

Numbers and Deuteronomy
(Numbers and Second Law)
(In the desert of, and These are the words)

NUMBERS:

- I. Authorship – Conservative students of the Law are in agreement with Mosaic authorship. Liberal critics are doubtful and use similar arguments to the ones offered in Exodus.
- II. Purpose – There appears to be a threefold purpose to the book:
 1. The ordering of the tribes as it journeyed
 2. The roles of the priests and Levites as Israel journeyed
 3. The preparations for invasion and settling in Canaan.
- III. Outline – (Per Eugene H. Merrill, while Prof. of O.T. at Dallas Theological Seminary)
 - I. Preparations for Travel (1:1-10:10)
 - A. The order of the tribes (1-2)
 - B. Instructions to the Levites (3-4)
 - C. Cleansing and consecration (5-6)
 - D. Tabernacle service (7-8)
 - E. Passover instructions (9:1-14)
 - F. The accompaniment of the Lord (9:15-10:10)
 - II. The journey to Kadesh Barnea (10:11-14:45)
 - A. The departure from Sinai (10:11-36)
 - B. The rebellion of the people (11)
 - C. The rebellion of Miriam and Aaron (12)
 - D. Spying out the Promised Land (13-14)
 - III. The journey to the plains of Moab (15:1-22:1)
 - A. The rehearsal of the covenant statutes (15)
 - B. The rebellion of Korah (16)
 - C. The vindication of Aaron (17)
 - D. The roles and privileges of the priests and Levites (18)
 - E. The laws of purification (19)
 - F. The journey in the desert of Zin (20)
 - G. The journey to Moab (21:1-22:1)
 - IV. The Moabites and Balaam (22:2-25:18)
 - A. The plight of Moab (22:2-4a)
 - B. The invitation to Balaam (22:4b-20)
 - C. The journey of Balaam (22:21-35)
 - D. The oracles of Balaam (22:36-24:25)
 - E. The idolatry of Israel (25)
 - V. Final preparations for entering Canaan (26-36)
 - A. The provisions for inheritance (26:1-27:11)
 - B. Succession to Moses (27:12-23)
 - C. Laws concerning offerings (28-29)
 - D. Laws concerning vows (30)
 - E. God's judgment on the Midianites (31)
 - F. The inheritance of the Eastern tribes (32)
 - G. Resumé of the journey from Egypt (33:1-49)
 - H. Final instructions about conquest and inheritance (33:50-36:13)

DEUTERONOMY:

- I. Authorship – There is a consensus among conservatives that Moses is the author, however recent skepticism and criticism has caused some to doubt Mosaic authorship. There are four prominent arguments against:
 1. The “books of the Law” discovered during Josiah’s reign (II Kings 22) are actually Deuteronomy.
 2. The fact that God specifically called for a place of worship (Deut. 12) seems to point to a temple location in Jerusalem, which stands in violation of worship on “high places.” (EG Baal worship)
 3. Chapter 34 records the death of Moses. How can he have written about his own death?
 4. The book contains information that couldn’t have been known by Moses (EG. The Dispersion and regathering of Israel [4:25-31; 28:20-68; 29:22-28; 30:1-10; 32:23-43].)

- II. Structure – Some, especially those with a Covenant hermeneutic, see Deuteronomy in a format that is akin to vassal treaties of that time period. When suzerain kings made a treaty with a vassal nation they typically took this format: 1) a preamble (1:1-4), 2) a historical prologue (1:5-4:43), 3) a general stipulation (4:44-11:32), 4) specific stipulations (12-26), 5) divine witnesses (not included when written by God), 6) blessings and cursings (27-28).

- III. Purpose – The general point of this book is a sermon message to the nation Israel to overtake and occupy Canaan.

- IV. Outline – (Per Jack Deere, Retired pastor and professor) - Abbreviated
 - I. Intro: The historical setting of Moses’ speeches (1:1-4)
 - II. The first address by Moses: Historical prologue (1:5-4:43)
 - III. The second address by Moses: Covenant obligations (4:44-26:19)
 - IV. The third address by Moses: Covenant renewal commanded and the declaration of blessings and cursings (27:1-29:1)
 - V. The fourth address by Moses: A summary of the covenant demands (29:2-30:20)
 - VI. The transition from Moses to Joshua (31-34)