) _____
- 06** How many people died in the plague? (v. 49) _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In verse 4, when the rebellion was made clear to Moses, he responds in an unusual manner. What does this tell us about Moses' humility and his faith?

- 02** The head rebel Korah in verse 3 implied Moses' leadership was not necessary. He accused Moses of pride and self-seeking, despite Moses' clear appointment by God. Accusations can sometimes hold more truth about the accuser than the accused. How was Korah's pride more evident in his words and accusation?



WEEK 1 IN REVIEW

This is the first of four Weeks in Review with one following each week's five days of study. There are no right or wrong answers below. These are just another opportunity to reflect on how the book can serve you best.

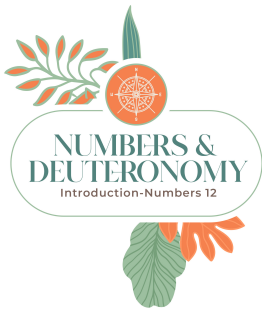
Day 1: We learned a lot of facts about the Books of Numbers and Deuteronomy on this day. Which ones were keepers for your heart and memory? Why?

Day 2: Moses may have used sarcasm when conversing with God, but he was sharing a very sincere problem that he didn't know out to solve. Think about a situation you're facing that you may not know how to solve. How can you learn and implement some of Moses' tactics in your prayers? Be sincere and listen for God's answer as Moses would have.

Day 3: The Exodus journey is often regarded as a boot camp for Israel so that as a nation, it would be strong and disciplined and therefore respected by violent neighbors. Has there been a time when God may have had you in a "boot camp," trying to get you to mature spiritually? What were the circumstances? What would you share about the experience with others?

Day 4: In this reading, the issue that seemed to most displease God was the negative confession, which undermined not only His ability to help the people, but also His desire. How can we absorb this lesson into our Christian thinking so we don't get caught up in negativity?

Day 5: When facing Korah and his rebellion, Moses was not afraid to put God to the test because he had confidence in his calling and God's protection. In what ways can we use this lesson in our own lives to increase our faith and "test" God?



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 2

1. Taberah
2. Seventy
3. A month
4. Eldad, Medad
5. True
6. Quail

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

Growth is part of the Christian experience; it doesn't end with salvation. When God takes us on journeys, often there are times and places where the beginning looked better than the middle. As the saying goes, "Sometimes things have to feel worse before they can feel better." We can learn a great deal from the people's impatience and seeming need for immediate gratification. God is patient but pretty relentless in helping us grow out of that phase.

Help with Question #2:

Moses' relationship with God was so close that God called Moses a friend and the only fallen man He had ever spoken to face to face. And yet, here is sarcasm being sent up to God. The fact is, God uses sarcasm and so did Jesus. Here are some enlightening verses: Exodus 14:15-16, Isaiah 44:15-17, Amos 4:1. And in Matthew 23, Christ unleashes an onslaught containing sarcasm against the Pharisees for their hypocrisy and distorted values. Apostle Paul used sarcasm in several Epistles including 1 Corinthians 4:8-10.

God would rather see us righteously angry than lukewarm about things that are very upsetting to Him.

FROM DAY 3

1. True
2. Visions, dreams
3. True
4. Leprous
5. Seven days
6. Hazeroth

FROM DAY 4

1. Fruit
2. 40 days
3. Caleb
4. Stone them
5. True
6. Caleb, Joshua

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

Be careful in not judging the people of Israel too harshly. Though their behavior was atrocious, most Christians believe if they had been there (or at the trial of Christ, etc.) that they would have fallen prey to their own worst instincts also. The knowledge of such prevents us from becoming divisive.

FROM DAY 5

1. Levi
2. 250 men
3. Dathan, Abiram
4. True
5. Aaron
6. 14,700

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

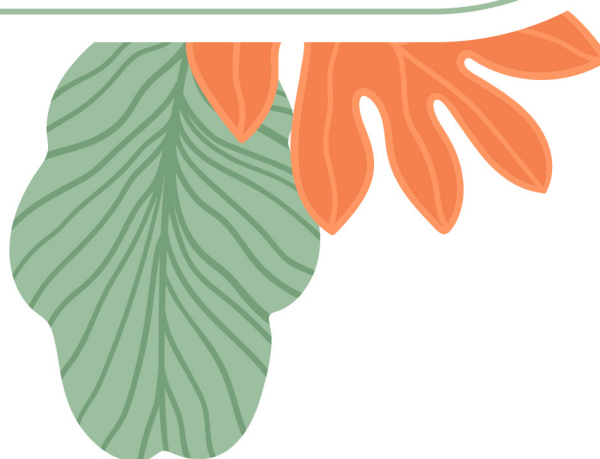
Be careful in not judging the people of Israel too harshly. Though their Help understanding the situation: Unfortunately, some people can't tolerate the facts, but that doesn't make the facts any less true: It was a fact that God was only speaking personally and intimately to Moses. It is also a fact that if the people's trust in Moses was undermined, they would be unable to hear God, and their future would be short-lived and no better than their cut-throat neighbors'. Hence, to keep His word and bring Israel home, God had no better option than to sideline these players.

Some of us have extreme trouble going to our knees, let alone our faces, when praying to God. But those who have done it will be the first to say they can feel God coming very close. James 4:6-7 tell us that "God resists the proud but draws near to the humble." It's important to practice humility before stepping into the Throne Room of Grace.



NUMBERS & DEUTERONOMY

Numbers 17-25



WEEK 2

Numbers 17: Aaron's Staff Buds

READ NUMBERS 17

This is another tough lesson on something that we are not likely to understand well in our culture—suppressing rebellion. In many of today's industrialized cultures, we see more rebellions—marches, demonstrations, push-back—than ever before. Everyone seems to feel they have the right to speak and expect change. You'll see in this early culture God's calling to “be still” and “keep it to yourself,” as a key to unity and peace.

MOST POPULAR VERSE

“The Israelites said to Moses, ‘We will die! We are lost, we are all lost!’”

