

Wednesday Night Supplemental Teaching

Covered this week: Numbers-2 Samuel

Numbers

Key Themes

- God is patient but does not take disobedience lightly.
- God is faithful to his promises.
- God's people often fail to be faithful

Key Characters: Moses, Balaam, Joshua, Caleb, Miriam

Setting: In the Wilderness

Key Verses:

- 6:24-26 - "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."
- 14:18-19 – "The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin."
- 21:9 – So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live."
- 23:10 – "God is not a man, that he should lie."
- 24:17 – "A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel"
- 32:23: "Be sure that your sin will find you out."

Outline

- I. Preparation for departure from Sinai (1-10:10)
 - a. Census (1-4)
 - b. Special Legislation (5-6)
 - c. Tribal Offerings for the Tabernacle (7)
 - d. Purification of the Levites (8)
 - e. Passover (9:1-14)
 - f. The Cloud of Guidance and the Silver Trumpets (9:15-10:10)
- II. From Sinai to Kadesh (10:11-20:21)
 - a. Arrangements of the Tribes Marching (10:11-36)
 - b. Grumbling and Unrest (11:1-15)
 - c. God's Provision of Food (11:16-35)
 - d. Insubordination of Aaron and Miriam (12)
 - e. The Twelve Spies (13-14)
 - f. Supplemental Laws (15)
 - g. Rebellion of Korah and Others (16-17)
 - h. Duties of Priests and Levites (18)

- i. Purification Ritual for the Unclean (19)
 - j. Miriam's Death and Moses' Sin (20:1-21)
- III. From Kadesh to the Plains of Moab (20:22-36:13)
 - a. Aaron's Death (20:22-29)
 - b. Defeat of Arad, Sihon, and Og (21)
 - c. Balak and Balaam (22-24)
 - d. Israel's Idolatry and Immorality at Baal-Peor (25)
 - e. Second Numbering of Israel (26)
 - f. Inheritance Case of Zelophehad's Daughters, Part 1 (27:1-11)
 - g. Selection of Joshua as Moses's Successor (27:12-23)
 - h. Additional Legislation on Offerings and Vows (28-30)
 - i. War Against Midian (31)
 - j. The Transjordan Tribes (32)
 - k. Itinerary of Israel's Journey from Egypt to Canaan (33:1-49)
 - l. Allotment of Transjordan Lands (33:50-34:29)
 - m. Levitical Cities and Cities of Refuge (35)
 - n. Inheritance Case of Zelophehad's Daughters, Part 2 (36)

Other Interesting Notes

- There is a silver amulet that contains Number 6:24-26. It dates to the 6th Century BC. It is the earliest artifact to contain the divine name.
- There is a mention of the prophet Balaam in a mid-first century inscription from Deir Alla.

Deuteronomy

Key Themes

- The importance of a central worship place
- An emphasis upon the name of God
- The organization of the law.
- The centrality of loving and obeying God

Key Characters: Moses and Joshua

Key Verses:

- 4:29 – "If...you seek the LORD...you will find him."
- 6:4-8 – "Love the LORD your God with all your heart...soul...strength."
- 18:15 – "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet."
- 24:10-12 – "Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face."
- 30:19 – This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live."

Outline:

- I. First Speech of Moses
 - a. Preamble (1:1-5)

- b. Historical Prologue (1:6-3:29)
 - c. Introduction to Stipulations and exhortation to obey the Law (4:1-43)
 - II. Second Speech of Moses
 - a. Introduction (4:44-5:5)
 - b. Stipulations (5:6-26:19)
 - i. The Ten Commandments (5:6-21)
 - ii. Response of the people (5:22-33)
 - iii. Elaboration of the Decalogue (6:1-26:15)
 - 1. Commandment 1 (6-11)
 - 2. Commandment 2 (12)
 - 3. Commandment 3 (13:1-14:21)
 - 4. Commandment 4 (14:22-16:17)
 - 5. Commandment 5 (16:18-18:22)
 - 6. Commandment 6 (19-21)
 - 7. Commandment 7 (22:1-23:14)
 - 8. Commandment 8 (23:15-24:7)
 - 9. Commandment 9 (24:8-16)
 - 10. Commandment 10 (24:17-26:15)
 - iv. Document Clause (27:1-10)
 - v. Curses and Blessings (27:11-28:68)
 - c. Third Speech of Moses: Final Charge (29-30)
 - d. Last Words of Moses
 - i. Miscellaneous Matters (31)
 - ii. Song of Moses (32)
 - iii. Blessings of Moses (33)
 - iv. Death of Moses, Transition to Joshua (34)

