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Genesis 1-11

Formation of the World

Introduction:

1. Genesis means beginning.
2. Eternity past through history all the way to eternity future.
3. Not verse by verse, but section by section, noticing the high points.
4. Divide all of life into two levels: Horizontal and vertical
 - a. Horizontal level: knowledge is acquired by reason and experience. We learn by reason and experience.
 - b. Vertical level: Someone from the outside revealing to us who He is and what He wants. This is where the Bible comes in.
 - c. People will ask who am I, where am I going, where did I come from? We need God's revelation to know these things.
 - d. God has revealed Himself to us:
 1. Creation: (General revelation) Psalm 19
 2. Special revelation (the Bible)-66 books, 31173 verses (or so), 8000 in N.T. and 23000 in O.T. (more or less), reading aloud est. 71 hours at pulpit speed, 365 days a year = 12 mins. a day.
 3. "A bible that is falling apart is an indication of somebody who is not."
-Charles Spurgeon

I. General theme of the Bible

- A. Genesis-Revelation points to one person and two events:
 1. Jesus and the first coming to deal with sin (Genesis 3:9-15).
 2. The Second Coming to do away with sin completely and destroy the earth (1 Cor. 15:24-28; Acts 1:9-11).
- B. Genesis is the foundation of the Bible. If we do not understand Genesis then we will not understand the Bible. We get the beginning of everything in this book:
 1. Beginning of creation. (Gen. 1-2)
 2. Beginning of the human race (Gen. 1:26-2:25)
 3. Beginning of sin entering the world. (Gen. 3)
 4. Beginning of God's remedy to deal with sin (Gen. 3:14-19)
 5. Beginning of government and family (Gen. 2:22-25; 4:1ff)
 6. Beginning of civilization (4:16-9:29)
 7. Beginning of the nations of the world (10:11)
 8. Beginning of the nation of the Hebrew people through Abraham (Gen. 11:10-50:26)

II. Four great events (1-11):

A. **Creation or formation (1:1-2:25).**

1. Day 1: Gen. 1:1-5, (**created Space, Earth, Light**) everything that is knowable, everything in the universe could be categorized into one of five categories (scientists believe this):
 - a. Time (Gen. 1:1)- in the beginning
 - b. Force (Gen. 1:1) God

- c. Action (Gen. 1:1) Created
- d. Space (Gen. 1:1) The heavens
- e. Matter (Gen. 1:1) The earth
- f. In the very first verse of the Bible the precision with which this document will be put together by the Spirit of God. All of these five things are covered.
- g. If you can believe Genesis 1:1 then the rest of the Bible is easy.
 - 1. If you struggle with resurrection...
 - 2. If you struggle miracles
 - 3. Just go back to Genesis 1:1. If you believe that your God created everything out of nothing then the rest of the Bible is a cinch!
- 2. Day 2: Gen. 1:6-8 - **waters below and waters above**
- 3. Day 3: Gen. 1:9-13 - **dry land and plants**
- 4. Day 4: Gen. 1:14-19 - **sun, moon, planets, stars**
- 5. Day 5: Gen. 1:20-23 - **flying creatures and sea creatures**
- 6. Day 6: Gen. 1:24-31 - **land animals and first two people**
 - a. Gen. 1:26 "let us..." Every creep that you know God is over them too!
 - b. Gen. 1:27 "God created man in His own image..."
- 7. Gen. 2:1-2, God rested because God finished His work.
- 8. The most difficult problem for mankind is centered around one simple word "**Creation**".
 - a. Here is where people will turn off God. For a lot people the whole idea of a God with a special creation turns people off.
 - b. It is not because of intellectual reasons but for moral reasons. (see lesson on [Authority](#))
 - 1. If there is a God then there is a standard. No God no rules. Get rid of God and you can get rid of all the rules and regulations and create a perfect system of [humanism](#) and [existentialism](#). Then you can do anything you want.
 - 2. Evolution is basis of many philosophies Marxism, Communism, Atheism and Nazism.
- 9. Evolution: ([Answers in Genesis](#) provides some great articles about creation and evolution from scientists)
 - a. In pop culture the idea of evolution is a done deal. It is a simple idea that everyone knows to be true. People accept it without questioning. People assume that since most of the educated people believe it then it must true.
 - b. The truth is that in the academic world there are many people that have difficulties with evolution. They have done the research, they have the hard facts. And they find it to be a position that cannot be proven. It is a THEORY.
 - c. Design: Any design requires a designer (illustrations: watch maker)
- 10. The history of creation: **Gen. 2:4**, on a clear night look up and think of this, "If the art in the night sky is this beautiful what must the artist look like? Look at the beautiful coral reefs and ask the same thing. **This is the theme of the Bible, pointing us to the very artist Himself. He created everything so great, and us so great.**

- a. How ridiculous is this? It just so happens that: the earth and the sun are 93 million miles apart, the surface temperature of the sun is 12,000 degrees Fahrenheit. But if the earth were as close as Venus we would all burn up. As far as Mars we would all freeze. The earth takes 365 times to revolve in its journey around the Sun. Why 365 and not 30 times? Because the days would be 10 times longer. The alternate episodes of heat and cold would kill us. The earth is tilted at 23 1/3 degrees on its axis and it gives us the balance of four seasons. The atmosphere is a combination of 79 parts of oxygen to 20 parts nitrogen and 1 part of variant gasses. What if it was 50% oxygen and 50% nitrogen? The first guy in history to light a match would see the biggest and last firework display.
 - b. You see, this did not just happen, it was not a coincidence. There was an intelligent Designer. "God created the heavens and the earth."
11. Gen. 2:8-9, 15-17-19¹, 20
- a. Every hippie's dream: Lay around in nature and play with the animals.
 - b. Adam got to name animals. He was very ambitious when he began the process of naming the animals. Hippopotamus (5 syllables) the day wore on and the names got shorter, Rhinoceros (4 syllables). Then elephant (3 syllables). As days wore on this got to be so laborious that he saw an animal and called it "pig", "dog", "cat"
 - c. Gen. 2:23, Does not sound too romantic, but there is a translation that says, "This is it!"
 - d. Gen. 24, marriage. Every day that God created something He said, "it is good (1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, **31**). This is the first time in the entire creation story that God said that something was not good, 22:18.
 1. Isolationism is not good.
 2. Dog is man's best friend? No! God saw that the problem of aloneness is not good.
 3. God, the matchmaker: He did not have to hear about all the men she could have married. She did not have to hear about how his mother cooked. PERFECT!
 4. Marriage was designed to solve the first problem in creation - aloneness.
- B. **The fall (3:1-5:32)**. Without this section we would not have a reasonable explanation for all of the heartache in the world.
1. "Now the serpent was more cunning..." 3:1 This is a different creature than the others. This one can speak, the others can not speak. This serpent is the super being behind all of the evil in the world.
 2. Man was given a negative command. **JUST ONE**. You can eat any tree you want to, except this one.

¹ "...you shall surely die" From Gen. 2:17-Gen. 5 from Adam's family to Noah the phrase "...and he died" appears 8 times

- a. Wet paint.
- b. Keep out.
- c. Do not touch.
3. Serpent contradicts God (3:4-6) and the woman takes the bait and “bites”. (cf. [1 John 2:16](#))
4. Notice Gen. 3:6 it says about Eve that she *saw, took, ate,* and *gave*. What did man do? He just ate. But who got blamed for this? Man! ([1 Timothy 2:14](#)) He got blamed because he evidently knew what was happening and he still ate.
5. This is the darkest day in the human race Even darker than the day when Jesus was crucified. This is when sin entered into the world, when death began, when human suffering was ushered in, when shame and guilt originated, this was when, pointing from eternity past through history into eternity future, God decided that His very own Son would have to die on the cross. I can almost hear the angels along with the Godhead in heaven gasping as they witnessed Adam eat of the forbidden fruit. ([Rom. 5:12](#))²
6. Gen. 4:3-6 the first home Cain and Abel
 - a. God accepted Abel’s but not Cain’s, why? ([Hebrews 11:4](#))
 - b. Gen. 4:6-8, Cain’s face was sad (he was bummed out) and God gave him a chance to “get over it.” God said to Cain that if he had done what was right he would not have a reason to be upset.
 - c. Gen. 4:8: Second murder (Gen. 3:3; [John 8:44](#)). Cain killing Abel.
 - d. Gen. 4:9-14 Cain was not **able** to enjoy fellowship with God anymore.
 - e. Gen. 4:25, A new son of Adam and Eve, Seth. Now the new son of promise. It would be through his bloodline that the Messiah would come.
 - f. Gen. 5 is a long list of genealogy from Adam all the way to Noah through the lineage of Seth.
 - g. NOTE: A chapter like Gen. 5 is boring, unless your name is in it. But notice that..
 1. 5:1-2, God named all mankind MAN (in Hebrew ADAM).
 2. This asserts God’s dominion over mankind like man’s over the animals when Adam named them.
 - h. Gen. 5:3-5, 25-27
 1. Adam lived 930 years (5:5)
 2. Seth lived 912 years (5:8)

² While it is true that because of Adam sinning we all now must die, it is not true that we have inherited such sin or guilt. I will be judged by my own actions not Adam’s. Sin and death entered through the first Adam, Forgiveness and salvation entered in through the second Adam. [Johnnie Edwards has a good article on Romans 5:12.](#)

3. Methuselah lived 969 yrs. (5:27) The name Methuselah is an interesting name, important one too.³
 - a. A couple of Hebrew words that when they are put together mean “*when he is dead it shall be sent.*”
 - b. Enoch was the father of ***When he is dead it shall be sent.*** Why name him this?
 - c. Enoch (5:24) walked with God. He had an intimate relationship with God. Maybe God revealed to Enoch that when that son is dead God would send judgment on the earth. How nervous would of his parents been? Making sure he did not fall or cut himself.
 - d. **When Methuselah died, God sent the flood.** Noah was 600 years old when that judgment came (Gen. 7:6)

C. The flood (6:1-9:29).

1. 6:1 notice the math:
 - a. Long life spans would = a rapid increase in population.
 - b. Calculation⁴: Took the genealogical record of Genesis, the average life span and the number of kids and figured that at the end of 18 generations there could have 774 million people on earth. And, at the time of the flood there could have a billion+ people on the earth.
 - c. It took from the time after the flood to 1850 before we saw 1 billion people in modern times. 1850-1930 2 billion, 1930-1962 3 billion, 1962-1975 4 billion. Now there are about 6 billion. We are multiplying on the face of the earth.
2. Gen. 6:5-8 (notice the word ***but*** in vs. 5)
3. Gen. 6:10-13, world was so full of sin that it was time to clean it up.⁵
4. Gen. 6:14, 17-19.

3

The Flood of Noah did not come as a surprise. It had been preached on for four generations. But something strange happened when Enoch was 65, from which time "he walked with God." Enoch was given a prophecy that as long as his son was alive, the judgment of the flood would be withheld; but as soon as he died, the flood would be sent forth.

Enoch named his son to reflect this prophecy. The name Methuselah comes from two roots: *muth*, a root that means "death"⁵; and from *shalach*, which means "to bring," or "to send forth." Thus, the name Methuselah signifies, "his death shall bring."⁶

And, indeed, in the year that Methuselah died, the flood came. Methuselah was 187 when he had Lamech, and lived 782 years more. Lamech had Noah when he was 182.⁷ The Flood came in Noah's 600th year.⁸ $187 + 182 + 600 = 969$, Methuselah's age when he died.⁹

It is interesting that Methuselah's life was, in effect, a symbol of God's mercy in forestalling the coming judgment of the flood. It is therefore fitting that his lifetime is the oldest in the Bible, symbolizing the extreme extensiveness of God's mercy. ([link](#))

⁴ The Genesis Flood by John C. Morris and Henry M. Morris

⁵ ⁵ Will not deal with the Nephalim in this study.

5. Gen. 7:17-23, rained for 40 days, a lot of water!!! In the records of the Babylonians, Hindus, Egyptians, Persians, Greeks and the Chinese have records of a universal world-wide flood and an ark.
6. Ark:
 - a. 450 ft. long, 75 ft. wide, 45 ft. tall, displacing about 20 tons, roughly the size of the Titanic. If the ark had three levels you would have 1.5 million cubic ft. of space or the equivalent of 522 railroad cars would fit in the ark.
 - b. Ark could safely carry 18,000 species of mammals. There are around 15,000 species of mammals catalogued today. It was a big boat!!!!
7. Flood waters lasted 150 days (Gen. 8:3ff)
8. ***The rainbow covenant (Gen. 9) It was God's way of saying, "I have not forgotten you. Nor shall I ever forget you, or My promises to you. When you see the rainbow and I see the rainbow, we will remember each other." Only a God of love could have thought of speaking to His children in such a way at such a time. Having lost everything-money, home, all save life itself and what they had brought with them in the ark-these poor, homeless pilgrims surely needed a message of comfort and hope such as this.***
9. New social order on the earth, very important one:
 - a. Capital punishment is ordained (Gen. 9:6).
 - b. Human government (Gen. 9:7ff).
- D. **The birth of the nations or the fallout (10:1-11:9).**
 1. New physical order- seems like the life span has dramatically decreased.
 2. Table of nations in Gen. 10, a lot happens after the flood:
 - a. Noah's three sons have lots of kids:
 1. Japheth (2-5)
 2. Ham (6-20) 30 nations
 3. Shem (21-31)
 - b. Verse 24 (Eber⁶ is thought to be the father of Hebrew)
 3. Gen. 11, God told them to fill the earth and separate and they did not separate. The Tower of Babel.
 - a. Gen.11:1-9
 - b. It was called Babel, the gateway to god. They believed that the stars dictated how they ought to live. This is called worshipping the Zodiac.
 - c. Later it would be called Babylon.

⁶ Abraham is the first person called a Hebrew (Genesis 14:13) in the Biblical text. What does the name Hebrew mean and where does it come from? Abraham's G,G,G,G,G Grandfather was Ever (or Eber) "And Arpachshad bore Shalch who bore Ever" (Genesis 10:24). The Hebrew spelling of the word Hebrew is עברי and the Hebrew spelling of Ever is עבר. When the letter י is placed after a name it means "one belonging to the family of ..." and in this case a Hebrew is one who belongs to the family of Eber. By definition, a Hebrew is one who is descended from Ever and this would include Abraham as well as his brothers Nahor and Haran. While the lineage's of Nahor and Haran seem to disappear, probably absorbed into other cultural groups, only Abraham and his descendents remain Hebrews to this day. ([link](#))

Conclusion:

1. Think of the Bible as a contrast and a decision between two cities. The city of God and the city of man. Babylon/Jerusalem.
2. Which city do you belong to?
3. Gen. 3 a Redeemer is promised who would crush the head of Satan.

Plan of Salvation

4. GOD'S PART
 - a. The great love of God for man (John 3:16)
 - b. He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, as the Saviour (Luke 19:10)
 - c. Sent the Holy Spirit as a guide (John 16:13)
 - d. Gave the Gospel as "the power" unto salvation (Romans 1:16)
 - e. Provided atonement by the blood of Christ (Romans 5:9)
5. MAN'S PART
 - a. Hear the Gospel. (Romans 10:17, John 8:32)
 - b. Believe the Gospel (Hebrews 11:6, John 20:31)
 - c. Repent of past sins (Luke 13:3, Acts 17:30)
 - d. Confess faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 10:10, Matthew 10:32)
 - e. Be Baptized (Galatians 3:27, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38)
 - f. Be faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10)

Genesis 12-50

Formation of the Hebrew Race

Introduction:

- A. Previous lesson dealt with four great events:
 - 1. Formation of the universe (creation)
 - 2. Fall of mankind
 - 3. Flood of Noah
 - 4. Fallout of man's rebellion
- B. The entire theme of Genesis:
 - 1. Four great events
 - 2. Four great people
 - 3. pointing to one Great Person (Jesus)
 - 4. and two great events 1st and 2nd Coming of Jesus
 - a. First to deal with the problem of sin
 - b. Second to do away with the world and hand over the Bride to the Father.
- C. This lesson deals with the four great people, the four patriarchs and the creation of the Hebrew Race:
 - 1. Abraham-Father of Faith
 - 2. Isaac-a type of Christ
 - 3. Jacob-the father of 12 tribes
 - 4. Joseph-Embodied trust in God
- D. The Bible is historical and biographical. It centers around events but more on people. God is a God of people.
 - 1. Ex. 19:5; "You are My one special people..."
 - 2. God is always reaching out to people.
 - a. Reached out to Adam and Eve, and eventually to a nation (Hebrew), and through them to the entire world.
 - b. God is reaching out to the entire world through the Hebrew nation with the Good News of Salvation through Jesus Christ (Psalm 2; Is. 2; Joel 2; Acts 2)
 - c. John 1:11-13; "He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."
 - d. Luke 13:34; "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it! "Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you, you will not see Me until the time comes when you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"
- E. Genesis is the book of beginnings:
 - 1. Beginning of the universe

2. Beginning of mankind
 3. Beginning of the Sabbath
 4. Beginning of marriage
 5. Beginning of family
 6. Beginning of sacrifice
 7. Beginning of human government
 8. Beginning of nations
 9. Beginning of Israel (Hebrew people)
- F. Remember the grand theme of the Bible: God's selection of a nation so that He can bring His Son into the world through that nation so that the world can be saved.
1. This section of our study begins God's response to man's rebellion, by doing what He said He was going to do way back in Genesis 3, bruise the head of the serpent through the Seed of the woman, namely, Jesus Christ, the Son of God
- I. Abraham, first patriarch of the our lesson (12-22)
- A. How important is Abraham in the world?
1. Three major religions trace their roots back to Abraham: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam)
 2. See how much of the Bible is devoted to him:
 - a. Gen. 1-11 covered over 2000 years of history versus Gen. 12-50 covers less than 300 years.
 - b. 14 chapters in Genesis deal with Abraham
 - c. In New Testament he is used as an example of faith in Hebrews 11, Romans 1, Galatians 3 & 4, and James 2 (the father of those who believe).
 - d. Called the friend of God (2 Chron. 20:7; Is. 41:8).
 - e. He was a man of obedience (Gen. 12, 22; Hebrews 11:8-10).
 - f. The Arabs refer to him as Abuna Ibrahim Ak-Khalil' (Our father Abraham the friend of God).
- B. Abram's story begins in Gen. 11, when he was living in Ur of the Chaldeans
1. His brother Haran dies and leaves Lot as an orphan. Abram and Sarai take Lot and give him a home.
 2. **Gen, 12:1** - Abram is to leave the nation and go to another land. He goes up river and stops at a place called Haran and stays there until his father dies, then he fully obeys God.
- C. **Gen. 12:2** - God's sense of humor? God would take a man who is childless, with a barren wife, they are getting pretty old and tells him that,"I will make you a father of many nations." "All the families of the earth will be blessed..." This is a promise of God.
1. This is not a joke from God. He will bless Abram and everyone who blesses Abram will be blessed. By the same token, anyone who curses Abram will be cursed by God.
 2. From Gen. 12-50 God's entire program for redemption begins to unfold, it begins to take shape, it sets up the entire scene for the coming of the Messiah.

- D. Gen. 12:4, Abram was 75 years old when he departed from Haran
1. Notice the first words God speaks to Abram:
 - a. "Leave your father and relatives"
 - b. "Get out of town"
 - c. "Go to a place you have never been to"
 - d. Not, "Hello, I'm God and it is nice to meet you."
 - e. God tells him to leave everything behind because He will bless Abram beyond comprehension. He will replace everything Abraham had with amazing blessings. "Make a clean break from your past and start all over."
 1. **Application:** Luke 9:23; Matthew 16:24, "...if anyone would follow Me let him deny himself..."
 2. Make a clean break from the past and begin a new journey. Leave the old life. To the extent that we leave the old life is to the extent we will enjoy the new life.
 3. Ephesians 4:22; Romans 6:6; Colossians 3:1-10.
 4. Let it go and make a clean break and follow God.
 2. Notice that God says several times in Gen. 12:1-3 the phrase "I will..."
 - a. God is doing the blessing.
 - b. God is making sure that all things are working out in such a manner that both His will and Abram's blessings will be carried out.
 - c. **Caution:** A false doctrine of Calvinism arises from these texts and teaches, "God said 'I will do...' and not 'Abraham will do', which means that we cannot do anything for God, that God does everything for us. This means that we cannot earn our salvation, all that we have to do is believe." Note that, while this sounds good, this is not what God is actually saying. God is telling Abram what he will receive and how much he will be blessed IF Abram OBEYS God. Therefore, the faith that Abram had was one that made him do something, made him take actions, one that convinced him that in order to receive all of the blessings God had promised he would have to get up and walk, get up and leave, get up and believe.⁷
- E. Gen. 12:7-8, Abram built an altar to God and called on the name of the Lord. This is why he is the father of faith.
1. Gen. 12-13 Abram arrives to the Promised Land, but it does not look too promising.
 - a. A major famine hits the land!
 - b. If you had been told to leave a fertile place where you had food, water, clothing, riches, etc., and arrived to a piece of parched land where there is no food and God says, "Welcome to the Promised Land!" you might wonder if indeed God is being serious. You might even question if indeed God really spoke to you or not.
 - c. But it is not only Abram's faith that is being tested here, so is Sarai's and everyone else's too. Can you imagine being Abram, the head of

⁷ For good reference material on Calvinism I recommend this article: http://westpalmbeachchurchofchrist.com/topical/general_studies/calvinism-examined.html

the family, the one in charge of everything, the one upon whom everyone depends and he tells them, “we are on our way to the Promised Land. God spoke to me and told me everything that will happen to us there and it will be great. Better than great!”

1. And then they arrive to a famine inflicted land!
 2. This will not be the only time that God will promise Abram something fascinating and unbelievable that will require a lot of faith and that most normal people would have doubted God.
 - a. When all males in Abram’s camp would have to be circumcised.
 - b. When Abram is told to sacrifice his only begotten son.
 2. Why would God do something like this? Because faith needs to be tested. The only way we will know if something will work is for it to be tested under pressure.
 - a. Hebrews 11:17.
 - b. 1 Peter 1:7.
 - c. James 1:3.
 - d. Gen. 22:1.
- F. Genesis 12:11-20, the father of faith becomes the father of messing up. He went on to Egypt to find food (so would his grandson years later). Once he is there he tells his wife to lie and say that they are brothers. He had a lapse in judgment.
- G. Genesis 13, After messing up he returns to the Promised Land (Negev) and has a disagreement with Lot.
1. The families argued because there were too many people in the same camp and too many animals. There was no way for all those people and animals to live together and get along.
 2. Abram tells Lot to choose which land he wanted and Abram would take the left-overs.
 3. **Gen. 13:10-11**; Lot chooses Sodom, the land of great sin. To his eyes it was more promising.
 4. **Gen. 13:14-18**; God takes care of Abram and gives him everything he can see, as far as the eye can see, it is his. He will give him the land forever to him and to his descendants. This is the land promise God made with Abram and to his descendants. The promise was forever, but it was conditional for the nation, if they remained faithful then they would retain it forever.
 - a. Abram received the land (Joshua 21:43-45).
 - b. Retention of the land was conditional and they lost it (Dt. 28:1-14, 15-68; Jos. 23:16).
- H. Gen. 14:1-16, War of the kings and they took Lot as prisoner
1. (Technical information: War between four and five kings (total of 9). Four kings are Shemite from the line of Shem (semitic) the five are Hamite kings from the line of Ham. These five kings had been for 12 years ruled by Chedorlaomer and paid tribute to him. On the 13th year they had enough and rebelled. Chedorlaomer raises up an army and attacks those kings, wins and takes the spoils and Lot as captive.)

2. When Abraham found out that Chedorlaomer had taken Lot captive he raised up his own army from his own slaves and fought against Chedorlaomer and defeated them. He rescued Lot.

I. **Genesis 14:17-24** Introduction of Melchizedek

1. Meleh and Zedek - king of righteousness
2. Then the king of Salem - King of peace
3. Priest of God Most high - El Elyon
4. He blessed Abram
5. Abram gave him a tenth of all of his possessions
 - a. Tithing was a way of showing that the one to whom it was paid was superior.
 - b. First time tithing is mentioned.
6. The significance of Melchizedek:
 - a. Genesis 14:18, **Psalm 110**, Hebrews 5:6, 10; 6:20; **7:1ff**
 - b. After a couple of mentions in the Bible we should pause and ask ourselves, "Who was this priest?"
 - c. There are a few possibilities, but personally I think this man was Jesus in the flesh. This is why:
 1. No priest was priest and king, except Jesus.
 2. No king was king and priest, except Jesus.
 3. To be a priest one had to come from the tribe of Levi, Melchizedek had no genealogy and neither did Jesus.
 4. Jesus is High Priest of God Most High and He is King of Kings and came from the tribe of Judah (the no genealogy bit).
 5. But your guess is as good as mine.

