

Numbers 10

Following the completion of the tabernacle at the end of Exodus, the LORD gives further instructions to Moses and Israel. Moses is instructed to take a census of each tribe. God also gives them their marching order and camping order. He further divides up the responsibility for the caring of the tabernacle to the Levites. Now it is time for Israel to continue with their journey. We will begin with Numbers 10:11.

1. When did the Israelites leave their encampment?

How long had they been at the place, receiving instructions from God? (See Exodus 19:1.)

What affect would such a long wait have on you? Please explain.

If you had been part of this group, would you rather be camping or walking?

Think about the amount of manna necessary to feed 1.5 million people per day for over 11 months. What does this reveal about God?

How did the people know it was time to leave?

How do you know when God wants you to move spiritually?

2. Locate a map showing the route of Israel's journey. They had been camping in the Desert of Sinai. Where is it located?

According to verse 12, where did the cloud come to rest?

How long a journey was this?

What does verse 13 tell us?

What does "this first time" mean to you?

3. Who went first? (Look at chapter 2 for complete marching order.)

Why do you think the LORD had Judah go first?

Who was in command of the tribe of Judah? What type of man do you think he was?

Who followed Judah?

Who were the Gershonites and Merarites?

Which tribes followed the tabernacle?

What were the Kohathites to carry? Who were they?

What does the last part of verse 32 tell us?

Why do you think the tabernacle was to be set up before the Kohathites arrived?

Which tribes rounded out the marching order?

Which tribe came last?

How would you feel about being in the last tribe every time Israel had to move?

4. To whom does Moses address in verse 29?

Who was Hobab?

How had he come to be with Moses and the Israelites?

Why do you think Hobab has stayed with the Israelites all of this time?

What does Moses ask Hobab to do?

Why do you think Moses wanted him to come with them?

During his time with them, what has Hobab witnessed with his own eyes?

If someone had made this offer to you, what might you have said? Please explain.

What was Hobab's response?

5. In verse 31, we see a different side of Moses. Moses has stood before Pharaoh, personally witnessed the plagues, parted the Red Sea, received the tablets from God, and spoken face to face with God Almighty. Yet, when his brother-in-law says he will not go with them, what does Moses say?

Why does Moses want him to go with them?

If Israel is being led by the cloud during the day and the pillar of fire at night, why would Moses want Hobab to be their eyes?

Does this show a lack of faith on Moses' part? Please explain.

What can we learn from this episode about following the Lord?

For example, if the Lord tells us to build a new building, why would we need "eyes"?

What do you think changed Hobab's mind?

6. How long did the Israelites travel?

Where was the ark of the covenant during this journey?

Look back at verse 21. Who was responsible for carrying the ark?

Where were the Kohathites in the marching order?

Therefore, where does this place the ark of the covenant?

What lesson does this hold for us?

How easy is it for you to follow God's leading? Please explain.

What does verse 34 tell us?

Read Matthew 24:37. Do you see any similarity between these two verses? Please explain.

Look carefully at the word Moses spoke whenever the cloud set out. What strikes you most about these words?

What affect might they have had on you if you had been in that camp?

What did Moses say when they came to rest?

7. What do you think it was like during those first three days of marching after God?

Numbers 11

1. Do you ever complain? If so, about what are some of the things that you complain?

What is usually the cause of your complaining?

From our study of Numbers 10, how long have the Israelites been traveling?

What do the people begin to do?

How do you explain their grumbling after only three days from their experiences at Mt. Sinai?

Look at I Corinthians 10:10 and James 5:9. What do they say?

What happens to people who grumble or complain?

Why do you think God dislikes grumbling or complaining so much?

What affect does grumbling have on a church?

2. Verse 1 says they complained about their hardships. What hardships did they experience in Egypt when they were slaves?

What hardships are they experiencing now?

Who heard their grumbling?

What does it mean to you that God can hear us, even our grumbling?

How did this grumbling affect God?

Read Hebrews 10:31. What does it mean to you to fall into the hands of the living God?

Why would it be dreadful or terrible?

After experienced God's wrath after the golden calf incident, how do you explain why the Israelites are not afraid of God?

Do we, as a nation, fear God? Why or why not?

3. What did God do when He heard their grumbling?

What do you think the "fire" of God was?

What did the fire burn?

What do you think is meant by the "outskirts of the camp?"

Why do you think God sent the fire against the outskirts of the camp? (See Ex 12:38.)

Let's say that the grumbling did start with the "rabble" (verse 4) and not with the Israelites. Why would God get angry at Israel?

What can we learn from this?

Do you think the fire only burned those who complained or any who were in the way?
Please explain.