Other Interesting Notes

- The name Deuteronomy means “second law.” Instead of giving a second law, the book summarizes the Exodus story, the giving of the law, and the wilderness wanderings.
- The book takes the form an ancient Near Eastern vassal treaty - a form of treaty that dates to the mid-third to the mid-first millennium BC. Deuteronomy follows most closely to those in the mid-second millennium.

Joshua

Key Themes

- God kept his promise to Abraham by giving the land of Canaan to his descendants.
- Victory belongs to the Lord.
- God expects obedience.

Key Characters: Joshua, Rahab

Key Verses:

- 1:2-9 – “Get ready to cross the Jordan River. . . I will never leave you or forsake you ... Be Strong and courageous . . . Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night.”
- 2:11 – “The LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.”
- 6:20 – “When the trumpets sounded . . . the wall collapsed.”
- 21:43-45 – “Not one of all the LORD’s good promises . . . failed.”
- 24:14-15 – “As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Outline

- I. Entrance into the Land
 - a. Preparation for Entering the Land (1-2)
 - b. Crossing the Jordan (3-4)
 - c. Circumcision (5:1-12)
- II. Conquest Narratives
 - a. The Commander of the Lord’s Army (5:13-15)
 - b. Jericho (6)
 - c. Ai (7-8)
 - i. Defeat at Ai (7:1-5)
 - ii. Achan’s offense (7:6-26)
 - iii. Victory at Ai (8:1-29)
 - iv. Reading the Law (8:30-35)
 - d. Southern Coalition (9-10)
 - i. Treaty with Gibeon (9)
 - ii. Battle at Gibeon (10)
 - e. Northern Coalition (11)
 - f. List of Conquests (12)
- III. Description of Allotment of Land
 - a. Settlement of Prior Claims (13-17)
 - i. Reuben, Gad, and Half-Manasseh in Transjordan (13)
 - ii. Caleb (14)
 - iii. Judah (15)
 - iv. Manasseh and Ephraim (16-17)
 - b. Remainder of Tribes (18-19)
 - c. Cities of Refuge Established (20)
 - d. Levitical Cities Allocated (21)
- IV. Covenant Matters
 - a. Potential Violation in Altar Building (22)
 - b. Covenant Exhortations to Tribal Leaders (23)
 - c. Covenant Renewal at Shechem (24)

Judges

Key Themes

- Leadership matters.
- God can accomplish his plans through very flawed individuals.
- God holds his people accountable to his expectations of them.
- False worship leads to trouble.

Key Characters: Othniel, Ehud, Deborah, Barak, Sisera, Jael, Gideon, Abimelech, Jephthah, Samson, Delilah

Key Verses:

- 2:11-19 “The LORD raised up judges. . . . They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.”
- 10:10-16 – “We have sinned . . . please rescue us now.”
- 21:25 – “Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.”

Outline:

- I. Background: Failure to Drive Out the Canaanites (1:1-2:5)
- II. Introduction: Cycle of Apostasy (2:6-3:6)
- III. Cycles: “The Israelites Did Evil in the Eyes of the Lord”
 - a. Othniel (3:7-11)
 - b. Ehud (3:12-31)
 - c. Deborah (4-5)
 - d. Gideon (6-8)
 - i. Abimelech (9)
 - ii. Tola and Jair (10:1-5)
 - e. Jephthah (10:6-12:7)
 - i. Ibzan (12:8-10)
 - ii. Elon (12:11-12)
 - iii. Abdon (12:13-15)
 - f. Samson (13-16)
- IV. Tribal Depravity: “Everyone Did as He Saw Fit”
 - a. Danites (17-18)
 - b. Benjamites (19-21)