J. Gen. 15, the weird chapter.

1. Abraham is nearing 90.
2. He is going to give them what they have wanted for years, a son. Not only Ishmael who is the son of Abraham and Hagar, son of the flesh. But Isaac, a miracle birth.
3. Then they will have grandchildren, great grandchildren, great, great, etc., until it is a great nation that cannot be counted - until many nations from the loins of Abraham.
4. 5:1-3 Notice how God introduces Himself to Abraham and how Abraham responds: "What will you give me?"
5. 15:4-6 And he believed (Hebrew- Ah-mén) and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. Sarah was barren in Ur of the Chaldeans, barren in Negev, barren in Egypt and now barren in Canaan. There was no indication that a child was imminent. Only that he would one day have a son. Abraham believed what God said and accepted it as a done deal.
6. Gen. 15:5 The Milky Way galaxy is 10,000 light years wide by 100,000 light years long. Our perspective: Strap you on a ray of light and travel through space at the speed of light (186,000 miles per second). You could go around the earth 7.5 times in one second! If you went towards the moon you would sail past the moon in 1.5 seconds, in 2.5 minutes you would go past Venus, in 4.5 minutes you would go past Mercury, in 7.5 minutes you would sail past the sun. But going 186,000 miles per

second it would take you 100,000 years to get from one end to the other end of the Milky Way galaxy. And they say that it is one of billions of galaxies! Now that's how much God blessed Abraham!

7. Gen. 15:12-17 Cutting of the covenant with Abraham.
- K. Gen. 16: Sarai thinks she is going to help God out so she gives her husband her maidservant Hagar, and Sarai would say that it was hers. Ishmael was born.
- L. Genesis 17:1-6 Abraham and the covenant of circumcision:
 1. Abraham is 99 years old and no child yet.
 2. God appears to him and promises that he will have many children, nations and nations of them! Cruel joke, huh?
 3. God renames him from Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of a Multitude)
 - a. Notice the difference is in the spelling but more in the pronunciation "h" Abra ham. Sara h. It's just a breath "h", and the breath changes everything. In Hebrew the spirit Ru-ah means breath.
 - b. Maybe this is an indication of God saying to Abraham, the power of My Holy Spirit can do what I said I would do.
 4. Gen. 17:9-10 (Abraham for the first time) The sign of covenant was circumcision.
 - a. Covenant? This man is 99 and his entire house will be circumcised as an outward sign of a spiritual promise from God. I would have said, "What? You mean that in order for the covenant to be physical I have to be circumcised? Noah got a rainbow as a sign of the covenant!"
 - b. I know that all of this sounds weird to us, and you better believe that it did for Abraham, too! It probably did not make sense at all to this man. We have the blessing of reading this after the fact. We have the "rest of the story", but Abraham did not. He WAS the first chapter, and had to rely on his faith to get him through!
 - c. Application: There are times when things just do not make sense but God is working things that is for our benefit. He knows better than we do.
- M. Genesis 18 and 19, three visitors. Who were they? This is strange because one of them is called the Lord. Two of them go off to Sodom and Gomorrah and the "Lord" stays behind.
 1. The scene: The Lord and two angels in some form come to Abraham's tent for dinner. (What do you feed an angel for dinner?)
 - a. 18:10, 12-13: While they are there the Lord speaks to Abraham and tells him that He will return in a year and that Sara his wife would have a child. Sarah is listening behind the door and she starts laughing to herself. Vs. 14-15.
 - b. After this visit two get up to leave, the Lord and Abraham stay back.
 1. 18:16-33: Famous conversation- 50 righteous?, 40 righteous?, 30 righteous?, 10 righteous?
 2. Only Lot and his family were righteous, barely! God spared them and destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.

3. Public condemning of homosexuality.
 2. Weird things in Chapter 18-19: Doom of Sodom promised, Sodom destroyed, incestual relationship between Lot and his daughters.
- N. Gen. 20 Abraham meets up with Abimelech and Abraham lies and says that Sarah is his sister. Lie number 2! So after three rough chapters of sexual sins and lying it is time for a laugh.
- O. Gen, 21 The comedy chapter/The chapter of fulfilled promises.
1. vss. 1-2 "...just as He had spoken..."
 2. God is never late. God is always punctual. He is always on time.
 3. If this is true, then why did God wait 25 years before He gave them a child?
 4. Because once it is fulfilled it makes the fulfillment more dramatic. Imagine you are over a 100 and your wife is pushing a 100 and she says to you, "Ahem, I am pregnant." Now that's a miracle, that's dramatic! And that is what God wanted.
 5. Vss. 5-7!!! God turned a nursing home into a maternity ward, now that is awesome! This is so cool that you have to laugh!
 6. Application: Does God make you laugh? The typical child laughs on average 150 times per day. The adult average is 15 chuckles a day! How sad. We need to lighten up. Laugh a little more. Enjoy the Lord's presence a little more. See the humor and the irony in how your life unfolds.
- P. Genesis 22:1-2, Greatest test of faith, the sacrifice of Isaac.
1. Can you imagine what was going on in Abraham's mind? "You have made me wait all of these years for a child and now you want me to kill him?" "I'm over a hundred and my wife is over a hundred, we are old people and you will take him?"
 2. Notice the wording:
 - a. "Take your ONLY son." This is the only son because this is the only son by faith.
 - b. "The son whom you love." This is the first time that the word "love" is used in the entire Bible.
 3. The first time "love" is used in the Bible it is...
 - a. Used in reference to a father loving his only begotten son
 - b. Used in reference that he is about to give him in sacrifice
 - c. Used in reference to sacrificing him on Mount Moriah (In Jerusalem at the time of Abraham the temple mount is on what was known to Abraham as Mount Moriah. The peak of Mt. Moriah is called Golgotha.)
- Q. Gen. 22:3-5 On the third day Abraham went to sacrifice his son. This means that Isaac was as good as dead in Abraham's eyes for three days. What a sad time for Abraham. However in Vs. 5 he says that he and the boy would go worship God and both would return. Notice his faith! (Heb. 11:19)
1. Hebrews 11:19 uses the word "considered" λογίζομαι logizomai (*log-id'-zom-ah-ee*) - to *take an inventory*, that is, *estimate* (literally or

figuratively): - conclude, (ac-) count (of), + despise, esteem, impute, lay, number, reason, reckon, suppose, think (on).

- a. Abraham logically concluded that the birth of Isaac was in itself a miracle, that God did the impossible. Therefore he logically thought through that God would also make sure that he had a son, that God was powerful enough to raise his son from the dead (sort of like God would do with His own Son thousands of years later.)
- b. APPLICATION: When you are going through your own issues, stop and look at the sky and logically think through everything that God has created and done and allow that logic to help you with your faith.

R. Gen. 23 Sarah dies and is buried.

S. Gen. 25 Abraham marries again to Keturah and has more children.

II. Second patriarch of this lesson: Isaac: Gen 24: 61-63 Abraham commissions his servant Eliezer of Damascus (Gen. 15:2) to go out and find his son Isaac a wife.

A. Notice that Isaac was meditating, and when he looked up he saw Rebekah the gorgeous child of Nahor, Abraham's brother, riding on a camel and she was for HIM!!!

1. Application: Men, learn to wait and be patient. God will send you a woman. No need to be beating the pavement, your helpmeet will arrive, one day-maybe not on a camel-but she will arrive.

2. Hmm.

B. Gen. 25-36 Rebekah had a very difficult pregnancy (Gen. 25:22-24).

1. She had twins and each represented a nation. They struggled and fought from the womb to adulthood.
 - a. Esau (Hairy) and Jacob (Heal Catcher).
 - b. Hairy was of the field and smelled like the animals. (25:27-28).
 - c. Heal Catcher was a momma's boy, he liked to cook and be in the house. (Gen. 25:28).
 - d. Jacob had cooked a red stew and Esau came in famished and wanted to eat Jacob's stew. Jacob says "yes" in exchange for Esau's birthright. Esau said yes, at that time he did not care about it. (25:30-34) The informal giving of the birthright.
2. Formal giving of the birthright (Gen. 27). Isaac was old and wanted to bless the first born. Rebekah knew that Isaac was about to bless Esau so she coaches Jacob to play dress-up and smear stuff on him that made him smell like the animals. Isaac's sight was bad and Jacob was able to get the blessing. (Gen. 27:18, 21)
3. Esau was angry and wanted to kill Jacob his brother. Jacob ran away and went to uncle Laban's house and there he met his wives. (Gen. 29)

III. Third patriarch of this lesson is Jacob: The official conferring of the birthright: Gen. 28:12-15 (John 1:51) The Father, Son and Holy Spirit present in the Official Conferring of the Birthright. The promises made to Abraham will not come true through Jacob, later known as Israel.

- A. Gen. 29-31 is where we learn about Jacob being deceived himself by his father in law. He ended up marrying two wives, Leah and Rachel (worked a total of 20 years for his wives). They have 12 sons and 1

daughter. The children grow up and the family decides it is time to return to Isaac's land. But there is this issue of an unresolved problem with Esau. Last time he heard Esau was still looking to kill Jacob. So, um, how did he handle this?

- B. Gen 32:24-32 Jacob wrestles with an angel. In verse 36 he holds on to the angel and demand to be blessed, just like he was blessed by his father. The angel changed his name to Israel (one who fight with God)
 - C. APPLICATION: This is first WWF wrestling match in human history and it is on the Cannanite Network. Jacob VS God. The best day in Jacob's life was when he quit struggling against God and surrendered to Him. This is the best day of your life, when you quit fighting against God and surrender completely to Him.
 - D. Leah and Rachel.
- IV. Fourth Patriarch of our lesson: Joseph, Gen. 37-50
- A. Joseph is the central figure from Gen. 37-50. He is hated by his brothers, sold as a slave in Egypt.
 - B. He has two dreams. He made a mistake in HOW he revealed the dream. He went to his 11 brothers and tells them that he had a dream last night. There were 12 sheaves and the 11 bowed down to my sheave. His brothers did not like that. Then he told them the second dream and tells his mom, dad and brothers about 12 stars, sun and moon and that the 11 stars and the moon and the sun all bowed down to "my star." Israel got mad and told him to be quiet and not say stuff like that anymore, because he knew that it meant that the entire family would bow down and worship Joseph.
 - C. Joseph is sold into Egypt and ends up in Potiphar's house.
 - 1. Potiphar's wife is the first Desperate Housewife. She made a "come on" to Joseph and he would not have anything to do with it.
 - 2. He became a prisoner in jail, and forgotten about.
 - 3. One night the baker and the butler had a dream and he interpreted the dream. One would live and have his station restored to him and the other would be hanged. Joseph reminded the butler to remember him one day. He got out and forgot about Joseph until when Pharaoh had a dream.
 - 4. Pharaoh's dream was 7 fat cows and 7 thin cows, 7 plump ears of grain destroyed by the 7 thin ears of grain. Joseph interprets the dream.
 - D. Gen. 41:25-49, Pharaoh appoints Joseph as Prime Mister.
 - E. Gen. 41:55-57 Great famine in the land, all people were hurting for food
 - F. Gen. 42-45 Jacob in Canaan tells his sons u need to go to Egypt and buy grain. Joseph recognized his brothers but they did not recognize him (extreme makeover).
 - 1. He sells them grain and keeps Simeon with him and tells them to bring back Benjamin the youngest.
 - 2. Jacob is angry and says that he already lost the son whom he loved and now he is going to lose Benjamin, the other son he loves.
 - 3. Famine gets so bad that they all go down to Egypt to be saved.

- G. Gen. 45:1-3, 50:19-21, Joseph reveals himself and weeps. He forgives his brothers.
1. Keep this thought in mind because in Exodus we find the Israelites in Egypt waiting to be delivered. It was in Egypt that they were allowed to grow and be a great nation. It was in Egypt that they thrived and God blessed them before they crossed the Red Sea and went into Canaan the Promised Land.
 2. 70 of Jacob's family members move to Egypt, they stay there 400 years and become a great nation. They become oppressed and are asking for salvation.

Conclusion:

1. Gen 49:9-10.
 - a. Jacob's prophecy.
 1. The scepter is the right to self govern (the staff of tribal identity).
 2. Shiloh means to whom it belongs and is referring to the Messiah.
 - b. The interpretation: When the Romans occupied Judah and took away their authority to capital punishment, to impose their own law to enforce capital punishment, there is a text in the Talmud that says that the Sanhedrin put ashes on their heads and sackcloths on their bodies and said, "Woe to us for the scepter has departed from Judah, but the Messiah (Shiloh) has not come!"
 - c. What they did not know was this: That while they were having this pity party that they no longer had the scepter, in Nazareth there was a carpenter getting ready to lay down his hammer and nails and present Himself as the Messiah of the world. Shiloh had come!
2. Remember the theme: four great events, four great people, all pointing to one person and two events- Jesus, and his 1st and 2nd coming, that thread of redemption through Jesus the Christ.
3. Next lesson: Exodus 1-18.

Exodus 1-18

Redemption: Domination by Egypt and Liberation from Egypt

Introduction:

1. The birth of a nation
 - a. Births are always exciting but they are also very painful
 - b. A very painful but exciting birth of the nation of Israel
2. The word Exodus means “going out.”
 - a. Remember they have come in to Egypt as 70 people, just a family. They are going to go out of Egypt as a nation because they have been there so long.
 - b. In Gen 15:13-14 “And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; (14) And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.” (possessions)
 - c. An entire race will dispose of the shackles of slavery and will be led out into the wideness by God to inherit a new land.
3. Theme of the Exodus: Redemption and Revelation
 - a. Redemption 1-18
 1. 1-12 Domination by Egypt
 2. 13-18 Liberation from Egypt
 3. 19-40 Revelation after Egypt
 - b. Revelation 19-40
 - c. The theme of the book of Exodus is the theme of your life:
 1. If you gave your testimony you would tell how you have been **redeemed** and how God has **revealed** Himself after your redemption.
 2. You got saved and made Jesus your Lord and Savior, and He took away your sin and guilt, there’s redemption.
 3. You continue to worship God because you are hungry for the revelation that comes your whole life after you have been redeemed.
- I. Chapter 1 A population explosion of a minority group in Egypt, the children of Israel. The Jews have grown and because of that they will be oppressed.
 - A. vs. 1 This is not the beginning of a new story, but the continuation of an old story.
 1. God’s work through His people is going on.

2. The first word of Exodus in the Hebrew Bible is “and”. This denotes that it is a continuation of where Genesis 50:26 left off.
 3. In Hebrew the Book of Exodus is not called Exodus, it is called “We’ elleh Shemoth” which means, “and these are the names”.
 4. From the very beginning of the book we have the understanding that God has begun a work: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the twelve tribes, Joseph and He is continuing His work.
 5. Here they are in Egypt and they will be **groaning**, calling out to God for deliverance.
 6. God delivers them. They go from **groaning** to **grumbling**.
 - a. They get delivered in a mighty miraculous way and you would think that they would be satisfied,
 - b. But no! They groan and grumble but the book ends in glory. God manifests His glory even in the midst of all complaining and brings them to the borders of the Promised Land.
 7. It has been 350 years since the book of Genesis ends.
 - a. From Joseph’s death there is a 350 year gap, long enough for any nation to forget its roots, its history.
 - b. It happens in America. We are rewriting history. We are writing God out of our national history.
 - c. It can happen with churches that were once founded (Matthew 16) by Christ and little by little has become a church that does not reflect the original principles.
- B. Exo 1:7 And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them. It has been estimated that 1 out of every 3 people at this time that lived in Egypt were foreigners.
- C. Exo 1:8-12 Now a new king came to power in Egypt, who had no knowledge of Joseph. (9) And he said to his people, See, the people of Israel are greater in number and in power than we are: (10) Let us take care for fear that their numbers may become even greater, and if there is a war, they may be joined with those who are against us, and make an attack on us, and go up out of the land. (11) So they put overseers of forced work over them, in order to make their strength less by the weight of their work. And they made store-towns for Pharaoh, Pithom and Raamses. (12) But the more cruel they were to them, the more their number increased, till all the land was full of them. And the children of Israel were hated by the Egyptians.
1. Archeologists have discovered in Egypt bricks, some made with straw and others without straw.
 2. They came into Egypt as 70 people, the family of Jacob.

- a. They were there for 400 years total. At this point they are over 2 million strong, from 70!
 - b. A population explosion.
3. After four centuries of slavery they cry out to God for deliverance and God raises up a guy by the name, Moses, the great deliverer. He is the fellow who wrote Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.
 4. Pharaoh, to solve the Jewish problem in his own country decided to give a command: "Any Hebrew who has children, if it is a boy kill it, if it is a girl let them live - girls make good slaves."
 - a. The midwives decided not to do this because they "feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live." (1:17; cf. 1 Peter 2:13-14, Daniel 3:6, Acts 4:18-20, 5:29-32)
 - b. So Pharaoh then commands that all the boys be thrown into the river. (1:18-22)
- II. Chapter 2, The chapter of boy meets girl, boy marries girl and girl has a baby (Amram and Jochebed [Ex. 6:20]).
- A. Moses is born and hidden for three months. Why? Notice 2:2, he was cute. Who wrote this book? Moses!
 - B. Moses was laid in the reeds in a basket. Pharaoh's daughter found Moses and one of her maids suggested that a Hebrew woman be called to raise the baby, since the baby was a Hebrew.
 - C. It just so happened that Moses' own mother was called to raise her own son!
 - D. Exo 2:9-10 And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it. (10) And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses, and said, Because I drew him out of the water.
 - E. Moses is one of the most amazing men of the Bible.
 1. Amazing in character
 2. Amazing in what he withstood, albeit he had flaws but, WOW!
 3. He was an amazing and excellent human being. There are times when Moses is a type of Christ.
- III. Chapters 2-4 is highlight this baby's upbringing in the land of Egypt. How Moses as a Baby comes into the court of Pharaoh and exerts great influence and has great wealth (Exo. 11:26 speaks of his great wealth and how he made a deliberate choice to say no to all of those riches in place of being a servant of God).
- A. Egypt was a progressive culture.

1. The Egyptians believed that the world was round, before Christopher Columbus!
 2. The distance from the earth to the sun is 93 million miles and they made a pretty good estimation back then.
 3. Inside of Egypt there was a famous university called the temple of the sun, like the modern day Harvard University.
 4. Known for its architecture and the building of those great pyramids. At least 80 pyramids have been built by the Egyptians.
- B. Moses becomes the adopted grandson of Pharaoh
1. The daughter adopts Moses and brings him to the court.
 2. **This would make him next in line to become Pharaoh.**
 3. Josephus tells us that this particular Pharaoh did not have any sons, only daughters. This would make Moses next in line for the throne.
- C. One day there was an Egyptian beating a Hebrew man. (2:11-14)
1. By this time Moses had learned of his heritage.
 2. He killed the Egyptian thinking that he was doing the right thing and a favor to the Hebrew.
 3. The next day two Hebrews are fighting and Moses attempts to stop them and they said to Moses if he was going to kill them like he had the Egyptian.
 4. Moses's secret was out and he decided to flee for his life. He goes way out to the middle of nowhere.
 5. He goes to a place called Midian, and that really looks like the middle of nowhere.
- D. Exo 2:23-25 And it came to pass in the course of those many days, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. (24) And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. (25) And God saw the children of Israel, and God took knowledge of them.
1. God heard their groaning
 2. God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
 3. God looked upon the children of Israel and God acknowledged them
- E. Exo. 2:15-25 Moses gets married to Zipporah:
1. Moses lived to be 120 years old. You could divide his life in three equal segments:
 - a. **40 years in Egypt:** 40 years of his life trying to be something

- b. **40 years in Midian, in the middle of nowhere:** The next 40 years of his life Moses discovered that he was really nothing
- c. **40 years in the wilderness:** But God took the last 40 years and showed Moses that God can take nothing and make something out of it.
 - 1. That is the great joy of Moses' life. By the time God got a hold of him he realized that he was nothing. Life had humbled him.
 - a. He was old, feeble and not the next in line as Pharaoh's successor.
 - b. He did not walk like an Egyptian, talk like an Egyptian anymore.
 - c. He knew he was a poor outcast.
 - d. An 80 year old failure.
 - 2. God thought, "I can use you." And He did. (3:10-11- "Who am I that you can use me?" "I will be with you!")

F. Exo. 3, The burning bush:

- 1. Exo 3:4-5 And when Jehovah saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. (5) And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is **holy ground**.
 - a. Holy ground? Moses is probably not in an oasis. It is in the wilderness, in the middle of nowhere. God said, "You are on holy ground." Really?
 - b. What made it holy?
 - 1. God said it was holy! That's it!
 - 2. It was a place where God connected with a person. And because God connected with a person and set it apart (sanctified it) He called it "Holy Ground".
 - 3. **Application:** Any place where you meet with God, any time you intersect with God, that is a holy moment and a holy place.
- 2. Exo 3:6-8 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. (7) And Jehovah said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people that are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; (8) and I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Amorite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite. (the up tights, the out of sights and the termites) All of these

people were races that lived in Canaan and would eventually have to be driven out.

3. Exo 3:13-15 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? What shall I say unto them? (14) And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. (15) And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, Jehovah, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name forever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

- a. God's name forever: Not Buddha, not Allah, not the ground of all being (from people who say they are not religious but believe in a higher power)
- b. The name "I AM, THAT I AM" יהוה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה, (*E-he-yay asher eh' he yay*)
 1. We do not know how to really pronounce **YHWH** (יהוה)
 2. As if to describe the self-sufficiency and self-containment and all powerful nature of God.
 - a. Eternal in power
 - b. Immutable in character
 3. Some suggest the "Becoming One", or the "I WILL BE THAT I WILL BE" It means all inclusive, forever.
 - a. The idea is that whatever you need in your life God will become that. That is how sufficient He is.
 - b. If you need provision Jehovah will become **Jehovah-yi' reh** (הוה יִרְאֶה. **Yahweh-yireh**)
 - c. If you need righteousness he will become **Jehovah-Tsidkenu** (הוה צִדְקָה sid - kenu') Jehovah our Righteousness
 - d. If you need a strong cover the Lord will become **Jehovah Nissi** (yeh-ho-vaw' nis-see') יהוה נִסִּי Jehovah our banner.
 - e. God will become to you whatever it is that you need.
 4. Years later Jesus would come and lay claim to this name, "I Am". (John 8:56-59)

G. Exo. 4 Moses man full of excuses

1. Excuse #1: vs. 1-5, What if they don't believe me?

- a. "What's that in your hand, a walking stick? Throw it down and it turns into a snake. Now grab it by the tail." He does and it turns back into a walking stick.
 - b. Then God said, "Now take your hand and put it in your coat." He brought it out and it was white as leprosy, then he put it back in and it was healed. Basically what God is saying do these two things and it will get their attention.
2. Excuse # 2, I've never spoken to anyone. I never took speech. I'm not a good public speaker. Exo 4:10-12 And Moses said unto Jehovah, Oh, Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant; for I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. (11) And Jehovah said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? Or who maketh a man dumb, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, Jehovah? (12) Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt speak.
 3. Excuse # 3 the real reason (vs. 13). Send someone else. That's the real Moses, I don't want to do it. "I don't wanna!" (Use Alexis as an example --no traduzca esto--)
 - a. Look I'm 80 years old. I've never spoken in public before. I really don't want to do it.
 - b. God makes Aaron his brother the spokesperson (vs. 14ff)
 4. Application: The Lord is not looking for the smartest or the most talented person to use. He is not looking for the most "able" but the most "AVAIL-Able" Those who will say, "I'll do it, send me." Moses felt he could not do it, and that is a good thing but the truth is that when God is with you, you can do all things (Phil. 4:13)
- IV. Chapters 5-13 This is the great confrontation: Moses versus Pharaoh. This is where Moses now as a leader with Aaron the spokesperson, will confront the king of Egypt. God will use a series of 10 plagues.
- A. Have you ever wondered why God sent plagues in the first place? This is a huge display that probably lasted anywhere from 3-6 months in Egypt. What's the idea behind using these ten plagues.
 - B. The reason: Exo 5:1-2 And afterward Moses and Aaron came, and said unto Pharaoh, Thus saith Jehovah, the God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness. (2) And Pharaoh said, Who is Jehovah, that I should hearken unto his voice to let Israel go? I know not Jehovah, and moreover I will not let Israel go.
 1. "You want to really know who God is? O.K., you are about to find out in a very dramatic way!"
 2. God revealed Himself to Moses via a burning bush and now He will reveal Himself to Pharaoh, to his people, to the Hebrews and to the entire world via 10 destructive plagues (Joshua 2:10-11; Joshua 5).

