

**Promised Land**  
**Home Study 5**



**Day 1**

**Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13.**

What did the people have to protect and keep them in the book of Numbers (vs.1-4)? What happened to the people in the book of Numbers (vs. 5-13)?

**Day 2**

**Read Matthew 4:1-11.**

How does Jesus succeed where Israel fails?

**Day 3**

**Read Deuteronomy 28:58-68.**

What will God do if the people disobey?

**Day 4**

**Read Deuteronomy 30:11-22 and Romans 10:4-13.**

How is it possible to enjoy the blessings of God?

**Day 5**

**Read Joshua 1.**

What are the people to do – if they are to take the land?

**Day 6**

**Read Hebrews 4:1-13.**

What does Jesus do that Joshua can only foreshadow?

**Day 7**

**Read Judges 21:15-25.**

What do the people of God need?

## Promised Land Group Study 5



The people have camped at Mount Sinai (from Exodus 19:2-3 to Numbers 10:11) for eleven months. In Numbers 10:12 – 36:13 we read they stay in the desert for a further forty years. When will they move on?

In the first ten chapters of Numbers the word of God given in Exodus and Leviticus is put into practice.

The people are numbered to find out those who are active for war (1:3) and those inside the camp (5:1-31). The Levites are consecrated for their work as priests and the Passover is celebrated (9). They are reminded of their need of God's presence (9:15-23) and gathered by the sound of the silver trumpets.

It is then and only then that they are led to move on from Mount Sinai. **Read Numbers 10:12-13.**

God is determined to prepare us by his word before we can go anywhere. Their failure is not due to bad teaching or lack of preparation – everything was ready.

### Pause for thought

Have you ever felt God is taking a long time over his plans? How does what we have learnt in these studies help?

- **Getting to the land – Numbers**
- **Preparing for life in the land – Deuteronomy (1)**
- **Preparing for life in the land – Deuteronomy (2)**
- **Taking the land – Joshua – A book of the Bible called Jesus**
- **Something's still missing – Judges**

### How the Bible views history

The Bible is a book that contains history. Even though all the historical facts are true it would be wrong to approach the Bible as a history book. That is clearly not its purpose. Many facts that historians would find important it deliberately leaves out (e.g. which Pharaoh was around at the time of the Exodus). The history we are told is selected to tell us about Jesus and how God can be known through him (refer back to first study).

### Getting to the land – Numbers

Numbers is a desperately sad book. Such hope and yet a whole generation of souls is lost.

The people are given all they need for the journey to the Promised Land.

They are under the cloud of God's presence. **Read Numbers 9:15-23.**  
They are baptized into that presence. **Read Numbers 33:8 and Exodus 14:19-21.**  
They eat the same supernatural food. **Read Numbers 11:4ff.**  
They drink from the same supernatural rock. **Read Numbers 20:2-13.**  
Balaam sees the King is amongst them – a greater King than the nations. **Read Numbers 23:21 and 24:7.**

But they constantly rebel and reject their King. One verse sums them up:  
*For you are a stiff-necked people (Deuteronomy 9:6, NIV).*

### The book of Numbers is for us.

Paul does not want us to be ignorant because Numbers is about Jesus.  
**Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-4.**

They heard the gospel preached as we do.  
**Read Hebrews 3:16 – 4:2**

What happens to them is a warning to all – a warning to obey the gospel.  
**Read 1 Corinthians 10:6-14.**

### Great Quotes

Here is a wonderful thing the Lord's purposes do not alter or falter...neither the Lord nor his purposes change.

**Alec Motyer**

### Questions:

1. Why did they fail to enter the rest God had provided for them in the Promised Land?

Not one or two people but a whole generation is lost. Has God's promise failed?

*It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, 'It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.' In other words, it is not the natural children who are God's children, **but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring** (Romans 9:6-8, NIV, See also Numbers 23:19).*

The true child of Abraham is the believer in Jesus. Jesus is faithful and has given them all they need to enjoy the land and all it points to. Because they reject him they are destroyed.

The famous hymn teaches us how to live and die trusting Jesus to meet our needs.

Guide me, O my great redeemer  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but you are mighty,  
hold me with your powerful hand:  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.

When I tread the verge of Jordan  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises,  
I will ever sing to you,  
I will ever sing to you.

**William Williams**

### Pause for thought

List four things you need on your journey to heaven that Jesus gives?

### Preparing for life in the land – Deuteronomy (1)

A completely new generation grows up and it is they who are to take the land.

**Read Deuteronomy 1:8.**

The people are sinful and deserve to be destroyed but because of the promises back in Genesis to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob God will bring them into the land.

So the book of Deuteronomy is a book repeating and explaining the covenant and its consequences once again to a new generation (See Deuteronomy 1:5). When God gathers his people together he always speaks to them.

The book is made up of three sermons (1:6 – 4:40, 4:44 – 28, 29-30), then Moses' final address and an account of his death.

### The main themes of the sermons

### A covenant based on the gospel preached to Abraham

2. **Read Deuteronomy 7:13-14.** What motivates God in this covenant and in all he will do for his people?

