

Numbers
And
Deuteronomy

Numbers/Deuteronomy Course Schedule

<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assigned Scripture</u>
#1	Introduction	Separate Material
#2	Census at Sinai Account of Levites	Numbers 1-2 Numbers 3-4
#3	Cleansing of Camp Final Preparation for Departure	Numbers 5-6 Numbers 7-9:14
#4	Travel Narrative: Sinai to Kadesh	Numbers 9:15-14:45
#5	Supplemental Laws Crisis over Leadership & Priesthood	Numbers 15 Numbers 16-19
#6	Travel Narrative: Kadesh to Moab	Numbers 20-25
#7	In Moab: Prep for Entry into Land	Numbers 26-36
#8	Introduction & Historical Prologue	Deuteronomy 1-3
#9	Intro to the Great Exhortation The Great Exhortation	Deuteronomy 4:1-43
#10 & 11	Deuteronomic Code Laws Governing Worship Laws Governing Leadership Laws Governing Community Life Conclusion of Laws	Deuteronomy 12-26 Deuteronomy 12-16:17 Deuteronomy 16:18-18 Deuteronomy 19-25 Deuteronomy 26
#12	Covenant Ceremony	Deuteronomy 27-30
#13	The Look Forward	Deuteronomy 31-34

Introduction to Numbers*

Content: The Israelites' long stay in the desert as they journey from Mount Sinai to the plains of Moab, with supplemental laws.

Historical Coverage: Forty years, a period within which the generation that left Egypt died off.

Emphases:

1. Preparation for military conquest of the Promised Land.
2. God's covenant loyalty toward Israel with regard to the land.
3. Israel's repeated failure to keep the covenant with God.
4. God's leadership of His people and affirmation of Moses' leadership.
5. Preparation for entering and worshipping in the Promised Land.
6. Conquest and settlement of the land east of the Jordan River.

Overview of Numbers: Numbers is one of the more difficult books in terms of "what in the world is going on?" The problem is that it is such a mixture of things – narrative, additional laws, census lists, oracles from a pagan prophet, the well-known Aaronic blessing – and it is not easy to see how it all fits together. Below is somewhat of an outline:

Two Travel Narratives

1. 9:15-14:45 Sinai to Kadesh, including refusal to enter and God's judgment.
2. 20:1-22:1 Kadesh to plains of Moab along Jordan River

Four Other Narratives

1. 7:1-9:14 Preparation for Journey
2. 16-17 Moses and Aaron's God-given and recognized leadership.
3. 22:2-24:25 The Balam cycle and seduction at Shittim w/Baal of Peor.
4. 31-36 Events on the east bank as they prepare for conquest.

Two Census Lists

1. 1-2 First census of those who came out of Egypt in preparation for battle.
2. 26-27 Second census is of those who survived the forty years of wondering in preparation for battle.

Genealogy of Aaron's Family and Levites (3-4)

