

# Summer Study -- A Bible Overview With A Jesus Focus

Note: an on-line site like <https://biblehub.com/> -- enables rapid navigation to listed texts

## Lesson 4: Jesus in Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua

- In Genesis we saw the origins of Israel as a family; in Exodus they were a captive nation in Egypt; in Leviticus they marked time at Mt Sinai while God instructed them how to come to Him in worship

### Jesus in Numbers

- Numbers records Israel's wandering in the desert as a judgment of their unbelief in God's promise
- **Chapter 1** isn't exciting, but has several important aspects:
  - Compare the totals in **v1:46** & **v26:51**--the # went down rather than up--the cost of disobedience to God
  - Proof of genealogy was needed for even being considered a Jew, for serving as a priest or owning land; also important for us since the Messiah had to be descended from David (**2 Samuel 7:12-16**)
  - Your most important lineage is being a child & heir of God thru faith in Jesus--(**Romans 8:17**)
- The blessings in **v6:24-26** are administered by Jesus: *bless & keep* (**v24--John 10:28; Ephesians 1:3-14**); *face shine upon you* (**v25a--John 8:12**); *gracious* (**v25b--Acts 15:11**); *give you peace* (**v26--John 14:27**)
- **Chapter 7**--repetitive, but illustrates that God takes note of every gift, just like the widow's (**Luke 21:2**)
- God specifies how the Levites must be purified by human ceremony in order to approach Him (**v8:5-14**)
  - Jesus has purified us in His blood (**1 John 1:7-9**) & pure water (**Ephesians 5:26; Hebrews 10:22**)
  - Water alludes to baptism & *living water* (**John 4:10**); blood & water evoke His piercing (**John 19:34**)
- God's simple travel directions--follow Him (**v9:17-18**); believe in Jesus & love one another (**1 John 3:23**)
  - Yet Moses begged his brother-in-law to guide (**v10:31**); we do the same when we conform to the world
- The Jews grew tired of the nourishing manna (**v11:4-9**), as some find God's Word tiresome & don't study
- Moses agreed to scout the land (**Deuteronomy 1:19-25**) & God consented (**v13:1-3**) but it wasn't needed
  - Spying & fear showed lack of faith in God (**v14:1-10**)--Joshua & Caleb would be the only adults from the 1<sup>st</sup> census who would enter the land (**v14:29-35**); our faith is based on Jesus (**Matthew 28:20**)
- The water of cleansing (**v19:9**) foreshadowed the cleansing power of Jesus' blood (**Hebrews 9:12-14**)
- Aaron's staff budded, blossomed & produced almonds (**v17:8**)--foreshadowed Jesus' resurrection
- The Lord told Moses to speak to the rock for water (**v20:8**), but he angrily struck it twice (**v20:11**)
  - Moses & Aaron would not enter the promised land--they had not upheld God's holiness (**v20:12**)
  - The rock represented Jesus, who was to suffer once--Moses had already struck a rock in **Exodus 17:1-7**
  - The water quenched their thirst, as our spiritual thirst is quenched in Jesus (**1 Corinthians 10:1-4**)
- Aaron died & son Eleazar was installed high priest (**v20:28**); Jesus is High Priest forever (**Hebrews 6:20**)

- The Jews again complained & God sent deadly snakes (**v21:4-6**); then said to put up a bronze snake (**v21:8**); as looking to the lifted snake brought healing, we look to Jesus for eternal life (**John 3:14-15**)
- God used a pagan prophet, Balaam, to prophecy to Jesus: “A star. .a scepter” (**v24:17; Matthew 2:2**)
  - Yet Balaam was a false teacher who advised leading the Hebrews into sin (**v25:1-9; Revelation 2:14**)
- God established cities of refuge for those who accidentally killed (**v35:11-12**); but we, who deserve death for our sins, find refuge in Jesus, who assumed our penalty on the cross (**1 Peter 3:18; Romans 8:1-2**)

