

THE RECORD OF HISTORY

I. Introduction

Hello and thanks very much for joining us today in* the study of Deuteronomy, the fifth book in the Bible and the capstone of what is known as the Torah or law. In our first discussion we looked at some of the things needed for the study of the book and in outlining the book I indicated that chapters 1-4 were a review of the history of Israel's movements that brought them to this point of* history on the banks of the Jordan from which they would enter the promised land. These four chapters set the stage, so to speak, for the amplification of the law of God and in today's discussion I am going to offer a broad survey of them before looking at the details. We note, in a broad outline sense, that:

chapter 1 introduces the occasion with a brief trip review
chapter 2 continues with a reminder of the main problem
chapter 3 continues this recall of the wanderings
chapter 4 becomes a plea for obedience against the background of the past.

So for the moment, note with me how these things are done.

II. Discussion

Chapter 1

Moses sets the stage in vss 1-8 to reassure the people they are where they should be--at last. In vss 9-18 he tells how the company was organized and the responsibility that was given the elders. Verse^s 19-21 carry them to the point where they should have entered the land and records the sad report of the "spies" that led the people to rebel against God. The account of their decision fills the rest of the chapter and makes note of the good work of Caleb and Joshua in passing to the conclusion of the affair and their settling in Kadesh.

Chapter 2

This chapter compresses most of the forty years into verse 1-2 and picks up with the movement of Israel through Edom and Moab in vss 3-15. After a grim notation about the death of the men of war in vs 16, Israel is told to move again and be protective of the territory of the Ammonites in vss 19-23. The blood relationship was the decisive point regarding these nations but in vss 24-37 there is no sparing of Sihon and the territory of Heshbon. These people were to be uprooted and God had promised His power to this end.

Chapter 3

The narrative continues explaining how Israel had victory over