If the fire only consumed the grumblers, why were the others afraid?

What affect did the fire have on the people?

Why did the people cry out to Moses and not to God?

Is there anything wrong, when we face a troubling situation, to cry out to another believer and not to God? Please explain.

What did Moses do?

Why do you think Moses did not pray to the LORD until after the people came to him?

What did God do when Moses prayed to Him?

What does this tell us about God?

What did they name that place and why?

If you were to give a name to Cornerstone, what would it be? To Coalgate?

4. What does the word "rabble" mean to you?

Why do you think Moses used this word to describe these people?

Why do you think they were following the Israelites if all they were going to do was complain?

How do you explain their behavior after seeing first-hand the fire of God destroy part of the camp?

What was their problem?

Look carefully at the last part of verse 4. The rabble craves the food, but who begins to wail and cry?

How do you explain this?

What can we learn from this?

Read Proverbs 22:24-25. Does this warning still hold true for us? Please explain.

Based on these scriptures, what should we do if we encounter someone who grumbles and complains?

5. These next verses are very interesting. Notice, the Israelites do not complain about their food before the rabble began to complain. What does this tell us about the Israelites and the manna?

Can you remember a time when you became dissatisfied with someone or something AFTER talking to someone else who was unhappy?

What do the Israelites want?

What do they say in verse 5?

Notice, their grumbling takes them out of the present where they are with God and takes them to their past without God. Why would they think more favorably of their past?

What are some of the foods they miss? Would you miss them?

What was the result of their complaining? See verse 6.

What would make people become dissatisfied with God's provision?

How can we guard against this type of behavior?

6. Verse 7 gives us a greater understanding of manna. How is manna described?

What is coriander seed? Resin?

How are some of the ways the people prepared the manna?

Notice that in describing manna, Moses uses similes, figures of speech that compare one thing to another using like or as. What does this tell us about manna?

How was the manna "delivered?"

7. What do we learn about the people's complaining from verse 10?

How did this complaining spread from the rabble to every family?

What does that tell us about complaining?

What was the LORD's reaction? Moses'?

Why would Moses be troubled?

How might you feel if you were pastor over a group of people like this?

Moses now asks God one question after another. Do you ask God questions? If so, why?

What is Moses' first question?

What can you tell about Moses from this question?

What is Moses' second question?

Is Moses feeling sorry for himself? Please explain.

Have you ever felt this way?

Look carefully at the next two questions. What are they?

From these questions, do you think Moses really cared for these people?

To what does Moses compare himself to in the next question?

8. Now we get to the heart of the matter. What does Moses ask God in verse 13?

What impossible situation is facing Moses? What have the people been asking Moses?

What does Moses admit in verse 14?

Moses has owned this problem. Is Moses complaining? Please explain.

What is the difference between the people's complaining and Moses' complaining?

What does Moses say to God in verse 15?

Do you think Moses is serious?

Is Moses feeling sorry for himself? Please explain.

Is Moses blaming God for this trouble? Please explain.

Does he sound mad at God? Please explain

Have you ever been angry at God? Please explain.

What conclusion can we draw about Moses from this dialogue?

Does he sound like someone you would choose to lead a group of people? Please explain.

9. God answers Moses (see verse 16). Does God seem angry with Moses?

Once again, *God's* answer does not seem to have anything to do with *Moses'* questions. Why do you think *god* des this?

What does *God* say to *Moses*?

Looking back on *Moses'* questions to *God* and at *God's* answer, what was *Moses'* greatest need?

How would you describe how *God* answers *Moses'* "prayer"?

What can these teach us about the way *God* answers prayers?

What are the qualifications for choosing the 70?

If you were *Moses*, for what traits would be looking to identify leaders?

What was *Moses* to do after identifying the 70 elders?

According to verse 17, to whom is *God* going to speak?

If *God* speaks only to *Moses*, why does *God* want the other 70 to stand with *Moses*?

What does *God* tell *Moses* He is going to do?

What does it mean to you that *God* is going take of the Spirit that is on *Moses* and give it to the 70?

Read Romans 1:11. How does this verse relate to *Moses'* situation?

When God takes of the Spirit on Moses or when Paul shared his gift, did either lose anything? Please explain.

Why did the 70 need the Spirit?

What does this tell us about leaders in the church today?

Look ahead to verse 25. What sign accompanied the giving of the Spirit to the 70?

10. God is finished speaking to Moses about Moses' personal needs. God now addresses the people. What is Moses to tell the people in verse 18?

If you were Moses, what would you be thinking when God said this?

