



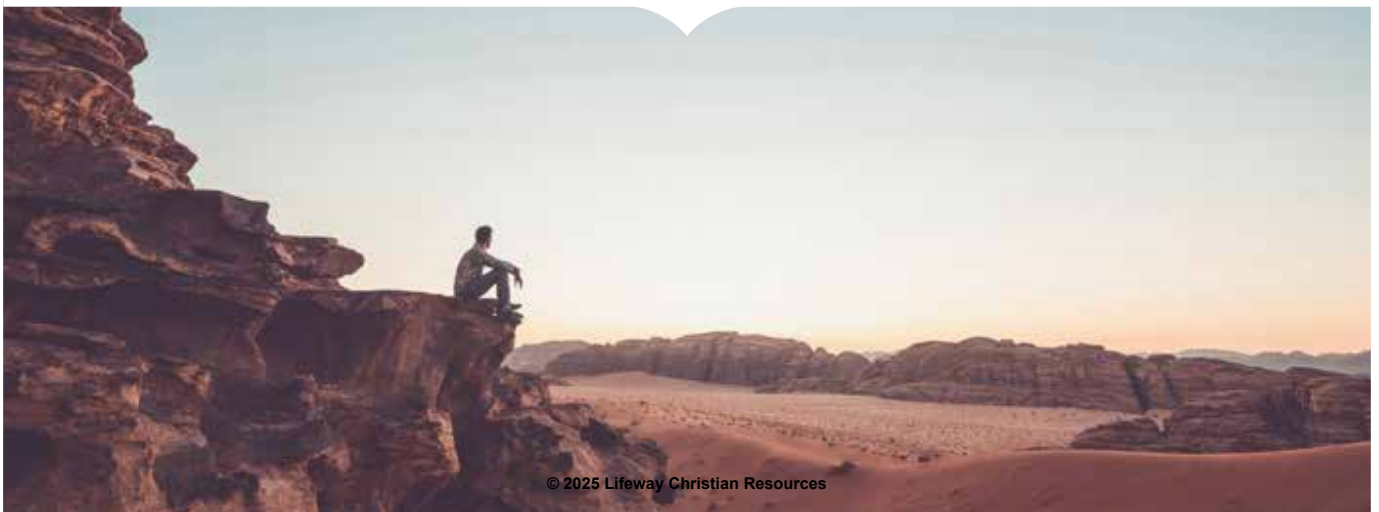
EXPLORE **THE BIBLE.**

*Adults*

# *Numbers & Deuteronomy*

**Personal Study Guide (CSB)**

**Fall 2025**



# STEP BY STEP

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In poetry and music, various metaphors have been applied to life. One song tells us “life is a highway,” a journey that never stops and takes us on any number of adventures if we will take the time to embrace the magic. Decades earlier, a poet suggested life is more like a choice between “two roads.” We’d love to try them both, but we have a choice to make—and the road we choose makes “all the difference.” For all the images used for our short time on this earth, roads and highways might resonate more than others. It’s the simple process of putting one foot in front of the other each day that keeps us going.

The ancient Israelites had started a journey on pretty solid footing. They escaped the slavery of Egypt, walked through the Red Sea, and received God’s game plan at Mount Sinai. Before long, they were on the edge of the promised land . . . until they weren’t.

Stubborn rebellion and disobedience moved them back to “Start.” Now, their journey entailed forty years of walking around in circles until an entire generation died out. But God was leading them—step by step—toward a second chance at Canaan. That’s the story of Numbers and Deuteronomy. It’s about God leading and protecting imperfect people through a wilderness as they learned to trust Him.

That’s not just the story of the Israelites. It’s our narrative as well. Rebels against our Creator, we are born into a wilderness of sin that we can’t escape on our own. But God demonstrated His love by sending His Son to die in our place, to pay the price for our sin. All we have to do is step toward Him. If you’re ready to take that step, here’s what you must do . . .

- **Admit** to God that you are a sinner. Repent, turning from your sin.
- **By faith receive** Jesus as God’s Son and accept His gift of forgiveness from sin. He took the penalty for your sin by dying on the cross. Jesus also rose from the dead, making a new, eternal life possible for us.
- **Confess** your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. You may pray a prayer similar to this as you call on God to save you: “Dear God, I know that You love me. I confess my sin and need of salvation. I turn away from my sin and place my faith in Jesus as my Savior and Lord. In the name of Jesus I pray, amen.”

After you have received Jesus Christ into your life, tell a pastor or another Christian about your decision. Show others your faith in Christ by asking for baptism by immersion in your local church as a public expression of your faith.

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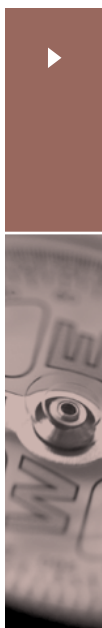
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\*Evangelistic Emphasis

# MEET THE WRITER



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# FROM THE TEAM LEADER



Steadfast faith. Time-tested devotion. We each desire a deep faith in God that enables us to persevere through the valleys and rejoice on the mountaintops of life. In the books of Numbers and Deuteronomy, we get a front-row seat as the Israelites journeyed from Mount Sinai through the wilderness to the edge of the promised land. Like most expeditions, this journey was packed with unexpected events, a longer-than-expected timeline, and unforeseen challenges. The Israelites responded to these circumstances with grumbling, frustration, and disobedience to God's commands. Upon reaching the Plains of Moab, Moses called the Israelites to commit to wholehearted devotion—following God, His commands, and His ways.