- C. These plagues have been tailored made to attack the Egyptian belief system. They had a pantheon of gods. (Exo 12:12 For I will go through the land of Egypt in that night, and will smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am Jehovah.)
1. All of this happened during the 18th Dynasty, a time when Egypt was very powerful, a world power. So it does stand to reason that the king of this world power would say, "Who is the Lord that I should hear His voice?"
 2. This powerful Pharaoh is up against the Almighty God!
- D. Exo. 5:4-23: Pharaoh become angry with Moses and the Hebrews. He commands that their labor be increased and punished them so that they will no longer be given straw to make the bricks. (Aaron said that Moses said that God said, "Let My people go").
- E. Exo. 6 God promises action and reminds that people that He has heard their groaning (6:5) and remembers the promises made to Abraham (6:8).
- F. The plagues begin; Exo 7-11.
1. Plague # 1: The water of the Nile turned into blood (7:14-25)-this is a huge problem for the Egyptians.
 - a. The Nile was considered the source of all life, the principle resource of all Egypt.
 - b. It was worshiped under the name Hapi or Osiris, the great father of life.
 - c. This was an attack on their false river god. Jehovah destroyed it!
 2. Plague # 2: The frog god (8:1-15). Frogs covered the land.
 - a. Heket was the frog god's name.
 - b. It was a major offense to kill a frog in Egypt.
 - c. When the frogs came and covered the land in Egypt the Egyptians could not kill them, it was a major offense.
 - d. It was a *ribbiting* crime (no lo traduzca)!
 3. Plague # 3 Dust becomes gnats or lice (8:16-19), maybe the sandflies. This plague attacked the god of the earth, Geb.
 4. Plague # 4 A swarm of flies (8:20). Khepra, the god of the rising sun. Khepra means "Comes into being"
 - a. Could have been a reference to the scarab beetle. It was a symbol of eternal life. It was worshipped.
 - b. These beetles were placed in the tombs.
 - c. God destroyed this one too, and got Pharaoh's attention!

- d. Exo 8:25-27 And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and said, Go ye, sacrifice to your God in the land. (26) And Moses said, It is not meet so to do; for we shall sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians to Jehovah our God: lo, shall we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, and will they not stone us? (27) We will go three days' journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to Jehovah our God, as he shall command us.
1. Pharaoh says to Moses to go and do their thing but they are not allowed to leave the land. Moses says that it would be too dangerous to do that because they are going to offer up oxen to God. To the Egyptians the ox was a god and they would kill the Jews. No, got to go three days journey.
 2. Exo 8:28 And Pharaoh said, I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to Jehovah your God in the wilderness; only ye shall not go very far away: entreat for me.
 3. Application: What is happening is that Moses is negotiating with Pharaoh (8:29). Don't negotiate with your enemy. Don't negotiate with temptation. Don't say, "Oh, I can handle it." You can't! Don't challenge the devil. That's stupid. Flee from the devil (James 4:7).
 4. Illustration: The hunter sees a bear and is about to pull the trigger. The bear is very crafty and he could speak English (español para la traducción) and says, "Just a minute kind sir. Put your gun down. Let's talk this over. let's negotiate. I think we can come to a common agreement that will be good for the both of us. What is it you would like?" The hunter says, "Well, I want a fur coat." The bear says, "Well we have talking room then. Because all I want is a good meal." So they went out into the woods and they had a negotiation. The bear came back licking his lips. The negotiations were successful. The man got his fur coat and the bear got his meal.
 5. Don't mess with the enemy. He will eat you alive.
5. Plague # 5 The dead cows (pestilence, King James and murrain during the Passover feast) Exo. 9:1-7
- a. Only the Egyptian livestock were affected.
 - b. Two gods were defeated: Menibus the cow god and Apis the bull god.
6. Plague # 6 Boils (Exo. 9:8-17), an attack on the god Sarapis the god of healing
- a. Moses would take a handful of dust and throw it in the air and humans and animals alike would be affected.

- b. The Egyptian used to take a handful of soot and throw it in the air and speak a blessing to the people. What the Egyptians did as a blessing God turned it into a curse.
- 7. Plague #7 (Exo. 9:18-35) Hail and fire from heaven. This was to demonstrate God's power over the sky. The goddess of the sky was called Nut.
 - a. Pharaoh has had enough, sort of. (Exo 9:27-28 And Pharaoh sent, and called for Moses and Aaron, and said unto them, I have sinned **this time**: Jehovah is righteous, and I and my people are wicked. (28) Entreat Jehovah; for there hath been enough of these mighty thunderings and hail; and I will let you go, and ye shall stay no longer.
 - b. This is called selective memory disorder. Pharaoh had asked, "Who is the Lord your God that I should hear His voice?" Pharaoh had said, "go", "don't go", "go, but not too far."
 - c. If this is where the story had ended we would think that Pharaoh had repented. But no!
 - 1. This is called an **Emotional Eruption** due to a physical affliction.
 - 2. Remove the affliction and his heart will become hard again.
 - 3. Don't confuse an Emotional Eruption with genuine repentance.
 - 4. Exo 9:34-35 And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders were ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, he and his servants. (35) And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the children of Israel go, as Jehovah had spoken by Moses.
- 8. Plague # 8 (Exo. 10:1-20) locust. Seemed to be directed against Serapis the god of the afterlife or Shu, the god of the air.
 - a. They swarmed and destroyed whatever the hail and fire had left behind.
 - b. Short-horned grasshopper. Breeds in desert areas and reproduce very rapidly. When they swarm they come in clouds 100 ft. thick column by 4 miles wide. It is said that when they come in it looks like an eclipse. They decimate everything in sight. After the locust swarm leaves the ground looks like it had been burned.
 - c. 1866 there was a plague of locust that destroyed Algiers. From the famine that resulted in the days following, 200,000 people died.
 - d. 1951 in the Middle East is the worst in recent history, Everything destroyed in hundreds of thousands square miles.
- 9. Plague # 9 (Exo. 10:21-29) Darkness over the land. Directed against Re, the sun god,
 - a. It covered the entire land except in the Jewish homes.

- b. Josephus in his writings of Jewish history says that it was darkness that could be felt. It was so thick as if you could feel it against your body.
- c. It is said by some scholars that darkness is reserved as punishment for the worst kind of sin.
- d. In the N.T. when Jesus died on the cross for a few hours there was darkness in the land. The worst of all crimes had been committed. Stephen said in Acts 7, “and you killed the Prince of life.”
- e. God hardened Pharaoh’s heart. Exo 10:27 But Jehovah hardened Pharaoh’s heart, and he would not let them go.
 - 1. All along the plagues the Bible has said that Pharaoh hardened his heart, not that God did it.
 - 2. This simply means that God gave him up to a reprobate mind (Romans 1:27-28). “If this is what you want, then go for it!”

10. Plague # 10 (Exo. 11) Death of the firstborn.

- a. Exo 12:1-5 And Jehovah spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, (2) This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. (3) Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man **a** lamb, according to their fathers’ houses, **a** lamb for a household: (4) and if the household be too little for **a** lamb, then shall he and his neighbor next unto his house take one according to the number of the souls; according to every man’s eating ye shall make your count for **the** lamb. (5) **Your** lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old: ye shall take it from the sheep, or from the goats:
 - 1. First is a generic lamb and then it is a personal lamb.
 - 2. That’s how it is when a person encounters the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. At first Jesus is just a guy, then they read that He is the Way, the Light, and Life and then He becomes our Savior, personal.
- b. Exo 12:12-13 For I will go through the land of Egypt in that night, and will smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am Jehovah. (13) And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and there shall no plague be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.
 - 1. If you killed the lamb you would be killed, unless you take that blood and place it over the door posts.
 - 2. On the top and on the sides. They were saved because of the blood of an innocent lamb.

- c. Exo 12:33 And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, to send them out of the land in haste; for they said, We are all dead men.
- V. Exo 14:4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he shall follow after them; and I will get me honor upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host: and the Egyptians shall know that I am Jehovah. And they did so.
 - a. Pharaoh changes his mind again and is in hot pursuit.
 - b. (Exo. 14:29-31) **Shekinah** שכילה The Pillar of Cloud and Pillar of Fire: Emblematic of the presence of God among His people.
 - 1. It is their rear guard. As the Red Sea opens it guards the Egyptians from entering the Red Sea until after the Jews have crossed it. Then the cloud lifts and the Egyptians enter, and "Bye, Bye!"
 - 2. Exo 14:29-31 But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. (30) Thus Jehovah saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea-shore. (31) And Israel saw the great work which Jehovah did upon the Egyptians, and the people feared Jehovah: and they believed in Jehovah, and in his servant Moses.
 - 3. This was the end of Pharaoh and God had accomplished His purpose of showing to the Egyptians, the Jews and the entire world that He is the true and all powerful God.
- VI. Exodus 16-17 Israel travels to Mt Sinai. A recurrent theme from the time they hit dry ground and wander through the desert. Grumbling applies to every human being.
 - A. Illustration: Are you like the children of Israel, grumblers? Stop! Before you say "No!" Think about the last family vacation you took. If it was a long drive (California to Ohio) it did not take long before you were at each others throats!
 - A. As they go out they have no provisions: no food or water.
 - B. God made water come out of a rock. (Exo. 17)
 - 1. God made bread, manna come down from heaven.
 - 2. Exo 16:14-15 And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness a small round thing, small as the hoar-frost on the ground. (15) And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, ***What is it?*** For they knew not what it was. And Moses said unto them, It is the bread which Jehovah hath given you to eat.
 - a. What is it? "This is your breakfast, lunch and dinner for 40 years!"
 - b. Exo 16:31 And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.

- c. Thin wafers of bread with honey. Really does sound good. But they could grind it and make it into other things. (Number 11:7-9) Manna soufflé, Manna burgers, Manna stew, Manna fries, Manicotti? Maybe someone had the first cookbook: A 1001 ways to prepare Manna.

VII. Exodus 18 A story about a man and his father-in-law, Moses and Jethro

- A. Moses needed some advice. Moses wanted to show what he was all about. He wanted to do what every son-in-law wants to do, show the father-in-law how he has taken care of his little girl.
- B. Exo 18:13-19 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood about Moses from the morning unto the evening. (14) And when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand about thee from morning unto even? (15) And Moses said unto his father-in-law, Because the people come unto me to inquire of God: (16) when they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between a man and his neighbor, and I make them know the statutes of God, and his laws. (17) And Moses' father-in-law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good. (18) Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for the thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone. (19) Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God be with thee: be thou for the people to God-ward, and bring thou the causes unto God:
 1. Moses was a problem shuffler. He had to hear about people's problems all the time.
 2. You will get tired of that and they will get tired of you.
 3. Set up some judges to help you.
 4. You cannot do this by yourself, you need some help.
5. Exo 18:19-24 Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God be with thee: be thou for the people to God-ward, and bring thou the causes unto God: (20) and thou shalt teach them the statutes and the laws, and shalt show them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do. (21) Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating unjust gain; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: (22) and let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge themselves: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee. (23) If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people also shall go to their place in peace. (24) **So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father-in-law, and did all that he had said.**

Conclusion:

1. If God's plan for redemption required the existence of a nation and the continuation of that nation, if you can destroy that nation then you can defeat God.
2. The first time that Satan heard that the Seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent, the devil got to work on his plan "b"
3. When the righteous seed is revealed, Abel, Cain killed him. When Seth is revealed as the continuation of the righteous seed the Devil realizes that he cannot destroy the righteous seed so he goes after the whole earth. As a result God sends the flood. But, God saves 8 people and the genealogy continues all the way through.
4. In Exodus we see the Jewish nation developing and we also see Satan's counter attack developing too.
 - a. The devil begins to use human hatred based on race.
 - b. Every where they go they are hated.
5. We are seeing the scarlet thread of redemption from Genesis and it will continue all the way through Revelation.
 - a. We are piecing together the pieces of the Bible.
 - b. We see that Joseph is a type of Christ.
 - c. Passover which is prophetic in nature pointing to Christ our Passover.
 - d. All these vents points to one person book by book!

Exodus 19-40

Introduction:

6. UFO sightings happen all the time. We dismiss them as nonsense and that those who claim such sightings are nuts. They talk about fireballs, saucer shaped objects and flashing lights. What happened in Exodus 19 could have been very similar to an UFO sighting.
 - a. Imagine what Mount Horeb (Mt. Sinai) would have looked like from a distance to the people. Lightening flashes and the noise of thunder as God descended to the mountain.
 - b. That is what we will look at in brief in this lesson.
7. Our journey began in the Garden of Eden where God created man. From there we traveled to the entire world where God destroyed the world and all in it, except Noah, his family and some animals, through a flood. After the flood we traveled to Ur of the Chaldeans where God made some promises to Abraham and we traveled with him to the Promised Land. We departed from the Promised Land with Joseph and entered Egypt for 400 years. 400 years later, with Moses as our travel guide, we packed our bags and left the land of slavery and were delivered into the wilderness. We now find ourselves at a rest area, at the foot of Mount Sinai where God is about to descend on the mountain and give a road map to His people via Moses. This road map includes 10 instructions (10 commandments)
8. In review:
 - a. There are two major themes in this book: Redemption and Revelation
 1. Redemption from Egyptian bondage
 2. Revelation of His law to the people of Egypt through Moses the lawgiver.
 - b. Division of the book:
 1. Chapters 1-12 Domination by Egypt
 2. Chapters 13-18 Liberation from Egypt
 3. Chapters 19-40 Revelation after Egypt
 - c. The people have left Egypt and are now in the wilderness safe and secure
 - d. He has fed them with Manna (what is it?) and meat from heaven (Exo. 16)
 - e. Water from the Rock (Exo. 17)
 - f. Now that they are settled at the foot of Mount Horeb God is going to reveal how they are to live with one another (social law) and before God (spiritual law). He will give them the **Law**.
9. The emphasis in the book is going to move from narration of a story to legislation of a law. This law will be given for them and for their generations that follow.
10. The Jews call this part of Exodus, the giving of the Law: the kernel and the core of the nation's life.

- a. The Law to the Jew is the identity of the nation. It is a covenant that God gave to Moses.
- b. **Application:** It is good to have an identity.
 What is your purpose statement in life? It should be: **In Christ! I am in Christ, I am blessed in Christ, I have a heavenly place in Christ, in Christ I am sealed, I am created in Christ, in Christ I have been brought near by the blood of Christ. All that I am, I am because I am in Christ.**
 (Ephesians 1 & 2) God has given us a road map, and an identity. We live in a very aimless society and culture - no values or, at the very least wandering values. People constantly searching for those values and that identity. **In times like these it is good to know who you are, where you came from, and where you are going. So I would say that in Christ I am who I am with a moral compass and an eternal destiny in heaven.**

I. God on Mount Sinai

- A. Exo 19:1-2 In the third month after the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai. And when they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the wilderness of Sinai, they pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount.
 - 1. The Arabs call this Jebel Musa (Jebell Musá) the Mountain of Moses
 - 2. 75 ft. above sea level
- B. Exo 19:2 And when they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the wilderness of Sinai, they pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount.
- C. Exo 19:3-4 And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; (4) Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.
 - 1. Remember where you were.
 - 2. Remember what I have done for you.
 - 3. Remember how I cared for you.
- D. Exo 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me from among all peoples: for all the earth is mine:
 - 1. God likens Himself in His care for them like an eagle that would bear her young on her wings.
 - 2. The eagle that is spoken of here is called the Griffin eagle. It would build its nest high up in inaccessible places. There, isolated from all natural protection and provision, that mother eagle would care for her young.
 - 3. God has brought the children of Israel out from Egypt where they had protection and provision, and into the wilderness, out in the open at the foot of the mountain, yet there He protected them.
 - 4. **Application:** God said that they would be a special treasure for Him. A very special object to Him. Do you view yourself as God views you? What messages you do send about yourself? "I am worthless. I will never amount to anything, I am not really good at a lot of things. I stink

at everything.” Understand that value always depends on what someone is willing to pay for it. Real estate is a great example. What people will pay for a tiny house in some places is astronomical. The value goes up because people are willing to pay for it. The same is true with you. God was willing to pay the price of the blood and death of His Son. So don’t ever say, “I am worthless. I will never amount to anything, I am not really good at a lot of things. I stink at everything.” When God values you enough to send His own Son to purchase you so that you could become His own special treasure, then you are a child of the King, a child of God.

- E. Exo 19:8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses reported the words of the people unto the LORD.
1. That is a bold statement. This is like saying, “You give us the law and we will do it all, it won’t be a problem.”
 2. This sounds good, but there was a problem with that. Deu 5:29 Oh that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!
 - a. God realized that the weakness of the Law was that man could not keep it.
 - b. **Rom 4:19** And without being weakened in faith he considered his own body now as good as dead (he being about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb:
 - c. **Gal 3:24** So that the law hath been our tutor to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
 - d. It leads you to Christ. You read the Law, you try to keep but you fail. You feel bad. You try it again and you feel worse. Eventually you realize that you need help. You need a redeemer, a savior, someone who can take all of the requirements of the Law and keep it perfectly. This is what the New Testament is all about. We were dead in our trespasses and, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**
- F. Exo 19:16-18 And when morning came on the third day, there were thunders and flames and a thick cloud on the mountain, and a horn sounding very loud; and all the people in the tents were shaking with fear. (18) And all the mountain of Sinai was smoking, for the Lord had come down on it in fire: and the smoke of it went up like the smoke of a great burning; and all the mountain was shaking (quaked greatly).
1. This looked like an erupting volcano. Not a beautiful sight. The people were not thinking that this was cool. This was a dreadful sight, the people were scared. The people would shrink back in fear.
 2. **Application:** This shows an attribute of God that most people have forgotten about today: The utter and total holiness of God. He is so pure and utterly unique and absolutely holy that when He is in the presence of mankind, this is what it looks like. The rabbis used to say

that no mortal can gaze on the unveiled majesty of God. This was dramatic, lightening, thundering, people were trembling, because God was speaking.

- a. God does not always speak this dramatically. Sometimes He speaks providentially. But today He speaks to us through His Son (Heb. 1:1)
 - b. 1 King 19:12: years later Elijah goes to the same mountain and God tells him to come out of the cave that he had spent the night in. A great wind came by that broke the rocks, but the Lord was not in the wind. Then a great earthquake shook the mountain but the Lord was not in the earthquake either. And then a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And then finally, a small, still voice - a whisper - spoke to Elijah. To Elijah He spoke quietly, to Moses and the people He spoke dramatically.
3. **Application:** Mount Sinai, the place of the Law. This is a contrast to Mount Zion, the place of peace and salvation. This is what Christians identify with: it is the Law versus Grace.
- a. Joh 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
 - b. Heb 12:18-24 For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest (19) and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. (20) For they could not endure the order that was given... (22) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, (23) and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, (24) and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
 - c. The Mt. Sinai covenant was one that was made with the people of Israel, for them and for their generations. It had an expiration date on it, on the cross of Christ. God would make a New Covenant and write in on their hearts (Jeremiah 31; 2 Cor, 3:3)
- G. Exodus 20: God gives the top ten!
1. The ten commandments are just the beginning, there are many laws in the chapters to come.
 2. God expects two hints from His people: Supreme devotion to Him (four commandments) and sincere affection to others (six commandments).
 3. The Ten Commandments are split in two: first four are God centered and the second six are man-centered.
 4. God gives brief commandments:
 - a. No other gods before me
 - b. No images
 - c. Keep My Name holy
 - d. Keep the Sabbath
 - e. We are to honor our parents
 - f. Do not murder

- g. Do not commit adultery
 - h. Do not steal
 - i. Do not lie
 - j. Do not covet
- H. Exo 20:23-25 You shall not make gods of silver to be with me, nor shall you make for yourselves gods of gold. (24) An altar of earth you shall make for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I cause my name to be remembered I will come to you and bless you. (25) If you make me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stones, for if you wield your tool on it you profane it.
1. **Application:** It seems like God is not interested in ornate structures. Just keep it simple. Pile a bunch of dirt there and gather up a load of rocks, that will be good enough. The idea of going through all of the trouble of making it ornate would take all of the attention from God Himself and cast it on the one who built it. When we try to impress God with our talents and the glory is on the structure, God becomes angry. It is actually violating commandments 1 and 2, no other gods before me and no images.
 - a. There is nothing wrong with art, but art must never eclipse heart.
 - b. God is all about the heart.
 - c. The Samaritan woman was concerned with worshiping God at a place instead of in the spirit: **Joh 4:20-24** Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.“ (21) Jesus said to her, ”Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. (22) You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. (23) But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. (24) God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.“
 - d. Herod’s temple: **Mar 13:1-2** And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” (2) And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”
- II. Exo. 21-24, The beginning of the most boring section of the Bible all the way through Leviticus and Numbers. This section begins the instructions for everyday life.
- A. This is the place where people tend to give up their New Year’s resolution of reading the Bible all the way through. They begin in Genesis and think that it was awesome! Then they get to Exodus and read about the plagues and how God put Pharaoh in his place and they say, “Wow!” But then they get to this section and it goes on through Leviticus and Numbers and they say, “How will I ever get through this, it is so boring?” And if hey do read through

it, it is a fast and very general reading just to get through it. I know, i've done it many times

1. This is the section of the multitude of laws: social, moral and spiritual, property rights....
 2. We will just highlight a few of them and not get bogged down on stuff that really does not matter to us today.
- B. Exo 21:1-2 "Now these are the rules that you shall set before them. (2) When you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve six years, and in the seventh he shall go out free, for nothing.
1. The pattern of 6 and 1 equals 7, the sabbath law.
 2. This law in particular is for indentured servitude. For 6 years you worked off the debt. On the seventh you were free to go. However, if you enjoyed working for your master you could become a servant by choice and not by debt. If you wanted that they would take you to the door of the house and take an awe and run it through your ear, just like an ear piercing today. This signified that you were a servant, willingly.
 3. **Application:** When one belongs to Christ he has new clothes, he is different, one is marked by the Lord.
 - a. Gal 6:17 From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.
 - b. 1Co 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, (20) for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
- C. Exo. 23:10ff, the 6 and 1 pattern was a part of their everyday life. You worked for six years and got a years vacation. The land was to be worked for 6 years and left fallow for ones year.
1. The Jews did not do this and disobeyed the law for 490 years.
 2. 2Ch 36:20-21 He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, (21) to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.
- D. Capital punishment: Exo 21:12 "Whoever strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death.
1. Some oppose capital punishment and call it murder. Others cite that it is an O.T. law and there should not be respected.
 2. However, this is not a law that was only made with Moses and his people, it predates him to the time of Noah the patriarch (Gen. 9, "whoever sheds man's blood by his own blood he shall pay...")
 3. Reasons for capital punishment in Exodus:
 - a. Murder
 - b. Child sacrifice
 - c. Kidnapping
 - d. Sexual immorality: adultery, homosexuality, bestiality
 - e. Cursing your parents

- f. Witchcraft
 - g. Magic
 - h. Astrology
 - i. Idolatry
 - j. False prophet
4. The Law of Moses does not view capital punishment as murder. The Bible views as righteously administered judicial execution, and not as murder. (Exo.21:23)
- E. Exo 21:23-27 But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, (24) eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, (25) burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe. (26) “When a man strikes the eye of his slave, male or female, and destroys it, he shall let the slave go free because of his eye. (27) If he knocks out the tooth of his slave, male or female, he shall let the slave go free because of his tooth.
1. This is a law that is know as the ***lex taliones*** the law of retaliation or the law of exact retribution. That the punishment must fit the crime.
 2. Principle developed in early Babylonian law(the Code of Hammurabi) and present in both biblical and early [Roman law](#) that criminals should receive as punishment precisely those injuries and damages they had inflicted upon their victims. Many early societies applied this “eye-for-an-eye” principle literally.
 3. The reason that it is in the Bible is because God wanted to limit vengeance. He understood that human nature is not satisfied with exact retribution. Vengeance is never satisfied. “You knocked out one of my teeth, I will know all of your out!” We do not want to stop until it ***feels right***, not until it is right.
 4. We see the first instance of where eye for an eye was not enough in Gen 4:24 “If Cain’s revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech’s is seventy-sevenfold.” His sin was that he killed a man for wounding him.
- F. Property rights: Exodus 22.
- G. Spiritual regulations, spiritual laws: Exodus 23 tells us about special events
1. People would gather, assemble, congregate three times a year. This was a spiritual fellowship. God was big into fellowship. (Hebrews 10:25-26)
 2. Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles
 - a. Passover celebrated their redemption from Egypt (Lamb’s blood was on the doorposts and redeemed them from death as the Lord passed over their homes.) The lamb was selected for Passover on the 10th of the month of Nisan, and slaughtered on Passover on the 14th and 15th of Nisan. Guess what day Jesus entered into Jerusalem on a donkey and was accepted as Hosanna on the Highest? On the month of Nisan. It is believed that He was lifted up and bloodied a cross on the 14th day of Nisan.
 - b. Pentecost celebrated God’s provision. It is the feast where they were allowed to eat leavened bread after the Passover.
 - c. Tabernacle celebrated God’s protection in the wilderness.

