

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 07 Sept 2025	Numbers 01-09	The Journey
2) 14 Sept	Numbers 10-12	Provision
3) 21 Sept	Numbers 13	The Land
4) 28 Sept	Numbers 14	Rebellion and Judgement
5) 05 Oct	Numbers 15-20	Lack of Trust
6) 12 Oct	Numbers 21-27	God's Plan
7) 19 Oct	Numbers 28-36	Instructions Given
8) 26 Oct	Deuteronomy 01-04	Remember
9) 02 Nov	Deuteronomy 05-06	Love
10) 09 Nov	Deuteronomy 07-18	Undivided Worship
11) 16 Nov	Deuteronomy 19-28	Covenant Relationship
12) 23 Nov	Deuteronomy 29-30	Fully Committed
13) 30 Nov	Deuteronomy 31-34	God's Power

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	Historical Recap of Israel's 40 Year Odyssey <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	Who to Fight and Who Not to Fight <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	King Og had the first King Size Bed – 13.5 ft x 6 ft <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"> Do we keep the speed limit?Rom 13:1-4 Where else do we frivolously keep God's commands?
Deut 4:1-7	Fear God and Live, Seek Him and You Will Find Him <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	What is the Secret to God Blessing Our Efforts? <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"> Their daily free meals of manna would end God's explicit leading by fire & smoke would stop 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	Complacency Leads Downhill <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 whole-heartedly & Love thy neighbor as thyself). So, why do we have such a hard time obeying these? What are we missing?