Numbers 17:12

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 How many staffs did God tell Moses to collect from the Israelites? (v. 2) _____
- 02 True/False: The twelve staffs represented to twelve tribes of Israel. (v. 2)
- 03 Of which tribe was Aaron the leader? (v. 3) _____
- 04 Whose staff budded? (v. 8) _____
- 05 True/False: Aaron's staff grew roses. (v. 8)
- 06 True/False: God didn't want anyone to die. (v. 10)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01 The Israelites experienced another miracle with the budding of Aaron's staff. Although this miracle served a purpose in declaring Aaron's leadership, it did not put an end to the Israelites' complaining or rebellion. What does this tell us about relying solely on signs and miracles for our faith?

- 02 God seems to have worked through the rebellion situation, having made the Israelites afraid of crossing Him. What does this tell us about fearing God? When might fear of the Lord be a good thing?



DEEP DIVE #3:

What is the 'Coach Analogy' to explain the Old Testament?

We can see from the conclusion of the chapter that the people have come to a point of deeply fearing God, and after the horror that transpired in Chapter 16 and the rebellion, it appears that God is trying to scare the people... It seems God spent a lot of time in the Old Testament getting people to fear Him, versus more time in the New Testament teaching us not to be afraid to approach. So, why is that?

The Coach Analogy

The big difference in the Old and New Testament unveilings of God is to whom He is speaking. As previously stated, God wasn't speaking His most intimate thoughts directly to individual followers—He was speaking to priests and prophets, and the information was passed on to the masses through a few.

Think of the coach for a sports team. That coach would blow a loud whistle and shout orders when speaking to the whole team and leave your ears ringing. That is the situation of God on the Exodus journey. He was speaking to a team in one of the most crucial games in history. If you were in the coach's office having a private conversation, there wouldn't be any hollering speeches or whistle blowing or fouls or time-outs. It would be about your abilities, plans for you, your requests and requirements, their hopes for you. Through Christ, we are invited into the Throne Room of Grace, where we can approach God with confidence.

We will reveal more about the God of the Old/New Testaments as we move forward.



Numbers 20:1-13: Water from a Rock

READ NUMBERS 20:1-13

Today's story takes place at Kadesh Barnea (see your map). Chapters 18 and 19 were new laws concerning priests, Levites, and rituals. So, we are skipping to this important chapter, where Moses makes a seeming harmless mistake that eventually keeps him out of the Promised Land. Miriam also passes away here.

MOST POPULAR VERSE

"But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, 'Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.'"

Numbers 20:12

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** Kadesh Barnea is located in which desert or wilderness? (v. 1) _____
- 02** Where did Miriam die? (v. 1) _____
- 03** The Israelites got angry with Moses and Aaron because there was no (v. 2) _____
- 04** God told Moses that He would bring water out of a (v. 8) _____
- 05** How many times did Moses hit the rock with his staff? (v. 11) _____
- 06** Verse 13 tells us that these were the waters of _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Read the people's complaint in verses 20:3-5. Water is a primal need, and at this point, we have 2.4 million people who must have been feeling desperate. Although they complained about their situation, God still responded by providing for their need. What can we learn here about how we can approach God with our needs and wants?

- 02** As a result of the way Moses had provided the water, he was prohibited from entering the Promise Land. Moses had struck the rock twice instead of once, although God only told him to speak to it. And with his statement "must we bring you water," he implied that he had provided the miracles instead of God. Many people, especially skeptics, have felt that God was being too harsh on Moses here.



Numbers 21: The Snake Held High in the Wilderness

READ NUMBERS 21

This is a more commonly known story among Christians than others in Numbers as it directly foreshadows the death of Christ. It can sound a bit esoteric and mysterious until one realizes the symbols. The rest of the chapter involves Israel striking back at nations that would stand in their way. God asking the Israelites to attack and defeat others will be covered in the study of the genocide of the Midians ordered in Numbers 31.

MOST POPULAR VERSE

“Let us pass through your country. We will not turn aside into any field or vineyard, or drink water from any well. We will travel along the King’s Highway until we have passed through your territory.”

Numbers 21:22

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** What country did the Israelites travel around after leaving Mount Hor? (v. 4)

- 02** The Israelites complained again to Moses because there was not (v. 5) _____
- 03** What did the snakes do to the people? (v. 6) _____
- 04** True/False: The Israelites recognized their sin. (v. 7)
- 05** God told Moses to make a snake and put it up on this: _____ (v. 8)
- 06** Whoever looked upon the snake would not suffer with _____ (v. 8)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In verse 1, the people are leaving Mount Hor and their grumbling is, by now, nothing new. We'd all like to think we would have behaved differently. Do you think anything could have improved their situation? How can we use this in our lives?

- 02** This story of holding up a serpent can seem ridiculous to those who don't understand the symbolism. What does the snake stand for, and what does holding it up symbolize? How might this miracle apply to us today?



Numbers 22-23: Balaam's Talking Donkey

READ NUMBERS 21

Today's is probably the most well-known story in the Book of Numbers. Most people know it as "the talking donkey story." God indeed gives the power to a lower life form to speak human language and call for justice. Next to his employer, Moab's King Balak, false prophet Balaam can seem like a very obedient guy; so what is the reason for God's anger?

Many people think Israel did very little fighting before taking over the Promised Land. However, by the end of chapter 21, Israel had had to destroy surrounding nations who came against them or threatened to. These included the Canaanite city of Arad, all the cities of the Amorites, and the Land of Bashan (see the territories on your map). The people of Israel have moved on and are now located across the Jordan from Jericho.

MOST POPULAR VERSE

"When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road with a drawn sword in his hand, it turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat it to get it back on the road."

Numbers 22:23

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** Balak was the son of _____ (v. 2).
- Balak asked Balaam to _____ the Israelites (v. 6).
- 02** True/False: God appeared to Balaam (v. 9)
- 03** Balaam's donkey saw an angel of the Lord with what in his hand? _____ (v. 23)
- 04** Balaam's donkey was beaten these many times: _____ (v. 28).
- 05** True/False: Balaam said he would only speak the words that God put in his
- 06** mouth (v. 38).

