

# INTERACTIVE TRAVEL GUIDE

## DESTINATION: *Deuteronomy 1-34*

Deuteronomy is the fifth book of the Old Testament and part of Judaism's Torah. Its Hebrew name is "Devarim" translated "words" and is taken from the opening phrase "Eleh Ha-devarim" translated "these are the words..." As with the other four books of the Pentateuch, Deuteronomy is titled after the opening words. The English name is derived from the Greek Septuagint and the Latin Vulgate "Deuteronomion," meaning "Second Law" or the repetition of the Law (from 17:18).

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- c. 1450-1400 B.C.  
Egyptians build water clocks (clepsydras) and Stonehenge built.
- c. 1446 B.C.  
The Red Sea crossing
- c. 1445 B.C.  
God delivers the Law at Mount Sinai
- c. 1446-1406 B.C.  
Forty years of wilderness wandering
- c. 1406 B.C.  
Moses presents the Deuteronomic Law
- c. 1405 B.C.  
Moses dies; the conquest of Canaan begins
- c. 1405-1380 B.C.  
Joshua leads the Israelites
- c. 1400 B.C.  
Approximate beginning of the Late Bronze Age in Israel

### TRIP PLANNER:

Deuteronomy can be organized around three messages given by Moses while the Israelites were on the plains east of the Jordan River. It occurs after the 40 years of wandering and the Israelites are now ready to enter the Promised Land. The key word of this book is *covenant* and speaks of the special relationship that God has established with His people. Why a second telling of the law?

The first telling in Exodus was for the previous generation who were not allowed into the Promised Land because of their complaining. The second telling was for the new generation entering into the Promised Land to prepare them for the future.

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Sermon: Review of the Past – Deuteronomy 1-3
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sermon: Regulations for the Present – Deuteronomy 4-26
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sermon: Ready for the Future – Deuteronomy 27-34

#### **PLACES OF INTEREST:**

**Ar** – A synonym for the region of Moab.

**Beth Peor** – A pagan site dedicated to Baal of Peor. This was the scene of Israel's first disastrous encounter with the sexually centered worship of Baal.

**Chinnereth** – Another name for the Sea of Galilee.

**Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim** – During the covenant renewal ceremony with the generation entering the Promised Land, the Lord used the topography of the land for visual effect. Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim are approximately 2 miles from each other. The valley between the two peaks created a natural amphitheatre. Mount Ebal is normally a barren peak while Mount Gerizim is usually covered with vegetation. Consequently, Mount Ebal was an ideal place for the curses to be recited and Mount Gerizim was ideal for blessings.

**Mount Horeb** – Another name for Mount Sinai

**Mount Nebo** – A mountain peak near Heshbon about 10 miles east of the northern end of the Dead Sea. This is where God instructed Moses to go and where he died.

**Rabbah** – Today this is the site of Amman, the modern capital of Jordan.

#### **PEOPLE OF INTEREST:**

**Amorites** – An ancient tribe of Canaanites. Their name means "the high one" and refers to the mountainous region they occupied.

**Anakim** – Descendants of Anak, a pre-Canaanite tribe, dwelling in the hill country of Judah and in the Philistine plain. According to rabbinical tradition the Anakim are of the same Titanic race as the Rephaim, Nefilim, Gibborim, Zamzummim, and Emim. The name (as though containing the element 'anak = neck) indicates that they wore "neck-chains heaped upon neck-chains", similar to tribes in Africa. They were known for being a race of giants.

**Dathan and Abiram** – Rebelled against Aaron's priesthood and lost their lives.

**Jeshurun** – A pet name for Israel that means "Uprightness".

**Joshua** – One of the original spies, Joshua became the successor to Moses. He was known for his wisdom as he followed the call of God on his life.

**King Og** - Was an ancient Amorite king of Bashan who, along with his sons and army, was slain by Moses and his men at the battle of Edrei (probably modern day Dara, Syria).

**King Sihon** – Amorite king who was defeated by the Israelites.

**Levi** – The responsibilities of the Levites included (1) caring for the ark, (2) service in offering, worship, teaching and legal matters and (3) blessing Israel.

**Moses** – Regarded as the greatest prophet in all of Israel. He had a face to face relationship with the Lord, he performed many signs and wonders and was a representative of God's powerful presence amongst the nations of his day.

**Zamzummin** - The Ammonite name for the people who by others were called Rephaim, and were described as a numerous nation of giants; perhaps the same as 'Zuzim'.

#### **FUN FACTS:**

**Abomination** – Indicates the strongest form of revulsion and distaste.

**Book of Quotes** - No other book is quoted more than Deuteronomy. It is quoted 356 times in other Old Testament books and is quoted 196 times in the New Testament.

**Book of The Law** – Refers to the book of Deuteronomy.

**Creeping Thing that Flies** – Refers to insects that could not be eaten.

**Cross-dressing** – Deuteronomy 22:5 prohibits cross-dressing.

**God's Four Spiritual Laws** – In Deut 10:12-13 we are given God's Four Spiritual Laws:

1. To fear the Lord your God;
2. To walk in all His ways and to love Him;
3. To serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul;
4. To keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes.

**Jewish Calendar** – Hebrew months were based on the lunar calendar and were 29 or 30 days long. Their years were 354 days. Approximately every 3 years (7 times in 19 years) an extra 29-day month, Veadar, was added between Adar and Nisan.

Names of Months	Corresponds with	No. of Days	Month of Civil Year	Month of Sacred Year
Tishri	Sept – Oct	30	1	7
Heshvan	Oct – Nov	29 or 30	2	8
Chislev	Nov – Dec	29 or 30	3	9
Tebeth	Dec – Jan	29	4	10
Shebat	Jan – Feb	30	5	11
Adar	Feb – Mar	29 or 30	6	12
Nisan (Abib)	Mar – Apr	30	7	1
Iyar	Apr – May	29	8	2
Sivan	May – Jun	30	9	3
Tammuz	Jun – July	29	10	4
Ab	July – Aug	30	11	5
Elul	Aug – Sept	29	12	6

**Urim and Thummin** – Translated “lights and perfections” or “light and truth”, this was God’s appointed instruments for deciding innocent or guilt for guiding His people. They were probably two jewels. When someone had to make an important decision, the request was made known to the high priest. He would stand before the Lampstand, holding the Urim in one hand and the Thummin in the other. As the light reflected from the Urim and the Thummin onto the stones of the Breastplate, this flash of light provided up to 24 combinations (2 x 12). Since there are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet, the flashes of light could produce strings of letters. As God breathed through the Ark, the Veil would move, permitting a breeze to flicker the flames in the Lampstand to momentarily alter the angle of direction of the light onto the Urim and Thummin, and thence to the Breastplate. Thus God was able to communicate directly, but not audibly, to the high priest and answer the enquiry.

MAPS:

Figure 1: Canaan in the 14<sup>th</sup> century

