
Chronological Study

Numbers 25:1-26:65,27:15-23,31:1-32:42,33:50-35:8

Deuteronomy 1:1-14:2,16:21,22,17:2-7,25:17-19

Exodus 22:20,23:13,34:17

Leviticus 19:4,27-28,20:1-5,26:1

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***The Sin of Israel with the Moabites
Numbers 25:1-18***

Hired by the kings of Moab and the Midianites to curse Israel, Balaam, forbidden by the LORD, advised the kings on how to bring a curse on Israel themselves. The strategy involved sending women into the Israeli camp to seduce the men into sexual immorality, a tactic that served as the initial step toward enticing both men and women to worship Baal of Peor.

Despite recent victories over the Amorites and Og, the king of Bashan, and being delivered from Balaam's curse, the people swiftly turned away from the commandments of the LORD to indulge in the desires of their flesh. Succumbing to the seduction, they rapidly degenerated into worshipping Baal of Peor, the fertility god revered by the women.

Disregarding the LORD's repeated instructions to avoid association with the people of the land, they quickly and easily abandoned the LORD; the people openly and blatantly *joined themselves to Baal of Peor, and the LORD was angry against Israel* (vs 3). ***1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 15:33; Galatians 6:7; James 1:14-16***

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 15:33: Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

James 1:14-16 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

The LORD said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people and execute them in broad daylight before the LORD, so that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel. (vs 4)." Moses instructed the judges to kill every individual who joined themselves to Baal of Peor.

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One man went as far as to bring a Midianite woman into his tent; parading her before Moses and the leaders at the tent of meeting. When Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the Chief Priest, saw this, he jumped up and grabbed a spear and *he went after the man of Israel into the tent and pierced both of them through, the man of Israel and the woman, through the body. So the plague on the sons of Israel was checked. Those who died by the plague were 24,000.*

Israel's Victory of the Midianites

Numbers 31:1 - 31:54

Chronologically, we next move to Chapter 31, where God responds to the efforts of Midianites to ruin Israel. ***Numbers 31:1-2***

Numbers 31:1-2 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Take full vengeance for the sons of Israel on the Midianites; afterward you will be gathered to your people." NASU

Moses armed 12,000 men and sent them to destroy every Midianite. The army destroyed all the cities, burning the cities to the ground, but they took the spoil of material goods and livestock; they also spared the women and young boys, for which Moses was extremely angry with the leaders. ***Numbers 31:15-19***

Numbers 31:15-19 And Moses said to them, "Have you spared all the women? 16 "Behold, these caused the sons of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, so the plague was among the congregation of the LORD. 17 "Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known man intimately. 18 "But all the girls who have not known man intimately, spare for yourselves. NASU

The men did as they were instructed. Then the LORD gave instructions on the dividing of the spoil of the battle, ensuring that all that went to battle received an equitable share as well as the leaders and the priests. After the spoil was divided, the captains of the army, seeing that not one man was lost, *brought an offering to the LORD...to make an atonement for ourselves before the LORD.*

The Reorganization of Israel

Numbers 26:1 - 26:65

Chapter 26 is a second census of the people by Moses; this is a census of those who have survived the wilderness journey. Except for Caleb and Josuha, no one who was part of the first census is alive to be counted in this census (and Moses, the one responsible for the census, is himself about to die). Over the thirty-eight years, the size of the Nation has decreased by 1,820 people (again the Levites were not included in the census, who in their census increased by 700 men).

The Changing of the Guard

Numbers 27:15-23

After completing the census, knowing his time was short, Moses asked God who was going to take his place. The LORD instructed Moses to appoint Joshua as his replacement. Moses had Joshua stand before Eleazar and the congregation, conferring upon him the responsibility of leading the people of the LORD. This marks a significant shift in the operational dynamics between God and the nation. While previously, God spoke directly with and to Moses, with Joshua assuming leadership, God informs him that he will need to *stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire for him by the judgment of the Urim before the LORD. At his command, they shall go out and at his command, they shall come in* (vs 21).

The Conquest and Dividing of the Land Begins

Numbers 32:1-42, 33:50-35:8; Deuteronomy 4:41-43, 25:17-19

With Joshua now appointed as Moses' successor, the people are ready to cross the Jordan River and enter the land. Before proceeding, the men of the tribes of Reuben and Gad, along with half of the tribe of Manasseh, impressed with what they saw on the eastern side of the Jordan, approached Moses and requested to receive their inheritance there instead of in Canaan.

At first, Moses thought they were following in the footsteps of their fathers, who refused to enter the battle and the land. Moses angrily called them out and reminded them of God's reaction to the people's rebellion. In response, the men assured Moses that they would go with the nation to fight for their inheritance; they would go "*before the sons of Israel until we have brought them to their place.*" Moses accepted their offer and allowed them to secure their livestock and provide protection for their wives and children before proceeding.

Moses established three cities of refuge on the Eastern side of the Jordan; one each in the southern, central, and northern sectors. A city of refuge was a city an individual who accidentally killed someone could go to and find safety from an avenger; the city is seen as a type of salvation provided by Christ for sinners.

Moses Reviews the Nation's History Since Leaving Egypt

Deuteronomy 1:1-4:40

Having *defeated Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth and Edrei. Across the Jordan in the land of Moab, Moses reviewed the history of the Nation since their exodus from Egypt and he undertook to expound this law.*

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In his review of their history, Moses presses hard on the number of various reoccurring themes they confronted God with during their travels. On was their fickleness; how almost immediately after appointing men to assist in judging the people, the leaders and people sinned in making a golden calf. When initially told to go into the land, they, out of rebellion, refused to trust God, until the consequences of their actions sat in and then they sinned again, going forward against the command of the LORD.