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Balaam's donkey could see the angel of the Lord right away, yet it took his owner Balaam much longer. Many people have stories of animals sensing things that are not visible to our human eyes. What do you think about this? And what might this tell us about God's devotion to His creatures?

- 02** God was very upset with Balaam for beating his donkey, and seems to have wanted Balaam to more carefully consider his donkey's behavior and consider that something unusual was taking place. How can we prevent ourselves from behaving like Balaam and ignoring warnings from God? What do those warnings sometimes look like?



Numbers 25: Moab Seduces Israel

READ NUMBERS 25

Here, King Balak of Moab and Balaam the false prophet have hatched a scheme to derail the nation of Israel before it can take over its Promised Land. They schemed to seduce Israel's men to sleep with their women and to celebrate their idols. One of the bits of confusion is that it isn't until Numbers 31:16 that Balak's/Balaam's names are actually mentioned by God as the perpetrators behind the scheme. Keep in mind that they were the originators of what goes on while you read this chapter.

The scheme is perverse and something we should not ignore, given we also are living in very sexualized societies, and people do similar things to cause stumbling.

This story takes place in Shittim, one of the most northern points of the Exodus journey (see your map).

MOST POPULAR VERSE

"Then an Israelite man brought into the camp a Midianite woman right before the eyes of Moses and the whole assembly of Israel while they were weeping at the entrance to the tent of meeting."

Numbers 25:6

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** The Moabite women were not only seducing the Israelite men, but invited them to this: (v. 2) _____
- 02** God told Moses to kill all the leaders so that His anger may be turned _____ from Israel. (v. 4)
- 03** Just under one percent of the population died in this plague, which is how many people? (v. 9) _____
- 04** Who turned God's anger away from the Israelites? (v. 11) _____
- 05** According to verse 13, Phineas son of Eleazar made _____ for the Israelites.
- 06** What was the name of the Israelite who was killed with the Midianite woman? (v. 14)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** The false prophet Balaam was unable to curse Israel even though King Balak of Moab had paid him to do so. Balaam felt torn about the failure and thus advised the king to "try to seduce the nation instead." The king then influenced the women to get Israel to worship other gods and have illicit relations with the men. In your life, what seductions have you seen that the world offers? How might you alert others to more easily be able to these seductions as traps?

- 02** In verse 6, a man parades a Midianite woman right past Moses, which seems almost inconceivable. Whether this man failed to see Moses or just didn't care, we don't know, but he was blind to the reaction of others until it was too late. How can sin change our perspective and create blind spots? What kind of lessons can we learn from this story?



WEEK 2 IN REVIEW

Day 1: We talked about God speaking to Israel like a coach would on a field. The prophets and priests were like those players important enough to be allowed into the coach's office. Have you ever been invited to your coach's house?? Reflect on how that would be even more intimate. Reflect on the type of relationship that Christ made available to us.

Day 2: In question #1 you were asked to reflect on what improved behavior the Israelites may have strived for as they faced relocation challenges. Think of a challenge in your life or future life where this lesson might serve you and improve actions you may have been unsure about.

Day 3: This is not the first time that, while God is trying to save the people, they are accusing Him of trying to kill them. While it is a very popular question when studying these passages, it can't be asked too often: How can we use this lesson in our own lives? Have you ever been afraid you might die in a situation where God was trying to improve your life? What can you learn from it now?

Day 4: Another thing that was making God angry with Balaam was his status as a "prophet for hire." God's people are supposed to take care of their prophets, but their vision should be life-long caring, not a situation for submitting invoices. What types of people today are paid for spiritual advice that we should avoid? (One example: Mediums)

Day 5: Reflect on Balaam's proposal to King Balak that he work up a scheme to seduce Israel so that God would curse them. What such schemes do you see now or possibly arising in the future, given so much media available to us?



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 1

1. 12
2. True
3. Levi
4. Aaron
5. False (almonds)
6. True

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

This miracle is actually jaw-dropping. Making greenery grow? Overnight and without water or nutrition? Some people find this miracle a bit flinch-worthy, as our culture associates uninvited nature growing in strange places with mold, mildew and poison mushrooms. Almond trees are actually quite beautiful, and their “fruit” is one of the healthiest foods available. So, let’s consider that the people of Israel would have found this amazing, and it would have sparked many a conversation over the cleverness of a God who could accomplish it.

FROM DAY 2

1. Zin (not to be confused with the Desert of Sin, which is on the Mt. Sinai Peninsula)
2. Kadesh
3. Water
4. Rock
5. Twice
6. Meribah

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #2:

Moses striking the rock again, with all sorts of people watching, drove deeper their ability to doubt, which was already having plague-level effects. Even if he only waited three minutes before tapping again, the message was, “Uh-oh. Might not this God do what we need?” It caused a lot of people to stumble.

The text said God was briefly angry. He refused to allow Moses to move into the Promised Land when the time came. This is listed in several places as a punishment; however, one thing can’t be overlooked: The Transfiguration in Matthew 17. Here, Moses appeared and spoke to Jesus along with the prophet Elijah, and they were both radiating light and offering a wealth of encouragement to our Lord and Savior. He was with God and had been since the day he died, 1,400 years earlier.

FROM DAY 3

1. Edom
2. Bread, water
3. Bit them
4. True
5. Pole
6. Death

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

History is filled with stories of parents leading their children away from slavery into a different country. The journey might certainly bring complaints about too much work, too little food, and too much stress of the unknown. The parents would have said, “Please stop! We will get there; I keep telling you!” Let’s say such a family had three children. In this story, God has 2.4 million children. They all had free will (and many had big mouths), and they were able to influence each other. The first thing we could do is understand as fully as possible what the Lord was working with. It was not easy, not fun, and could be a thankless job, even with a series of unprecedented miracles in history.

FROM DAY 3

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #2:

In John 3, we read of Jesus' nighttime meeting with Nicodemus, a Pharisee. Jesus told Nicodemus that a person must be born again to enter the Kingdom of God. Nicodemus wanted to know what being "born again" meant. He thought it was physical, but Jesus was implying something spiritual. In answer to Nicodemus' question, Jesus pointed back to this very story from Numbers 21 to explain that He Himself, as the Savior, must be lifted up just like the bronze serpent:

14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life. –John 3:14-15

This story in Numbers is a foreshadowing of what Jesus would do on the cross 1,400 years later.