Do you think the people were speaking to God when they "wailed" they were better off in Egypt? Please explain.

What else does God say to Moses about their eating meat?

What does it mean that the people will loathe the meat?

Why is God going to do this?

Again, we see another reason why God answers prayers. Why?

11. It is obvious from what He says that the LORD is angry. Yet, what is Moses' response in verse 21?

What does Moses point out to God in verse 22?

What information can we glean from Moses' objections?

How would you describe Moses' mood as he speaks to God in these verses?

How do you explain Moses' reaction after all that God has done for them?

What is God's response to Moses' objections?

Have you ever been chastised by the LORD? Please explain.

12. What does Moses do in verse 24?

After Moses and the 70 are gathered, what does God do?

Why do you think the elders only prophesied once?

Verse 26 tells us the story of two of the 70 elders. What set these two apart?

What do you deduce from the fact that they did not go to the Tent?

What is the significance of their receiving the Spirit even though they were not with the others?

What does this tell us about God?

13. Why does the young man run to Moses in verse 27?

Why do you think he was so alarmed?

We now hear from Joshua, who has not left Moses' side. What does Joshua say to Moses?

Why do you think Joshua wants Moses to stop them?

What does this tell us about Joshua?

Moses' response to Joshua is extremely profound. What does Moses say?

Why do you think Moses' wished that all the people were prophets and filled with the Spirit?

What would be the major difference between a church where only the pastor had the Spirit and a church where all the people had the Spirit?

Why might a person get jealous because God gave His Spirit to another?

Have you ever been jealous for another person? Please explain.

How can we guard against this jealousy?

Moses says he wishes God would place His Spirit on all the people. What does this tell us about Moses?

What does this tell us about leadership?

14. What happens when Moses and the elders returned to camp?

Where did this wind originate?

What did the wind do?

How large was this mass of quail?

How long did people gather the quail?

If you had been in camp, how might you have felt when you saw the quail?

How much were the people able to gather?

What did the people do with the quail once they gathered all they wanted?

15. Now we see an interesting turn of events. What happens in verse 33?

Why did God give them the quail if He was not going to let them eat it?

Look carefully over verses 31-32. Do you notice anything that is missing?

Read I Thessalonians 5:18. What does this verse have to do with the Israelites and the quail?

Have you ever forgotten to give thanks to God? Please explain.

If you were a new Christian reading the Bible for the first time, how might you react to verse 33?

What does it mean to you to take a scripture out of context?

Can you think of an example where doing this could lead someone to a wrong conclusion?

What did they name the place?

16. OK. Time to get out the map again. After the episode with the quail, where does God lead the Israelites?

How far a journey was this?

Considering all that had happened with the fire and the plague, what do you think this journey was like? Please explain.

Numbers 12

1. If you have more than one child, have you ever witnessed sibling rivalry? Or if you have siblings, have you ever engaged in sibling rivalry? If so, why?

When was the last time we heard of Moses' sister Miriam?

What do we know about her?

Since Moses' return to Egypt to lead the Israelites to freedom, we have not read of any conflict between Moses and his siblings. How do you explain Miriam and Aaron's talking against Moses now?

Looking back on how God dealt with the complaining among the people, why do you think Miriam and Aaron were not afraid to complain against Moses?

Why do you think Miriam is listed before Aaron?

According to verse 1, what was behind their complaining?

What was wrong with Moses having a Cushite wife?

Where was Moses' wife Zipporah from? Do you think Moses has married a second time? Please explain.

Read Habakkuk 3:7. What can we learn from it?

What event just occurred that might have given rise to this jealousy?

Is there any place in the church for prejudice of any kind? Please explain.

2. When we read verse 2, we see the real reason behind Mirriam and Aaron's complaints. What is it?

What do you think they mean by their question?

Do we still ask questions like this today? Please explain.

What does the last part of verse 2 tell us?

What do we learn from verse 3?

Who wrote the book of Numbers?

How could Moses, the most humble man in the world, write that he was the most humble man in the world?

Why do you think the LORD placed this verse here?

If you were Moses how would you feel if your brother and sister said this about you?

How would handle such an attack?

3. In verse 4, to whom does the LORD speak?

Who is mentioned first? Do you think this is important? Please explain.

What does the first part of this verse tell us?

Why do you think the LORD spoke suddenly in this instance?

What does He say?

What happens in verse 5?

How do you think Aaron and Miriam were feeling as they summoned by the LORD?

Why do you think this instance of complaining was worse than the earlier one?

4. Why do you think the LORD began by talking about prophets?

What are two ways He speaks to His prophets?

What is the difference between a dream and a vision?