3. Exo. 23:19 forbidden to boil a goat in its mother's milk. It was a common pagan ritual to boil a goat in the very thing that gave it life. They would say incantations. By the way, blood was prohibited from being eaten for the very same reason. It is something that predates the Law of Moses and is repeated
- III. Exo. 24: The collecting of the money to build the tabernacle
- IV. Exodus 25-27 forms the very heart of this book. The pattern of the tabernacle. (tabernacle video)
- A. Tabernacle was a shack, a tent. God camped out over 3500 years ago in the desert with His people.
 1. What made the tabernacle awesome was not the way it looked, but its occupant. Tabernacle means to move in, to dwell. The Jews referred to it as a portable dwelling place for the Divine presence of God.
 2. Tour of the tabernacle:
 - a. If you were to walk up the tabernacle you would see first of all a fence, plain clothe fence that was 7ft. tall, and one door-one opening into the tabernacle itself.
 - b. **Application:** Only one way in to the presence of God and you have to bring a sacrifice; an animals blood has to be shed. It is all a picture of what was to come in the future. There is only one way to the Father, and that is through Jesus. In order for us to approach the throne of God we must be made pure by the blood of Jesus the Christ. (John 14:6; Rev. 1:5)
 - c. The courtyard was 150 ft. deep by 75 ft. wide. As you walked in the first thing you would see would be a brass altar, and to the left side a laver for washing.
 - d. Beyond that brass altar is another tent structure. That tent structure was divided into two rooms: The Holy Place 15 ft wide by 30 ft deep. And the room beyond that was 15 ft. by 15 ft., and it was called the Holy of Holies (Lugar Santísimo).
 1. In the holy Place there were these articles: A table with twelve loaves of bread, the altar of incense and the seven branched candlestick (menorah). Only the priest could walk in here, and his job was to make sure the shewbread was taken care of and that the candles were lit. The altar of incense was where the prayers of the people were. Then at the end there was a veil that led into the Holy of Holies.
 2. Once you get into the Holy of Holies there is only one piece of furniture, the Ark of the Covenant. Made of acacia wood, covered with gold, the lid (the mercy seat) was pure gold, on top of the lid were angels (cherubim) hovering over it whose wings touched.
 - a. There were three things inside the ark:
 1. The Ten Commandments on stone tablets
 2. A golden pot of manna
 3. Aaron's rod that budded
 - b. These were mementos that were to be carried through the wilderness.

B. **Application:** Blood that would be sprinkled on top of the mercy seat by the high priest, is where God would meet with the “people” and have fellowship with them, tabernacle with them. Inside the ark were the commandments that had been broken many times over. The holiness of God and the broken law was covered by blood. When God looked down He would see the blood. The same is true with us in a spiritual sense: When God looks down and see your life He sees the blood of Christ. It is the blood of Christ that cleanses me of all sin (1 John 1:7).

1. Exo 25:21-22 And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. (22)
There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.
2. The entire tabernacle is symbol of how it is fulfilled in Christ: One door, one entrance. Jesus said “I am the truth, the light and the way...” (John 14:6) There is only one way to heaven, by Christ alone.
3. Inside the tabernacle of the holy place there were four layers of curtains: white linen, covered by goat’s hair, covered by ram’s skins, covered by badger’s skins. On the outside it looked ugly but on the inside it was beautiful: it had gold, white, blue and red. Just like Jesus Christ (Is. 53). He did not look like the surfer dude. He was just an ordinary man, but on the inside He is beautiful.
4. The menorah was the only source of light, and Jesus said that He was the light.
5. There was bread in the tabernacle, Jesus said He was the bread of life.
6. There was an altar of incense that took up the prayers of the people, Jesus does the same today He makes intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25).
7. Then there was the veil. On the other side of the veil was the holy of holies. It kept everyone out, except the High Priest. Once a year he would enter and sprinkle blood on the mercy seat.
8. When Jesus died on the cross (Matthew 27) the veil was torn in two meaning that anybody and everyone could come into the presence God and have intimate fellowship with Him. (Hebrews 10:19-22)
9. All of this tabernacle stuff speaks about Jesus! Joh 5:46-47 For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. (47) But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?”
10. This is also a model of heaven:
 - a. Heb 8:1-5 Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, (2) a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man. (3) For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. (4) Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. (5) They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by

- God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.”
- b. This is why God told Moses to **make sure he built the tabernacle exactly as was shown to him on the mountain.** Exo 25:40 And see that you make them after the pattern for them, which is being shown you on the mountain.
- C. The tabernacle is an important subject because it speaks about Jesus, the church and our relationship with God.
1. There are two chapters in the Bible that are devoted to the creation of the universe, and not even in great detail.
 2. There are over 50 detailed chapters that speak about the tabernacle.
- V. Chapters 28-31, Deals with the priests in the tabernacle. What they are to wear, what they are to do, and how to be consecrated.
- A. Aaron and his sons are taken to the gate of the tabernacle and through a ritual that means that they are giving their bodies to the service of the Lord, they are made the Levitical priesthood.
 - B. Exo. 31 Bezalel and his family were moved by the Spirit of God to be the artists of metal, wood, jewels and all kinds of craftsmanship. **Application:** If you have the talent you should use it for the glory of God. You should use it as a means of preaching the gospel.
- VI. Chapters 32: This is the “Uh-oh” chapter (uh-oh significa que la regué) Everything is good, they are hearing God’s Word. Bread falls from heaven, meat arrives by airmail, rocks pour out water, a cloud protects them from the sun and a burning column shines the light by night. Things are just so good. Folks are enjoying the new relationship that they have with God. There is order and no chaos. God has made sure that they have everything they need and then it happens. A golden calf jumped out of the fire and became their god.
- A. Exo 32:1-6 When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, “Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” (2) So Aaron said to them, “Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” (3) So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. (4) And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” (5) When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD.” (6) And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play [indulge in revelry, pagan worship, etc].
 1. What happened? In the midst of God revealing Himself in such a powerful and dramatic way, this quickly they turn away into idolatry.
 2. God gets mad, Moses gets mad, the tablets are broken, and the golden calf is ground up and mixed with water, and the children of Israel are made to drink it. (Exo. 32:7-20)

B. Exo 32:22-24 And Aaron said, “Let not the anger of my lord burn hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. (23) For they said to me, ‘Make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ (24) So I said to them, ‘Let any who have gold take it off.’ So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf.”

1. O.k., where do we begin? Aaron knew he had messed up. Instead of recognizing his sin he decided to make an excuse.
2. “Look, Mo, you should have been there! I took the gold from the people, threw it into the furnace and BAM!, out came this golden calf!”
3. Have you noticed that the Bible does not address Moses’ reaction to Aaron’s excuse? It seems like Moses thought, “Seriously? You’ve got to be kidding me. This is the best you can come up with?”
4. “An excuse is the skin of a reason stuffed with a lie.” - Billy Sunday

C. **Application:** What excuse do you have for not becoming a Christian? What excuse do you have for not remaining faithful to the Lord. What excuse do you have for worshipping your golden calf?

VII.Exo. 33-34: A personal encounter with God. Moses and God meet for a second chance.

- A. Moses sets up a tent where God speaks to him (Exo. 33:ff), the tent of meeting.
- B. The glory of God via a cloud descends upon that tent. Here God spoke with Moses face to face (33:11).
- C. God promises that His presence will go with him.
- D. Exo 33:18-20 Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” (19) And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. (20) But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.”
 1. Most people would have been satisfied with what Moses had already seen.
 - a. Miracles and the plagues
 - b. The Red Sea
 - c. The thundering and lightening on Mount Horeb
 - d. Yet he wants to see more. He says, “Show me Your glory.”
 2. No matter how educated, wealthy and/or sophisticated we are, we want to see God.
 - a. This is the longing of every believer.
 - b. Joh 14:8-9 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” (9) Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”
 - c. Exo 33:20 But,“ he said, ”you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.“
 - d. One day we will be able to see the full brunt of the unshielded glory of God, that’s when we are resurrected and transformed into our glorious bodies.

VIII. Exo. 35-40 Take two, the second chance section.

- a. Israel starts obeying God (does not last very long).
- b. God gives them the specifications to build a tabernacle and they do it as He commanded, and completed the building of the tabernacle.
- c. Exo 40:17-19 In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. (18) Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. (19) And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses.
- d. Exo 40:34-38 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. (35) And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. (36) Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. (37) But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. (38) For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.
- e. The tabernacle is at the very heart and center, geographically speaking, of the encampment of Israel. The Israelites are centered on God. He is in the very center and in the midst of His people.

Conclusion:

1. This is a great way to end the book of Exodus. God's presence dwelling among His people.
2. When we started the book they were in Egypt crying out, they went through the wilderness a little bit, they grumbled and complained there (but they get worse in the next few chapters of the next book). But it ends in glory.
3. From groaning, to grumbling to glory. That's how the book ends.
4. We end with God delivering them from the furnace of Egypt out into the wilderness where God is providing and preserving and protecting them.
5. **Application:** Here's the message of Exodus for you: God wants to deliver you from the slavery caused by your sins, bring you into deliverance and be at the very center of your life as the tabernacle was at the center of their lives. He wants to deliver you from your sins and be at the center of your life. Remember that I mentioned to you that the word "tabernacle" means "dwelling place"? To "tabernacle" means to dwell. So, in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and (tabernacled) dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1, 14) Are you sure that you are not enslaved to sin? Are you sure that you have been redeemed? The great themes of this book are Redemption and Revelation. Plan of Salvation.

Leviticus 1-17

The way to God through sacrifice, part 1

Introduction: ויקרא (vayikrá) - “and He is calling”

6. Leviticus probably does not contain your favorite Bible verse like John 3:16.
 - a. You wouldn't say that Leviticus has your life verse.
 - b. Or that Leviticus is where you turn to for personal comfort.
 - c. This is the book where most people ditch their New Year's Bible reading resolution.
 1. Start with enthusiasm in Genesis, move on to Exodus and at Exodus 21 you start to slow down and wonder why you started.
 2. By the time you get to Leviticus you just give up.
 3. There are many people who have never read this book. But the Bible says that all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for exhortation, rebuke and correction (2 Tim. 3:16)
 7. Some Jewish traditions say that this is where Jewish parents would begin in the teaching of their children about God's word.
 - a. In reference to Leviticus: “Little children are pure and the sacrifices are pure. Let those who are pure come and occupy themselves with pure things.”
 - b. Since the book of Leviticus deals with sacrifices we will occupy ourselves in pure things.
- I. Background
- A. At the closing of Exodus the children of Israel are camped out in the wilderness of Sinai. Leviticus opens and closes at the same spot. The nation makes no physical progress.
 - B. The theme “The way to God through sacrifice”, or “Holy”, or “Holiness”
 - C. The word “holiness” does not usually excite people because it conjures up an image of someone in a long robe and living a monk lifestyle.
 1. But “holy” should be thought of as “wholly”.
 2. The idea of holy is to be complete or total. You are complete when you draw near to God in Holiness.
 - D. Application: Throughout this book you will notice the phrase “...for I am holy...”**
 - 1. The reason for this is because the way to happiness is through holiness.**
 - 2. Parents teach your children that if they want to be happy people they need to be holy people.**
 - a. Our children are so messed up in the head today because they are not holy. They are wrapped up in themselves or other things that they are far from holy.**
 - b. Think of the child Jesus:**

1. He did not have a place to lay His head
 2. His physical daddy was a carpenter
 3. Wandering into Galilee and Jerusalem
 4. *Looking for the mall and buying up Hollister and Aeropostle clothes so that He could fit in with the crowd. NO!*
 5. He was so attractive and interesting, not because he wore the name brand expensive clothes and the latest \$50.00 haircut, but because He was righteous and about His Father's business.
3. The way to happiness is the way of holiness.
 4. If you want to be noticed, if you want to be different then become a rebel with a cause:
 - a. Rebel against this world
 - b. Rebel against the values and the standards of this world
 - c. If you want to be a true non-conformist then don't be like the world. Any dead fish can float downstream, but it takes a strong-willed fish to swim upstream.
- E. Genesis: In Genesis we saw the condemnation for sin (the fall), the fallout because of the fall.
- F. Exodus: Then in Exodus we saw that it was redemption for their sin as God took them out of bondage and brought them through the wilderness.
- G. Leviticus: Now we have separation from their sin.
1. The sin issue has to be dealt with, and it is dealt with here.
 2. Another keyword in this book is "blood".
 - a. 88 times in the book of Leviticus, it is a bloody book.
 - b. The reason why there is so much blood is because sin is a bloody mess.
 - c. An innocent victim (an animal) had to be sacrificed because God told Adam in Genesis that the day he ate of the forbidden fruit he would surely die. Physical and spiritual death. "The wages of sin is death..." (Rom. 6:23)
 - d. It is either our death or the death of an innocent victim.
 3. Leviticus is also a book of mercy. Apart from God saying, "I am holy", He also says, "I will forgive their sins."
 - a. The awfulness of sin
 - b. The graciousness of God.
 4. (*First cowboys lived at Horeb*) Only Levi genes were allowed to offer sacrifices on behalf of the people.
- H. Chapters 1-17, four landmarks:
1. Personal: (1-7) Laws of personal proximity.
 - a. It answers the question, "How can I approach God?"
 - b. "How can I ever, being a human being and imperfect hang out and fellowship with a perfect and holy God?"
 - c. It is through the sacrifices that are given.
 2. Professional: (8-10) Laws of professional activity
 - a. "How can I serve God?"
 - b. It is about the priests who's profession was to offer those sacrifices.

3. Ritual (11-15) Ritual purity: It answers the question, "How can I stay clean and pure before the Lord?"
 4. National (16-17), Laws of National sanctity: How the nation should obey God.
- II. (1-7) Laws of personal proximity: Worship through animal sacrifices, animal offerings.
- A. This is the worship that God prescribes for the people to approach God.
 1. **Application: God is looking today for worshippers, not animal sacrifices. Jesus' blood is enough to cleanse us of our sins.**
 2. **Joh 4:23-24 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. (24) God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."**
 3. **"Worship is the missing jewel of the church." As we think about God being in our midst think about your worship. Is your worship in spirit and in truth. Is your worship from the heart or are you concerned about other things right now?**
 - B. The burnt offerings and animal sacrifices instituted (chapter 1)
 1. An animal is brought before the tabernacle, it is burned upon an altar and offered as a sacrifice.
 2. This is not the first time that an animal is killed in order to cover sin:
 - a. Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:7, 21)
 - b. Abel's blood sacrifice (Gen. 4:1-7)
 - c. Covenants ratified through blood:
 1. Noah (Gen. 8:20-21; 9:8-9)
 2. Abraham (Gen. 15:1-11)
 3. Moses (Exodus 24:5-8)
 4. Psalms 50:5
 5. Hebrews 9:18-22 Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. (19) For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, (20) saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." (21) And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. (22) Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.
 - C. The Burnt Offerings: Leviticus 1:1-5 The LORD called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying, (2) "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of livestock from the herd or from the flock. (3) "If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer a male without blemish. He shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the LORD. (4) He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.

- (5) Then he shall kill the bull before the LORD, and Aaron's sons the priests shall bring the blood and throw the blood against the sides of the altar that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting.
1. Mankind has a huge problem. How on earth is sinful man going to be in the presence of a holy God?
 - a. Sin is the great separator between God and man. It is a disease that has infected the human race since the beginning (Gen. 3; Isaiah 59:1-2)
 - b. Lev. 1-7 deals with that disease and how to remedy it, through the shedding of innocent blood. (Hebrews 9:22)
 2. All of this shedding of blood was a great visual worship system. Over 2 million people having to offer animals, to shed their blood and the priests had to be the ones to slit the throats. This was done on purpose, to show the nastiness, shamefulness, sadness, bloodiness and horribleness of sin.
 - a. The visual of seeing what sin did and what was required to cover it.
 - b. Imagine the sound of all of these animals dying!
 3. **Application: We live in a day and age where people say that all roads lead to heaven. All religions, whether Christian or not eventually lead us to God. Some are not so inclusive and exclude all non-Christian religions but accept all denominations as leading to Christ and therefore are right. But God is not a god of inclusivism, rather He is a God of exclusivism. He has a set standard and rules that one must follow in order to approach Him. According to Leviticus, in the Old Testament the only way to approach God and be with Him one had to shed the blood of an innocent victim. This is why He gave Israel the book of Leviticus, exact and specific instructions. While there is no shedding of animal blood in the New Testament there still is a set of instructions that God gives us in order to be in fellowship with Him.**
 4. Leviticus addresses two issues: Cure the immediate problem of how the Israelites could approach God (through animal sacrifices), and the cure for the future (pointing to Jesus and His death on the cross).
- D. The Grain Offering: Leviticus 2:1-2 "When anyone brings a grain offering as an offering to the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour. He shall pour oil on it and put frankincense on it (2) and bring it to Aaron's sons the priests. And he shall take from it a handful of the fine flour and oil, with all of its frankincense, and the priest shall burn this as its memorial portion on the altar, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.
1. The sacrifices in Leviticus 1-7 not only deal with sacrifices for personal sins but also for personal surrender and thanksgiving.
 2. This was the only un-bloody offering. Grain ground up, mixed with oil and made into little cakes; part of it was burned (symbol that it was given to the Lord), and a part was given to the priest to be their bread for personal consumption.

3. This offering was prepared by the worshipper, a symbol of the work of our hands. "I am going to offer something to the Lord. It is going to take time and cost me some money. As a manner of thanksgiving I am going to offer it, surrender it to the Lord."
 - a. **Application: Any time we give to the Lord, it ought to be done with that mentality. That it is going to take my time and cost me something. That is true sacrifice!**
 - b. It is not correct to say, "I am going to give some of my money to the Lord." It is not your money, it belongs to God. (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 16:10-14; 1 Cor. 4:1-5).
 - c. The principle is that when we give something back to the Lord it should cost us something. When David wanted to build an altar to the Lord he went to a man named Araunah and asked to buy from him a piece of land. When Araunah learned that David wanted the land in order to build an altar to the Lord he said he would not sell it but give it to him. Notice David's response: 2Sa 24:24 But the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.
 - d. **This is the idea of give back to the Lord, not the leftovers but something that costs.**
- E. The Peace Offerings (or the holy barbecue): Leviticus 3 (especially 7-11)
 1. This is where an animal is brought in, killed at the door of the tabernacle and blood is poured at the base of the altar.
 2. In the peace offering the fatty part of the animal is burned and offered to the Lord, another part is given to the priest for his consumption and the rest is eaten by the family who is giving the animal as a sacrifice. A holy bbq!
 3. **Application: In Hebrew this would be known as the (שְׁלוֹם) Shalom offering. Shalom means peace, completeness, and welfare and can be used idiomatically to mean both hello and goodbye.**
 - a. Here is the application: I am satisfied in fellowship with God and with His people. A sense of well-being and wholeness and satisfaction. This is our prayer for each other that we should live Shalom, a sense of fellowship, satisfaction and complete and whole peace with God's fellowship and His people.
 - b. It is like being God's dinner guest at His home. In those days when someone was invited to someone's home the host met your simple needs: feed you and make you feel at home. But he was also sworn to protect you from any harm and danger. He was to give his life for your safety. This is probably what Lot thought when the angels were in his home. (Revelation 3:20)

- F. Sin Offering: Leviticus 4: This is for unintentional sin. This is what we call mistakes and accidents, but God still calls them sin.
1. Lev 4:2-3 "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, If anyone sins unintentionally in any of the LORD's commandments about things not to be done, and does any one of them, (3) if it is the anointed priest who sins, thus bringing guilt on the people, then he shall offer for the sin that he has committed a bull from the herd without blemish to the LORD for a sin offering.
 2. Here we read about the accidental sin offering and in Leviticus 5 we read about the Trespass (guilt) offering. There is a difference.
 - a. One is unintentional and the other is intentional. (Romans 3:23, all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.)
 - b. Illustration: You are hunting and cross into private property. There was no sign posted and you did not know you were now on private property. The owner comes and tells you to leave. You have to leave, you do not have any choice. The owner does not care that you got lost, he simply cares that you are on private property. The second scenario is where you clearly see a sign posted that says no TRESPASSING and you trespass anyway. You have to pay a fine or whatever the consequences might be.
 3. **Application: The sin offering is so that man can recognize that all sin is sin and that all sin has a wage: death.**
- G. Guilt offering (trespass offering) Leviticus 5
1. This the chapter that addresses what one should do if he touches something unclean, speaks thoughtlessly, makes an oath and cannot fulfill it.
 2. This is the type of sin that you are AWARE that you are sinning.
 3. **Application: These sins required a public demonstration of repentance and restitution. (Leviticus 5:5-6, 16)**
 - a. **Confess the sin**
 - b. **Bring the sacrifice and the priest will kill it**
 - c. **If possible, make restitution (community service)**
 - d. **Some pray this way, "Lord, if I have sinned then I ask for your forgiveness." If? This is the same as saying that you have not sinned. You might as well pray this way, "Lord. if I have sinned then please forgive. If I have not sinned then forget it."**
 - e. **1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- H. These are five offerings and are all called sweet aroma offerings. (burnt, grain, peace, sin and trespass).
1. The first three were optional. These were the peace, thanksgiving and surrender offerings (Romans 12:1ff personal sacrifice).
 2. The last two were obligatory, everyone sins so everyone had to offer them. (sin and trespass offerings)
- I. Leviticus 6-7 Deals with the priests' part in the offerings

1. These are laws for the priests who offer the sacrifices on behalf of the people.
 2. Lev 7:35-37 This is the portion of Aaron and of his sons from the LORD's food offerings, from the day they were presented to serve as priests of the LORD. (36) The LORD commanded this to be given them by the people of Israel, from the day that he anointed them. It is a perpetual due throughout their generations." (37) This is the law of the burnt offering, of the grain offering, of the sin offering, of the guilt offering, of the ordination offering, and of the peace offering,
 - a. The priest were to only take a portion of the offering for themselves, not more than allotted.
 - b. 1 Samuel 1-4, Hophni and Phineas took more than what they were allowed, they also got the best. That caused the people to hate the sacrifices. God condemns this attitude among His leaders. We are to lead in such a way that the people will not grow weary of their service to Him (James 1:3ff)
- J. There is a lot of shed blood in these chapters:
1. Blood at the gate, at the temple and at the altar. Must have looked like a slaughter house.
 2. **Application: There is blood on every page of the Bible. There is what is called the Scarlet Thread throughout the entire Bible. This is what is needed in order for us to receive forgiveness, remission of sins.**
 - a. **John 5:46ff; Luke 24- In Leviticus, as well as in the 5 five books of the Bible Moses wrote about Jesus.**
 - b. **Here is the Scarlet Thread.**
- III. Laws of professional activities (8-10): How can I serve God? Specifically about those who had the Levi genes. Chapters 1-7 tell us why we need sacrifices, chapters 8-10 tell us why we need a priest.
- A. There is a need for a priest because we need a mediator, a go between that would go between you and God.
1. There was a high priest and other priests
 - a. Jesus is our High Priest (Hebrews 4-6)
 - b. We are the priests, believers, all believers are called priests.
 1. 1Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
 2. **Application: What are priests supposed to do? A priest stands before people for God. Then a priest stands before God for the people. That is what you and I are supposed to do. Stand before people at work, school everywhere and be God's spokesperson. Tell them how they can be right with God. Preach the Gospel. Then, stand before God for the people in prayer.**
 2. We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood.
- B. Consecration (ordination) of the priests (Leviticus 8)

1. Lev 8:1-2 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, (2) "Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments and the anointing oil and the bull of the sin offering and the two rams and the basket of unleavened bread.
 - a. Yes, the priest had to offer up sin offerings for their own sins.
 - b. We, as priests should make sure that we are clean in the presence of the Lord. We do this by confessing our sins to God and to one another.
 - c. Jesus is our High Priest, and one of the reasons why He is better than the Old Testament High Priest is because He does not have to make atonement for His sins because He does not have sins. (Hebrews 4-8)

2. Lev 8:22-24 Then he presented the other ram, the ram of ordination, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram. (23) And he killed it, and Moses took some of its blood and put it on the lobe of Aaron's right ear and on the thumb of his right hand and on the big toe of his right foot. (24) Then he presented Aaron's sons, and Moses put some of the blood on the lobes of their right ears and on the thumbs of their right hands and on the big toes of their right feet. And Moses threw the blood against the sides of the altar.
 - a. This would signify the priests' role in the service to the Lord. This is what I am called to do.
 - b. Blood on the right ear, this means that the priest should hear God's voice. Blood on the right thumb, called to do God's will. Blood on the big toe of the right foot, called to walk in God's ways.
 - c. **Application: This the equivalent to Romans 12, using our bodies and talents in the service of the Lord. This is like saying, "I want to serve You: here is my body, my talents, my future, my influence, my everything for Your purposes." The Bible is filled with people who have already done this:**
 1. **Moses' mouth: Not a great mouth, he stuttered. But when God got a hold of it Moses was the one who spoke the Law of God to the entire nation of Israel.**
 2. **David's hands: Not big hands, but in the hands of God he was able to take a smooth stone and sling and slay a giant.**
 3. **The feet of the apostles and even men like Stephen and women like Lydia: They gave their bodies to God and when He got a hold of them they were able to do amazing things.**
 4. **One of the greatest truths of the Bible is that God has lowered Himself to use us, humans. He wants to use you and He wants to use me. (2 Corinthians 4:7ff) Why would He want to use me if He could use angels to preach the Gospel. I do not understand why He would use me when He can use angels. Angels would be more effective in the preaching of the Gospel (Rev 14:6 Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to**

proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.)

