

II. Discussion

1:1....."these be the words" this is one of the Hebrew titles for the book. "Words" often (not always) equates law, i.e., the direction of God

....."all Israel" probably the representative mass

....."on this side Jordan" or "at the crossing of Jordan"

....."in the wilderness"---a territory of no established habitants

....."the plain"...many of the specific places named are not known in location today..they probably give a perimenter of places

....."Horeb"...another name for Sinai..maybe a particular peak more than the range of peaks.

1:2....."eleven days from Horeb to Kadesh Barnea" via Edom. The time factor dramatizes the time the trip took due to the rebellion at entry of the land.

1:3....."40th year, eleventh month" we learn from Joshua 5:10 that the children of Israel were at Gilgal on the 14th day of the first month so..we are about two months away from that time.

....."Moses spake"...the use of the third person perplexes some but it is easily understood in an editorial sense

....."according unto all".."given in commandment"..and this will include the law formally given previously and the explanations and augmentation given now.

1:4.....Sihon and Og the Amorite kings. The term Amorite is here used as a general term for all those dwelling in the hill county of Canaan--not just the Amorite peoples alone.

1:5....."on this side"

....."Moses began" --the whole work of lawgiving was not done at one instance.

....."to declare this law"--to make it known, make it applicable.

1:6....."the Lord our God"

....."you have dwelt"..cf. Numbers 11:35 A review of the move from Horeb follows..at Horeb they were constituted a nation and given the great covenant of God. There was a great test at that place as well.