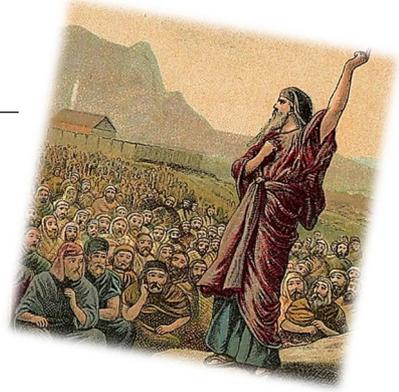


Study No.8

Preparing to Enter the Land

Timeframe of events:

c.1400 B.C.



Summary: The book of Deuteronomy is comprised mainly of speeches by Moses, given to the Israelites just before his death, and shortly before entering into Canaan. It was designed to prepare the nation for life in their new homeland. The content includes a review of the forty years of travel, as well as a version of the Law that is less detailed than that found in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers, and emphasises more of the general sense conveyed by it. Main themes include (some of these messages are repeated several times): Remember what God has done for you. Remember how you haven't always been faithful. Be faithful to the word of God. Love and respect God. Love and respect your neighbour by treating them fairly. Look after the Levites. There are consequences for both obedience and disobedience, but God loves you very much and won't forget His covenant with you. Remove the Canaanite nations from the land, and don't worship their false gods.

Main Reading / Listening



Read and/or listen to the following passages at least once. Twice is better for taking it all in!

As a minimum, please read or listen to:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

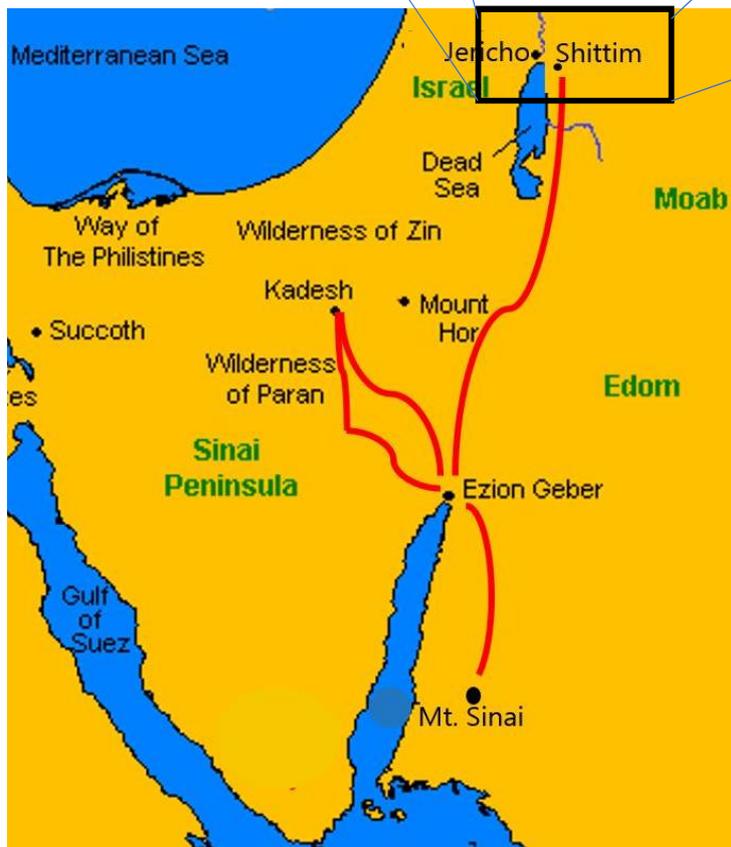
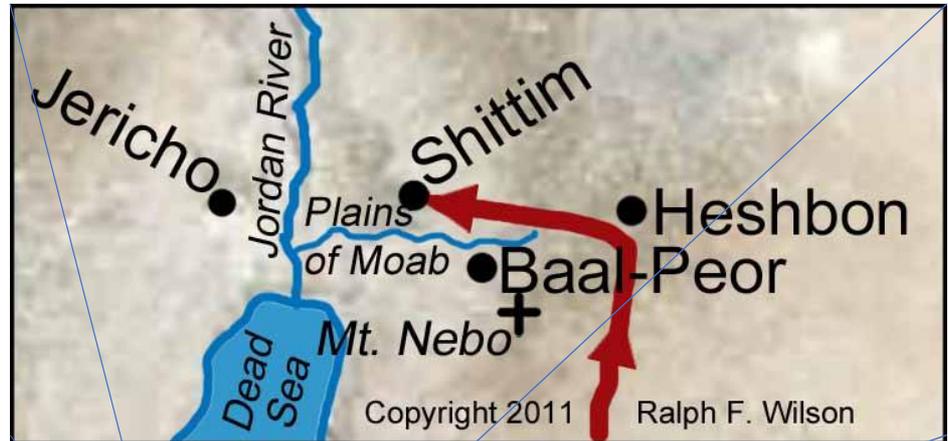
To read or listen to the entire Bible systematically, this week's passages are:

Deuteronomy (34 chapters)

Relevant Charts:



The Plains of Moab, where Moses spoke the words recorded in Deuteronomy.



The Places of Deuteronomy 34	
Places	Description
Gilead as far as Dan	Gilead is the area east of the Jordan River. The likely location of Dan is indicated <i>unto Dan</i> .
Naphtali, Ephraim and Manasseh	Manasseh is almost exactly in the middle of the map; Ephraim is below it and Naphtali above it.
Judah	Judah is the land directly west of the Salt Sea.
The Negeb	The Negeb is south of Judah.
The western sea (the Mediterranean Sea)	The Mediterranean Sea is called <i>the Great Sea</i> on this map.
Jericho	Jericho is directly above the Salt Sea and just west of the Jordan River.
Zoar	There has been a great deal of discussion as to the location of Sodom and Gomorrah. The way that Zoar is described in this passage (Zoar is where Lot fled when Sodom was being destroyed) places it at the southern end of the Salt Sea.
The Plain	The Plain is the flatter land from the hill country to the Mediterranean Sea.

Enhancing your reading:

Attempt one or more of the following tasks for a better appreciation of the subjects covered by the main readings for this study.

- Jot down any questions arising from this study's readings. Ask someone else for help, or conduct your own research to try and answer these questions.

- Note any passages, verses, themes or lessons that have stood out to you from this study's readings. Write down or verbalise your reasons.

- Read or listen to these other Bible passages that relate to the content of this week's readings:

Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13; Acts 3:17-26; Galatians 3:13,14.

**Consider and discuss
the following questions:**



- (1) What does the word Deuteronomy mean?
- (2) What is the Hebrew name of this book? Is this a suitable title? Give reasons for your answer.
- (3) Who is the main narrator of this book?
- (4) What is the setting for the book of Deuteronomy (1:1-5)?
- (5) Chapters 1-3 are a review of the Israelites' travels over the previous 40 years, already detailed in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers. Why would these events need to be restated?
- (6) What were the cities of refuge, and why were some established east of the Jordan River? (Deut 4:41-43)
- (7) What did Moses mean by, "The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers, but with us, those who are here today, all of us who are alive." Deut 5:2,3?
- (8) In the review of the Ten Commandments/ Words (Deut 5:6-21), what is different about v.15b compared with that given back in Exodus 20:11?
- (9) Deut 6:4 is commonly referred to as the "*Shema*". (a) What does *Shema* mean and refer to? (b) Taking the word LORD to be "Jehovah", how should this verse be translated to make sense? (c) What importance do orthodox Jews place on this verse (cp 6:8)?

(10) What was the purpose of providing the Israelites with manna, according to Deut 8:16,17?

(11) What is meant by the exhortation, "circumcise the foreskin of your heart" (Deut 10:16)?

(12) What is meant by the phrase, "the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide." (Deuteronomy 12:11)

(13) What could and could not be eaten at the homes of the Israelites, once they had entered the land? (see Deuteronomy 12:15-18, 20-22).

(14) How does the above law differ from that given in Leviticus 17:3-6, and why?

(15) What reasoning is there behind the law stating, "you shall not cut yourselves nor shave the front of your head for the dead" (Deuteronomy 14:1)?

(16) Why was the following law given: "You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk." (Deuteronomy 14:21)?

(17) In what way were common Israelites to "not forsake the Levite who is within your gates" (Deuteronomy 14:27-29)?