- C. Beginning of the priesthood: Leviticus 9
 - 1. Seven days of consecration
 - 2. Seven days a sin and burnt offering is presented for the priests.
- D. The breakdown of the priesthood: Leviticus 10
 - 1. In the first week of the establishment of the priesthood it goes south, it breaks down, the priests mess up!
 - a. There is rebellion in the camp. Notice that the Bible never flatters itself of God's people. The good, the bad and the ugly!
 - b. Nadab and Abihu mess it up. (10:1-3; 16:12) They offered strange fire and God killed them. Here God's response to an unholy gesture.
 - 2. God expects to be respected and obeyed wholly (Lev 10:3 Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD has said, 'Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.'" And Aaron held his peace.)
 - 3. **Application: If you are going to serve God then you must do it as a sacrifice. It must cost you something.**
- IV. Laws of Ritual Purity (Leviticus 11-15) How can a person be clean before God?
 - A. These chapters discuss how to ritually be clean from defilement:
 - 1. 11: diet
 - 2. 12: birth
 - 3. 13: skin diseases
 - 4. 14: leprosy
 - 5. 15: bodily discharges
 - 6. Chapters 1-10 dealt with worshipping the Lord, chapters 11-27 deals with walking with the Lord.
 - a. **Application: It's not how high you jump, it's how straight you walk once you hit the ground.**
 - b. **Some people get all excited with their worship, they raise their hands, praise the Lord with great prayers, wear t-shirts that profess their faith, but the real test is when you leave this building. What are you like when you leave the parking lot, the next day, at work, in traffic, at the checkout counter at the store? Do you reflect somebody who has been in God's presence.**
 - c. **A story about a missionary passing out Bible tracts. A man took one and said: "I don't want to read your tracts, I want to watch your tracks."**
 - B. Dietary restrictions: Lev 11:1-3 And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them, (2) "Speak to the people of Israel, saying, These are the living things that you may eat among all the animals that are on the earth. (3) Whatever parts the hoof and is cloven-footed and chews the cud, among the animals, you may eat.
 - 1. Do you think of these things when you go to the butcher?

2. Dietary rules served two purposes (Lev 11:45-47 For I am the LORD who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy." (46) This is the law about beast and bird and every living creature that moves through the waters and every creature that swarms on the ground, (47) to make a distinction between the unclean and the clean and between the living creature that may be eaten and the living creature that may not be eaten.)
 - a. To show that they were different from all the other people around them. God held them to a higher standard (45).
 - b. For health, sanitary reasons. Back then there was no USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) only The G-O-D. God knew what animals were poisonous and which were not.
 - c. Kosher foods. Read the label on the hot dog package and you might want to eat Kosher wieners from now on. God preserved His people through a number of sanitary rules and laws.
- C. Birth laws Leviticus 12
- D. Leprosy and running sores (13-15)
 1. When was the last time you heard a sermon on running sores?
 2. These were highly contagious and were to be placed in isolation.
 3. The priest was to act like a doctor.
- V. Laws of National Sanctity (16-17)
 - A. The feast of Yom Kippur⁸. This was the center and culmination of all of their feasts.
 1. It was days of awe, introspection, confession of sins. A time when they were to affect their souls.
 2. Lev 16:7-10 Then he shall take the two goats and set them before the LORD at the entrance of the tent of meeting. (8) And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for Azazel (scapegoat). (9) And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the LORD and use it as a sin offering, (10) but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel (scapegoat) shall be presented alive before the LORD to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel (scapegoat).
 - a. Tradition says that people would stand on the hills and watch for the scapegoat to be released into the wilderness. As soon as the

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Yom Kippur is probably the most important holiday of the Jewish year. Many Jews who do not observe any other Jewish custom will refrain from work, fast and/or attend synagogue services on this day. Yom Kippur occurs on the 10th day of Tishri. The holiday is instituted at Leviticus 23:26 et seq. The name "Yom Kippur" means "Day of Atonement," and that pretty much explains what the holiday is. It is a day set aside to "afflict the soul," to atone for the sins of the past year. In Days of Awe, I mentioned the "books" in which G-d inscribes all of our names. On Yom Kippur, the judgment entered in these books is sealed. This day is, essentially, your last appeal, your last chance to change the judgment, to demonstrate your repentance and make amends. <http://www.jewfaq.org/holiday4.htm>

scapegoat was out of sight the sins had been taken out of the camp. Then someone from one hill would yell, "Our sins have been taken away!", and then another from the another mountain would do the same until the announcement reached the temple and all the people would cheer and celebrate because Azazel has taken away their sins.

b. Application: In the New Testament, the good news that Jesus came to take away the sins of the world was announced from "guy" to "guy": Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, etc., until it has reached our ears. Thank God for our Lord being our scapegoat and has taken away our sins. Joh 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

B. Leviticus 17: Look at this chapter as a hinge between chapters 1-16 (about laws) and 18-27 (about more laws); this is the BLOOD (life) chapter.

1. Lev 17:10-11 "If any one of the house of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn among them eats any blood, I will set my face against that person who eats blood and will cut him off from among his people. (11) For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.
 - a. I know that in America you probably will not go to a McDonalds and have a Double McBlood 1/4 pounder.
 - b. But in other countries like Scotland they have haggis, in England they have blood sausage.
 - c. Back in the old days of the Bible people worshipped things and had weird ideas. They thought that if the ate (drank) the blood of an ox they would be as strong as an ox, if they drank the blood of a cheetah they would be as fast as a cheetah.
 - d. God forbade them to act like the world.
2. Blood is the basis for a relationship with God.

Conclusion:

1. Through seventeen chapters in Leviticus you have the gist of these laws:
 - a. Laws of Personal Proximity
 - b. Laws of Professional Activity
 - c. Laws of Ritual Purity
 - d. Laws of National Sanctity
2. The mega theme: The purpose of all of these offerings was not to show how approachable God was, but to show how utterly unapproachable God is without the shedding of blood.
 - a. How can we approach God if there is no blood. You would have to depend on your good self, and that would send you to hell, FAST!
 - b. Rom 10:3-4 For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. (4) For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

- c. Why live without the hope when you can live with the hope of Jesus Christ through His shed blood? Grab a hold on to the precious blood of Jesus.

*What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Refrain*

*Oh! precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

*For my pardon, this I see,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing this my plea,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Refrain

*Nothing can for sin atone,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Refrain

*This is all my hope and peace,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Refrain

*Now by this I'll overcome—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus,
Now by this I'll reach my home—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Refrain

*Glory! Glory! This I sing—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus,
All my praise for this I bring—
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

Leviticus 18-27

A walk with God through sanctification-being different

Introduction:

6. In the book of Leviticus we have been studying a very important word: holiness.
 - a. What is God's most attractive attribute?
 1. Love?
 2. Creative nature?
 3. Omniscience?
 4. Omnipotence?
 5. Most people would not pick God's holiness as His most attractive attribute.
 - b. The Bible speaks God's holiness more than any other attribute.
 1. Since the Bible speaks a lot about His holiness, then we too shall speak about it in this lesson, which by the way, Leviticus has to do with approaching God with holiness.
 2. Holiness is not only an Old Testament topic but it is also a New Testament topic. (Matthew 6:9, "Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be Your name...")
 - c. "Holy" is the name of the third person in the Godhead, Holy Spirit. Notice that He is not called "The Loving Spirit", or the "Omniscient Spirit", or "The Omnipotent Spirit", but by His most attractive attribute, "The Holy Spirit".
 - d. **Application: We find a correlation between who God is and what God wants us to be: HOLY.**
 1. **We can't pick and choose which attributes of God we like and toss out the rest. We take the whole package as God reveals Himself to us.**
 2. **"Be holy for I am holy."**
7. Review:
 - a. We saw in Genesis the foundations of everything
 - b. Four Great events: the formation of the universe, the fall of man, the flood that was universal, and the fallout due to sin.
 - c. Four great people: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.
 - d. Book of Exodus: Redemption and revelation.
 - e. Leviticus: Separation.
- I. Sanctification/be holy: Leviticus 19:1, "And the Lord Spoke to Moses saying, 'Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel and say to them, 'You shall be Holy for I the Lord am holy.'"
 - A. The basic idea of being holy is to be set apart, sanctified, to be different or for special use.

1. In Exodus 40 God gives us a list of things that are holy, set apart for a special purpose or special use:
 - a. Altar: they were to dedicate the altar because it was holy. In other words, you are not to use that altar for anything else other than to offer God His sacrifice. You can not use it to bbq ribs and burgers on the weekend. That has a holy special purpose, set apart and dedicated for God's service ONLY.
 - b. The basin for washing, the utensils for the priesthood, the garments that they wore, all of these things were holy and set apart for a very special service, a service to the Lord.
 - c. It's not that these items were made of holy material and that any washing dish is holy, but that those specific items God said He wanted for special use and could not be used for anything else.
2. **Applications:**
 - a. **God wants us to be a holy people, a holy person, a holy teenager, a holy child. What God wants is for His people to be different. This does not mean that you have to shave your head, put telephone posts through your ears, lips, tongue and cheeks, paint your nails black to be different. But the ultimate nonconformist in this world is someone who is holy. If you decide to be holy, dedicated, consecrated to God you are not going to have much competition! There are not too many people in our culture trying to be holy. Actually, they are trying to fit in with everyone else. Be different, holy, set apart for God and you will be a true nonconformist.**
 - b. **When you think of holiness you should think in the terms of: to turn from and to turn to. This is what repentance means, to turn from sin but it also implies that I must turn to God. (Matthew 12:43ff the return of the unclean spirit). Turning from sin and bad habits and turning to God. You can't just stop doing bad things and expect to be o.k. You must stop doing bad things and look for good things to do. In the case of the sinner, the sinner must turn from sin and turn to Christ and be set apart for His service. HOLY.**
- B. The way to God through sacrifice, a total of five sacrifices (Lev. 1-17):
 1. The burnt offering - voluntary: Total consumption of the animal voluntarily thanking God for what He had done. It was a consecration of one's self to God.
 2. The grain offering - voluntary: The dedication of my service to God. Since I had to make it before I presented it to God, it involved my own effort and time. This was a way to say, "God I want to serve you."
 3. The peace offering - voluntary: The celebration of salvation.
 4. The sin offering - obligatory
 5. The trespass offering - obligatory
- C. **Second part of Leviticus 18-27: A walk with God through sanctification.**
 1. Five ways God wanted Israel to be different than the rest of the world:

- a. In their moral conduct: The difference is to be seen in their moral conduct.
 - b. In their organization: The difference it to be seen organizationally as they organized for worship.
 - c. In their devotion: The difference is to be seen devotionally as they go through all of the offerings and rituals.
 - d. Corporately-In their community: The difference it to be seen corporately, in the entire community.
 - e. Voluntarily: the difference is to be seen voluntarily.
- II. Leviticus 18-20 - The difference is to be seen in their moral conduct. Be holy, different, set apart morally: The ten commandments applied to different life issues. This is where the rubber meets the road, the details of morality.
- A. 18:1-2, And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, (2) "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, ***I am the LORD your God.***
- 1. This phrase occurs 42 times in this book.
 - a. The reason is that this is the authority that stands behind the instructions.
 - b. "Why should we obey what Moses says?" Because God said so!
 - 2. **Application:** God gave us His laws and every once in a while someone comes a long and says, "I don't like God's laws. They don't agree with my views, wants, desires and personality." The answer to that is, "Who cares!"
 - a. When you can create the entire universe out of nothing, then maybe you can tell God how to do things.
 - b. When you can create your own air to breathe and own dirt to walk on and your own planets to revolve around you then you might be able to tell God what He should do.
 - c. Until then you are on His real estate, His planet, breathing His air and He says here are my laws in every aspect, even morally because I am the Lord your God.
- B. Lev 18:3-5 You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. (4) You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the LORD your God. (5) You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.
- 1. In these chapters of Leviticus there is a list of disgusting sins:
 - a. incest
 - b. homosexuality
 - c. bestiality
 - d. all of which were practiced by the Egyptians and Canaanites.
 - 1. **We say that we live in the sexual revolution. All of the moral sins going on today are as old as the hills and twice as dusty. It has been going on for a long time.**
 - 2. **The Egyptians and Canaanites probably thought that they were inventing some new stuff, but it was happening before they ever came onto the scene.**

- e. **Application: Christians are to be different in all areas of their lives. Especially in the moral areas. If the Holy Spirit is living in you then you will become more and more holy. This will be seen in every area of your life: from the dining room to the boardroom to the bedroom. Holiness.**
2. We live in a culture bombarding us with immoral behavior: pornography, fornication, drunkenness, etc.
- a. In 2006 the revenue generated from pornography was more than all of the revenues from the NBA, NFL and MLB combined!⁹ The industry is a huge money making outfit: 13.3 billion dollars per year!
 - b. This goes into our movies, homes and we become desensitized to it.
 1. The average person views 9230 sex acts or implied sex acts every year on television.
 2. 81% of those are outside the bonds of marriage.
 3. From the ages of 8-18 yrs. of age 93000 scenes or implied scenes will be picked up by the average person.
 4. 72900 scenes are pre or extra marital relationships.
 5. Hollywood has an agenda: "Everybody is doing it!. It is o.k., as long as you feel good about it. If you are not with the one you love, then love the one you are with."
- C. Protecting the marriage, the married couples and the family: **Lev 18:19-20**
 "You shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness while she is in her menstrual uncleanness. (20) And you shall not lie sexually with your neighbor's wife and so make yourself unclean with her.
1. What God is doing is putting up a hedge around the family, trying to protect it.
 - a. The family can disintegrate if people do not have standards set by God.
 - b. **Application:** The family is the basic core of society. If the family is destroyed the nation will be destroyed.
 2. Adultery: vs. 20 It is fashionable today, although people don't usually say, "You know, I am committing adultery." They usually say, "I'm having an affair." That's the new term. It sounds better than saying, "I'm living in sin committing adultery."
 - a. One poll estimates that 1/3 of married Americans have had or are now currently having an affair.
 - b. 62% think that there is NOTHING morally wrong with having an affair.
 - c. It might be fashionable but it is fatal. This is why God gives you these laws. Hollywood and the culture lies to you, they do not tell you the truth about these types of immoral relationships.
 - d. **Application:** The truths about an adulterous relationship:
 1. **It will hurt you physically.** Pro 6:32; "He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself." It can destroy you physically through an STD. You can get aids and die.
 2. **It will hurt you emotionally.**

⁹ Skip Heitzig

3. **It will hurt you spiritually.**
 4. **It will hurt your family.** Once that sin is committed it will destroy the trust in the family.
 5. **It hurts other people besides you and your family.** It hurts the entire church. 1Co 12:26; "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together." Every disobedient Christian weakens the entire body of Christ. Every obedient Christian strengthens the body of Christ.
 6. **It hinders unbelievers from coming to Christ.** Nathan told David that his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba had caused the enemies of God to blaspheme against God. 2Sa 12:14; "Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of Jehovah to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die."
 7. **You hurt God, you offend God by this.** While this should be the first truth about an adulterous relationship, God is usually the last one considered. After Nathan rebuked David and after his son died then David confessed his sins to God and said, "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment." Psalm 51:4
3. Homosexuality: Lev 18:22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.
- a. Notice that the text does not say that this is normal, that this is how some people are born or that this is an alternative lifestyle. The Bible calls it an abomination.
 - b. Many people say that this is not a sin. They say that this is normal.¹⁰
 - c. Rom 1:26-27 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; (27) and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.
 - d. **Application: God knows what works best for mankind: one man, one woman committed to each other for life.**
- D. Leviticus 19: The ten commandments- The ten commandments are further applied to a variety of life situations: offering, keeping the sabbath, caring for the poor and **gossip**.
1. Gossip: Lev 19:16-18 You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD. (17) "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. (18) You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

¹⁰ <http://mccchurch.org/>

2. There is a difference between a gossip and a concerned friend.
 - a. "I am so concerned about this person and I have to tell 20 other people about it." --that is a talebearer, it is sin.
 - b. There is a difference between a gossip and a concerned friend; its like the difference between a butcher and a surgeon: both cut meat but for different reasons.
 - c. If you have to lower your voice before you speak then it probably is not very good.
- E. Leviticus 20: Capital punishment - The Bible sees capital punishment as righteously, administered judicial execution. Not murder!
 1. List of offenses worthy of death:
 - a. kidnappers (20:10-21)
 - b. child abusers (20:10-21)
 - c. child sacrifices (20:1-2)
 - d. witchcraft (20:6)
 - e. cursing your parents (20:9)
 - f. magic
 - g. idol worship
 - h. astrology
 - i. false prophets
 2. God allows capital punishment as a righteously administered punishment for deserving crimes.¹¹ (Romans 13)
- F. **Application from Lev. 18-20: The difference in your life should be seen morally. In how we live.**
- III. Leviticus 21-22: The difference should also be seen organizationally. These chapters deal with the priesthood and the sanctuary.
 - A. Leviticus 21:1-9: Ministry standards for the regular priesthood were very high.
 - B. Leviticus 21:10ff: Ministry standards for the high priests were very high.
 - C. Leviticus 22: deal with how the priests can become impure and how to be cleansed.
 - D. **Application: The higher your position the higher your responsibility (organizationally).**
 1. Everyone within the community of Israel was to be holy but the priests had a higher standard. The reason was because the priest was the link between God and man.
 2. Illustration of two men who robbed a convenient store, a high school dropout and an attorney. The judge sentenced the lawyer to 10 years in prison and the other man to 3 years in prison. The defense attorney argued that the punishment was unfair but the judge said, "The lawyer was under greater responsibility to be an example of the law than the high school dropout."
 3. 1 Peter 2:9, we are a royal priesthood. Every Christian is held by a higher standard than others.

¹¹ The government and the Christian, Ed Rangel

- a. Be careful with your liberties! (1Co 10:23 "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up.)
 - b. Being at places that are not expedient.
4. 1Ti 3:1-7 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. (2) Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, (3) not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. (4) He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, (5) for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? (6) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. (7) Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.
5. At times being an elder is a dangerous work, at times a very isolating work. Interesting statistics about church leaders based on a survey of 1,050 evangelical Pastors ¹²:
- a. 89% considered leaving the ministry at one time.
 - b. 57% said they would leave if they had a better place to go—including secular work.
 - c. 77% felt they did not have a good marriage!
 - d. 75% felt they were unqualified and/or poorly trained by their seminaries to lead and manage the church or to counsel others. This left them disheartened in their ability to pastor.
 - e. 71% stated they were burned out, and they battle depression beyond fatigue on a weekly and even a daily basis.
 - f. 38% said they were divorced or currently in a divorce process.
 - g. 30% either has an ongoing affair or a one-time sexual encounter with a parishioner.
 - h. 23% said they felt happy and content on a regular basis with who they are in Christ, in their church, and in their home!
- IV. Leviticus 23-24: The difference should also be seen devotionally. These chapters deal with the feast days, the pageantry of those offerings, the sabbath days - all of these were to be times of joy.
- A. God commanded His people to be happy and joyful during worship.
- 1. Lev 23:1-2, 40; "The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, (2) "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, These are the appointed feasts of the LORD that you shall proclaim as holy convocations; they are my appointed feasts. And you shall take on the first day the fruit of splendid trees, branches of palm trees and boughs of leafy trees and willows of the brook, **and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.**
 - 2. Sometimes God has to give us a commandment to rejoice and laugh. Why? Sometimes we forget that we are supposed to be the happiest

¹² <http://www.intothyword.org/apps/articles/default.asp?articleid=36562>

people on earth and walk around grumpy all the time. God wanted His people to have fun at the feast. This does not mean that they were going to party and let it all hang loose, but that the people would rejoice with God for what He had done for them.

3. Sometimes you just have to obey the command and the joy will come later.

B. Feasts in Leviticus 23- Sabbath feasts (3-4), Passover (4-5), unleavened bread (6-8), first fruits (9-14), feast of Pentecost (15-21), feast of trumpets (23-25), day of Atonement (26-32), **feast of tabernacles or the feast of booths (33-44)**

1. Feast of tabernacles or the feast of booths (33-44)

- a. This feast happened once a year, in the fall. The Israelites would build booths (tents) outside and live for one week outside.
- b. They were to remember, as they camped out underneath the stars, that “our God brought us out of the wilderness and provided for us miraculously.”
- c. The first day of the feast of tabernacles was a sabbath, the eighth day was a sabbath a day of rest.
- d. Throughout the week people would meet in the booths and have sacrifices.
- e. Every day of the feast there was a priest in the temple who would go down to the pool of Siloam and fill his pitcher with water. He then would walk to the altar and pour water at the base of the altar and cry out Isaiah 12:3 “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.”
 1. This water poured out at the base of the altar was representative of the water that God made spring from the rock in the wilderness.
 2. By the time we get to the New Testament, the Bible tells us that something happened on the last day of the feast with Jesus. The priest went out to the pool of Siloam and brought his pitcher full of water and poured it out at the base of the altar twice and cried out “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” It was this time when Jesus stood up in the temple and said, John 7:37-38 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. (38) Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'"
 - a. On the eight day, the last and greatest day of the feast, after the Scripture was read Jesus basically says, “I Am that Rock, come to Me and I will give you drink and you shall never thirst again.”
 - b. What a beautiful fulfillment of scripture! No wonder folks wanted to kill Jesus.

2. If you desire to know more about all of these feasts research at ¹³

¹³ <http://heartofwisdom.com/biblicalholidays/>

- V. Leviticus 25-26 - The community of Israel. The difference should be seen corporately. How they cared for one another, how they loved one another, how they handled people who had debts in their midst and couldn't pay their debts, how they handled people who had lost their lands and could not get it back.
- A. Leviticus 25:1-7, the sabbath year.
1. You would work for six years and on the seventh you would allow the land to lie fallow. You would not work that land at all, not even for grazing. God promised that if the people did this He would make sure and bless them extra on that seventh year so that they would have enough for several years.
 2. One-seventh of the time in Israel the very rich and the very poor were on equal footing. They all went out into the fields to get what they could get no matter who owned it.
- B. The year of Jubilee - Leviticus 25:8-10 "You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years. (9) Then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land. (10) And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan.
1. On the Day of Atonement, every fiftieth year was the year of Atonement or Jubilee and the blowing of the trumpet.
 2. The Yovel, Shofar (ram's horn) was blown for feasts, on the year of Jubilee. And when it was blown on the 50th year, the people probably sighed a sigh of relief as all of their debt was forgiven, lands were given back and the slaves were released.
 3. **Application:** Around the year 1393 bc is when the children of Israel starting counting the jubilee years. Scholars have done a pretty good job in counting these years since then and up to the time of Jesus. Many of them believe that Jesus in a jubilee year went into the synagogue of Nazareth and quoted Isaiah 61:1ff in Luke 4:18-21 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, (19) to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (20) And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. (21) And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus came to bring freedom and cancel the debt and release us from the bondage of sin and death by giving us salvation.
- C. Leviticus 26 is the "if" chapter (nota de traducción: si me obedecen les daré...): If you obey, then I shall... The word "if" appears about 9 times in this chapter.
1. Leviticus 26:3-4 "If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them, (4) **then I will give you** your rains in

their season, and the land shall yield its increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

- a. The principle is this: Obedience is the ground of blessing.
- b. Notice that most denominational people will say that this is a unique principle found only in the O.T., and that in the N.T obedience is not needed for salvation because God did all for us already. But this is not what the N.T. teaches. Indeed God has sent His Son to die for us and open the door to heaven, but it is our obedience to His word that allows us to take that first step through those doors.
 1. Judas 1:21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.
 2. Philippians 2:12 - work out your own salvation
 3. Plan of salvation requires initial faith and continuing faith in order to please God:
 - a. Hear: [Matthew 7:24-27](#); [John 5:24](#); [Romans 10:17](#)
 - b. Believe: [John 3:16](#); [John 8:24](#); [John 20:29](#)
 - c. Repent: [Luke 13:3](#); [Acts 17:30](#); [Acts 3:19](#)
 - d. Confess: [Matthew 10:32](#); [Romans 10:9-10](#)
 - e. Baptism: [Acts 2:38](#); [Acts 22:16](#); [1 Peter 3:21](#)
 - f. Live faithful: [2 Timothy 2:12](#); [Revelation 2:10](#); [22:14](#)

2. **Application:** The key to happiness is holiness, sanctification.

