

of quail and smiting them with a plague because of their greed and overindulgence (11:18–23, 31–35).

- b. Numbers 12. Miriam and Aaron speak against Moses (12:1–3). The Lord chastens and punishes Miriam and Aaron for their murmuring (12:4–16).
- c. Numbers 13–14. Moses instructs 12 men to search the land of Canaan (13:1–20). They return with favorable reports of the land's resources, but all except Joshua and Caleb fear the inhabitants and desire to return to Egypt (13:21–14:10). The Lord tells Moses that the faithless and complaining Israelites will wander in the wilderness 40 years, until all of the adult generation are dead but Joshua and Caleb (14:11–39).
- d. Numbers 21:1–9. The Israelites

destroy the Canaanites who come against them (21:1–3). The Lord sends fiery serpents as punishment for the Israelites' incessant complaining (21:4–6). Moses makes a serpent of brass, fastens it to a pole, and tells the people that if they look at it, they will live (21:7–9).

- Why did the Israelites complain about the manna? (See Numbers 11:4–6.) What are the dangers of wanting more than we have?
- Just as the children of Israel needed to look at the brass serpent to live, we need to look to Jesus Christ to receive eternal life (Alma 37:46–47; Helaman 8:15). What does it mean to look to Christ?

Additional reading: John 3:14–16; 1 Nephi 17:41; Alma 33:18–22; 37:46–47; Helaman 8:13–15.

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## **"I Cannot Go Beyond the Word of the Lord"** ***Numbers 22–24; 31:1–16***

# 16

Study the following scriptures:

- a. Numbers 22:1–21. Balak, king of Moab, is terrified by the approach of the Israelites. He offers Balaam rewards if he will come to Moab and curse the Israelites. God commands Balaam to refuse, and Balaam obeys (22:1–14). Balak offers Balaam additional honor and wealth if he will come to Moab and curse Israel. God tells Balaam he can go if he desires but that he must speak only the words God gives him (22:15–21). Balaam decides to go.
- b. Numbers 22:22–35. God is angry with Balaam for going to Moab, knowing that he hopes for some reward from Balak. While on his way, Balaam learns the dangers of displeasing God when his donkey and an angel speak to him.
- c. Numbers 22:36–24:25. Three times Balak asks Balaam to curse Israel, but Balaam obeys God and blesses Israel each time (22:36–24:9). He then curses Moab and prophesies of Jesus Christ (24:10–25).
- d. Numbers 31:1–16. The Israelites destroy the Midianites and slay Balaam. Moses explains that Balaam had counseled the Midianites to entice the Israelites into sin. (The consequences of Balaam's counsel are described in Numbers 25:1–3. Although Balaam would not curse Israel directly, he apparently wanted a reward from Balak badly enough that he suggested tempting Israel to

sin, causing them to lose God's protection.)

- How did Balaam respond to the offer of rewards in exchange for going to Moab to curse Israel? (See Numbers 22:5–14.) What so-called rewards are we sometimes offered in exchange for disobeying God?
- On his way to Moab, Balaam tried three times to force his donkey forward (Numbers 22:22–30). In what way was this like Balaam's relation-

ship with the Lord? What are some modern parallels of individuals and groups stubbornly trying to do what they want rather than submitting to God's will or to the righteous counsel of parents or leaders?

- Three writers in the New Testament referred to Balaam (2 Peter 2:15–16; Jude 1:11; Revelation 2:14). What were their impressions of him? What lessons can we learn from the story of Balaam?

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## **“Beware Lest Thou Forget”**

***Deuteronomy 6; 8; 11; 32***

**17**

Study the following scriptures:

- a. Deuteronomy 6:1–9; 11:18–21.  
Moses gives instructions to the Israelites to help them remember their covenants. He instructs parents to teach their children his words.
- b. Deuteronomy 6:10–12; 8:1–20.  
Moses reminds the Israelites of God's blessings to them. He warns them that they will perish if they do not obey God's commandments and remember Him.
- c. Deuteronomy 32:1–4, 15–18, 30–40, 45–47. Moses counsels the Israelites to be mindful of the Rock of their salvation (Jesus Christ).

After testing, chastening, and teaching the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years, the Lord said they were ready to enter the promised land. But first he had some important instructions for them. Moses delivered these instructions in three sermons that are recorded in Deuteronomy.

- Why do you think Moses told the people to place passages of scripture between their eyes, on their hands,

on the posts of their houses, and on their gates? How would such constant reminders affect our actions? What can we do in our homes to remind us of the Lord, his words, and our covenants with him? Do the pictures on our walls, the books we read, and the movies and television shows we watch remind us of the Lord, or do they suggest a longing for the world?

- What are Moses' main messages in Deuteronomy 6:10–12 and 8:1–20? What does it mean to forget the Lord? (See Deuteronomy 8:11.) What are the consequences of forgetting him? (See Deuteronomy 8:19.)
- Who is the Rock spoken of in Deuteronomy 32:3–4? (Jesus Christ.) Why do you think Jesus Christ is sometimes called the Rock? (See Helaman 5:12.) What does it mean to build upon the Rock? (See Deuteronomy 32:46–47; Matthew 7:24–27; D&C 50:44.)

Additional reading: Deuteronomy 4; 7:1–4; 13:1–8; 34.