

- We're fast forwarding a bit from where we were before. The 40 years of wandering around in the desert are over now.
- God has told Israel that they are to finally cross over the Jordan River and into the promised land (**Deuteronomy 9:1**).
- In all the chapters in between that one and the ones we are on tonight, God is giving very specific instructions to them about how to conduct themselves once they are in the land. We will cover a little of that in this lesson. That is going to continue for several more chapters because God has a lot to say about how to act once they are in the land.
- Moses is still alive, but remember that he must eventually die before going into the land of Israel because that was his punishment from God for disobeying God. (**Numbers 20:10-12**)
- God is preparing the people. They obviously know about Moses's punishment and therefore they know that he won't be with them.
- Remember Moses, Aaron, and Miriam were the people who led them all out of Egypt and led them around. (**Micah 6:4**)
- None of these people will be around to lead them into Israel, and two are already dead. The people are clearly used to having leadership, and they are probably getting pretty nervous.
- They have Aaron's sons like Phineas who are pretty courageous as we have seen. (**Numbers 25:6-14**)
- They also have Joshua and Caleb, the two spies (out of the twelve spies) who trusted God and said "we can take 'em. (**Numbers 13:16** and **Numbers 13:40**)
- Still, they don't have anyone God has specifically chosen to talk with and lead as he did Moses.
- God tells Israel that He will choose a new prophet to lead them. (**Deuteronomy 18:15**)
- Israel had told God that He would not they did not want to talk with Him directly, and they were pretty clear about that, alleging that they would die if they had to see his voice or his fire anymore (**Deuteronomy 18:16**)
- God acknowledges that what they say is right. (**Deuteronomy 18:17**)
- God says He will raise up a prophet and put words in his mouth and speak through him. (**Deuteronomy 18:18-19**)

- God also says a prophet will die if he presumes to speak words which God does not tell him to speak and if he speaks on behalf of other gods. (Deuteronomy 18:20)
- God preempts a concern by Israel when he tells them they might ask, “well, how will we know if the Prophet is real or not then”? God then tells them, “if the prophet is real, he will tell events to come accurately, if not, he isn’t real.” (Deuteronomy 18:21-22)
- God tells them that in the land they are going to take they can live in the cities and houses, but they should designate three of them for “manslayers” (murderers) to flee to. (Deuteronomy 19:1-3)
- God clarifies that the people who can flee there for safety are those who kill by accident “having not hated them in the past” (we call that “motive” today). They would flee there to be safe from the family members of the victim who would seek vengeance. (Deuteronomy 19:4-7)
- God mentions that He previously promised that if they keep His Commandments He will give them even more territory. He says, if that happens, you will need three more cities. (Deuteronomy 19:8-10)
- God does say that if anyone takes advantage of this situation by killing intentionally and then fleeing to these cities, the elders of that city will deliver him over the avenging family to be killed. (Deuteronomy 19:11-13)
- God tells them to respect property boundaries. In those days they would use rocks as markers (in the US in the countryside many of these are still used to mark property and still exist even though we have formal surveyors now). (Deuteronomy 19:14)
- God explains the procedure for a trial to determine offenses (presumably for criminal cases like murder, and civil cases like property disputes), including “two or three” witnesses and elder to serve as judges. (Deuteronomy 19:15-16)
- God also carefully prescribes punishment for providing false testimony, which is basically doing what you would have done to the accused person. (Deuteronomy 19:19) God knew the power of eyewitness testimony.
- God also told them that they were to do this so that people could see it and be deterred. (Deuteronomy 19:20)
- God explains the punishment was to fit the crime. (Deuteronomy 19:21)

Questions:

1. Who are the people God said led them out of bondage in Egypt?

2. What is God doing after He tells them they are about to go into the Promised land?
3. What are the names of at least three potential leaders that may be around to help lead them into the Promised Land?
4. What would happen to the children of Israel if they heard the voice of God and saw His fire directly?
5. What is the penalty for a prophet who does not speak the words that God tells him to or speaks the words of another god?
6. How will the people know if a prophet isn't really a prophet?
7. What is a manslayer?
8. What clarification does God make regarding protection for these manslaughterers?
9. How many cities of refuge does God tell Israel to create?
10. How many more cities of refuge does God say they will need if they enlarge their territory?
11. Why would some need to flee to one of these territories?
12. Who is to judge if someone meets the criteria for refuge in these cities, or if they do not deserve such protection?
13. What is to happen to the person who is judged not to deserve protection?
14. How many witnesses are required for a trial?
15. What happens to someone who provides false testimony?
16. What does God say is the purpose of carrying out justice after a trial?
17. How does God say people should be punished for their crimes?