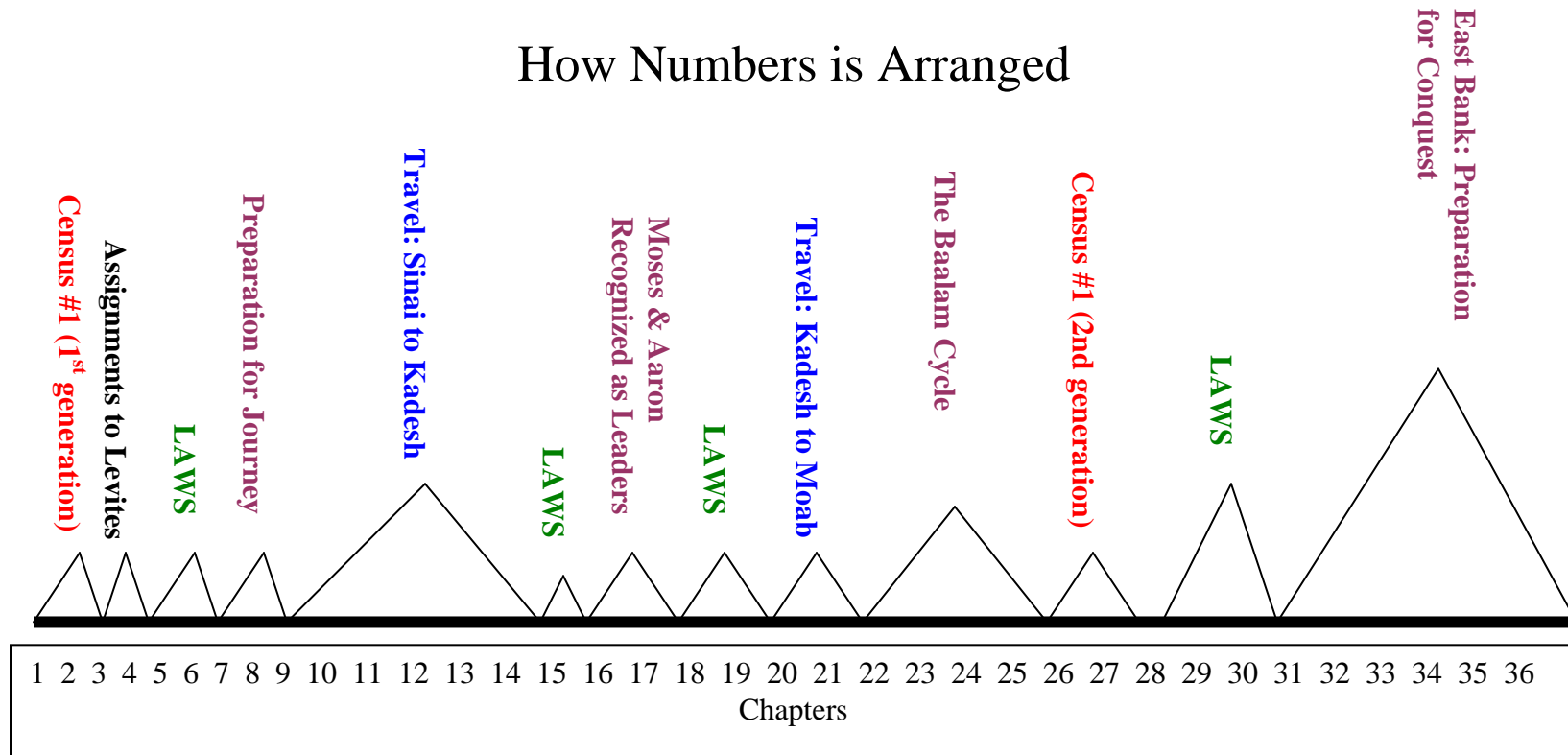
Collection of Laws (5-6; 15; 18-19; 28-30)

The Effect of Genesis and Exodus: In order to appreciate how the narratives of Numbers work you need to recall several items from Genesis and Exodus.

1. The primary driving force behind everything is God's promise/covenant with Abraham that his seed would inherit the land of Canaan.
2. The conquest of the land involves the second stage of "the holy war".
3. The primary concern since Genesis 12:7 has been the *presence* of God in the midst of his people and the proper *worship* of God.
4. Just as in Exodus, God's people do not come off well in Numbers. There is hardly a good word about them in the entire narrative. Despite their behavior, God's great compassion is shown.

* Introduction and outline is taken from...

How Numbers is Arranged



- Two Travel Narratives
- Four Other Narratives
- Two Census Lists
- Collection of Laws
- Assignments to Levites

Numbers – Lesson 2

Chapters 1-4

Chapter 1 Numbering of Tribes

1. How and why were the people being grouped together?
2. What qualifications were there for one to be “numbered”? Why not include everyone?
3. Why not include the Levites in this numbering?
4. What were the Levites to do and where were they to “pitch their tents”?
5. What was to happen to the “stranger” who came near the tabernacle? Why such a severe punishment?

Chapter 2 The Arranging of the Tribes

1. What words or phrases are used in this chapter that makes it sound like a general arranging his troops for battle?
2. How is this different than the way in which the children of Israel overcame the Egyptian armies?
3. How do they compare to an ordinary army prepared for battle?

Numbers – Lesson 2 (cont.)

