

ites dwelling in tents in the wilderness. We are in the wilderness journey, redeemed out of Egypt, but have not yet entered into the Promised Land. God has a purpose in keeping us here. It is His will that we pass through the wilderness journey in this life, and we find many analogies, many lessons, and much that is precisely relevant to us in this book of the account of the wilderness journey of the Israelites.

The title, Numbers, gives an utterly false impression of what the book means. In this case the Hebrew title is much better. It is unfortunate that in this case the translators of the King James Version translated the Greek title. When we have a Greek title which fits perfectly, we do not translate it and make it "Beginning." Instead we take the Greek word Genesis. Many a person has no idea of what "Genesis" really means. It is just a name. And when we have a Greek word which fits the title of a book perfectly, for example Exodus, "coming out," we do not translate it. We keep the word Exodus which so many people think is just a title, being an exact transliteration of the Greek word. But when we come to the fourth book, the Greeks have as poor a title as there is for any book in the Bible. Yet, instead of keeping their title, Arithmoi, in its Greek form and having it be just a title, we translate it into English and get the exact meaning of the misleading Greek title! We translate it into "Numbers," and thus make the unfortunate and misleading title that the Greeks gave it much more a reality to us than is true of Genesis or Exodus or Deuteronomy.

The fifth is Deuteronomy. Here again the Hebrew name is the first word of the book, which in this case is not so bad as a Scripture title, as far as it goes. But of course that is not on account of the meaning of the words, because they just took the first word. The first words here fit very well as a title just as they do in the case of Genesis. "These are the words" is the title of this book, and it fits very well. Now the Greek word also fits very excellently. We should discuss the meaning of these two names, because they are both excellent for this fifth book — Deuteronomy. It would be better if we translated it as we do Numbers. It is a very perverse thing that where one of the Greek names does not fit at all, as in the case of Numbers, we translate it into English and where it does fit perfectly, as in the case of Deuteronomy, we keep it in Greek so that the average reader has no idea what