Several centuries after this episode, Hezekiah became king over Israel. He was a righteous king who destroyed the objects of idolatry in Judah. One item was this bronze serpent, the one used by Moses in the desert. The Israelites had kept it for over 700 years and were "burning incense to it" (see 2 Kings 18:4). What God used as His instrument of salvation in one generation had become an idol in another! The people had forgotten God as the true deliverer and, as usual, substituted an idol in His place. This is a great lesson in not getting attached to objects with religious undertones. It is idolatry.

FROM DAY 4

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

God's creatures are here to help those made in His image. That they could see or hear things we can't may be that help sometimes. However, we will be just as lost watching an animal respond if we don't always have a heart for what God wants. Even if we have zero pets and we've never seen God's hand move across nature, we can be prepared by starting each day with a prayer for God to make His will plain to us. God obviously does not fulfill every desire brought before Him in prayer, but He does say that He will reveal Himself to those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

Help with Question #2:

Most Christians will testify to "a check in their spirit" as a sign that God is warning us against danger. This goes with dating the wrong person, taking the wrong job, making the wrong friends, etc. God does give other "signs," but not often. Christ discouraged people from asking for signs as they put God to a test. They also get us into conundrums such as, "I asked to see a red bird, but the one I just saw was orange...does that count?" And besides, God wants us to train ourselves to listen for His voice if we want to be closer to Him (John 10:27). Jesus told those asking for a sign to look back to the Exodus journey and all those miracles—the very passages we are reading this month!

1. Zippor
2. Curse
3. True
4. Sword
5. Three
6. True

FROM DAY 5

1. The sacrifices of their gods
2. Away
3. 24,000
4. Phineas son of Eleazar
5. Atonement
6. Zimri son of Salu

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

King Balak of Moab knew that if the Israelite men could be seduced into idol worship, that God Himself would curse them. This is a pretty ingenious scheme. It's similar in today's society, where we can communicate with each other in an instant; there are numerous schemes to seduce people into believing falsehoods and behaving offensively. As Christians, we ought to be careful of the internet, which sounds like an understatement. But we also don't want to be off in a corner and thereby become irrelevant. It is a balancing act that is personal and requires God's wisdom and guidance.

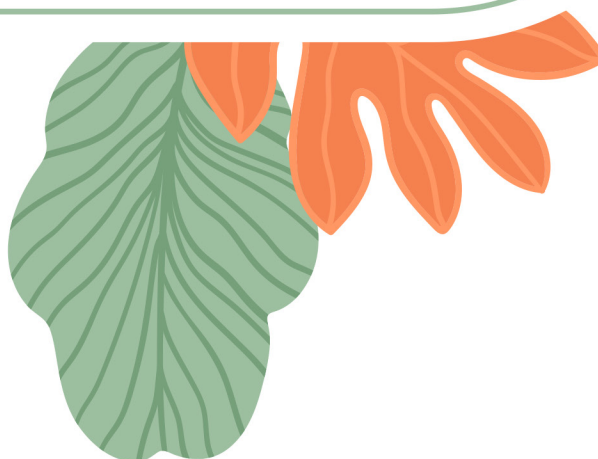
Help with Question #2:

Most of us have a story of stumbling seriously at some point in our walk, often early on. Today we must take seriously the idea that SO much of what we do and say is recorded. If we don't count the cost and fail at a project, the evidence is out there for all. If we fall back into an addiction, we may not be able to recover in private. If we backslide, there are plenty of 'Moabites and Midianites' around to mock us.



NUMBERS & DEUTERONOMY

Numbers 27- Deuteronomy 5



WEEK 3

Numbers 27:1-11: Five Women Inherit Property

READ NUMBERS 27:1-11

Chapter 26 is a census, so we are moving on to Chapter 27. Today's reading marks one of the first times in history that women were awarded property without husbands to put in charge of the settlement. It's a great example of how God through Moses strove to establish the most fair and just rules among the nations. God wanted Israel to be known for that, above riches and power.

MOST POPULAR VERSE

"Then an Israelite man brought into the camp a Midianite woman right before the eyes of Moses and the whole assembly of Israel while they were weeping at the entrance to the tent of meeting."

Numbers 27:8

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 What were the names of Zelophehad's daughters? (v. 1) _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.
- 02 These women were from which clan? (v. 1) _____
- 03 True/False: Zelophehad was one of Korah's followers. (v. 3)
- 04 The women asked for their father's property because he had died and left no (v. 3) _____.
- 05 True/False: God agreed with what the women said. (v. 7)
- 06 According to verse 8, if a man dies and has no son, his inheritance shall go to _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01 The five daughters of Zelophehad make their request in verses 1-5. What did they say was unfair about the law as it stood? What about these women's attitudes and approach to this situation may have helped result in a positive outcome?

- 02 Moses and the Lord agree on a course of action for the daughters of Zelophehad. However, sometimes rules and outcomes are not so easy to change. What modern "rules" concerning women, minorities or marginalized people today have you seen that you wish would change? Is there anything you can do to help that change? Why or why not?



Numbers 31: Wait, Did God Just Command a Genocide?

READ NUMBERS 31

God has asked the people to take over a land, but this is the first people of which He would say to kill almost everyone. What on earth is going on here? Definitely considered one of the toughest chapters in the Bible to reconcile with the teachings of Christ, let's move through it methodically to see what is being misunderstood.

MOST POPULAR VERSE

"The plunder remaining from the spoils that the soldiers took was 675,000 sheep."

Numbers 31:12

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** On whom did God order Moses to take vengeance? (v. 1) _____
- 02** Moses told the Israelites to send how many men from each tribe into battle? (v. 4)

- 03** How many Israelite men altogether went out to fight against the Midianites? (v. 5)

- 04** According to verse 8, the Israelites killed the five kings of Midian along with whom?