Chapter 3 Setting Apart the Levites to God

1. Which group of men belongs to God, beginning with their departure from Egypt until the 3rd chapter of Numbers?
2. Why does God have Moses number the Levites and Firstborn from one month old rather than from twenty years old like the rest of the tribes?
3. Who needed to be “redeemed” towards the end of chapter 3?
4. What is the definition of the word “redeemed” and how is it used here?

Chapter 4 The Levite’s Assignments

1. What assignments did the following sons of Levi have:

Kohath:

Gershon:

Merari:

2. What assignments did the remaining two sons of Aaron have?

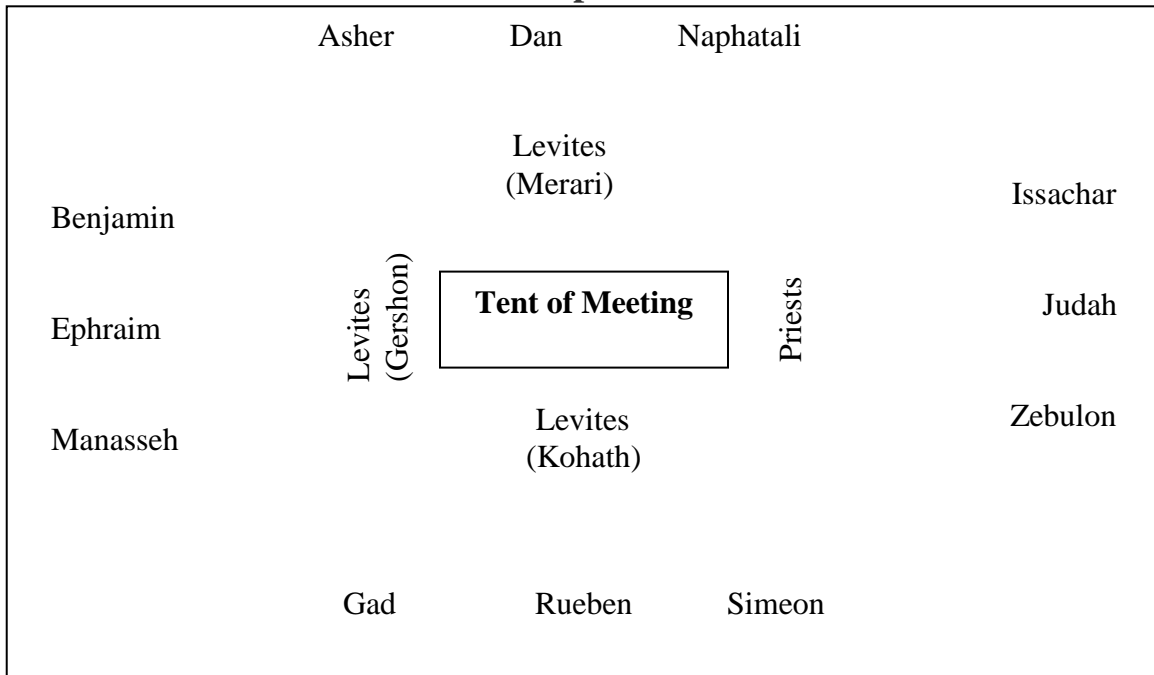
Eleazar:

Ithamar:

The Two Censuses

	Numbers 1	Numbers 26
Rueben	46,500	43,730
Simeon	59,300	22,200
Gad	45,650	40,500
Judah	74,600	76,500
Issachar	54,400	64,300
Zebulun	57,400	60,500
Ephraim	40,500	32,500
Manasseh	32,200	52,700
Benjamin	35,400	45,600
Dan	62,700	64,400
Asher	41,500	53,400
Naphtali	53,400	45,500
Levi (Num. 3:46)	22,000	23,000
Total (excluding Levi)	603,550	601,730

The Camp of Israel



Numbers – Lesson 3

Chapters 5-9:15

Chapter 5 Cleansing the Camp

1. Why remove the people listed in verses 1-4 from the camp?
2. What are the two types of “unfaithfulness” discussed in this chapter?