### 3. Read Deuteronomy 11:13. What does he expect in return?

The land they are about to enter is a land given out of love – a home to reflect the heavenly home (See Deuteronomy 26:15). It looks back to the Garden of Eden and forward to the New Jerusalem.

#### **What happens in the past shapes the present**

The first three chapters of the book are a review of what has happened in the past.

### 4. Read Deuteronomy 16:12, 10:19 and 15:15. Why is this to dominate and explain how they live?

Throughout the book nothing is done without reference to their redemption in Egypt. Nothing can be explained or enjoyed until this is grasped. Their past is to dominate the present and the future.

#### **The good life of obeying Christ**

The structure of the life of faith – there is not an area of life that is untouched by this covenant.

### 5. Read Deuteronomy 30:19. What should these three sermons lead to?

They have the opportunity to enjoy living with God in a new Garden of Eden – a completely different kind of life to the nations.

#### **Great Quote**

Obedience is not the path to blessing it is the blessing.

**Anon.**

#### **Exile is there as a warning**

It is clear they will be removed from the land if they break the covenant, just as Adam and Eve were removed from the Garden of Eden. Sadly this is exactly what happens. **Read Deuteronomy 29:28 and 28:64-68.**

The Lord knew that the Israelites could never fulfill this covenant themselves because of their sin. **Read Deuteronomy 31:16 and Deuteronomy 31:29.**

What about Moses? He dies before entering the land. Has he failed? A thousand times no. No more than Abraham, Isaac and Jacob failed. They are all now in the Promised Land which Canaan could only picture. Moses entered the promised rest with his fathers (Deuteronomy 31:16) – the real promised land.

*Instead, they were longing for a better country--a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them (Hebrews 11:16, NIV).*

He dies but one greater than Moses will come who will not only give the Law (the Pentateuch) but grace and truth.

#### **Pause for thought**

What do we need to remember if we are to be the Christians we should?

#### **Preparing for life in the land – Deuteronomy (2)**

At the end of the three sermons Moses summarizes the requirements of the covenant. **Read Deuteronomy 30:11-20.**

But really in the light of Israel's sin, how can he say it is so near? How can anyone keep the law with a sinful nature?

Then Jesus comes in the Gospels (See Matthew 4:1) and is tempted in the wilderness in every point as they were but with one significant difference – he was without sin. How does he do it? By quoting and fulfilling Deuteronomy.

Where Israel failed in the desert Jesus succeeds! Jesus keeps the law for us! In fact it is incomplete without him.

**6. Read Romans 10:4-13.** What must we do?

We can live the obedient life – in Christ!

We can enjoy the new creation – in Christ!

We can avoid exile from God's presence – in Christ!

The Pentateuch ends with Deuteronomy. It is the foundation of the rest of the Bible. Our understanding of the Pentateuch will affect the way we read the rest of the Bible.

### **Taking the land – Joshua**

The Former prophets start in Joshua, with entry into the land and end in 2 Kings with the Exile. Things are no better at the end of this section than they are at the beginning. However, as with the Pentateuch, the Former prophets write about Jesus – one book is given his very name (Joshua means Jesus in Hebrew).

**7. Read Joshua 1:7-9.** In the book of Joshua the land will be taken - but what is to dominate their lives?

**8. Read Joshua 21:43-45.** The purpose of the book of Joshua is summarized at the end. Why did they take the land?

**9. Read Joshua 5:13-15 and Hebrews 11:30.** To take the land they would have to see great and seemingly impossible enemies defeated. How could this happen and who did Joshua meet beforehand?

It is by faith in Jesus that they overcome impossible odds. It is Jesus who is the ruler and the reason they take the land

**10. Read Ephesians 6:10-12.** How can we see the fulfillment in our battle against impossible odds?

**11. Read Hebrews 4:8-11 and 1 Peter 1:3-5.** Jesus brings the inheritance which Joshua only pointed to. What is the inheritance?

Only in Jesus Christ can we be more than conquerors!

## Something's still missing - Judges

The people have received their physical inheritance but Judges shows us this is not enough. There is a very simple pattern to the book. Each time the spiral gets worse and worse as the people wander away from their true King – the Angel of the Lord (See Judges 2:1-4). They rebel, they are judged, they cry out to the Lord for help, God has mercy and raises up a deliverer. They rebel. It gets worse. The end of the book makes for painful reading as we see what sin can do to a nation with so much potential.

The deliverers are examples of how God saves and how we should live (See Hebrews 11:32-33), but again they are clearly examples not the reality. There is only one solution for Israel to break the cycle. And by the end, the book cries over and over again for that solution.

*At that time the Israelites left that place and went home to their tribes and clans, each to his own inheritance. In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit. (Judges 21:24-25, 17:6, 18:1, 19:1 and 21:25 NIV).*

Their despair, sin, and sense of being lost, is caused by their rejection of Jesus as their King.

*If only they had trusted Christ as King instead of rejecting him, they would have not died in the wilderness. When a new generation does trust Christ as King they take the land. But once again they struggle with Christ's rule. There is only one King in Israel and if he is rejected there are serious consequences. But their mistake is about to happen again...*

## Summary Questions:

**What did this study teach me about Jesus?**

**What did this study teach me about the Bible?**

**What did this study teach me about myself?**

Jesus