Through the twists and turns of events, God's faithfulness to His people never faltered. He was with them. Time and again God demonstrated His loyalty to provide for and protect them as He led them to the promised land. His promise to be their God was neither forgotten nor dismissed. Despite their unfaithfulness, He remained fully faithful.

The lessons learned by the Israelites prove to be powerful truths we can cling to today. Our journeys will take unexpected turns, leaving us frustrated or unsure of what may lie ahead. Thankfully, we aren't left on our own to navigate our experiences. Like the Israelites, we can choose to follow Him each day. We serve a God who is wholly trustworthy. He is with us!

In Him,

**Amber Vaden**

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*Explore*

**Discover**





Terms listed here are identified in the Bible commentary with a dot (•).

**Anak** [AY nak]—patriarch of a clan of giants who were also known as Nephilim (Gen. 6:4; Num. 13:33)

**Asherah** [uh SHEE ruh]—Canaanite fertility goddess, considered the mother of Baal

**Baal-peor** [Baal-peor]—place where Israel kindled God’s judgment by embracing Baal worship (Num. 25:1-9). As a result, 24,000 people died.

**Balaam** [BAY luhm]—non-Israelite prophet from Mesopotamia. An ancient inscription suggests that he was well-known internationally as a “seer” who could speak for various gods. The Bible calls Balaam a “diviner” or “soothsayer” (Josh. 13:22).

**Balak** [BAY lak]—king of Moab who sent for Balaam to curse the Israelites (Num. 22:2-6)

**Hamath** [HAY math]—term used to describe the northern border of Israel (Num. 34:7-8; Josh. 13:5; 1 Kings 8:65; 2 Kings 14:25,28)

**Hebron** [HEE bruhn]—ancient city in the hill country of Judah where Abram sojourned (Gen. 13:18) and purchased a cave to bury Sarah. When Moses sent the twelve spies into Canaan, the tribe of Anak lived in Hebron (Num. 13:22).

**Horeb** [HOH reb]—a synonym for Mount Sinai. Some see “Horeb” referring to a region, while “Sinai” refers to the mountain.

**Jeshurun** [jih SHOO ruhn]—another name for Israel (Deut. 32:15; 33:5,26; Isa. 44:2)

**Meribah** [MEHR ih buh]—rocky desert between Kadesh-barnea and the Dead Sea in southern Canaan. It later became part of Judah (Num. 34:3-4; Josh. 15:1,3).

**Moab** [MOH ab]—region south of Jericho on the west side of the Jordan River. Israel camped in this area (Num. 22:1) until after the death of Moses (Deut. 34:1) when Joshua led Israel across the river.

**Negev** [NEH gehv]—the root word means “to be dry,” the basic meaning is “south”; region where the Amalekites lived (Num. 13:29)

**Paran** [PAY ruhn]—wilderness area north of Sinai where Israel camped after leaving Sinai; from there Moses sent out the twelve spies (Num. 13:3,26)

**Wilderness of Zin**—desert region stretching from Kadesh-barnea to the Dead Sea; formed part of the southern border of Canaan and later Judah (Num. 34:3-4)

# BIBLE READING PLAN



## SEPTEMBER

- ☐ 1. Numbers 1:1-54
- ☐ 2. Numbers 2:1-34
- ☐ 3. Numbers 3:1-13
- ☐ 4. Numbers 3:14-39
- ☐ 5. Numbers 3:40-51
- ☐ 6. Numbers 4:1-20
- ☐ 7. Numbers 4:21-33
- ☐ 8. Numbers 4:34-49
- ☐ 9. Numbers 5:1-31
- ☐ 10. Numbers 6:1-27
- ☐ 11. Numbers 7:1-23
- ☐ 12. Numbers 7:24-47
- ☐ 13. Numbers 7:48-71
- ☐ 14. Numbers 7:72-89
- ☐ 15. Numbers 8:1-26
- ☐ 16. Numbers 9:1-23
- ☐ 17. Numbers 10:1-36
- ☐ 18. Numbers 11:1-15
- ☐ 19. Numbers 11:16-35
- ☐ 20. Numbers 12:1-16
- ☐ 21. Numbers 13:1-33
- ☐ 22. Numbers 14:1-25
- ☐ 23. Numbers 14:26-45
- ☐ 24. Numbers 15:1-26
- ☐ 25. Numbers 15:27-41
- ☐ 26. Numbers 16:1-30
- ☐ 27. Numbers 16:31-50
- ☐ 28. Numbers 17:1-13
- ☐ 29. Numbers 18:1-32
- ☐ 30. Numbers 19:1-22