Chapter 6 The Vow of a Nazirite

1. The words “separate” and “consecrate” are used several times in this chapter. What is the idea behind those words and how are they used here?
2. What is the basic idea behind the blessing laid out in the end of this chapter?

Chapter 7 The Offerings of the Leaders

1. What is meant by “he anointed and consecrated the tabernacle and all its furnishings”?

Chapter 8 Cleansing of the Levites

1. What do “lampstands” represent in the new testament?
2. Why do the Levites need to be cleansed?
3. Why do you suppose God put age requirements on those “doing the work” in the tabernacle (vss. 24-26)?

Numbers – Lesson 3 (cont.)

Chapter 9:1-14 The Second Passover

1. It has been a year since the children of Israel left Egypt. Where are they in the wilderness?
2. When Moses is presented with a problem (vss. 6-7), how does he decide what to do? Are we ever concerned that someone may ask us a spiritual question that we do not know the answer to? What should we do in that situation?

Numbers – Lesson 4

Chapters 9:15-14:45

Chapter 9:15-23 The Cloud & the Fire

1. Compare this section with the last 5 verses of Exodus. Moses uses the phrase “command of the Lord”. How is God communicating his “commandments” in this passage?

Chapter 10 Leaving Sinai

1. For what occasions are the trumpets to be blown?
2. When they are blown during wartime, what two things will this cause God to do on their behalf?
3. For what reason are they blown during the burnt and peace offerings?
4. Based on the responsibilities given to the three sons of Levi, why might Gershon and Merari go out before Kohath?
5. Where were the ark of the covenant and the tabernacle located during their travels?
6. What emotions would you guess were going through their minds when the cloud began to move for the first time in over a year?

Numbers – Lesson 4 (cont.)

Chapter 11 God Deals with Moses and the Israelites

1. In what way had the people “yielded to intense craving” as is stated in verse 4?
2. What emotions is Moses feeling in verses 10-15?
3. What specific things does God do in reaction to Moses’ distress?
4. What specifically does God do in reaction to the Israelite’s distress?
5. Why such a difference in the reaction of God to Moses and the Israelites?

Chapter 12 Aaron and Miriam Sin

1. What is the difference between how God interacts with Moses verses other prophets?
2. What do you think was going through Miriam’s mind while she was in the wilderness for seven days?

Chapter 13 Spies Sent to Canaan

1. Compare this chapter to Deut. 1:19-33. Whose idea was it to send the spies into the land?
2. Why is Caleb so confident that this group of untrained slaves are “well able to overcome it” (verse 30)?
3. Why do the people believe they “are not able to go up against the people” (verse 31)?

Numbers – Lesson 4 (cont.)

Chapter 14 God Punishes Their Unfaithfulness

1. What do the Israelites wish had happened to them according to verse 2? How does this compare to what God says in verses 26-38 will eventually happen to them?
2. In verse 17 Moses prays for God's "power to be great". What does Moses then say would be the manifestation of God's power?

Numbers – Lesson 5

Chapters 15-19

Chapter 15 Laws For the New Generation

1. Chapter 14 is an obvious low point in the Israelite's history. What does God say to them at the beginning of chapter 15 as well as at the end that shows His constant faithfulness to them?
2. According to the end of the chapter, what is God's desire for them as a people?

Chapter 16 Attempted Overthrow of God's Leaders

1. What is Moses and Aaron accused of in verse 3? What does Moses then accuse the sons of Levi of in verse 7?
2. What is the point of Moses' speech to the sons of Levi in verses 8-11
3. In this context, what does it mean to "take too much on" and how could we be guilty of this today?

Chapter 17 God's Approval of Aaron as the People's Spiritual Leader

1. Is it unreasonable for the people to want a sign from God to show who He approves of as their high priest?
2. What was wrong with what the people had done?

Chapter 18 Laws Concerning the Levites

1. Can you think of a reason that these particular laws are given at this time?

Chapter 19 Laws of Purification

1. What does this chapter show about God's concern with "keeping clean"?
2. Compare I Peter 3:21. Is there a connection with the "answer of a good conscience"?

