

keep in mind so as not to transgress it. It is important in order that when especial matters come up or special contingencies arise the priests shall be able to look and see exactly what God's will is in relation to these particular matters.

G. The Journey of the Israelites from Sinai to the Plains of Moab
(Numbers)

You remember that under C, The Deliverance from Egypt, our third section was The Journey to Sinai. Next is the main section from Sinai to the Plains of Moab, which includes the entire book of Numbers. If we were writing it from a historical viewpoint, our tendency would probably have been to divide it differently, since there was a great crisis at Kadesh Barnea, and the order was given that the people would stay forty years in the wilderness before they would enter the land of Palestine, and that all of them except Joshua and Caleb would die in the wilderness. If we were dividing it we would make a main division of the Pentateuch before Kadesh Barnea, but that is not the way it is presented in the Pentateuch. Important as the great change at Kadesh Barnea was historically, and as important as it was in the life of that generation, the purpose of the Pentateuch is not just to tell us the history, but to get the constitution to the people in their relation to God. And this constitution consists of the details leading up to it with all the lives of the patriarchs and the deliverance from Egypt up to where they are at Sinai. Then the law is given at Sinai and they are taken from Sinai to the plains of Moab, and there we have Moses' farewell address so that in a sense you might call the Pentateuch finished at the end of the book of Leviticus. That is to say, the law has been given and the law has been preceded by the history that shows how he came to give the law. You might say it is complete at the end of chapter three. But that leads them out of the wilderness. You then have the account of how they went from there to the plains of Moab with a large portion about the nature of the march, the nature of the conduct of the camp on the march, the number of the people, their arrangement in troops for the march, etc. And many laws are given as they go along in particular circumstances. Then there are the important and interesting historical crises that occurred during this wilderness journey from Sinai to the plains of Moab, and it is very important