



**Reading the Bible  
in a Year  
—chronologically**

# MARCH

## NUMBERS

We continue this book with the Israelites still in the desert. Much of their time is spent in one spot, *Kadesh*, engaging in grumbling about their situation.

Chapter 22 sees a *new generation* of Israelites camped near the River Jordan, the border of the Promised Land, preparing to cross. The King of Moab tries to stop them, using the false prophet Balaam. Two and a half of the 12 tribes settle for territory on the Moab side of Jordan. Check out the maps at the back of your Bible to get the picture.

## DEUTERONOMY

Moses, forbidden to enter the Promised Land, delivers a series of *farewell speeches* to the Israelites before they enter Canaan under the leadership of Joshua.

DEUTERONOMY		
A.	1:1 - 4:43	Moses' <b>FIRST</b> speech
B.	4:44 - 28:68	Moses' <b>SECOND</b> speech
C.	Chapters 29-34	Moses' <b>THIRD</b> speech and death

The name *Deuteronomy* means ‘second law’—in chapter 5 Moses reiterates the Ten Commandments first recorded in Exodus 20.

Note the covenantal curses and blessings in chapters 27 and 28, followed by the renewal of the covenant and the transfer of leadership to Joshua.

## JOSHUA

This book is named after the Israelites’ new leader who takes them across Jordan into Canaan, the Promised Land.

JOSHUA		
A.	Chapters 1-5	<b>Entering the land</b>
B.	Chapters 6-12	<b>Conquering the land</b>
C.	Chapters 13-24	<b>Settling in the land</b>

They conquer the land by first taking the central area to divide it, then cleaning up in the south and the north. Territory is allocated to the tribes, then, in the last chapter, Joshua (like Moses before him) leads them to renew the covenant.

## JUDGES

This is a sad book, showing the Israelites at a low ebb in the land. Because of their gross disobedience to God, he allows them to be overrun by their many enemies. When they repent and cry out to him, he raises up a *judge* (a temporary military and civil leader) to help them. Then, in time, they lapse again into disobedience, and the cycle repeats itself.

This month we see this happening with the first three major judges: Othniel, Ehud and Deborah.