Numbers – Lesson 6

Chapters 20-25

Chapter 20 Moses and Aaron Sentenced to Death

1. Moses and Aaron seem very humble in verse six. What do you think causes them to strike the rock and thus sin against the Lord?
2. Edom's refusal to allow the Israelites to pass through their land marks the beginning of a long history of enmity between the two groups (see the book of Obadiah). Why do you think they were refused passage?
3. Aaron's death indicates that the forty years are coming to an end and the transition to the next generation. The reason God gives for Aaron's death is similar to the reason He gives for the death of Aaron's two sons in Leviticus 10. What similarities exist?

Chapter 21 Traveling from Kadesh to Moab

1. It is possible, and, if true then ironic, that the first group of Canaanites that the Israelites conquer are the same one's who first conquered them in Numbers 14:45.
2. Where in the New Testament is the bronze serpent referred to and what is the correlation/lesson?
3. In verse 34 the Lord uses the past tense (I have delivered him into your hand) even though they had not defeated them in battle yet. Explain the use of the past tense.

Chapter 22 Balaam Angers the Lord

1. Why is the Lord angry with Balaam in verse 22? Isn't Balaam doing what the Lord asked him to do by going with the messengers? Perhaps Galatians 1:8-9 is teaching us the same lesson.
2. What is the problem with Balaam's heart/attitude? (See II Peter 2:10-17.)

Numbers – Lesson 6 (cont.)

Chapter 23 Balaam's First Two Prophecies

1. Based on what Balak asks of Balaam in verse 13, what do you suppose Balak believes is the reason that Balaam blessed the Israelites?
2. How does Balak attempt to compromise in verse 25?

Chapter 24 Balaam's Last Two Prophecies

1. Although Balaam had been hoping that he might receive “the riches” from Balak, what good qualities of his come out in this chapter?

Chapter 25 Israel is “Joined” to Baal of Peor

It is ironic that God uses a pagan prophet to announce His certain fulfillment of His covenant, even while many in Israel fall prey to pagan prostitution and thus to idolatry.

1. Look up the literal meaning of “joined” as used in verse 3 and then explain (from verses 1-2) how the Israelites got to this point. In a negative way, a similar expression is used in II Corinthians 6:14-18.

Numbers – Lesson 7

Chapters 26-36

Chapters 26-27 2nd Census

1. List some of the things in these chapters that show that the inheritance of the land is getting close as well as that the possession will last for a long period of time.
2. Beginning in these chapters Eleazar is referred to as “Eleazar the priest. Why? Hasn’t he been a priest for several years already?
3. According to 27:14, what specific command did Moses disobey in his sin against the Lord?

Chapters 28-30 Laws Concerning Offerings and Vows

1. Are these chapters simply repeating previous laws or adding enhancements as well?

Chapter 31 Vengeance on the Midianites

1. What may seem odd about Balaam being killed in verse 8? Why do you suppose he was also killed?
2. Why was Moses upset that the captains had not killed the women?
3. How is this a foreshadowing of things to come in the book of Joshua?

Numbers – Lesson 7 (cont.)

Chapter 32 Reuben and Gad Settle East of the Jordan

1. Who will be “driving out” the Canaanites according to verse 21?
2. Why must Moses direct Eleazar and others as to what should be done if Reuben and Gad do not follow through with their promise? Why can’t Moses just wait to see how it plays out and then fill the others in after they take the land?

Chapter 33 Israel’s Journey from Egypt to the Plains of Moab

1. What was the attitude of the Israelites when they left Egypt?
2. What will be the consequences if the Israelites do not drive out the people from the land of Canaan?

Chapter 34 The Dividing of the Land

1. God gives very little direction as to how to divide up the land. What guidance does he give in chapters 26, 33 and 34?

Chapter 35 Cities for The Levites

1. The cities given to the Levites, including the “common ground”, were to be a perfect square. What city in the New Testament is described as a square?
2. What was the purpose of the “Cities of Refuge”?

Chapter 36 The Daughters of Zelophehad

1. What is the problem and solution given in chapter 36?
2. Why, at this time, is this not a problem in the other tribes?