## OCTOBER

- ☐ 1. Numbers 20:1-29
- ☐ 2. Numbers 21:1-35
- ☐ 3. Numbers 22:1-41
- ☐ 4. Numbers 23:1-30
- ☐ 5. Numbers 24:1-25
- ☐ 6. Numbers 25:1-18
- ☐ 7. Numbers 26:1-27
- ☐ 8. Numbers 26:28-65
- ☐ 9. Numbers 27:1-23
- ☐ 10. Numbers 28:1-31
- ☐ 11. Numbers 29:1-19
- ☐ 12. Numbers 29:20-40
- ☐ 13. Numbers 30:1-16
- ☐ 14. Numbers 31:1-30
- ☐ 15. Numbers 31:31-54
- ☐ 16. Numbers 32:1-19
- ☐ 17. Numbers 32:20-42
- ☐ 18. Numbers 33:1-56
- ☐ 19. Numbers 34:1-29
- ☐ 20. Numbers 35:1-34
- ☐ 21. Numbers 36:1-13
- ☐ 22. Deuteronomy 1:1-21
- ☐ 23. Deuteronomy 1:22-46
- ☐ 24. Deuteronomy 2:1-23
- ☐ 25. Deuteronomy 2:24-37
- ☐ 26. Deuteronomy 3:1-29
- ☐ 27. Deuteronomy 4:1-24
- ☐ 28. Deuteronomy 4:25-49
- ☐ 29. Deuteronomy 5:1-33
- ☐ 30. Deuteronomy 6:1-25
- ☐ 31. Deuteronomy 7:1-26

## NOVEMBER

- ☐ 1. Deuteronomy 8:1-20
- ☐ 2. Deuteronomy 9:1-29
- ☐ 3. Deuteronomy 10:1-22
- ☐ 4. Deuteronomy 11:1-32
- ☐ 5. Deuteronomy 12:1-32
- ☐ 6. Deuteronomy 13:1-18
- ☐ 7. Deuteronomy 14:1-29
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- ☐ 28. Deuteronomy 32:28-52
- ☐ 29. Deuteronomy 33:1-29
- ☐ 30. Deuteronomy 34:1-12



# BIBLICAL BACKGROUND



## WRITER

Moses is credited with writing the first five books of the Bible (Deut. 31:9; Josh. 1:7-8; Mark 12:26; John 5:46; 2 Cor. 3:15). These five books are known collectively as the Pentateuch, a word derived from the Greek terms *penta*, meaning “five,” and *teuchos*, meaning “container.” Less formally, many people refer to the five as “the books of Moses” or the Torah, a Hebrew word meaning “law” or “teachings.”

## SETTING AND DATING

The books of Numbers and Deuteronomy were written after the Israelites left Egypt but before they entered Canaan. Numbers focuses on events that occurred before God’s people left Mount Sinai, as they traveled between Sinai and Canaan and while they were on the Plains of Moab, just east of the Jordan River and ancient Jericho. Thus, the events in Numbers began about a year after the Jews had left Egypt and continued for the next thirty-nine years (1445–1407 BC). All events in the book of Deuteronomy occurred while the Hebrews were on the Plains of Moab, prior to their entering Canaan. This would have been in 1406 BC.

## THEMES

The book of Numbers is about organizing and preparing God’s people to enter the promised land. It records Moses conducting two censuses of the Israelites, one when they were at Sinai and the second thirty-nine years later, while the people were on the Plains of Moab waiting to enter Canaan. It also records Moses organizing the levitical priesthood, the tribal units for travel, and the process for worshiping and offering sacrifices to God in worship.

Deuteronomy contains primarily three long speeches or messages Moses delivered to God’s people. Moses called the people to live obediently to God’s instruction and warned of what would happen when the people erred. Deuteronomy contains some history; the focus, though, is on living as God’s people in the land of Canaan. This is reflected in a phrase that Deuteronomy uses regularly: “the LORD your God.” This appears 400 times in Scripture; 392 are in the Old Testament. Of those 392, 240 are in the book of Deuteronomy. In the book, God declared many times that no other so-called god was like Him. None were worthy of worship. He, Yahweh, deserved to be their God exclusively. God was remaining true to His covenant with His people; He wanted and expected the same from them.



# OUTLINE



## NUMBERS

- I. First Census and Consecration of Israel at Sinai (Num. 1:1–6:27)
- II. Preparation for Departure to the Promised Land (Num. 7:1–10:36)
- III. From Mount Sinai to Kadesh (Num. 11:1–15:41)
- IV. Rebellion Against Aaron's Priesthood (Num. 16:1–19:22)
- V. From Kadesh to the Plains of Moab (Num. 20:1–25:18)
- VI. Second Census and Preparation of the New Generation (Num. 26:1–30:16)
- VII. Preparation for Entering the Promised Land (Num. 31:1–36:13)

## DEUTERONOMY

- I. First Address of Moses (Deut. 1:1–4:49)
- II. Second Address of Moses (Deut. 5:1–26:19)
- II. Third Address of Moses (Deut. 27:1–30:20)
- III. Final Days of Moses (Deut. 31:1–34:12)