Moses reminded the people that God had specifically told them not to harass the Edomites, descendants of Esau, or the Ammonites, descendants of Lot. He also reminded them that though the people refused to enter the land initially, when they obeyed God gave the people victory over the inhabitants of the land. Having defeated Amorites and the Bashanites, whose king was a giant.

Moses recounts how he asked God to graciously let him enter the land but God refused, saying that is enough. He would allow Moses to see the land but not enter the Promised Land.

As Moses recounts the history and the Law, he will mention multiple times that he is not able to enter the land, “because of your rebellion in which I sinned.” Moses, God’s servant, sinned himself, in not treating God’s name as holy before the people; for his sin, neither was Moses allowed to enter the Promised Land. I think there is a significant picture here for us. The people, when they sinned in rebellion, were judged; they did not enter in but perished in their wonderings. Moses, though he spoke with God “face-to-face,” was not excused for his sin; Moses is stressing the holiness of God and that there are consequences for sinning against God. **James 3:1**

James 3:1: Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.

Moses tells the people that they must continuously look to the LORD for His leading and power and not to rely on themselves; their wisdom or strength. Moses warns the people of the idolatry they are going to be confronted with when they enter the land that they might prepare themselves to obey God and not be enticed, as they were with Baal of Peor as the idolatry was the greatest evil they would confront; it will be their greatest threat. They must determine, before they are confronted with temptation and sin, who they are going to be before God. **Daniel 1:8-9; 1 Corinthians 2:2-3; 2 Peter 3:10-13**

Daniel 1:8-9 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

1 Corinthians 2:2-3 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

2 Peter 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

Moses Reviews the Law

Deuteronomy 4:44-8:20

In this section, Moses gives the Law a second time, showing the covenant is between God and Israel and the associated Law is from God. The Law came from God and was not only the moral compass for the nation, it was also the civil and religious instructions for the nation to a special people to Him.

Moses lays out in chapter 6:1-3, the purpose of the Law. So that the LORD will be their God and they will be His people, reminding the people repeatedly that they were entering the land not because of their righteousness but because of the exceeding sinfulness of the current inhabitants. ***Deuteronomy 6:1-5, Mark 12:28-30***

Deuteronomy 6:1-3: "Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the LORD your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, 2 so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. 3 "O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

Verses four and five of Chapter 6 give the greatest commandment:

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! 5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Mark 12:28-30 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" 29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. 30'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

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Moses warns the people to keep the before them and to teach their children that it might be well with them in the land. For, if they do not, then they too will go the way of those who are being disposed by them and they will face the same fate as the people in the land. But God is faithful, and if they serve Him they will be blessed; never think the blessings of God are deserved – fear pride; not become satisfied or complacent.

Commands of Righteousness and Consequences

Deuteronomy 9:1-11:32

Chapter 9 opens with a repeated theme: God promises the people victory, but the victory is not merited but is rather due to the wickedness of the people currently in the land. Moses offers a bit of an interlude of reminder to the people, pointing out how fast and far their parents fell with the golden calf after their parents heard God verbally give the commandments, which their parents agreed to and accepted. ***Proverbs 16:18-19, 18:12, 1 Timothy 3:6***

Proverbs 16:18-19 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling. 19 It is better to be humble in spirit with the lowly than to divide the spoil with the proud.

Proverbs 18:12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, but humility goes before honor.

1 Timothy 3:6 not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.

Moses stresses how the people need to tell their children of the wondrous works and power of God, who did not witness God's actions. How God loved them and promised them good, they need only be careful to obey Him with their whole heart; they are obligated to obey as the blessings of God were contingent upon their obedience. Moses closes with a warning, that if God is not blessing you, it is because of your sinfulness and you can expect His curses. Moses instructs the people, that when they enter the land they will divide and stand on two mountains, Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal; from Mount Gerizim, they will recite the blessings of the covenant; from Mount Ebal, they will recite the curses of the same covenant. The blessings and curses go together.

The Covenant

Deuteronomy 5:5-10, 12:1-31, 13:6-18 14:1,2, 16:21,22, 17:2-7; Exodus 22:20, 23:13, 34:17, Leviticus 19:4,27-28, 20:1-5, 26:1

These verses encapsulate the commandments of the Law, often referred to as the Laws of Moses, though from God. Most of the laws are given as statutes while a good deal address issues of ethical duties and communal justice—fairness.

- I am the Lord thy God! Thou shalt have no other Gods but me!
- Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain!
- Thou shalt keep the Sabbath Day holy!
- Thou shalt honor father and mother!
- Thou shalt not kill!
- Thou shalt not commit adultery!
- Thou shalt not steal!
- Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor!
- Do not let thyself lust after thy neighbor's wife!
- Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, nor his farm, nor his cattle, nor anything that is his!

Though certain laws can appear harsh, they are, and unyielding, they are, fallen man is in no position to challenge God and His sovereignty. The Law is intended to show man the holiness of God and the sinfulness of man before God and man's need for one to deliver him from his body of sin. ***Daniel 9:16; Romans 6:5-6 ,7:24-25, 9:20-22; Galatians 3:21-24; 1 John 1:9-10***

Daniel 9:16 O Lord, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people have become a reproach to all those around us

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Romans 6:5-6 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin

Romans 7:24-25 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

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Romans 9:20-22 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it? 21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? 22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?

Galatians 3:21-24 Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. 22 But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. 24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

1 John 1:9-10 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.