Deuteronomy – Lesson 8

Intro and Chapters 1-3

Introduction

Structure:

- A The Outer Frame: A Look Backward (chs. 1-3)
 - B The Inner Frame: The Great Exhortation (chs. 4-11)
 - C The Central Core: The Stipulations of the Covenant (chs. 12-26)
 - B The Inner Frame: The Covenant Ceremony (chs. 27-30)
 - A The Outer Frame: A Look Forward (chs. 31-34)

Read the end of chapter 3 and then the beginning of chapter 31 to see the flow. Then read the end of chapter 11 and the beginning of chapter 27.

Emphases:

1. Uncompromising Monotheism
2. Concern for Israel's uncompromising loyalty for Yahweh

Sub-themes:

1. About to possess "the land". (This phrase used over 100 times).
2. Not only avoid idolatry but completely destroy Canaanite people and places of worship.
3. Place of Worship

Chapter 1 Refusal to Enter the Land

1. After Moses, what age is the next oldest Israelite (exclude Joshua, Caleb and their immediate families)?
2. Who was it that suggested to Moses that he set up judges over the tribes to settle disputes (see Exodus 18)?
3. What do the Israelites believe was God's motivation for bringing them out of Egypt and into the hands of the Amorites to be destroyed?

Deuteronomy – Lesson 8 (cont.)

Chapter 2

1. To what other two groups of people did God give land to?
2. How many years did it take for the condemned generation to pass away?

Chapter 3

The punishment on Moses and the Israelites is harsh. From previous studies, what specifically was their sin?

Deuteronomy – Lesson 9

Chapters 4-11

Chapter 4

Notice how verses 1-43 set forth the emphases for the rest of the book:

1. God speaking His covenant directly to the people in the form of the Ten Commandments (vss. 12-14)
2. God's uniqueness, both as to His character and over against idols, which cannot speak or hear (vss. 15-31)
3. God's choice of Israel to be His unique people (vss. 32-38)
4. The prophecy of Israel's eventual failure and restoration (vss. 25-31)

Questions:

1. What about God's character is unique as shown in this chapter?
2. What things does this chapter show that God did for the Israelites and why did He choose them over other nations?
3. What part of God's character will cause Him to restore His people?

Chapter 5

1. Towards the end of this chapter God commends the Israelites. What does He commend them for and what does He say is His ongoing desire for them as His people?

Chapter 6

1. What is the primary command given in this chapter and why do you think God told them to focus so much on His commandments in verses 7-9?
2. What are the people to say to their children when asked "what is the meaning of the testimonies...."? How might we answer our children today when asked about the reason for God's commands?

Deuteronomy – Lesson 9 (cont.)

Chapter 7

1. List those things that the Israelites are to do regarding the other nations.

2. List those things that God will do for the Israelites.

Chapter 8

1. What may cause the Israelites to “forget the Lord your God”?

2. List at least one passage from the New Testament that warns of this same danger.

Chapter 9

1. List the ways in which Moses describes the Israelite’s behavior towards God.

2. What role does Moses play in this chapter?

3. What does God do for the people despite their behavior?

Chapter 10

1. What is the central role of “the ark” and why bring it up at this point?

Chapter 11

1. God lays out both potential blessings and potential curses. Who’s choice is it as to whether the Israelites will receive the blessings or the curses?

2. Which do they receive?

Deuteronomy – Lesson 10

Chapters 12-18

These next two lessons will focus on the law that is given in Deuteronomy. While this section of the book may seem dry to us, it is interesting to see how Moses and Joshua refer to Deuteronomy in the following passages:

Deut. 28:61; 29:21; 30:10; 31:26 and Joshua 8:30-35.

What title do they give to Deuteronomy and what does this tell us about what they saw as the main focus of the book?

Chapter 12 Place of Worship

1. What differences are there between where they are currently worshiping and where they will eventually worship God? Where is it that God eventually chooses for them to worship Him and within which tribe is it located?
2. In verse 30, Moses warns them not to ask “how did these nations serve their gods?”. Why would he not want them asking themselves that question and what lesson may we draw from this for ourselves?

Chapter 13 Punishment of Apostates

1. What reason is given for such harsh punishment?

Chapter 14 Laws Concerning Eating Meat and Tithing

1. It is interesting that the Israelites may feed the “unclean meat” to foreigners. What does this chapter tell us about why restricted what the Israelites could eat?
2. What are the Israelites to learn by “eating before the Lord”?

