

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 01 Dec 2019	Numbers 01-09	God Leads
2) 08 Dec	Numbers 10-14	God Judges
3) 15 Dec	Numbers 15-20	God Requires
4) 22 Dec	Numbers 21 / Matthew 1	God Saves
5) 29 Dec	Numbers 22	God Calls
6) 05 Jan 2020	Numbers 23-27	God Commissions
7) 12 Jan	Numbers 28-36	God Expects
8) 19 Jan	Deuteronomy 5 & 19	Valued
9) 26 Jan	Deuteronomy 1-4	Honored
10) 02 Feb	Deuteronomy 5-6	Loved
11) 09 Feb	Deuteronomy 7-18	Revealed
12) 16 Feb	Deuteronomy 19-30	Chosen
13) 23 Feb	Deuteronomy 31-34	Promised

INTRODUCTION

- These early chapters reiterate what was detailed in Num 1-33, and culminate in exhortations to observe God’s commandments
- Israel’s safety and prosperity depended on their obedience to God
- When we are faced with a major change to our comfort zone whether at home, church, or work, how do we respond?
 - ♦ Is it with unswerving faith in God, or with fear and anxiety?

Passage	Comments
Deut 1:1-46	<p>Historical Recap of Israel’s 40 Year Odyssey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. Horeb is another name for Mount Sinai • Note. It just took 11 days to migrate 2M+ people from Mt Sinai to the Promised Land, yet Israel had to spend 40 years basically marching aimlessly in the desert • v6. It’s time to move to the Promised Land. Why now? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Tough Principle – Sometimes you have to wait till the older generation dies off before you can make progress ♦ How True is this Principle? <input type="checkbox"/> Very True <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes True <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom True <input type="checkbox"/> Never True <input type="checkbox"/> Only true here ♦ Remember – The younger generation wasn’t much better • vv13-18. How would the nation of Israel survive without their infamous leader? By establishing a governmental structure of leaders who were wise, knowledgeable, and were known for their integrity and maturity, judging impartially.....WOW! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This passage was the spark for democracies ♦ Congregational-ruled churches (most SBC churches) tout this passage to justify their ability to choose & replace pastors almost at will. Pastors become a commodity item, barely lasting 5 years in most churches. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, that is bad hermeneutics for this passage. • After Israel chose their leaders, Moses appointed them. Essentially, Moses validated their selections. • v26-27. Israel was not willing to take the land 40 years prior, but instead grumbled in their tents. Would we do the same? • vv35-46. Therefore, God swore to let the older generation die out before taking the their kids into the Promised Land
Deut 2:1-37	<p>Who to Fight and Who Not to Fight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v25.40 years earlier the Israelites feared the residents living west of the Jordan River. A generation later the Israelites aroused a sense of dread in those living in Canaan • vv5-19. Israel was not to pick a fight with their cousins – Edomites (Esau’s descendants), Moabites and Ammonites (Lot’s descendants). They would be thorns in Israel’s side. • vv30-36. God hardened the heart of King Sihon so he would fight Israel and be destroyed (men, women and children), and their land be given to Reuben & Gad <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Did God deal fairly with Sihon? Would Sihon have an excuse before God? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No.....Rom 8:20 ♦ Know this. God deals justly with all.....Ps 97:2 • Why didn’t God give Sihon a chance to convert or repent? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Recall the evil of these Canaanites (homosexuality, child sacrifices, bestiality, all sanctioned on a national scale) ♦ Their sins kept them from receiving forgiveness .. Jer 5:25 ♦ God saves His vilest wrath for unrepentant murderers, sexual perverts, and idolaters Jos 24:19-20; 2King 24:4

Passage	Comments
Deut 3:1-29	<p>King Og had the first King Size Bed – 13.5 ft x 6 ft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv3-7. Israel “utterly destroyed” the Bashanites – men, women and children. Only the animals were spared • v22. Even though God fought for Israel, Israelites often died on the battlefield • v26. God was angry with Moses (Num 20:8-13). Moses and Israel had to learn that God must be obeyed diligently. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How seriously do we obey God’s clear directives? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do we keep the speed limit?Rom 13:1-4 2. Where else do we frivolously keep God’s commands?
Deut 4:1-7	<p>Fear God and Live, Seek Him and You Will Find Him</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v6. Non-believers will acknowledge Israel as a nation of “wise and understanding people” – That is how our obedient living should strike non-believers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We should be seen as the “normal” ones, as people who have their act together in all areas of life, who can be trusted to do right in all situations ♦ We may be a “peculiar people” to some, but our behavior should not be quarrelsome or unreliable ♦ But how does the world see most Christians? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Homophobic? <input type="checkbox"/> Teetotalers? <input type="checkbox"/> Conservatives? <input type="checkbox"/> Legalists? <input type="checkbox"/> Intolerant? <input type="checkbox"/> Outdated? <input type="checkbox"/> Other? ♦ Consider this. We might have to wear some labels proudly if we take a holy life seriously.
Deut 4:8-28	<p>What is the Secret to God Blessing Our Efforts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v8. God’s laws do not constrain humanity, but allows us to reach our full “great” potential – if we obey • v9. Now they must diligently live by faith, not by sight – and they must convey to the younger generation God is still the same, though He will operate differently <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Their daily free meals of manna would end 2. God’s explicit leading by fire & smoke would stop 3. Their clothes and sandals will now wear out • vv16-28. God spent 13 verses warning His people about chasing false gods. The consequence of forsaking God was near total annihilation from the land. Is this important. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What false gods do we chase today? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Health? <input type="checkbox"/> Wealth? <input type="checkbox"/> Beauty? <input type="checkbox"/> Other? ♦ How can we put God back in first place?
Deut 4:29-43	<p>Complacency Leads Downhill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v29. To return to God all we must do is turn around with all our heart – be serious • v40. Obedience leads to blessings for us and for our children. If you want to leave a legacy, OBEY TODAY.

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- When we are faced with life-changing events we can do what the 1st Exodus generation did – complain, murmur, become high maintenance, threaten to leave, and accomplish nothing
 - ♦ Or we can choose to do what the 2nd Exodus generation did – acknowledge God’s hand on the situation, commit to God’s ways no matter what happens, & be prepared to move forward

NEXT WEEK: Deuteronomy 5-6. To please God and to be blessed by God, He required Israel to keep 10 simple commandments; Jesus summarized them down to 2 simpler commandments (Love God wholeheartedly & Love thy neighbor as thyself). So, why do we have such a hard time obeying these? What are we missing?