VI. Leviticus 27 The difference should be seen voluntarily. This chapter seems to be out of place, as if it does not belong here. But it does, it is at the very heart of sacrifice.

- A. The entire chapter speaks of voluntary vows, not obligatory. Lev 27:1-2 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, (2) "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, If anyone makes a special vow to the LORD involving the valuation of persons, (14) "When a man dedicates his house as a holy gift to the LORD, the priest shall value it as either good or bad; as the priest values it, so it shall stand. (16) "If a man dedicates to the LORD part of the land that is his possession, then the valuation shall be in proportion to its seed. A homer of barley seed shall be valued at fifty shekels of silver.
 1. No you have to do.
 2. No you must do.
 3. It is all voluntary.
- B. Before coins and paper money people would dedicate things or persons to the Lord and then they would have to buy them back (redeem them) with some kind of silver object that would be given to the temple.
 1. **Application:** True worship is voluntary. True worship is without coercion. If it is not in your heart then it is not there. Jesus said that the Father is looking for those who would worship in Him in spirit and in truth.
 2. You cannot manufacture true worship.
- C. Whatever you give, give it voluntarily and with good cheer: Leviticus 27:28 "But no devoted thing that a man devotes to the LORD, of anything that he has, whether man or beast, or of his inherited field, shall be sold or redeemed; every devoted thing is most holy to the LORD.

1. N. T. practice: One gives according to what he has prospered and purposed and does so with a happy heart.
 2. 1 Corinthians 16; 9:7ff.
- D. By the N. T. time this idea of giving voluntarily to the Lord had become corrupted.
1. Mar 7:9-13 And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! (10) For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' (11) But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, "Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban"' (that is, given to God)-- (12) then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, (13) thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."
 2. I know you would walk a mile for a Camel.
 3. They were breaking God's commandments by misinterpreting the scriptures.

Conclusion:

1. Are you holy? Is your life set apart for God's purposes? Are you wholly holy?
2. This is the entire message of the second half of Leviticus-Be holy for the Lord is Holy!

Numbers 1-14

On the road again with Moses

Introduction:

3. Imagine a family trip of four boys and to adults from Ohio to Los Angeles, California in a station wagon. That is a trip of over 25 hours!
 - a. Fighting, screaming, yelling “when are we going to get there?”
 - b. Go from four boys to 3 million people plus their pets!
 1. 800,000 children
 2. 200,000 senior citizens
 3. Going through the wilderness for about 40 years!
 - a. This is a recipe for disaster!
 - b. Many lessons about faith can be learned but also lessons about problems.
4. The book of Numbers covers some of that territory in the wilderness.
 - a. The Hebrew name for Numbers is “bamidbar”
 1. Means, “in the wilderness”
 2. That is what the Hebrew name of the book is.
 - b. Our Bibles names the book as the Book of Numbers.
 1. Latin Vulgate translation says, “Numeri” We get the name Numbers from that in English.
 2. That came from Greek translation, “arithmoi” and from that we get “arithmetic.”
 3. These terms indicate to some “math”, but we are not going to do hard math, simple addition and subtraction.
 - c. It is called numbers because it deals with the “number of people in the wilderness” The first census was taken in chapter 1 and the second in chapter 26.
 1. Some people call this book the book of journeyings
 2. Others call it the book of murmuring
 3. It could be called, “On the road again.” “On the road again. Moses and I are traveling on the road again...”
 - d. 38 years and 10 months! From the first census (1) to the second census (26) is 38 years and 10 months.
 - e. You might consider title the book, “The book of a Forty Year Trial.”
 1. That’s exactly what it is. Forty years of trials, problems, headaches and death.
 2. **Application: From Mount Sinai to the entrance of Kadesh-Barnea, the small land portal (border crossing), is about 150-200 miles. It is an 11 day journey according to Deuteronomy 1:2. It should have taken them 11 days!**
 3. **They wonder in the wilderness for almost 40 years!**

4. **Do it God's way and you can save a lot of heartache (gas, time, money, etc. :))**
5. Refresher course of where we have been on our Route 66 trip:
 - a. Genesis-the book of beginnings:
 1. the formation of the heaven and the earth
 2. the first family
 3. the first nation
 4. Four great great events:
 - a. Formation of the universe (creation)
 - b. Fall of mankind
 - c. Flood of Noah
 - d. Fallout of man's rebellion
 5. Four great people:
 - a. Abraham
 - b. Isaac
 - c. Jacob
 - d. Joseph
 - b. Exodus: Redemption and Revelation
 - c. Leviticus: The way to God through sacrifice and The walk with God through sanctification
6. **Heart of this lesson: Now we come to the Book of Numbers where we find great lessons of both faith and unbelief.**
 - a. **Is there a way to transmit faith from one generation to the next? Yes! We do this by example, by obedience. Faith and unbelief can both be contagious.**
 - b. **To be around somebody with great faith is very inspiring to your own walk with the Lord. It's contagious to find someone with great trust in the God's power.**
 - c. **But unbelief is also very contagious. When there is complaining and murmuring it spreads like wildfire as it does in this book.**
7. Outline of the book, three sections:
 - a. Organization: They get counted and they march in an organized fashion.
 - b. Disorganization: Then they become disorganized because of unbelief.
 - c. Reorganization: Then a reorganization takes place.
- I. Organizing people and priesthood (Numbers 1-4)
 - A. A census of all the 20 year old men and above is taken. This is done to create a military draft.
 1. Num 1:1-3 The LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying, (2) "Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, by clans, by fathers' houses, according to the number of names, every male, head by head. (3) From twenty years old and upward, all in Israel who are able to go to war, you and Aaron shall list them, company by company.
 2. Census: Names and numbers of people are given.

- a. You might wonder, “Who cares about all these names? What’s so important about them?”
 1. Nothing! If your name is in the list, it can be very exciting.
 2. A census takes the number of people who live in the state, county, city, home and then the names. All of this data is placed in a data bank. Now, if 100 years later someone did a data search based on the names it would be a nice surprise for them to find their last name listed.
 - b. **Application: So God takes the time to count and LEARN and KNOW the names of all the people. It is a great gesture of God’s love. He is saying that He loves Bob, April, Meredith, Sam, Juan and Two.**
 1. In Egypt there was an innumerable number of slaves; but here the names are given of the tribes, names of the family and numbers of people who were to be in the army.
 2. Augustus said: “God loves each one of us as if there was only one of us to love.” No person gets lost in the crowd when it comes to the Lord.
 3. Whenever God counts people it is because people count.
 4. There is a story from Marvin Rosenthal’s book, *Israel, My Glory*: It is a story of a census worker who goes to a house where a mother answers the door. The census worker says, “give me the number of the children who live in the house.” The mother says, “Well, there’s Billy and there’s Harry and there’s Martha,” and then she was interrupted and the census worker said, “Right now I don’t really care about the names, just give me the numbers.” The mother became indignant and said, “My children don’t have numbers, but they all have names.
 1. The Bible indicates that God knows every name and every number of hair on your head and everything about you. (Psalm 139:1-4; Luke 12:7; Matthew 10:29-30)¹⁴
 3. Num 1:45-46 So all those listed of the people of Israel, by their fathers' houses, from twenty years old and upward, every man able to go to war in Israel-- (46) all those listed were 603,550.
 - a. Size of army: 603,000 of twenty year old and above males. They were drafted into the military.
 - b. Even today in Israel there is an obligatory draft. Males 18 and females 19. Serve and train for a couple years and go back to normal life. They train the whole nation that way. This way the IDF (Israeli Defense Force) can mobilize 5 times its regular strength in about 48-72 hours. Everybody is ready.
- B. Numbers 2: Shows the tribes organized into camps.

¹⁴ <http://www.sermons4kids.com/godknowsall.html>

1. The 12 tribes of Israel are divided up into four camps because there are four sides of the Tabernacle, north, south, east and west. There are three tribes on the north, three on the south, three on the east and three on the west. Each of those tribes has a banner, flag or a symbol that had the emblem that would represent their tribe.
 - a. Judah on the east with the standard of a lion on a big flag.
 - b. Ephraim on the west with the standard of an ox.
 - c. Reuben on the south with a symbol of a man.
 - d. Dan to the north with a symbol of an eagle.
 - e. The Levites in the center
 2. **FYI:** Those four camps of the twelve tribes become a model for us of the throne of God.
 - a. Later on in Ezekiel 1:10, the prophet gets a vision of these four creatures. They have four faces and one is the face of a lion, another the face of a man, another the face of an ox, and a fourth the face of an eagle.
 - b. Then the book of Revelation. Around the throne of God are four living creatures and their description is the same: Rev 4:7 the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight.
 - c. If you take these four faces and those four camps and then four gospel then maybe we can see God's work at hand.
 1. Each gospel writer had a purpose and/or special audience: Matthew-To show that Jesus fulfilled all of the Hebrew prophecies. He was the Lion of the tribe of Judah, Mark-He shows the servitude of Christ as an ox would bear the burden, Luke-The title "Son of man" is used more than any other gospel. The humanity of Christ as seen through the eyes of Doctor Luke; John-That's the eagle. This is to prove that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah.
 2. We see the fourfold representation of God in these symbols.
 3. **If you were to look at the encampment from an ariel view, along with all of the land allotment for each camp including the center for the Levites, it would look like a cross.**
- C. Number 3 is the ministry chapter of the book. Num 3:5-6 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, (6) "Bring the tribe of Levi near, and set them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister to him.
1. Aaron and the Levites that have been excluded from the census of chapter 1 are not counted in their own census.
 - a. Remember that Aaron had four boys who served along with him.
 - b. Two, Nadab and Abihu have been killed because of their disobedience. There are two left; Eleazar and Ithamar and those two along with Aaron pick up the work where the other two left off.
 2. Num 3:7-9 They shall keep guard over him and over the whole congregation before the tent of meeting, as they minister at the

tabernacle. (8) They shall guard all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, and keep guard over the people of Israel as they minister at the tabernacle. (9) And you shall give the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they are wholly given to him from among the people of Israel.

- a. The Levites were given to Aaron and his sons. Why?
- b. To do the work of a priest, in those days, it required all of those people in this tribe working together. There was just too much work to be done for three men to do, so the entire Levite tribe was to perform these tasks. So the entire tribe of priests was given to the high priest.
- c. **Application: Think for a moment about who our Great High Priest is; The Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says that we are a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9). We, the Christians, have been given to Jesus to do His work as a part of the body of Christ.**
 1. **John 17:6 "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.**
 2. **You belong to Christ, with all of your gifts and talents. Presently you and I should be about the business of figuring out what our gifts are and how we can use them in the Lord's work on this earth, and find that niche and serve the Lord with all of our heart.**

D. Numbers 3:14-4:1: The family names of the Levites are given.

1. There are three names that are given and the work of the tabernacle is given to them: Gershon; the Gershonites, Kohath; the Kohathites, Merari; the sons of Merari (Merari-ites). All of them are camped around the tabernacle and they have a specific job around the tabernacle.
 - a. Gershonites they camp on the west side of the tabernacle. They have to maintain, pack up, set up the curtains, the cloths, the skins that overlay the tent.
 - b. Kohathites they have to tend to the articles of furniture; the Ark of the Covenant, the altar of incense, the golden lamp stand, the table of shewbread.
 - c. Sons of Merari they looked after the building of the tabernacle: the poles, bases, and the stands that hold the curtains around that courtyard.
2. Num 4:46-49 All those who were listed of the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron and the chiefs of Israel listed, by their clans and their fathers' houses, (47) from thirty years old up to fifty years old, everyone who could come to do the service of ministry and the service of bearing burdens in the tent of meeting, (48) those listed were 8,580. (49) According to the commandment of the LORD through Moses they were listed, each one with his task of serving or carrying. Thus they were listed by him, as the LORD commanded Moses.

- a. When it came time to move, this is how it would work:
 1. God was in the form of a pillar of cloud by day that began to move and as soon as it moved they knew it was time to go. They would go into the holy place, into the holy of holies, take down the veil that separated those two and place it over the Ark of the Covenant.
 - a. Then they would put a blue cloth over it; and then they would put badger skins over it to keep it from inclement weather.
 - b. Then the Kohathites would rush in with poles and put those in the Ark of the Covenant and bear that that furniture out, after it was covered.
 - c. Then the Gershonites would come in and take down the tents, the curtains, the skins, and the cloth wall.
 - d. Then the sons of Merari would take down the poles and the bases and all of those little infrastructure support elements and they would march.
 - e. Whenever the cloud would stop they would set this thing up again.
 - f. It would probably take no more than 30 minutes- it was very portable, mostly cloth.
 2. Those things could be put in place rather rapidly.
 - a. First the Ark would be put down, then they would build the tabernacle proper, then the tent, then holy of holies, the holy place; they'd put the furniture in; they'd build the wall in the outer courtyard and in 30 minutes they could have it assembled.
 - b. It is a beautiful story of going through the wilderness.
 - b. Application: All of them were needed for a particular task. All of them needed to do their little part to accomplish the greater task. Every member of the body of Christ is important and needed. It is to work together for the greater good of the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus the Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:27)**
- II. Consecration by the people, Moses, Miriam and Aaron and affirmation by God (Numbers 5-10).
- A. Laws of defilement and adultery test: Num 5:2 "Command the people of Israel that they put out of the camp everyone who is leprous or has a discharge and everyone who is unclean through contact with the dead.
 1. Some people might think that God is being very harsh towards these sick people. They can't help that they are sick.
 2. Remember that this is an act of God. He is keeping the rest of the people from getting sick. This is similar to the N.T. spiritual disease issue of 1 Cor. 5 where there was sin in the camp.
 - B. Nazarite vow: Numbers 6
 1. A Nazarite is someone who decides to go through a period of time where they want to concentrate all of their focus completely on the Lord. They

want to do his bidding and live a life of thanksgiving. There were certain requirements if you took this vow. One was the not cutting the hair, at all.

2. People who took this vow:
 1. Samson
 2. John the Baptist?
 3. Paul (Acts 21)
- C. Numbers 7-10 is the order of the march beginning with the offerings and now the tribes go out to march.
 1. TRIVIA note: Numbers 7 is the second longest chapter in the Bible, second to Psalm 119 (176 verses).
 2. The actual march: Num 9:15-18 On the day that the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony. And at evening it was over the tabernacle like the appearance of fire until morning. (16) So it was always: the cloud covered it by day and the appearance of fire by night. (17) And whenever the cloud lifted from over the tent, after that the people of Israel set out, and in the place where the cloud settled down, there the people of Israel camped. (18) At the command of the LORD the people of Israel set out, and at the command of the LORD they camped. As long as the cloud rested over the tabernacle, they remained in camp.
 - a. People never knew when God was going to move; there were no turn signals or brake lights. When the cloud began to move Moses would command Aaron and his boys to get it in gear. A system would kick into place.
 - b. Application: Even though the Israelites *wander* for 40 years God was directing their path. He never removed His presence from them. Even though they would fail and they blow it time and again, God never abandons them. He will get them to the Promised Land, eventually. What an amazing act of Grace. Today the same is true. God is with us, yea even unto the end. (Matthew 28).**
 - c. Story about a pilot who was landing his plane on a very foggy day..."you just obey our instructions and let us worry about the obstructions. God has one thing for us to do, and that is it! Do what He says, walk by faith, obey His commands and don't worry about the rest of the stuff. Just follow instructions. Just take one step of faith and by the time you realize it you will have taken an entire journey of faith.**
 3. Numbers 10:34-36 And the cloud of the LORD was over them by day, whenever they set out from the camp. (35) And whenever the ark set out, Moses said, "Arise, O LORD, and let your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate you flee before you." (36) And when it rested, he said, "Return, O LORD, to the ten thousand thousands of Israel."

1. Some scholars refer to this cloud as the shechinah Glory (שכינה) The dwelling or the presence of God).¹⁵
2. One of the things that marked the people of Israel from all of the other people in Canaan, is that God's presence was with them and it was visible within the shechinah.
3. Their mistake was when they started turning to their own strength and their own defenses; they had numbered the army when they start trusting in the army rather than in the God of the army. That is what got them into trouble, as we will see.
 - a. **Application. This will get us into trouble too. If you defend yourself, God will let you. So often something happens and we want to jump right in and start defending ourselves, instead of letting the Lord be our defense.**

III. Complaint by the people; Dissension of the people. (Numbers 11-12)

- A. By the time we get to chapter 11 something has changed and it is demonstrated by the grumbings and complaining by the people. They soon had forgotten about all the wonderful miracles God had performed.
 1. The problem is that they got used to all of God's great wonders and it became "old hat" to them.
 2. Num 11:1 And the people complained in the hearing of the LORD about their misfortunes, and when the LORD heard it, his anger was kindled, and the fire of the LORD burned among them and consumed some outlying parts of the camp.
 - a. There are about 3 million people in the camp. A lot of folks to have to take on vacation.
 1. Complaining can be contagious and large groups of people complaining can get really crazy.
 2. Act 6:1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.
 3. Growth is great, it is awesome. But with growth comes a perceived lack of concern. "Oh, there's so many people and no one cares about me. I am just a number." When that multitude grew so did the complaints and it got out of hand.
 - b. God's reaction was instant when it came to the sin of grumbling. Num 11:2-3 Then the people cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the LORD, and the fire died down. (3) So the name of that place was called Taberah, because the fire of the LORD burned among them.
 1. God's attitude toward His people grumbling and complaining, especially when a few infect others.
 2. Proverbs 6, God hates it when someone sows discord.

¹⁵ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shekhinah>, <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/13537-shekinah>,

3. It will eventually lead to unbelief and cause the entire generation to die in the wilderness and not enter into Promised Land.
3. Manna no longer enough! Num 11:4-6 Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, "Oh that we had meat to eat! (5) We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. (6) But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."
 - a. Don't you think that the first time that Manna came down from heaven and tasted like butter and honey that the people shouted with glory, honor and praised God. "That rocks! No other god can do this. We have an awesome God!"
 - b. Now, after some time has passed their attitude towards it is that they hate it, they loathe it and they are complaining.
 - c. Notice that in verse 4 it says the RABBLE (mixed multitude). These are people who are a product of a mixed marriage. One of their parents is from Egypt or from another race. They are a mixed group and mixed heritage and there are the ones that cause a problem. (Today this is not a problem and should not even be an issue)
 1. **Application: There are rabble that like to come and hang out with church people but also like to mingle with the world and worldly setting. This group of people can often breed discontent in the body of Christ.**
 2. Lady that said she had discovered her talent. She said her talent was to speak her mind. She was told that this a talent that the Lord would not mind if she buried.
4. The children of Israel had forgotten that they at one time were slaves in Egypt. They had worked in the brick-house and had complained to God that they had been forgotten in Egypt. God redeemed them from slavery, and they're not working in the brickyards anymore.
 - a. It is true that they were in the wilderness but God was taking care of them. He gave them food, water, clothing, shelter and protection from the sun and night.
 - b. **Application:** Even God's children can develop selective amnesia.
 1. Recent converts rejoice because they have been freed from the bondage of sin and translated from the kingdom of this world to the Kingdom of heaven.
 2. As the years pass they begin to say that they miss the old days, before they were Christians. How they used to have all kinds of fun, drinking and womanizing. How they used to have fun dating a different guy every night and now they are boring Christians living boring Christian lives. They forgot the nights they were so drunk they couldn't walk; they woke up in their own puke; and their friends stabbed them in the back. The anxious minutes praying and wishing that the pregnancy test shows up blue and not pink.
 3. It is the Devil who says, "Weren't the good old days great."

4. The good old days are a combination of a bad memory and a good imagination, and the enemy would love to tweak your nostalgic nerve so you only focus on a few things
 5. This is what Israel was doing, "Oh, how I miss the onions, cucumbers, and meats. How I miss the, ***Two all beef patties, special sauce, lettuce, cheese, pickles, onions on a sesame seed bun!***"
5. Num 11:7-9 Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its appearance like that of bdellium. (8) The people went about and gathered it and ground it in handmills or beat it in mortars and boiled it in pots and made cakes of it. And the taste of it was like the taste of cakes baked with oil. (9) When the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell with it.
- a. Later on Moses reminds them of their 40 years of wandering and says, Deuteronomy 8:4 "[do you remember that] Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years."
 - b. They wore the same clothes for forty years and it never wore out. A husband's perfect dream!
 1. Never have to change clothes.
 2. Wife could not say, "Look at these rags! I need to go shopping for new clothes and shoes." No you don't, it's a miracle but you look great.
 3. It is said that if the necessary vitamins and nutrients are not present in a person's diet then one of the outcomes is the swelling of the feet. But God made sure their feet did not swell because the Manna that came from the sky had all the needed vitamins and nutrients; after all it did come from heaven.
6. Moses complains, but rightly so (?). Numbers 11:10-11 Moses heard the people weeping throughout their clans, everyone at the door of his tent. And the anger of the LORD blazed hotly, and Moses was displeased. (11) Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you dealt ill with your servant? And why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me?"
- a. This is Moses saying to God, "I did not sign up for this. I think I would like to resign from this position."
 - b. God tells Moses the same thing his father-in-law had told him, appoint 70 men to help you deal with these people (16-17). Later on these 70 men become the Sanhedrin that later on killed the Lord Jesus.
- B. Numbers 12: Moses' family life was far from perfect. He had issues with his sister and brother-in-law.
1. Num 12:1-3 Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman. (2) And they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?" And the LORD heard it. (3) Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.

2. Who wrote this book? Moses! And he says that he is a humble person. Many would say that if you say that you are a humble person then you are not really humble. But what Moses said is a statement of fact.
 3. God explains to Miriam and Aaron that He chose Moses and that He speaks with him face to face.
 - a. This means that if they have an issue with Moses and speak evil of him, then they have an issue with God and are speaking evil of God.
 - b. Do you recall David's attitude in reference to King Saul? Even though he did not agree with the king, he refused to speak evil of and hurt the king because he understood that Saul was the Lord's anointed.
- IV. Organization goes to disorganization. The malfunction of faith in the promises of God (Numbers 13-14)
- A. Spy out the land: Num 13:1-2 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, (2) "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a chief among them."
 - B. The result: Num 13:25-27 At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. (26) And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the people of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh. They brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. (27) And they told him, "We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.
 1. They spied out the land and found it to be a wonderful place.
 2. The fruit was in their hands and it was great.
 3. They had the evidence that this was indeed the place that flowed with milk and honey.
 4. Not one of them could deny the beauty and wealth of the land.
 5. But in spite of their evidence it was offset by their fear. Their fear and the fear of the people made them quiver.
 - C. The majority decided to trust in man and not God: Num 13:28-31 However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. (29) The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negeb. The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the hill country. And the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and along the Jordan." (30) But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it." (31) Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are."
 1. The majority is not always right. Joshua and Caleb were the only two who believed in the words of God, the others believed in their own weaknesses and used their power of influence to sway 3 million others to not go into the Promised Land.
 2. Num 13:32-33 So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. (33) And there we saw the

Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them."

- D. Are they going to go in or stay out? Num 14:1-4 Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. (2) And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! (3) Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" (4) And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."
1. What an exaggerated people. They wept all night long! Give me a break.
 2. They are using their children as excuses for not obeying the commandments of God.
 - a. They are saying, "God doesn't care about our children."
 - b. God did care about their kids. So much that the only ones to enter into the Promised Land were their kids. The parents' carcasses littered the wilderness because of their unbelief, murmuring, complaining and outright rebellion.
- E. The glory of the Lord shows up! Num 14:10 Then all the congregation said to stone them with stones. But the glory of the LORD appeared at the tent of meeting to all the people of Israel.
1. When did the glory of the Lord show up? When they complained. Sometimes no news is good news.
 2. Just because we do not see God acting like He did in the O.T. does not mean that He is not here. I prefer the way He does it today!
- F. Num 14:27-33 "How long shall this wicked congregation grumble against me? I have heard the grumbings of the people of Israel, which they grumble against me. (28) Say to them, 'As I live, declares the LORD, what you have said in my hearing I will do to you: (29) your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness, and of all your number, listed in the census from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against me, (30) not one shall come into the land where I swore that I would make you dwell, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun. (31) But your little ones, who you said would become a prey, I will bring in, and they shall know the land that you have rejected. (32) But as for you, your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness. (33) And your children shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years and shall suffer for your faithlessness, until the last of your dead bodies lies in the wilderness.

