BIBLE READING LIST FOR MARCH 6–12

| March 6 Numbers 27-28 |
| March 7 Numbers 29-31 |
| March 8 Numbers 32-33 |
| March 9 Numbers 34-36 |
| March 10 Deuteronomy 1-2 |
| March 11 Deuteronomy 3-4 |
| March 12 Deuteronomy 5-7 |

The end of the wanderings has come. God had prescribed the length of time they would be in the wilderness (Numbers 14:33), and He keeps His Word. The old generation had to die by that time (verse 35), but God ultimately controls the times of life and death.

There were preparations to be made for beginning the next phase of their history. First there were rules for an exceptional situation to guarantee that the families did not lose their inheritance from the Lord (Numbers 27:1–11). Then the next leader was publicly installed so there would be no power struggle (verses 12–23).

In Numbers 32, some of the people decided they wanted to live on the east side of the Jordan River, and God gave them permission. But He did so to expand their territory, not to divide the nation. Trying to divide God's people would be a sin (see Proverbs 6:19), and like all sin, it would surely come back to haunt them (Numbers 32:23).

When facing the future, they were reminded of the past (Deuteronomy 1). Victories and failures are to be remembered as guides for tests to be faced tomorrow. It covered the entire time of wandering, including recent events (so it was not just nostalgia). Then the Law given at the beginning of the wandering (Exodus 20) was repeated (Deuteronomy 5). Nothing would change because they were setting up a new society. What was wrong is wrong. It doesn't shift with the times and whims of new leaders. God doesn't change (Malachi 3:6), so neither do right and wrong.

Loving God as we should (Deuteronomy 6:5) means loving His Word (verse 6). Loving His Word means teaching it to those we love (verse 7), letting it control what we do and seek (verse 8), and letting it set the environment where we live (verse 9). This will guard against the natural tendency of the flesh to forget (verses 10-12).