

# NUMBERS 28- DEUTERONOMY 3

## WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

### WEEK IN REVIEW

As we wrap up the book of Numbers, we see a few more important instructions for the Israelites. Moses gave directions on what their boundaries were to look like in the Promised Land and how to assign the land to the Israelite tribes. This land was a real place with definite boundaries, and there are detailed commands for borders in the north, south, east, and west. Boundary markers were a stone pillar that marked a property line. They instructed people how far they could go and established order. God gave a land to live in, but wanted them to experience this within the borders.

The twelve tribes of Israel were to inherit the land, but the Levites had a special role to play in service to the Lord. The twelve tribes come from the twelve sons of Jacob. Each one of them is the leader of a tribe, except Joseph. There is not a tribe of Joseph; his sons Ephraim and Manasseh became two tribes. Instead of land, the Levites had forty-eight cities to live in and six cities of **refuge**. Refuge means being safe from danger or trouble. These cities were places people could go for protection from the **vengeance** (or punishment) against their wrongdoing toward someone else. The person would stay in the city of refuge until the death of the high priest. Only death could **atone** (make up for wrongdoing) for sin. Jesus' death was the ultimate act of atonement as our High Priest.

We head to the book of Deuteronomy, which is a big review of what has taken place so far. Deuteronomy means "repetition of the law." Moses is the author and gives one of the greatest pep-talks of all time to God's people through three sermons. The first sermon is a historical review of where the Israelites have been, the second is a review of the laws they were to obey, and the third is a prophetic call to obedience. What Moses is basically saying is that "great moments are born from great opportunity," and this new generation of Israelites has the great opportunity to enter into the land promised to Abraham's descendants. After forty years of wandering, they are on the edge of the Promised Land in Moab where the Jordan River flows into the Dead Sea. They are almost there!

The first few chapters give us a recap of the historical events that have taken place so far and God's faithfulness throughout it all. We see the journey from the wilderness of Sinai to Paran to Moab. There is a review of the leaders appointed, the sending out of the spies, and the rebellion of Israel and Moses. This section ends with a review of the transfer of leadership from Moses to Joshua. Joshua was reminded of this promise: "Do not be afraid of them; the Lord your God himself will fight for you." We will see this played out soon as the Lord works on the behalf of His people.

## FAMILY GUIDE

<b>BIG IDEA:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● God has been faithful throughout Israel's history</li></ul>
<b>KEY STORIES:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Land Boundaries</li><li>● Cities of Refuge</li><li>● Historical Prologue</li></ul>
<b>KEY VERSES:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Numbers 35:2</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ "Command the Israelites to give the Levites towns to live in from the inheritance the Israelites will possess. And give them pasturelands around the towns."</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Deuteronomy 1:10</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ "The Lord your God has increased your numbers so that today you are as numerous as the stars in the sky."</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Deuteronomy 2:7</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ "These forty years the Lord your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything."</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>PEOPLE/ WORDS TO KNOW:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Refuge</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Being safe from danger or trouble</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Vengeance</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Punishment in response for wrongdoing</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Atonement</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ To make up for wrongdoing</li></ul></li></ul>

## Reflection Questions

<b>1.</b>	Where did the twelve tribes of Israel come from?
<b>2.</b>	What tribe did not inherit the land, but had a special role?
<b>3.</b>	What were the cities of refuge? When could a person leave?
<b>4.</b>	What does the word "Deuteronomy" mean? What is the book all about?