(18) Are the laws of Deut 15:12-18, concerning slaves in the Sabbath year, different to those of Leviticus 25:39-55 concerning slaves in the Jubilee year? Give reasons for your answer.

(19) Why are only some, and not all, of the Lord's annual festivals mentioned in Deut 16:1-17?

(20) Does the law of Deut 17:1 concerning the sacrifice of imperfect animals contradict Leviticus 22:23? Give reasons for your answer.

(21) How does the law of Deut 17:8,9 shed light on Judges 17:6 & 21:25?

(22) Regarding Deut 17:14-17 ... (a) How does this shed light on 1 Kings 11:1-8? (b) Were the multitude of horses described in 1 Kings 4:26 a blessing for Solomon, or an act of disobedience?

(23) How does Deut 17:18-20 shed light on 2 Chronicles 34:14-21?

- (24) What is meant by the phrase relating to the Levites, "The LORD is their inheritance" (Deut 18:2)?
- (25) Who was the "prophet" being referred to in Deut 18:15 - Joshua, Christ, prophets in general, or someone else? (cp Acts 3:18-26)
- (26) What was the way of testing whether someone who claimed to be a prophet was genuine (Deut 18:21,22)?
- (27) How does Deut 19:15-19 shed light on the Lord's teaching in Matthew 18:15-17?
- (28) Did the laws of Deut 20:5-8 provide excuses for men not to fight and conquer Canaan? Give reasons for your answer.
- (29) What was the difference between the cities of Deut 20:10,11 and those of v.16, 17? Why?
- (30) What is the essence of the law of unsolved murder (Deut 21:1-9)?
- (31) Was the law of Deut 21:18-21 too harsh (a) by standards of ancient times; and (b) by today's standards?
- (32) How does the law of Deut 21:22,23 shed light on Galatians 3:13?
- (33) What is the reasoning behind the prohibition of mixed seeds and garments made from mixed fabrics (Deut 22:9,11)?
- (34) Why would the Israelites be allowed to charge foreigners interest on loans, but not fellow Israelites (Deut 23:19,20)?
- (35) Consider Deut 24:16 - "a person shall be put to death for his own sin". How can it be said that "Christ died for our sins" (1 Corinthians 15:3)?
- (36) What is the reasoning behind the law in Deuteronomy 25:4 - "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." - also referred to in 1 Corinthians 9:1-14 and 1 Timothy 5:17,18?
- (37) Why did the law about using fair weights affect one's length of life (Deut 25:13-16)?
- (38) Was the command of Deut 27:1-8 carried out? Compare with Joshua 8:30-35.

(39) Why were the people to be divided into groups allocated for blessings and curses (Deut 27:11-13), only for certain curses (and not blessings) to be mentioned in the rest of the chapter? Cp Deut 28 & Joshua 8:33-35.

(40) Reading Deut 28, how many verses each are allocated for (a) blessings, and (b) curses? What conclusions may be drawn from this?

(41) Was a different covenant being established in Moab (Deut 29:1,10-17), i.e. separate from or in addition to that made at Mt. Sinai?

(42) Who was Moses addressing in Deut 29:2? Did his listeners really see the events referred to? Give reasons for your answer.

(43) Which blessings and curses was Moses referring to in Deut 30:1?

(44) How does Deut 30:1-5 shed light on 2 Chronicles 36:15-23?

(45) What was Joshua's role to be (Deut 31:7)?

(46) What special activity was to take place every seven years at a particular time (Deut 31:9-13)?

(47) How was the prophecy of Deut 31:20,21 fulfilled in the time covered by the book of Judges?

(48) What was the main message of Moses' song (Deut 32:1-44, see also 31:21)? Why put this specific message to music?

(49) How does Deut 32:19-21 shed light on Romans 11:11-14?

(50) What is meant by the phrase in Deuteronomy 33:8, "Let Your Thummim and Your Urim be with Your holy one"?

(51) Who or what is "Jeshurun" (Deut 32:15; 33:5,26)? What does this name mean?

(52) Where was Moses buried (Deut 34:6)?

(53) What distinguished Moses from all subsequent prophets (Deut 34:10-12)?

(54) If Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible, who wrote Deut ch.34, the passage describing his death?