- 05** True/False: Moses was angry that the Israelites allowed the women to live. (v. 15)
- 06** True/False: It was because of Balaam's advice that the Midianite women enticed the Israelite men to be unfaithful. (v. 16)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In verse 15, Moses was angry because the children of Israel failed to see the dangers of sexual immorality and idolatry that the Midianite women represented. How were these threats more dangerous to the Israelites than the armies they faced on the battlefield?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 02** God's judgment against the Midianites may seem especially harsh. However, we know that God has the right to judge ALL His children and that He is a righteous judge (Psalm 50:6). How can this knowledge be especially helpful when we don't understand or His judgments seems especially harsh?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



DEEP DIVE #4:

What were God's intentions and motives in Numbers 31?

The Bible is an historic record. It isn't supposed to unfold with the ease of a novel, and the information is spread out so it could trick a person not watching carefully. And this chapter continues to trick many. So let us take another deep dive:

The Midianites were considered nomads, and this group of them was living in the nation of Moab. It is known that their temples required human sacrifices, and, like the Moabites, they hired male and female prostitutes to serve in their temples and they practiced bestiality.

Let's look at the fact so apparent that it might bite. The Midianites had the same type of utterly relaxed sexual norms as many nations have today—very few boundaries, and those that existed were likely misogynistic or selfish. Today billions of dollars a year are spent on medications that Midian didn't have to cure sexually transmitted diseases—their STDs were likely off the hook.

Midianite/Moabite women carried out the scheme to sexually seduce the men of Israel and cause them to fall into idolatry. If a swarm of women could accomplish this as easily as they did, seducing hundreds of men to spread their germs to a previously unexposed nation, think carefully of God's options. Nothing easy, right??

As well, this act of seduction is exclusive in that the trickery involved manipulating God Himself. Their aim was to get God to curse Israel and thus do their dirty work for them. It sounds a bit unbelievable that people could buy into a scheme like this, as our culture is dominated by nonbelievers. Think of people today who spend fortunes on spells, curses, and occult practices. Their numbers are growing, and they're a closer match to these people.

Oftentimes when people have trouble with God's behavior, it's because they are either forgetting or can't conceive of elements of His goodness. For example, God sees the future, whereas we can only see the past and present. He also sees the heart, whereas we can only see the outer man. That is why we think little fresh-cheeked children are eternally precious, and God knows which ones will grow into brutal psychopaths and bloodthirsty killers serving demonic forces.

Per allowing virgins to live, this was actually an act of mercy, as these would be the ones who had not slept with the temple prostitutes nor carried their social diseases into the camp.



Deuteronomy 1: Where Are We Now...

READ DEUTERONOMY 1

We are now finished with all the exciting and thought-provoking stories of Numbers and are moving into Deuteronomy. Today's reading will set the tone for the stories and give some perspective.

Moses now has the people across the Jordan from Jericho, which would be the first nation for the Israelites to invade in order to recover their Promised Land. He is now speaking in past tense, reviewing some stories from the Books of Exodus and Numbers to the new generation. This chapter is a look back to the beginning, when they left Egypt and moved to the place where the spies lost faith, about a year into the journey.

MOST POPULAR VERSE

"May the LORD, the
God of your ancestors,
increase you a
thousand times and
bless you as he has
promised!"

Deuteronomy 1:11

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** This chapter transpired in this year of the Exodus journey: _____ (v. 3)
- 02** Moses describes the current population of Israel in this way: _____ (v. 10)
- 03** Mount Sinai is also known by this name: _____ (v. 19)
- 04** The men asked Moses for this privilege in verse 22: _____
- 05** According to verse 23, how many spies did Moses send out? _____
- 06** Moses promised that God would defend the people against the giants in the Promised Land like He had done so before, in this country: _____ (v. 30)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** We get to hear Moses repeating details of stories told in Numbers 13-14 about the spies. What details or variation in this version did you find new or surprising?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 02** Several times, Moses is very blunt with the people about their failures. Today, parents are often afraid to speak harsh truths to their children for fear of destroying their self-esteem. What might be good rules for raising children that will prevent a sense of entitlement when actually they need a lot of work?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Deuteronomy 2-4: Praying Forward/Looking Back

READ DEUTERONOMY 2-4

These three chapters don't need to be read slowly or with a magnifier. Most of what Moses is saying can be easily guessed as he looks back on more principles, adventures and misadventures. Look for lines that reveal something about God we didn't know, as never has another nation seen God work and speak as openly as He did with Israel during the Exodus journey.

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 In verses 2:4-6, God told the people that this country would be afraid of them but not to harass them because He had given the land to Esau: _____
- 02 God also gave orders not to harass these people, as their land had been given to the descendants of Lot _____ (2:9)
- 03 In verse 3:22, Moses promised this to Joshua: _____
- 04 God told Moses He would not cross this river: _____ (3:27)
- 05 In verse 4:6, God says to follow the Law carefully as this would be the result: _____
- 06 Verse 4:33 asks if any other people had heard the voice of God, speaking out of fire, and _____.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

01 In verse 3:26, and in 4:21-24, Moses mentions that he himself will not be going into the Promised Land. And yet he doesn't sound upset about this turn of events. Why do you think this is?

02 Look carefully at verses 4:7-8. This is a great statement about what God's law is designed to do. How might this statement help us see more clearly the purpose behind the commandments God asks us to live by?

Recommended Bible Verses on **MOSES AT THE TRANSFIGURATION**: Matthew 17:1-9



Deuteronomy 5: The Ten Commandments Revisited

READ DEUTERONOMY 5

Today's chapter revisits the Ten Commandments given on Mount Sinai and told initially in Exodus 20. Note that Horeb is another name for Mount Sinai, which is where the Ten Commandments were given. We can't read these beautiful laws often enough, so here is a chance to hear from Moses' voice.

MOST POPULAR VERSE

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery."

Deuteronomy 5:6

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** The Israelites were to have no other _____ (v. 7).
- 02** According to verse 9, the Lord is a _____ God.
- 03** The Lord will show love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and do this: _____ (v. 10)
- 04** What day was to be set apart as holy? (v. 12) _____
- 05** Whom are we to honor? (v. 16) _____
- 06** Who wrote the Commandments down on the tablets of stone? (v. 22) _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In this chapter, the Ten Commandments are repeated. How well do you think the Israelites were living these commandments? Why might repetition have been necessary for them? Why might it also be necessary for us to learn a particular lesson?

