

**Bible Study #53**  
**Community Lutheran Church**  
**7/7/2021**

1. Chapter 32

- a. The Reubenites and Gadites, who had very large herds and flocks, saw that the lands of Jazer and Gilead were suitable for livestock. So they came to Moses and Eleazar the priest and to the leaders of the community, and said, "Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Sebam, Nebo and Beon— the land the Lord subdued before the people of Israel—are suitable for livestock, and your servants have livestock. If we have found favor in your eyes," they said, "let this land be given to your servants as our possession. Do not make us cross the Jordan." 32:1-5
  - i. In other words, they don't want to leave the east side of the Jordan. The tribes of Reuben and Gad want to stay put because life is pretty good and they aren't interested in helping Israel possess the Promised Land.
- b. Moses said to the Gadites and Reubenites, "Shall your countrymen go to war while you sit here? Why do you discourage the Israelites from going over into the land the Lord has given them? This is what your fathers did when I sent them from Kadesh Barnea to look over the land. After they went up to the Valley of Eshcol and viewed the land, they discouraged the Israelites from entering the land the Lord had given them. The Lord's anger was aroused that day and he swore this oath: 'Because they have not followed me wholeheartedly, not one of the men twenty years old or more who came up out of Egypt will see the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob— not one except Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son of Nun, for they followed the Lord wholeheartedly.' The Lord's anger burned against Israel and he made them wander in the desert forty years, until the whole generation of those who had done evil in his sight was gone. 32:6-13
  - i. Moses calls them out. He sees through it and that is not what God was calling them to do.
- c. "And here you are, a brood of sinners, standing in the place of your fathers and making the Lord even more angry with Israel. If you turn away from following him, he will again leave all this people in the desert, and you will be the cause of their destruction." 32:14-15
- d. Then they came up to him and said, "We would like to build pens here for our livestock and cities for our women and children. But we are ready to arm ourselves and go ahead of the Israelites until we have brought them to their place. Meanwhile our women and children will live in fortified cities, for protection from the inhabitants of the land. We will not return to our homes until every Israelite has received his inheritance. We will not receive any inheritance with them on the other side of the Jordan, because our inheritance has come to us on the east side of the Jordan." 32:16-19
  - i. Sooo they propose a compromise.

- e. Then Moses said to them, “If you will do this—if you will arm yourselves before the Lord for battle, and if all of you will go armed over the Jordan before the Lord until he has driven his enemies out before him— then when the land is subdued before the Lord, you may return and be free from your obligation to the Lord and to Israel. And this land will be your possession before the Lord. “But if you fail to do this, you will be sinning against the Lord; and you may be sure that your sin will find you out. Build cities for your women and children, and pens for your flocks, but do what you have promised.” 32:20-24
    - i. Moses agrees but with a stern warning... better not chicken out.
  - f. The Reubenites and Gadites agree 32:25-27
  - g. The rest of this chapter relays this agreement to everyone involved.
2. Chapter 33
    - a. This entire chapter is a re-cap of the travels of Israel since they left Egypt.
  3. Chapter 34
    - a. God sets the boundaries for Israel.
      - i. They go farther north than today.
      - ii. Israel today goes farther south.
      - iii. The eastern and western borders are about the same.
  4. Chapter 35
    - a. Levites will be given cities versus whole tracks of land like the other tribes
    - b. In all they will possess 48 cities.
      - i. 6 of those cities will be also known as “cities of refuge.”
        1. These cities are for those who committed manslaughter, not premeditated murder. A place to flee to find justice.
        2. Those who commit manslaughter must stay within that city until the high priest dies and then they can return home.
  5. Chapter 36
    - a. Revisiting Zelophehad’s Daughters
      - i. In Numbers 27 Zelophehad’s daughters appealed to Moses to receive their father’s inheritance. Since he had no sons the wealth would have been given to extended family. God (and Moses) agreed that these daughters should receive the inheritance.
      - ii. Some of the tribal elders were upset (afraid) that these daughters would marry outside the tribe of Manasseh and their wealth would go to other tribes.
      - iii. They also appealed to God through Moses for a ruling.
        1. The verdict: Zelophehad’s daughters must marry within the tribe.
        2. And they did.
  6. Deuteronomy Chapter 1
    - a. The title of this book, Deuteronomy, comes from the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Bible, and means “second law,” or “repetition of the law.”
    - b. Deuteronomy at times feels like a stand alone book or a review because it repeats some of the narrative already covered in Exodus and Numbers.

- c. All of chapter 1 is a repeat of what we have already covered starting with God commanding the people it was time to leave Horeb (Mount Sinai) and head to the promised land.
- 7. Chapters 2&3
  - a. They are retelling the wanderings of the Israelites in the desert after they refused to enter the promised land. These two chapters also recount the battles they fought along the way.
  - b. The story of Moses not entering the promised land is also retold.
- 8. Chapter 4
  - a. God calls for obedience...
    - i. Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you. 4:1-2
      - 1. The call to follow the law as given is pretty clear. No addition or subtraction.
    - ii. Never Forget...
    - iii. Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them. Remember the day you stood before the Lord your God at Horeb, when he said to me, "Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children." You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain while it blazed with fire to the very heavens, with black clouds and deep darkness. Then the Lord spoke to you out of the fire. You heard the sound of words but saw no form; there was only a voice. He declared to you his covenant, the Ten Commandments, which he commanded you to follow and then wrote them on two stone tablets. And the Lord directed me at that time to teach you the decrees and laws you are to follow in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess. 4:9-14
      - 1. Remember all God has done and all God has given

TO BE CONTINUED!