

OT Lit Study Guide #2: 11-11-10: Thursday

Leviticus

1. Be able to discuss the purposes, unique features and procedures of the various feasts of Israel. What happened on the Sabbath year & year of jubilee?

Numbers

1. What literary pattern was seen in Numbers? How did the mini-cycle in ch. 11 reveal this pattern? What did the no-meat cycle reveal about Moses' relationship with God? Is it possible for a believer to long for death and when is that manifest in Moses' life? What was learned from the Cushite Wife cycle about inter-racial marriage? What lessons were learned in the giants in the land cycle? What is the difference between complaint and lament? What ironies were seen in the Korah & Cushite wife cycles? In the Numbers cycles, what features of God were discussed (change/static/dynamic/anger etc)? What were major motifs (themes) which arose in our discussion of the cycles? How does the book of Numbers describe God in relationship to Moses & Israel? What does Numbers suggest about the power and nature of prayer? Does prayer really change things?
2. Did God ever change His mind in Numbers (where/when specifically)? How do you explain that in light of Num. 23:19? Can God change? Is God static or dynamic? If God is perfect how can He change as any change would make him not be perfect? Does Numbers talk about the unchangeableness or immutability of God? How do you fit the two together?
3. Did Balaam know God? How does the NT look at Balaam in contrast to the way the book of Numbers portrays him? Why did Balak want Israel cursed? Why did he send to Mesopotamia to get a curser?
4. What was Balaam's biggest temptation? How does it come up in the story? What ironies were seen in the donkey incident? What theme was developed in several of the Balaam oracles?
5. How does the fourth oracle of Balaam develop a messianic prophecy? What possible connections were found between Balaam's prophecy and the birth of Christ?
6. How did Balaam ultimately get Israel cursed?

Deuteronomy

1. How do you understand the concept of the land in Deuteronomy?
2. Why do some people hold a Josian date (620 BC) for the book of Deuteronomy? Explain the JEDP theory of the Pentateuch.
3. How does the argument from Hittite treaties support the early date of Deuteronomy? What were the 5 parts of a Hittite treaty? How do second millennium treaties contrast with first millennium Assyria treaties? Which model does Deuteronomy fit and what does that say about when it was written?
4. What does Deuteronomy say about the major institutions of Israel (prophets, kings, judges)
5. What are the ten commandments and the Shema?
6. How do you interpret Deut. 22:5? How does one interpret Mosaic laws into post-modern circumstances?
7. How do you understand the concept of the law? How have certain folks broken up the law to isolate parts that are culturally conditioned and other parts that are morally universal? What is its relevance to us today? What was Jesus' and Paul's view of the law? What does the law suggest about God's relationship to culture?
8. What are some of the difficult laws of Deuteronomy and how do you understand them in light of post-modern concerns (polygamy, slavery, herem/war, etc).

Joshua

1. What was a repeated message God gave to Joshua? What does the book of Joshua say about the transition of leadership?
2. Why was the taking of Jericho such a major event? Tie this into the location of Jericho. On what major trade route is Jericho?
3. In regard to Rahab, how do you explain God blessing her lie? How did she use shrewdness to effect the outcome she desired? What other story does that parallel?
4. Discuss the drying up of the Jordan. Natural or supernatural? What different ways did critics understand the phrase "until this day" in reference to the 12 stones at the Jordan crossing. How did critics understand this phrase and why? How did we interpret that phrase showing the book was written in the life-time of Joshua not 100's of years later?
5. What is the significance of Rahab for the NT?

6. What do the dating of the walls of Jericho and recent archaeological debate teach us about nature of scientific archaeological data? How does the Israelite altar on Mt. Ebal fit into this discussion of Joshua and archaeology?
7. What 3 things happened at Gilgal?
8. What happened in the battle at Ai? What was Achan's sin? What is corporate personality and what role does it play in the story of Achan's sin? How do you explain Achan's family being involved in the punishment of Achan's sin?
9. What was the Gibeonite deception and what problem did it point out in Israel's walk with God?
10. Discuss the sun standing still incident. What are several different ways of looking at this event? What was most unique about that day (according to Scripture)?
11. Where are the tribes of Judah, Dan, Benjamin, and Ephraim? Where did the Levites live? Where are the following cities in Israel: Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron, Beersheba, Jericho Gibeon
12. How do you understand the concept of the holy war (herem)? How can God have babies killed? What are the 4 theories of war and how is each supported biblically? Which view(s) do you hold and why?
13. At what points does the book of Joshua compare Moses and Joshua?
14. Know the location of the following cities on the Israel map and the location of the regions Moab, Edom and Ammon and cities Jerusalem, Jericho, Gibeon, Megiddo, Hazor, Bethlehem, Hebron, Beersheba, Dan, Shechem

Judges

1. What are the steps in the Judges cycle?
2. How would you describe the office of the judgeship in Judges? What role does Judges play in the canon? What were two types of judgments God used?
3. How is the judges cycle seen in the life of Ehud? What was unique about Ehud? How does the Bible relate violence?
4. Why is the story of Deborah significant? What does it tell us about the role of women in leadership roles? How does that fit with Paul's comments in 1 Cor 14 and 1 Tim. 2? How does one handle conflicts in Scripture itself?
5. What do we learn about the will of God from the life of Gideon?

Read and know the stories for 2 Sam. And 1 Kings 1-11 (David and Solomon)

Know the memory verses: Ps 100, Ps. 51:10-11; 1 Sam 15:22, 1 Sam 16:7.

Skip the reading of article by Martin listed in the syllabus.