

DEVARIM OVERVIEW

'Words'...Devarim

Today, we are starting the fifth and final book of the Torah, called Devarim. The parsha begins with "These are the words"; therefore Devarim means 'words'. In English, however, the 5th book of the Torah is called Deuteronomy, which has a different meaning from the Hebrew. Deuteronomy means a reiteration of the law, which is the main theme of the book of Devarim.

The 4th book of the Torah, Bemidbar/Numbers, ends with the 12 tribes of Yisra'el having received instruction regarding land inheritance that they are to divide amongst the tribes before they enter into Kena'an.

Because each parsha is so rich in information, we will only be able to examine certain parts of each parsha per lesson. We do encourage parents and their children to do their own studies. In future years, we will fill in the pieces from each parsha that we did not cover previously.

We start off the book of Devarim with the next generation of Yisra'elites prepared to enter in and conquer the land of Kena'an. But they won't enter in until Mosheh finishes taking a long, backward look at the main events and ways that Yahweh has dealt with the young nation up to this point. Mosheh's speech will impress some crucial lessons upon this next generation, and also reiterate the commands, laws, and right-rulings Yahweh has given them so that they may be successful and blessed. As he prepares to transfer the leadership over to Yehoshua, who is anointed to lead the children of Yisra'el over the Yarden, we will hear the wonderful blessings that Mosheh pronounces over Yisra'el before his death at the age of 120.

Here is a breakdown of the 11 parashot in the book of Devarim:

- Devarim (Words) - Ch. 1-3
- Va'etchanan (I pleaded) - Ch. 3-7
- Eikev (Because or Consequence) - Ch. 7-11
- Re'eh (Look or See) - Ch. 11-16
- Shoftim (Right rulers or Judges) - Ch. 16-21
- Ki Teitzei (When you go out) - Ch. 21-25
- Ki Tavo (When you come in) - Ch. 26-29
- Nitzavim (You are standing) - Ch. 29-30
- Vayeilech (And he went) - Ch. 31
- Ha'azinu (Give ear or Listen) - Ch. 32
- V'zot HaBracha (And this is the blessing) - Ch. 33-34

We pray that you will be blessed as we begin our study in the final book of the Torah. Let's dig in!

SHALOM FROM YMTOI/MTOI