Conclusion:

1. Sometimes we remember the things we ought to forget and we forget things we ought to remember. That is what the children of Israel had done. They had forgotten that they had been redeemed from slavery in Egypt. They remembered the leeks, the garlic the onions and not the slavery. There were certain things they should have forgotten and certain things they should have remembered and they got it backwards. We do the same things in the N.T. We remember the good old times when we lived it up but

forget the nights we were so drunk we did not know how to get home, the mornings when we woke up in our own puke, and the eternal minutes waiting for the blue line to show up on the pregnancy test.

2. Psalm 103:1-22 Of David. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! (2) Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, (3) who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, (4) who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, (5) who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. (6) The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. (7) He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel. (8) The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (9) He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. (10) He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. (11) For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; (12) as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. (13) As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. (14) For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust. (15) As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; (16) for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. (17) But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, (18) to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments. (19) The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. (20) Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! (21) Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! (22) Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

Numbers 15-36

The Organization goes to Disorganization

Introduction:

3. Israel perfects the art of complaining.
 - a. Mark Twain said, "Don't complain about problems you may have. 80% of the people do not care and the other 20% think you are getting what you deserve."
 - b. The whole group of the children of Israel murmured and complained.
 - c. Illustration about the cowboy who overturned his truck and trailer, and his horse and dog were shot by the trooper (police). "I've never felt better in all of my life."
 - d. The Israelites were a group of people who complained against Moses and against the Lord. Never happy and never satisfied.
4. Numbers is divided into three parts:
 - a. Organization of the camps of Israel (1-13).
 - b. Disorganization of the camps of Israel (14-25).
 - c. Reorganization of the camps of Israel (26-36). The old generation all dies in the wilderness and the new generation, their sons and daughters are the ones who enter the land.
5. Review:
 - a. Moses sent out 12 spies to spy out the Promised land.
 - b. 10 gave a bad report and two, Caleb and Joshua, gave a good report.
 - c. The children of Israel listened to the majority and despised the godly advice of Joshua and Caleb.
 - d. The Israelites complained to Moses and said that they would rather have died in Egypt or stayed as slaves. A few others said that they wished that they had just died in the wilderness. THIS WAS A BIG MISTAKE!
 1. God heard that and He granted them their wish.
 2. That entire generation, with the exception of Joshua and Caleb, all will die in the wilderness and not enter in the Promised Land.
6. In this lesson we will finish the disorganization and the reorganization, think about the **failure** and the **future**.
 - a. **The failure in the wilderness of the old generation**, and they will all die in the wilderness and not never make it to the Promised Land.
 - b. **The future in the new land and the new generation** that will take possession of the Promised Land. This is why in Deuteronomy the Law is repeated. The new generation will hear the Law and be without excuse (Romans 1-3).
- I. Chapters 15-29: The future in the wilderness of the old generation. This section begins in hope.
 - A. Numbers 15: Promises and instructions on sacrifices.

1. Numbers 15:1-2; “And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying, (2) Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, When you have come to the land of your dwellings, which I am giving to you”
 - a. This is a wonderful thing to hear!
 1. It is wonderful because God does not say, “If you make it to the Promised Land,” but, “When you make it to the Promised Land.”
 2. He assures them that they will, even in spite of their complaints, their unbelief, and their failures.
 3. They will not make it there *individually*, but they will possess the land *corporately*. As a whole, as a promise to the children of Israel.
 - b. **Application:** When life seems hopeless and we want to throw in the towel, remember that God has promised that we will make it to heaven.
 1. The apostle Paul was on a ship headed to Rome as a prisoner and a great storm arose and, after three days the sailors gave up all hope and accepted that they would die. But Paul said that an angel visited him and told him that he would stand before Caesar and that not one on the ship would die.
 2. Act 27:21-26 Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss. (22) Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. (23) For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, (24) and he said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.' (25) So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told. (26) But we must run aground on some island."
 3. 2 Peter 3:13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
 4. If we are faithful to God and rely on Him, then we will make it to heaven. What a comfort!
2. Numbers 15:3, 22, 30; (3) and you offer to the LORD from the herd or from the flock a food offering or a burnt offering or a sacrifice, to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering or at your appointed feasts, to make a pleasing aroma to the LORD,... (22) "But if you sin unintentionally, and do not observe all these commandments that the LORD has spoken to Moses,.. (30) But the person who does anything with a high hand, whether he is native or a sojourner, reviles the LORD, and that person shall be cut off from among his people.
 - a. Sin and dealing with sin is once again spoken about by God.
 - b. **Application:** Many people in our culture and society believe that sin and feeling guilty is outdated.

1. People will say, “You are not supposed to feel guilty when you have done something wrong. If you feel guilty then all you are doing is marring your self-worth and destroying your self-esteem.”
 2. Our culture will tolerate sin but it will not tolerate the guilt that comes with it.
 3. Some non-religious therapists will tell you that you should not feel guilty about things that you have done wrong, i.e. lying, cheating, stealing, immorality. They might even counsel you and say that your wrong behavior is not your fault; you might just be carrying over guilt from your childhood, or that, given the resources and knowledge you had, you could not have made a better choice. **It might be your fault! It might be time to own it, confess it, ask for forgiveness from the ones you hurt and especially from God and His church.**
 4. Pro 28:13 Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.
 5. Our culture says that everyone is a victim, the adult child of something-alcoholic, workaholic, some type of mania (klepto) or disorder, whatever; so that we can all say that, “I am what I am, I do what I do because it is someone else’s fault or I was born with these inclinations.” It might be partly someone else’s fault, but there comes a point at which we must all take ownership and the Lord knows that here.
 6. Bernard McCummings¹⁶ and an accomplice attacked an 72 year old man and “struck, choked and pinned to the ground while his pockets were rifled.” McCummings was shot and paralyzed. He sued the N.Y. Transit Authority and was awarded 4.3 million dollars!
 7. The Lord knew what the real problem of sin was and instructs the Israelites on how to deal with it. Know it, own it, repent of it and make restitution.
- B. Numbers 16-19 form a block and they deal with the priesthood. The reason for this is because there is a problem in chapter 16.
1. The children of Israel CONTINUE to murmur and complain. There are eight different murmurings recorded in the book of Numbers.
 2. Numbers 16 there is a man by the name of Korah who is a priest. He is a prominent Levite, and he along with 250 others leaders, rebel against Moses’ leadership and his authority.
 - a. Note: 1 Corinthians 10 is important for our study of the Numbers because Paul warns Christians not to make the same mistakes that the Israelites made. “Don’t do what they did in the wilderness...”
 - b. *The Whine*, became the Jewish national anthem.

¹⁶ http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1355/is_n8_v85/ai_14863753/

3. The fifth murmuring in Numbers 16:
 - a. Num 16:1-3 Now Korah the son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men. (2) And they rose up before Moses, with a number of the people of Israel, 250 chiefs of the congregation, chosen from the assembly, well-known men. (3) They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! [**Moses, you have way too much power**] For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?" --Moses decides to have a showdown and assembles the congregation.
 - b. Num 16:23-24 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, (24) "Say to the congregation, Get away from the dwelling of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram."
 1. You know that this was a setup for something big. God was about to do something that would teach the people that He did not appreciate murmurers nor did He appreciate those who desired to divide the people.
 2. The complaint began with the *rabble*, the mixed multitude of people from different races. It traveled through the congregation and now we see a group of prominent leaders rebelling against Moses in the wilderness.
 3. **Application:** The boy who named his dog,
 - a. Uncle Joe. His parents asked him why he decided on that name. The boy say that the dog reminded him of his uncle Joe, always growling at everyone and everything.
 - b. You all know an uncle Joe, you might even be an uncle Joe.
 - c. God takes this kind of behavior very seriously, even in the New Testament: Jud 1:11 Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion.
 - c. Numbers 16:26-35: Moses tells the people to get way back and out of the way. Moses then explains how the showdown will take place. If these men, Korah and his cohorts, die of a natural cause then the Lord is not speaking through Moses. However, if the earth opens up and swallows them whole, along with all of their family and belongings then people will know that Korah and his followers have spoken against God and that God is not happy with them.
 1. Numbers 16:31-33 And as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart. (32) And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods. (33) So they and all that belonged to them went

- down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly.
2. The sin of these 250 men was dividing the congregation of the Lord, so the fitting punishment would be for the earth to divide and swallow them whole.
 3. Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.
 4. **Application:** Korah was a complainer, but he was also a poser. He thought that he could use this opportunity, this wave of complaint, to exalt himself to a position that did not belong to him. Since everyone was already complaining about Moses he thought that it was the perfect opportunity to “unseat” Moses, get rid of him, and then Korah could take his place. But Korah could never become that leader in the priesthood.
4. Numbers 17, God is confirming the priesthood through Aaron and his sons. (sixth murmuring)
 - a. **Application: We must understand that once we begin to divide God’s people through murmuring it is almost impossible to get rid of all the residue. Even after Korah and his followers were exterminated there still remained doubt in the minds of some people. Some people were still wondering if indeed God had selected Aaron and his sons to be the priests. Even though God had already established this in Exodus 28. So God is going to instruct Moses to set up a test to see who of the 12 tribes will be the priests (confirming the priesthood).**
 - b. Let everyone of the tribes of Israel put the name of their tribe on a stick, a total of 12 sticks, and for the tribe of Levi put the name of Aaron on a *dry dead stick*. Take all 13 sticks and place them in front of the Ark. So they did that.
 1. Num 17:8 On the next day Moses went into the tent of the testimony, and behold, the staff of Aaron for the house of Levi had sprouted and put forth buds and produced blossoms, and it bore ripe almonds.
 2. This validated Aaron and his sons as the rightful priests. This is also a cool image of something dead coming back to life, just like Christ.
 3. In the Ark of the Covenant was placed pieces of manna, the two tablets of stone containing the 10 commandments and Aarons ***budding rod***.
 - a. All of these things remained in the Ark and served as a reminder to them of what God had done for them: gave them the Law, gave them sustenance and gave them priests that would help them in having their sins atoned. Hebrews 9:9 tells us that the Ark, tabernacle, sacrifices, etc serves (present time) as an illustration that only Christ can wash away our sins.

- b. Where is the Ark of the Covenant today? Ask Indiana Jones! If we were to find it we would have a huge problem. People would worship it just like folks worship sites in Jerusalem (baptized in the Jordan.)
 - c. Numbers 18-19, confirm the priesthood. Details a strange ritual for cleansing an unclean person, especially one that had touched a dead person.
 - 1. They were to find a red heifer, unblemished, and which had never had a yoke placed on it.
 - 2. The heifer would be burned and the ashes would be gathered and kept for generations, because there would be a lot of ashes.
 - 3. Some of the ashes would be put into a vessel, running spring water would be put into the vessel and if someone was defiled ceremonially the priest would take a hyssop branch, dip it into the water and sprinkle the people. This is the cleansing of the red heifer.
 - 4. By the way, this is where the Catholics get the practice of having a laver with water at the church entrance so that the people can cleanse themselves before entering the building.
 - d. In this section we see a theme that is mentioned in all of the first five books of the Bible: Sacrifice, offering, death of a victim and blood that has to be shed in order to atone for sin. The concept that blood has to be shed in order for our sins to be forgiven is echoed in the New Testament, and it is the blood of Jesus.
- C. Numbers 20-21, the failure on the way to Moab. Between chapter 19 and 20 there is a gap of 37 years. (seventh murmuring)
 - 1. The chapter begins with death (Miriam) and ends with death (Aaron). The bookends of this chapter are death.
 - 2. Numbers 20:1 And the people of Israel, the whole congregation, came into the wilderness of Zin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh. And Miriam died there and was buried there.
 - a. Miriam is that great woman of faith, the prophetess that led the women of Israel while playing a tambourine (Exodus 15). But, she is also the one that led a revolt against her own brother, Moses (previous lesson). She represents the whole generation that is about to die in the wilderness.
 - b. A moment of déjà vu; vs. 1 says that they were at Kadesh and 37 years earlier they were there too.
 - 1. Moses must have been thinking that he had been there almost 40 years earlier along with the 12 spies that he had sent out to spy out the land. And how 10 of them convinced the entire nation not to enter the Promised Land.
 - 2. For 37 years they had traveled for 37 years in a big circle, all because of their unbelief.

3. This time, for the second time at Kadesh, Moses must have been nervous, thinking: "What will go wrong this time?" And it happens! Murmuring, again!!!
3. Num 20:2-6 Now there was no water for the congregation. And they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. (3) And the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Would that we had perished when our brothers perished before the LORD! ***[they are referring to Korah who had been swallowed up by the earth and the 250 men who were burned alive]*** (4) Why have you brought the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness, that we should die here, both we and our cattle? (5) And why have you made us come up out of Egypt to bring us to this evil place? It is no place for grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, and there is no water to drink." (6) Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces. And the glory of the LORD appeared to them,
- a. 37 years earlier they had been at the border to enter in the Promised Land. Then, because of their unbelief, they wandered for 37 years and now they are at the entrance of the Promised Land. It will be a total of 40 years that they will have wandered, coinciding with the 40 days the spies spied out the land. The sentence was one year per day.
- b. Deuteronomy 1 says that it was only an 11 day journey from Egypt (Mount Hor to Kadesh) to the Promised Land. See what unbelief will do to you!
4. Numbers 20:7-8 and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, (8) "Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and ***tell [speak to] the rock before their eyes to yield its water.*** So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle."
5. Numbers 20:9-13 And Moses took the staff from before the LORD, as he commanded him. (10) Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he ***said to them***, "Hear now, you rebels: shall ***we*** bring water for you out of this rock?" (11) And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. (12) And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them." (13) These are the waters of Meribah, where the people of Israel quarreled with the LORD, and through them he showed himself holy.
- a. This is the second time that the Rock gave water. In Exodus 17 in the wilderness of Sin, God told Moses to take the rod and strike the rock. Then God said to hit the rock but now He says to talk to the rock.

- b. Because he disobeyed God that one time (according to what is recorded) he was not allowed to enter into the Promised Land, and neither was Aaron.
- c. **Application:** One sin! That's it? That's not fair! Think of Moses' service to the Lord: 40 years being trained for leadership in Egypt, 40 years waiting in Median and 40 years wandering with a bunch of knot-heads (punto de traducción: traduzca esto como "burro cabezones"). Why was God so severe in His punishment?:
 - 1. He disobeyed God. He allowed his emotions to get out of control. Any emotion that you allow to get out of control can lead you to disobedience. He just disobeyed.
 - 2. He failed to represent God correctly. Moses was a representative of God. If you are a representative of God you need to represent Him correctly. God wasn't mad at that moment, but the way Moses represented God would lead the people to believe that God was really mad.
 - 3. Moses Exalted himself in this situation. Moses said, "Must we bring forth water?" What is this we? You have no power to bring water out of a rock, it is a miracle. He took too much on himself.
 - 4. He dishonored Christ. 1 Corinthians 10:4, tells us that the Rock was Christ. If Moses would have obeyed God we would have a wonderful ***type of Christ: This could have been seen as the two comings of Christ. At the first coming Jesus was struck, and out of his death flowed life. At the second coming, you do not have to strike Him, all you have to do is talk with Him.***
- 6. Numbers 20:29 And when all the congregation saw that Aaron had perished, all the house of Israel wept for Aaron thirty days.
 - a. The people grieved for Aaron for 30 days. Grief is normal and there is such a thing as good grief. There is bad grief, that is the kind where you stuff it all in and refuse cry because you are a man, or too long, prolonging the grieving process and never dealing with it.
 - b. There is good grief where you allow yourself to get it out, deal with the death and move on. In some cultures it is customary to take 30 days to grieve, as with the people of Israel here in Numbers.
- 7. Numbers 21 (the eighth murmuring): By now the people had griped, complained and murmured for almost 40 years that they had refined the art of griping. They complained against God and Moses again.
 - a. Num 21:5-7 And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." (6) Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. (7) And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you.

Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

1. **Application: They got all religious all of a sudden. They complained, God killed some of them and they asked for a prayer meeting.**
 2. **Nothing like a little affliction to get people on their knees.**
 3. **Psalm 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.**
 4. **Why does God send them fiery serpents? Because He loved them. You spank your children because you love them. You spank your child and he says, "Oh, you don't love me!" The issue is not what he thinks about you when he is 3,4,5 but what he thinks of you when he is 18, 19, etc.**
- b. Num 21:8-9 And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." (9) So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.
1. **Application:** If you were a rationalist¹⁷; an empiricist¹⁸; there's no logical reason for you to look at a brass snake on a pole and be healed.
 2. It was a foolish thing to do, just like the Gospel is foolish to those who are too smart.
 3. But God calls us to act on faith and not human reasoning.
 4. The serpent on the pole (banner pole in the form of a "t" or cross) and just as the serpent was lifted on the pole so must the Son of Man be lifted up, whoever believe in Him, he will be saved (John 3).
8. Numbers 22-25 These chapters lead us to a bizarre and weird guy. His name is Balaam, and he is an enigma, a puzzle.
- a. There is more written about him than the virgin Mary and more than the apostles. His name is mentioned 59 times in Scripture and he shows up here for several chapters.
 - b. Numbers 22:1-3, 5-6, 22, 23, 27-30 Then the people of Israel set out and camped in the plains of Moab beyond the Jordan at Jericho. (2) And Balak (the king) the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. (3) And Moab was in great dread of the people, because they were many. Moab was

¹⁷ a belief or theory that opinions and actions should be based on reason and knowledge rather than on religious belief or emotional response: scientific rationalism.

- Philosophy the theory that reason rather than experience is the foundation of certainty in knowledge.
- Theology the practice of treating reason as the ultimate authority in religion.

¹⁸ the theory that all knowledge is derived from sense-experience. Stimulated by the rise of experimental science, it developed in the 17th and 18th centuries, expounded in particular by John Locke, George Berkeley, and David Hume. Compare with phenomenalism.

overcome with fear of the people of Israel. [The king hires Balaam to do something] (5) sent messengers to Balaam the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the people of Amaw, to call him, saying, "Behold, a people has come out of Egypt. They cover the face of the earth, and they are dwelling opposite me. (6) Come now, curse this people for me, since they are too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them from the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed." (22) So Balaam rose in the morning and saddled his donkey (Mr. Ed of the Old Testament?) and went with the princes of Moab. (22) But God's anger was kindled because he went, and the angel of the LORD took his stand in the way as his adversary. Now he was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him. (23) And the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand. And the donkey turned aside out of the road and went into the field. And Balaam struck the donkey, to turn her into the road. (27) When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam. And Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff. (28) Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" (29) And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a fool of me. I wish I had a sword in my hand, for then I would kill you." (30) And the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey, on which you have ridden all your life long to this day? Is it my habit to treat you this way?" And he said, "No."

1. (1-3) Balaam was a Mesopotamian Baru, which is an Acadian word which means that he was an Oracle priest; a priest who would give out statements, oracles, or omens, and words from the gods, based upon the entrails of the animals, or read drops of oil, or the stars, etc. He was a pagan man. But God somehow supernaturally spoke through him because put His words in this pagan's mouth so that no one could curse Israel.
2. (5-6) Everyone who speaks for the Lord (preachers) don't get too prideful, after all He did use a donkey to speak for Him.
3. (23, 27-30) I've had conversations with myself many times and now I am sure that I have never had one as intelligent as was this donkey. This man was having a conversation with a donkey! How crazy is that?
4. The story ends this way: The king takes Balaam to a few lookout points and asks him to pronounce a curse on the Israelites and in each of the three occasions Balaam is not able to curse but only to bless.
 - a. Num 23:8 How can I curse whom God has not cursed?
How can I denounce whom the LORD has not denounced?

- b. Num 24:5-6 How lovely are your tents, O Jacob, your encampments, O Israel! (6) Like palm groves that stretch afar, like gardens beside a river, like aloes that the LORD has planted, like cedar trees beside the waters.
 - c. Num 25:1-3 While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. (2) These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. (3) So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.
 - d. It is not until we get to Numbers 30:16 that Moses will tell us what happened. Balaam will not curse the people of Israel. "God won't allow me to curse them. But I have an idea that will work. Their God will curse them, He will do this because He is a jealous God and will not tolerate idolatry. So, here's the plan: Get your pretty little ladies to walk through their camp and get these men to have an affair with them, and then have them bring out their little gods during this little escapade, and they will commit idolatry."
 - e. Indeed this is what happened and God Himself cursed Israel.
- II. Future-The Second Generation: Reorganization (26-36), this is the third and final division of this book. Organization, disorganization and reorganization.
- A. This is a new generation. They are preparing to enter in the Promised Land. This is the future. We have seen the failure of the old generation and now the success of the new generation.
 - B. Num 26:1-2 After the plague, the LORD said to Moses and to Eleazar the son of Aaron, the priest, (2) "Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, from twenty years old and upward, by their fathers' houses, all in Israel who are able to go to war."
 - 1. The plague is found in Numbers 25, where 24,000 people died in a single day because of Baal worship brought on by Balaam's idea.
 - 2. Numbers 1 was the first census and now we are looking at the second census.
 - a. First census was 603,550 fighting men above 20 years of age.
 - b. Second census now they have, with the new generation, 601, 730 fighting men of 20 years of age.
 - c. There has been zero growth, instead there has been a loss of 1820 in 38 years (Numbers 26:51).
 - C. Numbers 27 is about the inheritance laws and if your name is Zelophehad, you should read this chapter because it has everything to do with his offspring through his daughters because he had no sons.
 - D. Numbers 28-30, Order of seasonal offerings and sacrifices. We have already studied this in our first lesson. It is repeated because the old generation is dead and the new one needs to hear them. This way they will have no excuse.

- E. Numbers 31-36, is the land that is apportioned on both sides of the Jordan.
1. Numbers 32: They crossed the Red Sea, went into the wilderness and crossed the Jordan River to get into the Promise Land. Not everyone did this. There were 2.5 tribes that saw how beautiful some parts of the Eastern area of the Jordan River were and they asked if they could stay.
 - a. Tribe of Reuben, Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh.
 - b. The area that these tribes wanted was the best of the land. They did not want to go any further. So they strike a deal:
 - c. Num 32:5, 18-19; And they said, "If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants for a possession. Do not take us across the Jordan." (18) We will not return to our homes until each of the people of Israel has gained his inheritance. (19) For we will not inherit with them on the other side of the Jordan and beyond, because our inheritance has come to us on this side of the Jordan to the east."
 - d. They would go and fight with the other tribes and after the war they would return and inhabit the land.
 2. Numbers 33: A journal of their journey.
 3. Numbers 34: The boundaries of the land is given.
 - a. Num 34:12-13 And the border shall go down to the Jordan, and its limit shall be at the Salt Sea. This shall be your land as defined by its borders all around." (13) Moses commanded the people of Israel, saying, "This is the land that you shall inherit by lot, which the LORD has commanded to give to the nine tribes and to the half-tribe.
 - b. The lands are given, the Levitical land is given as are the lands of refuge.
 - c. **AND THE BOOK ENDS!!**

Conclusion:

1. There is a tragedy.
 - a. If you go back and pencil out on a map all of the land the Lord promised them to inherit, it is about 300,000 square miles of land. If you go back to Genesis 15, the land allotment is about 300,000 square miles.
 - b. Israel at the peak of history only occupied and enjoyed 30,000 miles of land promised to them by God.
 - c. **Application: God promised them 300,000 miles and they only enjoyed 1/10th of the land. It seems like this is a picture of us in the church today. "We're saved!" Great, are you enjoying all of the promises and blessings that we receive as Christians? Or are you content with less? I don't want to just make it to heaven. I want to bring as many people as I can to Christ, have fun while I'm doing it (because Christians can have and should have fun); and I think that you do too.**
 1. "Most Christians as to the river of experience, are only up to the ankles; some have waded up to their knees; a few find it breast

high, but a few, and oh how few find it a river to swim in - the bottom of which they cannot touch.” (Charles Spurgeon)

2. Moses did not make it to the Promise Land, but he will later on Mount Transfiguration. He made it!
3. Are you wandering through the wilderness or are you walking to the Promise Land?