### Jesus in Deuteronomy

- This is the 5<sup>th</sup> book of the *Pentateuch* (5 books by Moses); theme--covenant renewal; love & obey God
  - The Jews had arrived at the Jordan (**Numbers 33:49**) & would spend a month here before crossing
  - This book was for the children of those whose unbelief brought death in the desert (**Numbers 14:29**)
- Spies & fear (**v1:22-36**)--not the last time humans determined to over-ride God’s clearly-stated will
- God said “no” when Moses begged to be allowed to cross over (**v3:25-27**); He also said “no” to Jesus in Gethsemane (**Mark 14:35-36**) & He says “no” to us when it fits His purpose (**Romans 8:28,31-32**)
- When asked “which is the greatest commandment?” Jesus cited **v4-5** (**Mark 12:28-33**), part of the *Shema*
  - *LORD*--YHWH (Jehovah); *God*--*Elohim*; a plural form which accommodates the doctrine of the Trinity
  - Just knowing *about* our triune God (**v4**) is insufficient; He wants us to *know* personally & intimately
  - *Love*--noun & verb; as a verb, implies action in commitment & obedience (**John 14:15; 1 John 3:18**)
- When tempted by Satan (**Matthew 4:1-11**) Jesus responded from **v8:3** “Man does not live by bread alone;” **v6:16** “Do not test the LORD your God;” & **v6:13** “Fear the LORD your God, serve Him only”
- *Stiff-necked* (**v9:6,13; 10:16; 31:27**)--obstinate & difficult to lead; refuses to turn the head to change path
  - Used 17 times in OT to describe the Jews; part of the last words said by Stephen (**Acts 7:51**)
  - **v10:12-13,16,20** tell us what God wants: awe, love, obey; for these, Jesus is our model (**John 17:1-4**)
  - **v11:26-28 + chap 27-28** speak of blessing & curse based on obedience; Jesus clarified--belief in **Him** is the distinction between salvation & condemnation (compare **John 3:16-18a** with **3:18b**)
- God gave rules for kings (**v17:14-21**); but none would keep them; only Jesus can (**1 Timothy 1:17**)
- The LORD promised a prophet to whom they must listen (**v18:15-19**) => “Listen to Him!” (**Matthew 17:5**)
  - “Had you believed Moses, you would believe me” (**John 5:45-47**); “Truly this is the Prophet” (**John 6:14**); “He who sent me is with me” (**John 8:28:29**); “does not listen will be cut off” (**Acts 3:22-23**)
  - God also gave guidance to discern false prophets (**v18:20-22**); we have confidence in prophecies yet unfulfilled (especially of the end times) because of the words of those prophets that have proven true
- **v21:23**: “anyone who is hung on a tree is under God’s curse;” **v27:26**: “Cursed is he who does not put the words of this law into practice.” Jesus took on the 1<sup>st</sup> curse to redeem us from the 2<sup>nd</sup> (**Galatians 3:10-13**)

- Offering the *firstfruits* of the harvest gave thanks (**v26:1-15; Leviticus 23:10-11**), but had a future import even greater--Jesus as the firstfruits promising the resurrection of God's people! (**1 Corinthians 15:20-23**)
  - In thanks give Him the best of what you have & who you are in praise & witness (**Hebrews 13:15**)
- Moses sings a "rock" song (**v32:4**)--God is the Rock; His people turned from Him (**v32:15,18**) yet God still seeks after them (**v32:36,43**); just as Jesus sought me (**Luke 15:4; 1 Peter 2:9-10**)
- Barred from entering the land, God gave Moses a view of it all (**v34:1-4**) & then he died; ~1,500 years later, he finally entered the land to appear with Elijah at Jesus' transfiguration (**Matthew 17:1-3**)

### Jesus in Joshua

- Joshua is the first of the "Historical Books;" early Jewish tradition credited Joshua as the author
  - 1<sup>st</sup> 5 chapters record the spiritual, moral, physical & military preparations for the conquest of Canaan
  - The key to the book is that success in battle will always be by God's power, not human strength/wiles
  - In Hebrew, *Joshua* & *Jesus* are the same--*Yeshua*: "the Lord saves"
- "Be strong & courageous. . . for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (**v1:9**); God often said similar (**Genesis 28:15; Exodus 6:6; Jeremiah 30:11; Matthew 28:20; Acts 18:10**)
- Rahab believed in the Lord & protected the spies at great risk (**v2:11**); she became ancestor of Boaz (**Matthew 1:5**) & a "hero of faith" (**Hebrews 11:31**) => a great example of God's powerful grace!
- When ready to go against Jericho, Joshua encountered a man with drawn sword, who identified himself as "commander of the army of the Lord" (**v5:14**)--viewed as God the Son since: 1) Joshua fell down in reverence; 2) the commander declared the ground where Joshua stood as holy; 3) the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands." (**v6.2**) => another pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus
- Joshua's final words (**Chapter 23-24**) reminded that the LORD had been good to them, had fought their battles & He had kept all His promises; but he also warned against violating the covenant (**v23:15-16**)
  - Words for us all: "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. . . As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!" (**v24:15**)
  - Jesus' last are also for us all: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (**Matthew 28:19-20**)