02

God gives us commandments so that we can live well. Which one of the Ten commandments can you apply more fully in your life?



WEEK 3 IN REVIEW

Day 1: Joshua, son of Nun was one of two spies who came back from the journey through Canaan professing faith that God will protect them if they faced giants and other roadblocks. As a result, Joshua was blessed to enter the Promised Land, but all other people of his generation were told their children would enter but they would not. What does this tell you about the importance of faith and positive confessions?

Day 2: Look at the Deep Dive from this challenging read. Which of the facts had the greatest effect on your ability to understand the reading and why?

Day 3: Let's revisit the people hearing about themselves with such brutal honesty from Moses. They are actually hearing about their parents, which may have cut the blows. What does Moses want them to feel by the end of his sermon?

Day 4: The type of government Israel was going for is called a theocracy, meaning God-as-head. Today, many of us live in countries run by some form of democracy. Democracies can be very good for freedom of expression and other freedoms. When might a democracy cease to work well?

Day 5: Write out a confession about trying/failing to keep a Commandment that is very challenging to you. Confess, ask for God's help, and watch and listen for God's assistance.



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 1

1. Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milkah, Tirzah
2. Manasseh
3. False
4. Sons
5. True
6. His daughter

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

Throughout most of history and in most cultures, women could not own property. As one example, in 1800s England women could not own property, which was the basis for the famous plot of *Pride and Prejudice*. Hence, this turn of God and Moses, in the 1440s BC, is something to cherish.

FROM DAY 2

1. The Midianites
2. A thousand
3. 12,000
4. Balaam son of Beor
5. True
6. True

FROM DAY 3

1. 40th
2. As numerous as the stars in the sky
3. Horeb
4. The sending out of spies
5. twelve
6. Egypt

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

One new detail is in verse 9—that God had continued to grow the people into a multitude in spite of several plagues and the death of the older generation. The new generation has a much stronger attitude. One great fact about reading Deuteronomy is that you get to see the end results of some of the promises made in earlier versions of the story.

Question #2:

No one likes correcting their children, especially when it will start a family argument or bring any failures on the parents' part to the front. One good rule of thumb is to resolve never to lie to our children. If we resolve always to tell the truth, the truth is what will come out. Jesus said, "The truth will set you free." And yes, sometimes the truth can be painful, but freedom lies in speaking with honesty!

FROM DAY 4

1. Seir
2. Moabites
3. God would fight for them
4. Jordan
5. The other nations would see them as wise and understanding
6. Lived

APPLICATION HELP**Help with Question #1:**

Moses may have been disappointed not to finish what he started. Conversely, he was preparing to meet up with God, his dearest friend, in multi-dimensional ways that follow death. Even some of the best Christians have to catch themselves when speaking of death. They can still give the impression that (1) dead Christians do something akin to pushing up daisies, or (2) that this life is better than the next. When we stop ourselves, we realize this is ridiculous, and we can get excited like Moses to see God face to face.

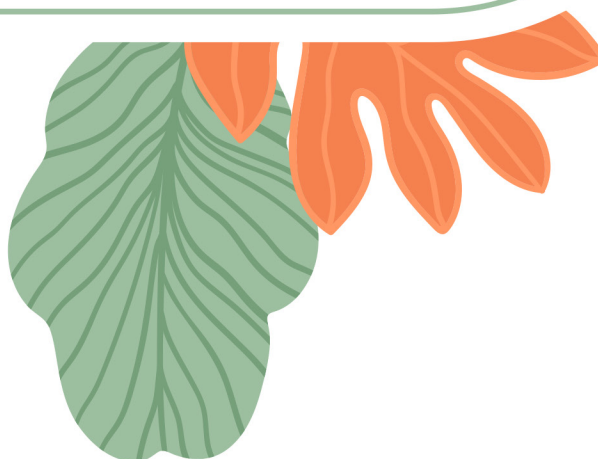
FROM DAY 5

1. Gods
2. Jealous
3. Keep His Commandments
4. The Sabbath day
5. Father and mother
6. God



NUMBERS & DEUTERONOMY

Deuteronomy 9-34



WEEK 4

Deuteronomy 9: The Golden Calf Revisited

READ DEUTERONOMY 9

Today we'll read the grisly tale of the golden calf, which also is told in Exodus 32. But this version is well after the fact. It can be a frustrating read with the desire to clunk these people in the noggin. Some of the beauty is in the passages before the golden calf, which give more big overviews of what God is doing with the people and the nation.

MOST POPULAR VERSE

"After the LORD your God has driven them out before you, do not say to yourself, 'The LORD has brought me here to take possession of this land because of my righteousness.' No, it is on account of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is going to drive them out before you."

Deuteronomy 9:4

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** Where did the golden calf incident happen? (v. 8) _____
- 02** How long did Moses stay on the mountain with God? (v. 9) _____
- 03** How many stone tablets did God give Moses? (v. 11) _____
- 04** In verse 13, how does God describe the Israelites? _____
- 05** The Israelites had made themselves an idol in the shape of a (v. 16) _____.
- 06** The Lord was angry enough with the Israelites to do what? (v. 19) _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** This whole chapter marks brutal honesty from Moses that, as stated, doesn't match the way we talk to our children today, even if they are grown. Use this as an opportunity: If there is something you've been afraid to say to a child, especially an older one, because it is too honest, write it out instead. It may be cathartic and you don't ever have to say it aloud if God doesn't lead to it.

- 02** In verse 18, we see Moses fasting and praying 40 days for the second time, after having destroyed the first set of tablets for the Ark of the Covenant. Moses' purpose in praying and fasting become more evident in verses 25-29 as he pleads with God for the people of Israel. How does this show Moses' love and patience and what can we learn from his example?