Deuteronomy: Beware, Lest You Forget

Deuteronomy 1-34

Introduction:

4. History proves that truth and principle can be easily forgotten.
 - a. This can be seen with colleges, universities and governments that began with a faith based, conservative agenda.
 1. Harvard University
 2. Governments have been established on religious principles (Europe with Catholicism, U.S. with puritan, Israel with God).
 3. These things did not happen immediately but incrementally.
 - b. Because that is a tendency it is important that we be reminded of who we are and what God requires. We need to remember LEST WE FORGET.
 - c. **This would be the overriding theme of the book of Deuteronomy: Beware, Lest You Forget.**
5. The book of Deuteronomy is essentially a repetition of Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers.
 - a. Deuteronomy comes from two words: “deutero” - two or second, and “nomian” which means the Law.
 - b. Law Number Two, The Second Law or the Law Repeated a Second Time.
6. The description of the entire book of Deuteronomy:
 - a. Three messages (three sermons), farewell messages.
 1. Sermon 1: Review of the past (1-3)
 2. Sermon 2: Regulations for the present (4-26)
 3. Sermon 3: Be ready for the future (27-34)
 4. Another way to look at the messages is: historical, legal and prophetic.
 - b. Given in a single month.
 - c. By a 120 year old man, Moses on the plains of Moab.
7. The book of Deuteronomy will be quoted or alluded to some 350 times in the rest of the Old Testament and, some 95 times in the New Testament; so it is a pretty important book.
 - a. This is the book that Jesus Christ most often alluded to.
 - b. Yes, even though it is that important we will only use one lesson to cover the entire book. The reason is because we have already studied all of it in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers. Remember that this is a repeat of those books. We will simply hit the highlights that will help us in better understanding the book and its relevant teaching for us.

- I. First farewell speech or sermon 1: A review of the past (1-3) - Historical
 - A. God is saying that it is time to get moving and take the Promised Land:
 1. (1:1-3); “These are the words that Moses spoke to all Israel beyond the Jordan in the wilderness, in the Arabah opposite Suph, between Paran and Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab. 2 It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir to Kadesh-barnea. 3 In the fortieth year, on the first day of the eleventh month, Moses spoke to the people of Israel according to all that the Lord had given him in commandment to them”
 - a. In verse two, it is an 11 days journey. They managed to turn an 11 day journey into a 40 year meander.
 - b. How did they do this? Through unbelief.
 - c. Travel in that day: In the ancient east distances are not computed by miles or kilometers, but by how long it takes you to get there.
 1. Typically in the ancient world, you could cover 20 miles per day on foot, 30 on camel and if on a caravan about 25 miles per day.
 2. Jonah 3 says that Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, it took three days journey. If one could travel 20 miles a day on foot, the city of Nineveh was 60 miles in circumference.
 2. 1:6; “The Lord our God said to us in Horeb, ‘You have stayed long enough at this mountain.’”
 - a. “You’ve been here long enough, now go!”
 - b. There is a reference to Mount Horeb and we usually say that it is one and the same as Sinai. The reason for that is because Horeb is the mountain range and Sinai is one of the peaks.
 3. 1:7-8; Turn and take your journey, and go to the hill country of the Amorites and to all their neighbors in the Arabah, in the hill country and in the lowland and in the Negeb and by the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon, as far as the great river, the river Euphrates.
 - a. God is saying to them, “Look at all that I have given you. It is time for you to take possession of it.”
 - b. If you were to do the math you would notice that God had given them 300,000 s.q. miles, but at their zenith they only used 30,000 sq. miles. They only enjoyed 1/10 of all that God promised they could have.
 1. **Application: It is one thing to receive a gift and another thing to open it. God gave them a gift but they never really opened it, because of unbelief. God had promised so much for the children of Israel and they did not receive it. Even to this day they have not.**
 2. **Where are you spiritually? Are you wandering in the wilderness or are you fully taking advantage of the promises God has given you.**

3. **Standing on the promises I cannot fall, Listening every moment to the Spirit's call, Resting in my Savior as my all in all, Standing on the promises of God.**
- a. **Ephesians 1:3; All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.**
 - b. 2 Peter 1:4; "And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires."
 - c. Jeremiah 29:11; "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."
 - d. Matthew 11:28-29; "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."
 - e. Isaiah 40:29-31; "He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless.
Even youths will become weak and tired,
and young men will fall in exhaustion.
But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.
They will soar high on wings like eagles.
They will run and not grow weary.
They will walk and not faint."
 - f. Philippians 4:19; "And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."
 - g. Romans 8:37-39; "No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."
 - h. Proverbs 1:33; "But all who listen to me will live in peace, untroubled by fear of harm."
 - i. John 14:27; "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."
 - j. Romans 10:9; "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

- k. Romans 6:23; “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - 3. God reminds them of when the spies went into the land and they refused to enter in. 1:26, 34-35; “Yet you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of the Lord your God.” 34 “And the Lord heard your words and was angered, and he swore, 35 ‘Not one of these men of this evil generation shall see the good land that I swore to give to your fathers, 36 except Caleb the son of Jephunneh. He shall see it, and to him and to his children I will give the land on which he has trodden, because he has wholly followed the Lord!’”
 - a. This is part of the review of the past. Only Caleb and Joshua, from the original generation will go into the Promised Land.
 - b. Statistics: Conservatively, if you take the average time of the wandering, 37.5 years, 1,200,000 people died in the wilderness! That would be an average of 85 funerals per day, or seven people dying every waking hour!
 - c. Death became a way of life for them. How dramatic of an illustration and reminder to these Israelites, every day, every waking hour people were dropping dead, as a reminder that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).
- B. Chapters 2-3 Moses reviews the places they went and wandered about for 37.5 years and the events that took place, the good, the bad and the ugly.
 - 1. In Deuteronomy 3 we are introduced to the king of Bashan, King Og (not the Wizard of Og!) Interesting story about this king.
 - a. 3:10; “all the cities of the tableland and all Gilead and all Bashan, as far as Salecah and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan.”
 - 1. 2.5 tribes stayed on the eastern side of the Jordan. They did not want to go across (Reuben, Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh).
 - 2. They would go and help the other tribes conquer the Canaanites.
 - b. Interesting fact - 3:11; “(For only Og the king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim. Behold, his bed was a bed of iron. Is it not in Rabbah of the Ammonites? Nine cubits was its length, and four cubits its breadth, according to the common cubit.) [6’ x 14.]¹⁹ There is nothing new under the sun. The whole idea of a king sized bed came from the Bible!
 - 2. The point is that Israel had some formidable enemies to conquer. 37 years earlier the Israelites did not want to enter in the land because of these giants.

¹⁹ 11 King Og was the last of the Rephaim. His coffin,[a] made of stone,[b] was six feet wide and almost fourteen feet long, according to standard measurements. It can still be seen in the Ammonite city of Rabbah.

- a. They said that land devours its inhabitants and “we were but grasshoppers in their sight.
 - b. Boy did they make a mistake! They measured the giants by themselves instead of measuring the giants by the Lord.
 - c. **Application: When you measure the giants by yourself you will feel overwhelmed and exclaim, “Poor me! I can’t do this!” But when you measure the giants by the Lord you then understand that those giants don’t have a chance against God.**
 - 1. **When God is on our side we are in the majority. A name of God is Adonai Sabaoth (Lord of Hosts Malachi 1:1-3)**
 - 2. **David v.s. Goliath: David said, “...you come to me with a sword and a shield? I come to you in the name of the Lord God of Israel, whom you have ticked off!” (1 Sam. 17:46)**
 - 3. **Those ten spies caused the rest of the nation to not enter into the Promised Land and wander for 37 years.**
 - 4. **Take your stand with the Lord. All of your giants need to be faced and do not worry about the few smooth stones and a sling, know confidently that the Lord of Hosts is with you!**
- II. Second farewell speech or sermon: Regulations for the present (4-26). We saw what God had done, now we see what God is doing. This is the “legal” speech”.²⁰
- A. Moses commands obedience
- 1. 4:1-2; “And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules[a] that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. 2 You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you.”
 - a. Sounds like God does not want anyone messing with His word, taking or adding to it.
 - 1. "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. (Matthew 5:17)
 - 2. “if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.” (Rev. 22:19)
 - b. Think about all of those people who decide which verses are to be believed and which ones are to be ignored.
 - 2. 4:9; “Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart

²⁰ Application: This is a transition from the past to the present. We should be making the same transition from the past to the present. It is good to think about the good days we had, but let not us rest on the laurels of the past.

all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children—”

- a. There are a couple of parallel themes here. One is, remember what you learned. Once you have learned them, then teach the next generation.
 - b. Pass the baton.
- B. Chapters 5-11 Recap and application of the Ten Commandments.
1. 6:1-4; “Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules[a] —that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, 2 that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. 4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”
 - a. Verse 4 is the famous Jewish confession of faith known as the Shema; (or as some have said it, “Shmaa”) “Shema’ Israel Adonai Elohénu Adonai Ehad (achat).
 1. Ehad (achat) means one, the simple number like if you were counting: Ehad 1, shtaim 2, shalosh 3, arba 4, hamesh 5.
 2. But Ehad does not mean an absolute singularity, it can mean a compound unity. It is the same word used in Gen. 2:24 “...one (ehad) flesh”.
 - b. The importance of this word is that being One does not mean that the Triune nature of God does not exist. It is like the two, man and woman make ONE (EHAD) flesh.
 2. 6:5; “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” This is an important text because when Jesus was asked what was the greatest commandment He quoted this one (Matthew 22:38)
 3. 6:6-9; “And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach (REPEAT) them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
 - a. They are to teach their children the Law, they are to repeat it over and over again. The best way to teach and learn is through repetition. To say something over and over again.
 1. Let me say it again, the best way to learn something is through repetition.
 2. **Application: Teach your children God’s Word. Train them up in the Word. It is an ironic thing that as a society we show off that Fido can shake hands, roll over and fetch**

the ball but our children are destroyed from a lack of knowledge. (Hosea 4:6; Proverbs 22:6)

3. **The word TRAIN in Proverbs 22:6 is from the Hebrew CHANAK (khanak) which means to place on the tongue. To stimulate the sucking reflex as when a child suckles milk.**
 - b. Verse 8 talks about binding the words on the hands and foreheads so that the Word of God will forevermore be in sight. Today some Jews do this with their phylacteries and frontlets on their foreheads. Little boxes with three scriptures in them and place them on their foreheads about one-two inches sticking out so that the Word of God is before their eyes.
 1. **Application: What is before your eyes? When you go home today what will be before your eyes and turn on the television or the computer?**
 2. **It makes a lot of difference what is before your eyes!**
 3. 8:1-2; “The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the Lord swore to give to your fathers. **2** And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.”
 - a. The theme is repeated: “Beware lest you forget.”
 - b. Open the Bible and read the Word lest you forget.
 4. 10:12-13; “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, **13** and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?”
 - a. Several things are mentioned: **FEAR**, WALK, LOVE, SERVE and KEEP.
 - b. Fear the Lord does not mean cringing in fear or dread of God. Don’t think of God as frowning from heaven and just waiting to swat you and that you should be trembling with fear.
 1. The word means AWE. Respect, reverence. Same word used to honor your father and mother.
 2. A reverential awe that produces humble submission to a loving God.
 3. The only fright we should feel is when we disobey God.
- C. Chapters 12-16 Recap and explanation of the ceremonial laws.
- D. Chapters 16-20 Recap of the civil laws.
1. The Scarlet thread, Jesus in the Old Testament - 18:16, 18; “The Lord your God will raise up for you a **Prophet** like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—” 18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put

- my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.
2. Matthew 17:5 at the Transfiguration.
 3. Moses and Jesus were types and antitypes of each other, several similarities:
 - a. Both were prophets (Matthew 21:11)
 - b. Both were persecuted at birth
 - c. Both were deliverers
 - d. Both were intercessors
 - e. Both were rejected by their brothers (Acts 6)
 - f. The point is that Moses was great! Jesus, much greater! (John 1:17)
- E. Chapters 21-26 Recap of the social laws.
- III. Third farewell speech or sermon: Readiness for the future (27-34)
- A. Chapter 27: God directs Moses that the people were to go into the Promised Land, Samaria. They were to divide into two groups: one on Mount Ebal and the other on Mount Gerizim. From Mount Ebal the group will call out the cursing of God and from Mount Gerizim the people would call out the blessings of God. The Levites were to be in the valley along with the rest of the people. And when the curses and blessings were called out the people were to yell out AMEN! This was a way of making sure everyone understood the curses (cursed is he who lies with his mother-in-law, cursed is he who accepts a bribe, etc.).
 - B. Chapter 28²¹:
 1. 1-2; “And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. **2** And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God.” Make note of the largest word in the entire Bible: IF! If you obey, then you will be blessed.
 2. 28:15, 20; “But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.” “The Lord will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me.”
 3. The children are told what they would receive if they obeyed, but what would happen if they disobeyed. This is why the Lord established His church.
 - C. Chapter 31: The end of Moses’ life. The entire Bible up to this point has been written by Moses. What an awesome life! 120 years of service to the Lord. Ups and downs, but an awesome life nonetheless.

²¹ All covenants that God made with Israel were fulfilled: Great nation promise, Land promise and Seed promise (<http://www.bible.ca/premillennialism-rapture-replacement-theology-supersessionism-three-promises-abraham-fulfilled-israel-god-land-joshua-solomon.htm>)

1. Happy birthday Moses! 31:1-2; “So Moses continued to speak these words to all Israel. 2 And he said to them, “I am 120 years old today. I am no longer able to go out and come in. The Lord has said to me, ‘You shall not go over this Jordan.’”
 - a. As a birthday present, Moses will not enter into the Promised Land. (31:3-7) he Lord your God himself will go over before you. He will destroy these nations before you, so that you shall dispossess them, and Joshua will go over at your head, as the Lord has spoken. 4 And the Lord will do to them as he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when he destroyed them. 5 And the Lord will give them over to you, and you shall do to them according to the whole commandment that I have commanded you. 6 Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”
 - b. Joshua will be the new leader. He was faithful, humble and an excellent servant of Moses and above all, the Lord.
2. Deuteronomy 31:23.
- D. Chapter 32: The Song of Moses. What could have been the tune to this song? It is a sad song. It talks about punishments, death and tribulations. It says, “Remember the days of old, how good you had it and how you blew it!” Sounds like a country and western song.
- E. Chapter 33: Another song of Moses, a happy one! It talks about many blessings.
- F. Moses’ death - Chapter 34:1-8; “Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land, Gilead as far as Dan, 2 all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, 3 the Negeb, and the Plain, that is, the Valley of Jericho the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. 4 And the Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, ‘I will give it to your offspring.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there.” 5 So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord, 6 and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. 7 Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated. 8 And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.”
 1. The Bible has talks about everything. There is nothing new under the sun. It has drama, sex, murder, comedy, tragedy and even horror. Chapter 34 is a chapter that makes me weep, every time. Moses served the Lord for 120 years. 40 of those he dedicated his life to the people who needed a shepherd, and in the midst of “saving others” he lost his physical inheritance. Even though he made it to heaven (Mount of Transfiguration), it makes me weep to think of how hard it must have been for this man to come to terms with that fact. And

even then, to stand atop of Mt. Nebo and see what he lost, have enough vigor, stamina and positive motivation to encourage the people to keep on and inherit what he could not.

2. Let us appreciate those who serve in the Lord on your behalf.
3. 34:10-12; “And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, **11** none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, **12** and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.”

Conclusion:

1. In the Jewish synagogue, after a book of the Law is read, especially as we finish the Pentateuch, the people stand and say “Be strong, strong, and let us encourage one another.”
2. May the Lord bless us and may we be faithful to Him. One day we shall inherit the spiritual Promised Land in heaven!

Additional Notes On Abrahamic Promises For Deuteronomy

Harvard was founded in 1636 by vote of the Great and General Court of the [Massachusetts Bay Colony](#), making it the oldest institution of higher learning in the United States. Initially called "New College" or "the college at New Towne", the institution was renamed [Harvard College](#) on March 13, 1639. It was named after [John Harvard](#), a young English [clergyman](#) from [Southwark, London](#), an alumnus of the [University of Cambridge](#) (after which Cambridge, Massachusetts is named), who bequeathed the College his library of four hundred books and [£779 pounds sterling](#), which was half of his estate.[20] The charter creating the corporation of Harvard College came in 1650. In the early years, the College trained many Puritan ministers.[21] The college offered a classic academic course based on the English university model—many leaders in the colony had attended the [University of Cambridge](#)—but one consistent with the prevailing [Puritan](#) philosophy. The college was never affiliated with any particular denomination, but many of its earliest graduates went on to become clergymen in Congregational and Unitarian churches throughout New England.[22] An early brochure, published in 1643, described the founding of the college as a response to the desire "to advance learning and perpetuate it to posterity, dreading to leave an illiterate ministry to the churches".[23] The leading Boston divine [Increase Mather](#) served as president from 1685 to 1701. In 1708, [John Leverett](#) became the first president who was not also a clergyman, which marked a turning of the College toward intellectual independence from Puritanism.

Abrahamic Land Promise to Israel fulfilled 3000 years ago!

Israel becoming a nation in 1948 does not fulfill Bible prophecy.

Introduction:

1. We support the state of modern Israel as a stable productive democracy and a protectorate of biblical archeology from the Muslims who would hinder and destroy any evidence the Bible is accurate and that Jews are the historic occupiers of the land since 1400 BC. However Israel becoming a nation in 1948 AD was a non-event as far as Bible prophecy is concerned. The only hope of Israel is to accept Jesus Blood for their sins and be saved though faith, repentance, confession of Christ and water baptism.
2. Pre-tribulation Rapture and dispensationalists teach the false doctrine that God failed to fulfill the three promises he made to Abraham in fleshly Israel and the church (spiritual Israel).
3. All Premillennialists reject the plain Bible teaching that Israel possessed all the land God promises to Israel through Abraham.
4. Any church or preacher that claims that 1948 AD fulfilled Bible prophecy when modern Israel gained statehood, is a false teacher and ignorant of the bible. These false teachers are called "premillennialists, dispensationalists" and believe in the Rapture.

A. Plain Bible passages say that Israel got all the land promised Abraham:

1. "So the LORD gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it. And the LORD gave them rest on every side, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers, and no one of all their enemies stood before them; the LORD gave all their enemies into their hand. Not one of the good promises

which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass. " (Joshua 21:43-45)

2. "Now behold, today I am going the way of all the earth, and you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one word of all the good words which the LORD your God spoke concerning you has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed. "It shall come about that just as all the good words which the LORD your God spoke to you have come upon you, so the LORD will bring upon you all the threats, until He has destroyed you from off this good land which the LORD your God has given you. " (Joshua 23:14-15)
3. Josh 24:28 Then Joshua dismissed the people, each to his inheritance.
4. 2 Sam 8:3 David defeated Hadadezer...as he went to restore his rule at the River [Euphrates].
5. 1 Kings 4:21 Now Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the [Euphrates] River to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt; they brought tribute and served Solomon
6. 2 Chr 9:26 And he was the ruler over all the kings from the Euphrates River even to the land of the Philistines, and as far as the border of Egypt.
7. Neh 9:8 And Thou didst find Abraham's heart faithful before Thee, and didst make a covenant with him to give him the land of the Canaanite, of the Hittite and the Amorite, of the Perizzite, the Jebusite, and the Girgashite-- to give it to his descendants. And Thou hast fulfilled Thy promise, for Thou art righteous.
8. Jer 11:5 "in order to confirm the oath which I swore to your forefathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it is this day." Then I answered and said, "Amen, O LORD."
9. So it is simply apostate theology to say that God did not give Israel all the land promised to Abraham.

B. The 6 cities of Refuge prove the land promise was fulfilled:

1. For example, God said that if Israel got all the land promised, then they would have six cities of refuge.
2. "Therefore, I command you, saying, 'You shall set aside three cities for yourself.' "If the LORD your God enlarges your territory, just as He has sworn to your fathers, and gives you all the land which He promised to give your fathers— if you carefully observe all this commandment which I command you today, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in His ways always—then you shall add three more cities for yourself, besides these three. " (Deuteronomy 19:7-9)
3. Joshua 20:7-9 lists six cities of refuge - Kadesh, Shechem, Hebron, Bezer, Ramoth, and Golan.
4. Therefore God gave them all the land and premillennialism is utterly refuted!

C. Premillennialists are deluded false teachers:

1. Premillennialists falsely teach that Israel never got the land they were promised and that God had to bring Israel again into the land in 1948 AD, in order to fulfill his promise. This is entirely false!
2. Here are some typical statements by famous premillennialists:
 - a. "God unconditionally promised Abraham's descendants a literal world-wide kingdom over which they would rule through their Messiah who would reign upon King David's throne...Even the animals and reptiles will lose their ferocity and no longer be carnivorous," (The Late Great Planet Earth, Hal Lindsay, p 165)
 - b. "The nature of the blessings are earthly, territorial, and national, and have nothing to do with a spiritual church to which none of these blessings has been promised ...Christ is not now on the throne of David bringing blessings to Israel as the prophets predicted, but He is rather on His Father's throne

waiting for the coming earthly kingdom and interceding for His own who form the church," (The Millennial Kingdom: A Basic Text in Premillennial Theology, John F. Walvoord, p 205, 1983 AD)

- c. 3. "The foundation of the state of Israel in recent years has been a part of the predicted regathering of scattered Israel back to their ancient land...The present partial possession of the land is a token. The complete possession awaits the coming of Israel's Redeemer" (The Millennial Kingdom: A Basic Text in Premillennial Theology, John F. Walvoord, p 185, 1983 AD)

Conclusion:

1. Premillennialism is a theology of infidelity because it refuses to accept the plain teaching of the Bible that Israel possessed all the land God promised them through Abraham over 3400 years ago under Joshua and Solomon.
2. All three promises God made to Abraham were fulfilled over 2000 years ago.
3. Israel became a great nation in Egypt, possessed the land under Joshua and Solomon and through Jesus all the nations of the earth were blessed.
4. The idea that God must re-establish National Israel, rebuilt the Temple, restart animal sacrifices all to fulfill the land promise is a huge and obvious false doctrine. Few care enough to study it for themselves and escape the bondage of the false doctrine.

Steve Rudd www.bible.ca

Study Notes for Deuteronomy

God's truth and principle can be easily forgotten. Deuteronomy is a repetition of The Law. God wants His children to never forget where they come from, what they suffered because of their unbelief and how God has protected them during the 40 year travel.

Moses is 120 years old and has been told that he will not enter into the Promised Land. However, his job is not complete. He must preach three more sermons to the people.

- a. Sermon 1- Review of the past (1-3)
- b. Sermon 2- Regulations for the present (4-26)
- c. Sermon 3- Be ready for the future (27-34)

God gave the Israelites a special gift called the Promised Land, but they never accepted it because of their unbelief. They were always worried about what they did not have and what would be in the future. The Israelites became hungry and worried they would starve; they became thirsty and believed that they would die; they saw giants in the Promised Land and worried that they would not be able to overtake them. They were worried and afraid and as a result they sinned many times against God. The children were afraid because they did not turn their problems over to God and allow Him to handle their obstacles and worries.

Discussion questions:

- a. Remember when God delivered you from condemnation to salvation. How many times has God stepped in and helped you with your issues and worries?
- b. Examine your heart. Where are you spiritually. Are you believing God in full faith or is there any area in your life that you are fearful?
- c. Open up to God, confess your fears to Him and ask Him to be in charge.

Notes:

Study Notes for Deuteronomy

The old generation is dead and the new generation needs to hear the commandments of the Lord from the mouth of Moses. Moses repeats the Law and instructs them that they are to keep the Law constantly before their eyes (literally), they are to learn it and be able to teach it to the future generations. Remember what God has done in the past and apply it to the present. Remember everything you have seen and experienced and pass it along to the next generation.

Discussion questions:

- a. What are the instructions that are given in these verses: Dt. 4:9-10; 6:4-9; Matt. 22:34-40; Proverbs 22:6?
- b. What does it mean to fear the Lord as it is mentioned in Dt. 10:12-13?
- c. What are two things you can do this week to remind yourself what God requires of you and to pass on what you have learned?

Moses tells them what they will receive and all the wonderful blessings that they would receive, **if they obey**. Their entire future blessings and relationship with God are conditional, based on if they obey.

Discussion questions:

- a. Deuteronomy 28:1-2; “...***if you diligently obey...***” Have you ever had to face the consequences of your own disobedience? Did your consequences affect others? Did that experience draw you closer to God and prepare you for the future?
- b. Ephesians 1:3-14 mentions many blessings that faithful Christians will receive. Are these conditional?
- c. Is there a situation you are currently facing that seems impossible? Remember God’s promises and write a prayer giving Him the situation and then let go of the reins and trust God to act.