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## Week 8

Mon Numbers 31–33  Thu Deuteronomy 4–7   
Tue Numbers 34–36  Fri Deuteronomy 8-11   
Wed Deuteronomy 1-3  Sat Deuteronomy 12-15   
Sun Psalms 29–32

## Overview

Deuteronomy is known in Jewish circles by the title, “These are the words,” or more simply “words.” It was also known as “The book of admonitions.” Our title for this book comes from an ancient Greek translation of the Old Testament (The Septuagint) in which the Greek word used as the title was transliterated into English and meant, “A copy of the law.”

The simplest way to describe this book is to call it a summary of the forty years of wilderness wanderings and of laws given them for their spiritual, social, physical and dietary well-being. It was written by Moses during his last days, while the people were camped east of the Jordan River, opposite the city of Jericho. It is filled with promises of blessings for obedience and warnings of judgment for disobedience. It repeatedly called them to love the Lord with all their heart and soul.

Deuteronomy 1:2 is a poignant reminder of their history: *“Normally it takes only eleven days to travel from Mount Sinai to Kadesh-barnea, going by the way of Mt. Seir. But forty years after the Israelites left Mt. Sinai. . . Moses gave these speeches to the Israelites.”* <sup>NLT</sup> It took forty years to bring them to where they could have been in eleven days if they had trusted God and obeyed him. How merciful God was to stay committed to them rather than give up on them, abandoning them to their fate. Is there a parallel here to your life?

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## Week 7

Mon Numbers 10–13  Thu Numbers 21–23   
Tue Numbers 14–16  Fri Numbers 24–27   
Wed Numbers 17–20  Sat Numbers 28–30   
Sun Psalms 25–28

## Overview

The Israelites complained repeatedly about the hardships they experienced in the wilderness, unaware that their **hardships were a necessary element in learning to live by faith and obedience.** They kept looking back at Egypt whenever things were difficult, wishing they were back there. How quickly they forgot what it was like to be slaves and how blind they were to the fact that God was transforming them into warriors, which required all the rigors of “boot camp.”

The same is true of our lives. We make a big mistake when we think that if God really loved us He would deliver us from our sufferings, struggles, aches and pains. These are often used by God to teach us important lessons of faith and trust which we would never learn otherwise. See Hebrews 12:1-13 regarding this fact.

If you are going to become a follower of Christ you must go through difficult and demanding times. Don't look back at your Egypt with a desire to return. That would be to return to bondage and death. Remember that you can do all things through Christ who gives you the strength you need (Philippians 4:13 <sup>NLT</sup>).

As you have read through the first five books of the Old Testament have you seen how significant Moses was in the development of Judaism and the nation of Israel? This was because Moses yielded himself to God. What does God want to do through you?