Deuteronomy 10: God Creating the Tablets

READ DEUTERONOMY 10

Here is a revisit to another story previously told in the Book of Exodus. Forty years later, Moses is reminding the people of how the tablets of the Law were made. One of the most awe-inspiring aspects is the detail Moses gives, showing the work and dedication and how the tablets were made.

This story occurs after the golden calf debacle. Moses has already broken the first set of tablets after descending Mount Sinai and finding the people worshipping an idol.

MOST POPULAR VERSE

“Fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name.”

Deuteronomy 10:20

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** In what did God tell Moses to put the stone tablets? (v. 2) _____
- 02** What did God write on the stone tablets? (v. 4) _____
- 03** Who succeeded Aaron as priest? (v. 6) _____
- 04** What tribe did God set apart to carry the Ark of the Covenant? (v. 8) _____
- 05** What is the inheritance of the Levites? (v. 9) _____
- 06** In verse 16, Moses tells the Israelites to circumcise their _____.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Verse 10:9 states that the Levites would have no share or inheritance among their fellow Israelites; the LORD was their inheritance. Some might feel that this kind of allotment or inheritance isn't fair. Yet oftentimes God gives us gifts that we don't recognize as gifts. Can you think of any examples of this from your own life or a friend's?

- 02** Read the beautiful overview of God's nature in 10:17-18. Why do you feel Moses is including this? Why might a reminder of God's nature be particularly helpful, especially in our lives today?



Deuteronomy 20-27: A Look at Some Laws

READ THE LAWS BELOW

No, you are not being asked to read seven chapters today! Some passages have been picked for you to read and are placed below. You were promised a look at the Law in this study, as most Christians have not seen many of the laws established for Israel (unless a skeptic throws one in your face that has to do with stoning), and if you've seen little to nothing of the Law, you will be amazed and heartened!

According to Christ, all the Law and the prophets reflect God's two commands: Love God, love each other. How do each of the laws below reflect a love of each other or of God directly? A line is placed below each law for you on which to write this.

Our cultures make some laws harder to understand than others! Application Help provides some assistance with the more difficult laws to see. For further explanations on difficult constructs to understand from this era, see our Application Help for Numbers 25 and 31.

LAWS PICKED AT RANDOM FROM DEUTERONOMY 20-27

Write whom God is trying to love or protect

- 01 Rights of Firstborn Children (Deut 21:15-17): _____
- 02 Rebellious Children (Deut 21:18-21): _____
- 03 Finding Lost Property (Deut 22:1-3): _____
- 04 Adultery (Deut 22:22): _____
- 05 A Law mentioning Balaam (Deut 23:3-6): _____
- 06 Slavery and Prostitutes (Deut 23:15-18): _____
- 07 Treatment of Workers (Deut 24:14-15): _____
- 08 Treatment of Foreigners and the Poor (Deut 24:19-22): _____
- 09 Treatment of Animals (Deut 25:4): _____
- 10 Treatment of Former Attackers (Deut 25:17-19): _____

Recommended Bible Verses on THE GOODNESS OF GOD'S LAW: Matthew 22:39-40, Psalm 119:2-3



Deuteronomy 34: The Death of Moses

READ DEUTERONOMY 34

This is our last Bible reading, and one of the best stories of the study. As the death of Moses is only recorded here, it is good to enjoy and understand what happened. The last paragraph is great to know, as it describes Moses from God's perspective.

MOST POPULAR VERSE

Since then, no prophet
has risen in Israel like
Moses, whom the
LORD knew face to
face..."

Deuteronomy 34:10

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** What mountain was Moses on when God showed him the promised land? (v. 1)

- 02** In what country did Moses die? (v. 5) _____
- 03** True/False: Joshua knew where Moses' grave was (v. 6).
- 04** How old was Moses when he died? (v. 7) _____
- 05** How long did the Israelites grieve for Moses? (v. 8) _____
- 06** Who took Moses' place? (v. 9) _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Verse 6 tells us that no one knows where Moses is buried, even to this day. Why would God not want to share information like this?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 02** Think back to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 4:13) begging God, "Please send someone else!" And now look at all the kind things God had to say about him in verses 10-12. Moses was human. In what ways had he grown that we might emulate?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Recommended Bible Verses on **THE BURIAL OF MOSES**: Jude 8-10 (these are verses, not chapters; the Book of Jude only contains one chapter)



Most Studied Verses in Numbers & Deuteronomy

We have looked at the MPVs from the various chapters we have studied, but we were also skipping quite a lot. The Top Ten most popular verses in Numbers and Deuteronomy are not always from our selections. Reflecting on them can show us where people are focusing today, and why. And since these are two of the most misunderstood books in the Bible, it would help to see what is being absorbed.

After each MPV, write why you think modern cultures are interested enough in this scripture to look it up and try to apply it. If you can't see a reason, try looking up the text and see how the surrounding verses clear up any vagueness. And don't be afraid to leave some blanks.

#1: Deuteronomy 6:4

Overall Bible Rank: 51

"Here, o Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."

Reflection: _____

#2: Deuteronomy 6:5

Overall Bible Rank: 590

"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

Reflection: _____

#3: Numbers 1:2

Overall Bible Rank: 801

"Take a census of the whole Israelite community by their clans and families, listing every man by name, one by one."

Reflection: _____

#4: Numbers 6:24

Overall Bible Rank: 889

"the Lord bless you and keep you."

Reflection: _____

#5: Numbers 23:19

Overall Bible Rank: 956

"God is not a human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?"

Reflection: _____

#6: Deuteronomy 30:19

Overall Bible Rank: 1,102

"This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live."

Reflection: _____

#7: Deuteronomy 18:10

Overall Bible Rank: 1,246

"Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft..."

Reflection: _____

#8: Deuteronomy 6:6

Overall Bible Rank: 1,288

"These Commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts."

Reflection: _____

#9: Deuteronomy 4:5

Overall Bible Rank: 1,307

"See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it."