Chapter 15 Generosity to the Poor and Those in Debt

1. What event in Israel’s history were they to remember when abiding by these commands? How would remembering this event help them with these commands?

Deuteronomy – Lesson 10 (cont.)

Chapter 16 Feasts Reviewed

1. What is different about where they will now keep these feasts?

Chapters 16:18-18:22 Laws Governing Leadership

1. Much of Deuteronomy is preparing the Israelites for “life after Moses”. This includes how the leadership will be set up. Outline this section of scripture by what type of leaders is being written about.

Deuteronomy – Lesson 11

Chapters 19-26

Chapter 19 General Laws

1. The punishment on false witnesses is to have what impact on those who are watching?
2. What overall principle is guiding this punishment?

Chapter 20 Principles Governing Warfare

1. Why does God have the priests speak to the people before a big battle? How is this similar to the admonition Paul is giving in Ephesians 6:10-20?

Chapter 21-22:12 General Laws

1. Is God approving of polygamy in 21:15-17?
2. Some of the laws given in this section may seem somewhat trite. For instance 22:11-12. What may be some reasons that God covers such things in His law to the Israelites?

Chapter 22:13-30 Laws of Sexual Immorality

1. The physical punishment for adultery was much more severe than is outlined in God's law today. According to this chapter, what is the reason for putting the guilty to death? According to the New Testament, does this same principle apply today?

Deuteronomy – Lesson 11 (cont.)

Chapter 23 General Laws

1. What is the purpose of excluding some from the “assembly of the Lord”?

Chapter 24 General Laws

1. What is meant in verse one by “she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her”?
2. What event in the Israelite’s history is to guide their actions towards “strangers” and those who are “poor and needy”? How could this apply to us as well?

Chapter 25-26 General Laws and Conclusions

1. You may remember from an earlier lesson that when the Israelite children ask their parents as to the reason for all the laws, they were to remind them of God freeing them from bondage. It is no wonder then that God finishes the giving of the law by reminding them of the very same thing. What lessons can we draw from this today?

Deuteronomy – Lesson 12

Chapters 27-30

Chapter 27

1. What could be the purpose of the ceremony that is being commanded in this chapter?

Chapter 28 Blessings and Curses

1. What behavior on the part of the Israelites will cause God to bestow these blessings on the people?
2. What blessings will we receive if we continue in this same behavior today? (Include New Testament verses to support your answers)
3. What behavior on the part of the Israelites will cause these curses to overtake them?
4. What curses will we receive if we continue in this same behavior today? (Include New Testament verses to support your answers)

Deuteronomy – Lesson 12 (cont.)

Chapter 29 The Covenant Renewed in Moab

1. The covenant is being renewed to this “new” generation. Who are the two parties involved and are they both present?

2. What conclusion will their children and the foreigners come to when they see “the plagues of that land and the sicknesses which the Lord has laid on it”?

Chapter 30 Israel’s Repentance and Their Final Choice

1. What will cause God to bring them back from captivity?

2. What blessing do we receive if we behave in this way?

3. What New Testament application might verse 4 have for us as well?

4. According to this chapter, where does the word of God dwell? Where in the New Testament is this verse quoted and what is the application there?

Deuteronomy – Lesson 13

Chapters 31-34

Chapter 31 Joshua Takes Over

1. In Numbers 13, Joshua is trying to convince the Israelites that God is with them and will destroy the nations. What may be some reasons Moses is now reminding Joshua of this and encouraging him?
2. For what purpose are they to read the law every seven years?
3. For what reason does God want this song written at this time rather than waiting until after they have entered the land?

Chapter 32 The Song of Moses

1. In a sentence or two, summarize the message of the song.

Chapter 33-34 Moses Blesses the Tribes and Dies

1. Why might Moses be blessing each of the tribes? Someone else had done this previously. Who was it?

Conclusion

1. Make a list of New Testament passages that quote both Numbers and Deuteronomy. Be prepared to comment on a couple of lessons being taught. Make special note of the antitypes that are used to make a point.