Has God ever spoken to you via a dream? A vision? Please explain

What else does God say to Aaron and Miriam in verse 7?

What does it mean to you that Moses was faithful in ALL the LORD's house?

How does God speak to Moses?

What can we tell from the different ways God speaks to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam?

What does God ask Aaron and Miriam in verse 8?

Why do you think they were not afraid to speak against Moses?

What does I Chronicles 16:22 say?

Why is it so dangerous to speak against the Lord's anointed?

What warning would you give to someone who was speaking

5. For the second time we see the LORD get angry. What does He do?

What happened when the cloud left the Tent of Meeting?

Why do you think Miriam was the only one to be struck with leprosy?

To whom does Aaron turn when he discovers his sister has leprosy?

In what way is this ironic?

This is the second time Aaron has been involved in a rebellion against Moses and, thus, against the LORD. Why do you think he has never been punished?

What does Aaron say to his brother Moses in verse 11?

What does Aaron call Moses?

What else does Aaron say to Moses in verse 12?

How do you explain the fact that Moses is not angry with Aaron and/or Miriam?

What does Moses' cry to the LORD in verse 13 tell us about Moses?

How easy is it for you to forgive someone who speaks against you? Please explain.

6. How would you feel if someone spit in your face?

What might cause a father to spit in his daughter's face?

Read Job 30:10, Isaiah 50:6, and Mark 14:65. What light do they shed on this passage?

What was the result of a father's spitting in his daughter's face?

What can we learn about God and Miriam's relationship from this example?

What was Miriam's punishment?

Again, Aaron escapes without receiving any punishment. Does this mean God favors the men over the women? Please explain.

If you were Miriam, what would be the worst part about being confined outside the camp for seven days?

If you were one of the people, what would you be thinking as you witnessed God punishing Moses' sister, a prophetess?

Why do you think the people did not move without Miriam?

What would the church be like if there was no prophetic voice?

Numbers 13

1. Now comes the time for Israel to look upon the promised land. How long has it been since they left Egypt?

Why do you think the LORD sent men to explore the land of Canaan?

Again, what does God tell Israel about the land in verse 2?

Whom is Moses to select?

Many accounts refer to these 12 men as spies. What is a spy?

Do you think they are spies? Please explain.

Verses 4-15 give us the names and the tribes of the 12. Do you recognize any of the names?

What do we learn from verse 16?

Try to imagine being one of the 12, facing the land filled with -ites. How might you be feeling?

Can you feel unsettled when obeying the Lord? Please explain.

Read I Cor. 2:3. How do you explain Paul's feelings?

2. Where were the men were to go? (Find the area on a map.)

Specifically, for what were the men to look?

Which area would interest you the most? Please explain.

Why would Moses want to know this information?

Does Moses ever ask them to see IF they can take the land? Please explain.

What does Moses ask them to bring back with them? Why?

3. According to verses 21-22, where did the men explore?

What is the land like in this area?

Who were the descendants of Anak?

What do we learn about Hebron?

What is a cluster of grapes?

When you buy a cluster today, about how big is it?

How big was the cluster the men brought back with them?

What does this tell us about the land?

What else did they bring back with them? Do you like pomegranates and figs?

After eating manna for a year, how do you think the people would react to this abundant fruit?

What do they name the place?

How long did the men explore the land?

Is there anything significant about the number 40? Please explain.

4. Where were Moses and the rest waiting for the return of the 12?

Up to this point, have we read anything negative about the land?

According to verse 27, what was the first part of their report?

This next part is what I call the "but" report. When someone tells you something and then follows it with "but...", what do you expect next? Please explain.

What is contained in their "but" report? How many -ites do they list?

Is the report accurate? Please explain.

What affect do you think this report had on the people?

When facing a trying situation, like building a new building, should we ignore the challenges that face us? Please explain.

What is the difference between explaining the challenges and giving a "but" report?

5. Why does Caleb interrupt the report? (See verse 30.)

Does Caleb dispute what the others have said? Please explain.

What does Caleb say to Moses?

Does this seem realistic? Please explain.

However, the other men are not finished with their side of the report. What do they say in response to Caleb's assertion?

According to verse 32, what bad report did they spread among the people?

Do you think they were exaggerating? Please explain.

Who were the Nephilim?

Now comes one of the most interesting descriptions given. What do these men tell the people in verse 33?

If you had been one of the Israelites, what affect might that description have on you?

What was the main difference between Joshua and Caleb and the other 10 men?

How do we balance truth with faith?

Numbers 14

1. What are the people doing in verse 1?

Why do you think they are doing this?

How would you describe the mood of the Israelite camp?