Reflection: _____

#10: Numbers 14:15

Overall Bible Rank: 2,603

"If you put these people to death all at one time, the nations who have heard this report about you will say..." (Moses telling God not to destroy the people)

Reflection: _____



WEEK 4 IN REVIEW

We have covered a lot of exciting stories and challenging passages to get here! If your mind wants a mini-vacation from answering questions, here is some further reading for this Review instead of questions for you to answer. It is the opinions on crucial issues by other apologists, so get your reading glasses if needed and find a comfy chair. Have your highlighter software ready if you like to take notes.

Simply read the articles that interest you. Some of these articles have directly to do with stories read, while others are merely addressing common related questions that Christians can face at any time—the most common questions from skeptics and others who doubt or disdain the God of Israel.

Apostle Peter encourages us to always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks of our hope (1 Peter 3:15). These articles should help cover subjects related to this past month's readings, even if indirectly.

And congratulate yourself on having spent some time in the desert with all the people who made the Exodus journey happen. Lots of others, along with Moses, are in your great cloud of witnesses and are cheering on your maturity daily!

Recommended Further Reading:

1. [How many Israelites left Egypt in the Exodus?](#)
2. [Why did God command the Israelites to completely destroy the Midianites in Numbers 31:17?](#)
(A second good perspective)
3. [How is the Islamic idea of Jihad different from the violence in the Bible?](#)
4. [Venereal Disease in the Bible](#)
5. [Answers in Genesis: Billions of People in Thousands of Years?](#)



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 1

1. Horeb (aka Mount Sinai)
2. 40 days and 40 nights
3. Two
4. Stiff-necked
5. A calf
6. Destroy them

FROM DAY 2

1. The Ark
2. The Ten Commandments
3. Eleazar
4. The tribe of Levi
5. The Lord
6. Their hearts

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

The reason God gave the Levites the gift of Himself instead of land is that they were the only tribe who refused to participate in the golden calf idol incident. And this truly is a gift. The other tribes would have to treat the Levites as special priests. They would be fed, clothed and housed by the other tribes, and they would receive spiritual gifts from God. They would be the only people given protection to come near the Ark. So basically, they circumvented the "by the sweat of your brow" curse from Genesis 3:19, whereas there is no promise to the other tribes that they wouldn't have to work overtime at various points.

How often does the Lord send protection from harm, germs, violence and suffering that we don't even realize? Some reflection might improve our gratitude where needed.

Help with Question #2:

One comforting thought to those on the "low end of the totem pole" in this life is that Jesus promises us, "The first will be last, and the last, first." One Christian lady and her housekeeper have enjoyed imagining this role reversal up in heaven. Some days the Christian lady says she is "practicing" and serves the housekeeper lunch and beverages. They laugh and discuss how their love for each other will remain the same.

FROM DAY 3

APPLICATION HELP

The numbers below match the numbers in the writing section above. If there is no number, that means there is no comment.

1. Because this law involves polygamy (which God did allow in that culture), it is hard to see at first the lengths that God will go in order to protect a child from his parents' hearts, which can be treacherous.
2. Many people with grown children today are surprised to find that others share their chant: "I've cried more over my adult children than I ever did when they were growing up!" Adult children can cause so much joy but also so much pain to the parents who raised them, and yet words like "show more respect" are considered humiliating and demeaning for the children.
4. For a look at commentary on harsh laws like this, see our answer to Question 2, Day 4 of Week 3, covering Deuteronomy 2-4.
5. Don't try to look back and find references to these incidents as they are unclear. God told Moses in Deuteronomy 2:19 not to harass the Ammonites as its land had been promised to Abraham's nephew Lot. But apparently the Ammonites were less than stellar hosts, and you found out about Balak, King of Moab and his hoard of seducing women in Numbers 22-23. The Moabites came into being in Genesis 19, when the daughters of Abraham's nephew Lot decided it was better to rape their father after getting him drunk than to be childless (Sodom and Gomorrah had just been destroyed). The first child of this incest was named Moab, and he was the father of the nation. The Ammonites came from the other daughter's incestuous child, Ben-Ammi, as recorded in Genesis 19:38.
9. Many laws had to do with treating animals kindly. People of God were told not to place some kind of harness object over the mouth of the ox to prevent him from eating the grain while he worked. The ox should be entitled to eat as much grain as he wants while working, as depriving him constantly from something he enjoys is cruel and greedy.
10. People are often afraid of God's anger, thinking they will do something so that it comes their way. What people think of far less frequently is what if God is on your side and He gets angry over something done to you? Some Christians have great stories of controlling their anger through painful situations, and God comes along and delivers justice for them.

FROM DAY 4

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

Moses' grave and body have been shrouded as have many relics, including the Holy Grail, the Ark of the Covenant, the cross, the manger, and more. People may not create golden idols today and pretend they contain life, and bow down and worship them. But idolatry can easily be carried out on items that are supposed to be holy. People end up worshipping them, and God hates it.

Help with understanding the references from the Book of Jude: Oftentimes the Bible will refer to a story that we don't know about. All Deuteronomy tells us about the death of Moses is that God buried him on Mount Nebo in Moab. These few lines from Jude are surprising, implying that Satan was there as well to strike up an argument with the Archangel Michael, whom we now know was present also.

These stories were often told in documents that have been lost in history. Some referred to in the Bible that we no longer can obtain include those below. We can see them in heaven, and the voracious readers can be first in line in heaven's library!

- The Book of Jasher is mentioned in Joshua 10:13 and 2 Samuel 1:18 and also referenced in 2 Timothy 3:8.
- The Book of the Wars of the Lord is mentioned in Numbers 21:14.
- The Chronicles of the Kings of Israel and Chronicles of the Kings of Judah are mentioned in the Books of Kings (1 Kings 14:19, 29)

1. What passage in Ephesians do you find most relatable to your own spiritual journey? Why?

2. Pick four verses from Ephesians that you would like to memorize, believing the messages will give you daily strength. Write each of them here, then copy them onto a sticky note or strip of paper and place them where you'll be sure to see them every day (the bathroom mirror and the refrigerator are great choices!).

3. Which verse or verses gave you the most reflection about your past? How has God changed you?

4. Which verse or verses gave you the most reflection on your future? What things would you like God to change currently?

5. What did you learn about God or Jesus that you didn't know or didn't know well before reading Ephesians?
