

Deuteronomy 1:6-46 The Move From Sinai to Kadesh-barnea

Introduction: The main body of the book of Deuteronomy is a record of speeches made by Moses to the children of Israel shortly before they entered into Canaan. Chapter 1:1-5 is a short introduction to the book written by Moses. It is not a part of the speeches. In our text today we will study a part of the 1st speech of Moses.

I. At Horeb (Mt. Sinai) V.6-8

- A. God gave instructions to the children of Israel to prepare to leave Horeb (Mt. Sinai). V.6
 - 1. They had been there about a year.
 - 2. During that time the law covenant had been made, the tabernacle with it's furniture had been built and a priesthood had been ordained.
- B. The instructions which God gave. V.7
 - 1. "Turn you"... "Turn your face in the direction which you will be going. "
 - 2. Take your journey"...Be on your way.
 - 3. "Go to the mount"...Fix your mind on your destination. What a great land!
- C. This was a land which God had set before them. V.8
 - 1. He had given the land to Abraham.
 - 2. Through Abraham He had given the land to Isaac. (Not to Ishmael.)
 - 3. Through Isaac He had given the land to Jacob. (Not to Esau.)
 - 4. Through Jacob it was given to the 12 tribes. (It was already theirs.)

II. Help for Moses V. 9-18

- A. Before leaving Horeb, Moses was provided some help.
- B. The work load was too much for one man. V.9
 - 1. The Israelites had multiplied to great numbers. V.10
 - 2. The load was physically and emotionally too much for one man. V.11-12
- C. A search for helpers was to be made. V.13-14
 - 1. The helpers were to be wise men.
 - 2. They were to be known...men of good reputation.
 - 3. They were to be capable men.
 - a. Capable of ruling over others well.
 - b. Capable of working under their leader, Moses.
- D. The plan pleased the people and Moses appointed men to their positions. V.15
 - 1. There was one chief for each tribe.
 - 2. In each tribe there was to be a captain over up to 1,000 men.
 - 3. Each captain of 1,000 was to have captains over up to 100 men.
 - 4. Each captain of 100 was to have a captain under him of up to 50 men.
 - 5. Each captain of 50 men was to have captains of up to 10 men.
- E. These would serve as court judges and as governmental officials in other capacities over those in his jurisdiction. V.16-18 (They were to judge and rule fairly and without favoritism over the citizens and foreigners.)
- F. This suggestion came from Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses.
 - 1. It met the approval of the people.
 - 2. Presumably it also met the approval of God before suggesting it to the people.
 - 3. The apostles somewhat followed this plan in selecting deacons to assist them.

III. The arrival at Kadesh-barnea and the sending of spies into Canaan V.19-33

- A. They passed through the wilderness which was a dry and barren land. V.19

1. They passed by the way of the mountain of the Amorites. (That is, by the roadway that led to the mountain of the Amorites. This was a mountain range that ran through Edom where the descendants of Esau lived. It was called Mt. Seir in V.2.)
- B. Their journey brought them to Kadesh-barnea which bordered to another mountain range within Canaan in which Amorite people also lived. V.20
- C. They were told that the land was theirs for the taking; they were not to be afraid of the people dwelling in the land. V.21
- D. At the request of the people, Moses sent 12 spies into the land who brought back a report of a good land. V.22-25
- E. However, the people rebelled and would not enter to take the land. V.26-33

IV. The anger of the Lord V.34

- A. The Lord was angry with the people and commanded them to turn back into the wilderness where all of the men from 20 years and upwards would die with the exception of Caleb and Joshua. V.34-36
- B. The Lord was angry even at Moses although he was not guilty of the rebellion at Kadesh-barnea. V.37
 1. Moses had become angry at the people and in his anger at them he had disobeyed by striking the rock when God told him to speak to the rock.
 2. Moses was at fault but he blamed the people.
 3. Moses, himself, would not go into Canaan.
- C. Moses told the people to do what they could to encourage Joshua because he would be the leader to take his place and lead them into Canaan. V.38
- D. The people at Kadesh-barnea had been told that their children would get to go into the land and possess it. V.39 (They would be adults by the time they would enter the land. They were the ones that Moses was now talking to.)
- E. Instead of turning back into the wilderness as the Lord commanded, the Israelites then tried to enter Canaan and conquer it, but were defeated.. V. 40-45
- F. After their defeat, the Israelites tarried for a while at Kadesh-barnea and then turned back into the wilderness. V. 46

V. Lessons New Testament churches can learn

- A. That a church does not stay the same. (It either goes forward or backwards both materially and spiritually.)
- B. That the work load within a church is too much for one man and should be spread out to others within the church.
- C. That a church should be obedient to the Lord. (A church suffers the consequences when they do not obey the will of the Lord.)
- D. That church officials should be obedient to the Lord. (They, too, suffer the consequences when they are disobedient to the will of God.)
- E. There is still hope for the younger generation. (That is, providing they will do the will of the Lord.)
- F. There is a tendency in the flesh nature of even God's people to be rebellious against the will of God.