What do the people do in verse 2?

The LORD has already warned them about the danger of grumbling. Yet, the grumble anyway. Why?

Why do you think it is difficult to recognize grumbling for what it truly is?

What are some of the other "names" we give to grumbling or complaining?

This time, to whom do the people complain?

What can we learn from the fact that the people complain to Aaron as well as to Moses?

Specifically, what do the people say to Moses and Aaron in verse 2?

Of what do they accuse the LORD of doing?

What do they think is going to happen to them?

Have you ever been in a situation where you imagine the worse despite all God has done for you? If so, why do you think we do this?

What is the result of doing this?

How can one keep from falling into this trap?

2. In verse 4, the people stop speaking to Moses and Aaron and begin talking among themselves. What do they say to each other?

What kind of leader do they want?

When picking a leader, what do you think should be the most important quality?

Do you think people have a tendency to choose leaders who already think as they do? Please explain. Is this necessarily wrong? Please explain

What do Moses and Aaron do?

Why do you think they did this?

How might you react if your leadership was attacked this way?

What do Joshua and Caleb do?

What is the significance of tearing one's clothes?

Why do you think Joshua and Caleb addressed the people instead of Moses and Aaron?

3. What do Joshua and Caleb say to the people in verse 7?

They give the people an if-then statement. What is the "if" portion?

What is the "then" portion?

Do you agree with their conclusion? Please explain.

Does this statement hold true for us as well? Please explain.

What warning do Joshua and Caleb give to the people in verse 9?

What does it mean to you to rebel against the LORD?

Joshua and Caleb seemed to be more afraid of God than of the "giants" in the land. Is this a good thing? Please explain.

What is likely to happen when we fear the world more than God?

What is the last piece of advice they give to the people?

4. Verse 10 begins with the word "But." What does that signify to you?

How would react if someone said to you, "You look very nice tonight, but...."? Why?

What did the people decide to do after Joshua and Caleb had finished talking?

Why would they want to stone them?

What do you think Moses is doing all this time?

What stopped the people from stoning the two men?

5. What is the first question the LORD asks Moses in verse 11?

What does it mean when a person treats someone with contempt?

How are the people treating the LORD with contempt?

What is the next question the LORD asks Moses?

Could God ask us this same question about our nation? Please explain.

What does the LORD tell Moses He is going to do with the people? To Moses?

How do you explain a loving God Who is ready to wipe out an entire people with a plague?

How might you have felt if you were Moses and God said He was going to start over with you?

6. Moses has watched his people disobey God on numerous occasions. He has listened to them complain and blame God for wanting to kill them. He has just heard his people plot to stone Joshua and Caleb for speaking God's truth. If you had been in Moses' situation, how might you react to this behavior? Please explain.

Moses responds to God's statement in a most interesting way. What do the Egyptians have to do with this situation?

What does Moses fear concerning the Egyptians and the surrounding nations?

Is this a valid concern? Please explain.

Do you think there are nations today who do not believe God can and will deliver His people Israel? If so, please explain

Look at Isaiah 48:9-11. How does this verse relate to Moses' argument to God?

Why does Moses care so much for these people?

According to verse 17, what does Moses want God to do?

When you think of the LORD's strength being displayed, what comes to mind?

Verse 18 is one of the most quoted verses. What does the LORD's strength have to do with being slow to anger, abundant love, and forgiveness?

Do you agree with Moses' statement that the LORD is "slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion?" Please explain.

Moses follows this declaration with the statement that God does not leave the guilty unpunished. What does that mean to you?

What does it mean to you that God is willing to forgive but He does not leave the guilty unpunished?

The last part of verse 18 has generated a great deal of discussion. What does it mean to you that the LORD punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to third and fourth generation?

7. What last plea does Moses make in verse 19?

How many times has the LORD already forgiven them?

What does this tell us about God?

Read Matthew 18:21-22. Do Moses' words to God bring any new understanding to Jesus' words to his disciples?

8. What is the LORD's reply to Moses?

What can we learn about God's forgiveness from this episode? about intercession?

What does the word "nevertheless" mean to you?

What does it mean to you that even though God forgives us, we may have to face the consequences of our actions?

Can you give an example where you might forgive someone yet still make that person face the consequences?

According to verse 22, what consequences are the Israelites to face?

What is the main reason this generation will not ever see the Promised Land?

What does it mean to you to treat someone with contempt?

In what way did the people treat God with contempt?

Do you think people today still treat God this way? Please explain.

Out of this entire generation, who will be allowed to see the Promised Land?

Why does God allow this person to see the Promised Land?

God says he had a different spirit than all the others. What was his spirit like?

From this, what type of behavior touches God's heart?

9. What instructions does God give Moses in verse 25?

Why does He tell them to do this?

What does this tell us about the relationship between God and His people following their outcry?

After all this time, the people are going back to the starting point. Why does He do this?

10. For the first time, in verse 26, the LORD speaks to both Moses and Aaron. If you were Aaron, how would you feel?

What does this tell us about Aaron?

What question does God ask them?

Again, we see that the main issue in this passage is the grumbling of the people. Based upon what we have read, what advice would you give people concerning our tendency to grumble?

Finally, God has prepared an answer for the people. What are Moses and Aaron to tell the people in verse 28?

What are some of the things they have been saying about the LORD?

What is God's judgment on the people?

Why do you think God chose 20 as the starting age?

Who are the only ones who will see the Promised Land?

Many commentaries conclude that the Levites are not part of those who will die in the wilderness because they were not given an inheritance. Also, if the Levites were among those who would perish, the entire priestly line would be decimated. How do you feel about this conclusion?

11. What does God say about the Israelites' children in verse 31?

How long will the Israelites have to wander in the wilderness?

Why do you think God chose 40 years?

What will happen to the children during these 40 years? (See verse 34.)

Specifically, what has caused this judgment to fall on the people? (See verse 31.)

God says the people will learn what it is like to have God against them. From this passage, what does it mean to have God against you?

What would life be like if we had to suffer for our sins?

What keeps us from experiencing this suffering?

12. In verse 39 Moses tells the people what God has said. What is their reaction?

Is mourning bitterly the same as repenting? Please explain.

Why do you think the people are mourning?

What do the people decide to do the next day?

What do the people admit?

Is admitting a sin the same as repenting of that sin? Please explain.

What does "presume" mean to you?

Why is presumption dangerous to our relationship with God?

Can you give an example where you or someone else (without revealing names) based their response on presumption?

13. How does Moses respond to their decision to go into the Promised Land?

Why does he tell them they will not succeed?

According to Moses' statement, why have the Israelites been successful up to this point?

The LORD told them to go into the Promised Land. Now, they are going, but Moses says they will be defeated because God is not with them. It appears that they are being obedient to God. How would you explain this discrepancy to someone new to the faith?

Why would people who turn away from God still expect God to protect them?

How might an individual make this mistake?

Do you see this happening in this nation? Please explain

14. Ironically, what do the people decide to do in verse 44?

The people are in trouble because they grumbled and disobeyed God. Yet, by going on their own, they are disobeying God once again. Why can they not see that their obedience is actually an act of disobedience?

Again, can you cite recent examples of this trait, where people actually see disobedience as obedience?

The people leave to go into the Promised Land. Who does not go with them?

What can we learn from this?

What happened to the Israelites?

15. What is the most important lesson you have learned from this chapter?

Numbers 15

1. The narration is now interrupted by God's words to the people. What does God have Moses say to them in verse 2?

To whom is Moses speaking? Who is going to inhabit the land?

Why do you think God makes this statement immediately after telling the people that the older generation will never see the promised land?

How would you feel if you were 30? If you were 19?

2. What does it mean to you to make an offering to the LORD?

What are the four classifications of offerings listed in verse 3?

What is a freewill offering?

What would you consider to be a required offering?

What would you consider to be a voluntary or freewill offering?

The offerings listed in verse 3 were to be a sweet aroma to the LORD. What does that mean to you?

What was to be used to make these offerings (see vv 3-8)?

3. According to verses 4-6, what else were the people to bring along with their sacrifices?

Why do you think the people were to bring fine flour and oil?

Read John 6:32-36; Heb 1:9; James 5:14. How do these verses relate to the instructions for the people to bring flour and oil with their sacrifices?

What are some freewill offerings that we can bring to God today?

4. According to verse 13, who was to make these offerings?

What were the aliens to do?

What is the significance of God's having the same rules for the Israelites and the aliens in their midst? (See verse 16.)

What significance do God's words hold for us today?

Read Galatians 3:28 and Colossians 3:11. What do these verses mean to you? Do they have anything in common with God's words to the Israelites? Please explain.

What does God tell the people in verses 18-19?

Why should we offer a portion of the food of the land to God?

In what way could we make this offering today? Should we?

5. Read verse 22. What is an unintentional sin?

What was the result of an unintentional sin? (See v. 25.)

Verse 24 lists another aspect of unintentional sin. What is it?

If the community was unaware of an unintentional sin, how could the community make a sin offering?

What would happen if the community did not make a sin offering?

Can you think of an unintentional sin that would affect the entire church?

Why do you think God treats unintentional sin so harshly?

What happens when an individual sins unintentionally?

What is the individual to do?

Can you give an example of an individual unintentional sin?

6. Verse 31 lists another type of sin. What was it?

What would be a defiant sin to you?

Can you list any modern examples of defiant sin?

What is to happen to the person who commits a defiant sin?

According to verse 31, why was this person to be cut off? Why was his guilt to remain on him?

Can you think of any Biblical characters who were guilty of committing a defiant sin?

Read Genesis 4:9 and Acts 12:21-23. How are these acts of defiant sin? How did their guilt remain on them?

Read I John 5:16-17. What are the two classifications of sin listed in these verses?

Could John be referring to the same two types of sin God explains to Moses? Please explain.

Should the church "cut off" people today for defiant sin? Please explain.

7. According to verse 32, what was the man found doing?

Why did the people bring him to Moses?

Why did they keep him in custody?

What is the LORD's verdict in verse 35?

If the man was to die because of this act, then what type of sin did he commit?

Why do you believe God considered gathering wood on the Sabbath a defiant sin? In other words, in what way or ways did the man defy God and His word? (When was he gathering wood?)

Would you have thought so? Please explain.

What do the people do to the man who collected wood?

Look carefully at the preceding question. Do you see anything wrong with it? Please explain.

Now, lest we miss the point of these scriptures, why was the man stoned?

Obviously the man needed wood. If he was not to gather it, what other options did he have?

This brings up an interesting point. Are we still to keep the Sabbath holy? If so, what does that mean to you?

8. So you think some clothes are more appropriate for church than others? Please explain.

What does the LORD tell Moses to do in verse 38?

What is the purpose of these tassels?

How might seeing these tassels remind the people to keep God's commands?

Do you have anything that helps you remember to keep God's word? Please explain.

9. How does the LORD end this conversation with Moses?

Why did God bring Israel out of Egypt?

In what way does *God's* statement refer to us?

Why do you think *God* ended with this statement?

Numbers 16

1. I once read a statement, "You could take Israel out of Egypt, but you could not take Egypt out of Israel." What does this mean to you?

Based upon what we have read so far, in what ways did Israel still have Egypt in their hearts?

Today, what would it mean for someone to have the world in his or her heart?

2. Who was Korah?

What is the significance of his being a son of Levi?

Who were the other two who joined Korah?

From what tribe were they?

Read *Genesis 49:2-4*, Jacob's prophecy over his son Reuben. What does Jacob say over his son?

In what way are the Reubenites living up to Jacob's words?

What does it mean to you for someone to be insolent?

How might you react to an insolent person?

3. According to verse 2, what does this insolent group do?

How do you explain this uprising considering the LORD's reaction to their previous grumblings and complainings?

Who were these 250 Israelite men who rose up with them?

How do you explain this uprising of 250 of Israel's leaders?

These men came as a group to oppose whom?

This is the first time that Aaron has experienced this type of an attack. What is the significance of the group's opposing both Moses and Aaron?

Why do you think they came as a group?

4. What is their basic complaint?

We can learn much from the crowd's attack. They tell Moses and Aaron, "The whole community is holey, every one of them." Is this statement true?

They say, "The LORD is with them (all the people)." Is this true?

They say, "You (Moses and Aaron) have gone too far." Is this true?

How do the "truths" they speak give weight to their argument?

Finally, what accusation do they make against Moses and Aaron?

In your own words, of what have they accused Moses and Aaron?

What did Moses say in Numbers 11:29?

5. How might you respond to such an attack?

How does Moses react?

What does this tell us about Moses' character?

About what do you think Moses was speaking to God?

When Moses gets up, he then addresses the crowd. What can we learn from Moses' actions?

Read James 1:19. How does this verse apply to Moses?

How do you measure up to James' advice?

6. From what tribe was Moses a part? And Korah?

How do you think Moses felt being accused by someone from his own tribe?

How does Moses answer the charges brought by this group?

Instead of defending himself, Moses leaves his defense in the LORD's hands. How difficult or easy would it be for you to do the same?

What does Deuteronomy 32:35 say?

Moses says God will decide who can come near him. What does this reveal about Moses?

In what way do Paul's words to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:19 reflect this episode with Korah and his followers?

7. What does Moses instruct Korah and his followers to do?

Read Exodus 30:8. Who was to burn the incense?

What does Psalm 141:2 say?

Why was the burning of incense so important?

Why do you think Moses chose this particular act to solve this dispute?

Korah was a Levite. He would know what the law said about burning incense before the LORD. How do you explain his actions?

What warning does Moses give the group in verse 7?

8. In verse 8, Moses directs his next admonition to Korah and the Levites with him. Why does Moses single them out?

Read Luke 12:48. How does this verse relate to Moses' words to Korah?

What has God done for the Levites?

According to Moses in verse 10, what are these men after?

What do you believe is the root cause of their not being satisfied?

What warning does Moses give them in verse 11?

God has warned Israel over and over about grumbling, complaining, and attacking leadership. Yet, here they are doing it again. How do you explain their actions?

Again, what should we learn from this?

9. What does Moses say to Dathan and Abiram in verse 12?

How do they respond?

What was their reason for refusing to come?

Verse 13 is interesting. They accuse Moses of taking them out of a land flowing with milk and honey. What land is that?

How do you explain their statement?

According to God, what was the land flowing with milk and honey?

What is the danger of our wanting to go back to a past time or experience?

Of what else do they accuse Moses?

Dathan and Abiram are not finished. What else do they say about Moses in verse 14?

What question do they ask Moses?

What does "gouge out the eyes of these men" mean to you?

In what ways can our leaders "blind" us to the truth?

If we find that is happening to us, what should we do and not do?

10. If you were Moses, how might you have reacted to these accusations?

How does Moses react in verse 15?

With whom is Moses angry?

To whom does Moses address in his anger?

What does this tell us about the times when we become angry?

Read James 1:19-20. What do these verses mean to you?

How would this advice have helped Dathan and Abiram?

Moses turns to God in his anger. What does Moses ask of God?

Do you think this is a harsh statement? Please explain.

Can you think of a situation where you might ask God to reject someone's offering? Please explain.

11. According to verse 16, what instructions does Moses give Korah?

Why do you think Moses addressed Korah?

Who is to appear before the LORD the next day?

Why do you think Moses is not going to appear?

What are they to do when they appear before the LORD?

According to verse 18, what did the men do?

Read Ex. 30:34-38. What were God's instructions?

Why was the burning of incense such a major occurrence?

What does it tell us that these men filled their censers with incense?

What is the significance for us that God said only the priests were to burn incense?

How can we present a pleasing aroma to the LORD? (See 2 Cor. 2:15.)

12. According to verse 19, why did Korah and all his followers gather at the Tent of Meeting?

What does the LORD say to Moses?

How might you react to such a statement?

What do Moses and Aaron do?

How do they address God?

What does it mean to you that they address God as the God of all the spirits of all mankind?

Why do you think they address God in this manner at this time?

How might remembering this name of God help us in our ministry?

How do Moses' words echo Abraham's words to God about Sodom and Gomorrah?

13. What does God instruct Moses in verse 24?

If you were Moses, would you obey? Please explain.

What does Moses tell the people in verse 26?

If you were one of the 250 holding a censer, how would you feel at this time?

Why do you think they were not even to touch anything that belonged to these men?

How does this apply to us?

Who was left standing with Korah, Dathan, and Abiram?

According to Moses in verse 28-31, how will the people know that the LORD has chosen Moses to lead the people?

Moses also states that he wants the people to know that these things were not his idea. About what things do you think he was referring?

14. What happens as soon as Moses finishes talking?

Who was swallowed up?

Why do you think the servants and the children were destroyed with them?

Why their possessions?

Why do you think God killed them this way?

What was their crime that was worthy of death?

What do the people do in verse 34?

Is their reaction understandable? Please explain.

What does the LORD do next?

15. Who was Eleazar?

What was he to do? Why was he to do this?

Why do you think the censers were holy?

What were they to do with these censers?

Why does God say they are to overlay the altar with these censers? (See verses 38 & 40.)

16. OK. Now for another amazing turn of events. Following the destruction of Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and the 250, what do the people do in verse 41?

How do you explain the people's blaming Moses and Aaron instead of those who committed the sin?

What does God say He is going to do with these people? Why do you think God was so angry with them?

What do Moses and Aaron do when the people gather in opposition to them?

What can we learn from their actions when we encounter people who oppose us?

How difficult would it be for you to turn from those who challenge you and turn to God?

17. What does the LORD say to Moses in verse 45?

Do the people deserve this punishment? Please explain.

Who fell face down?

What does Moses tell Aaron to do?

Why does Moses not take the censor himself?

Moses tells Aaron to hurry to the people and make atonement for them. How eager would you be to hurry to make atonement if you were in Aaron's place?

Why are Moses and Aaron not afraid of the plague?

What can we learn from this?

18. Aaron is the High Priest. Verse 47 tells us that Aaron did as Moses said. Why would Aaron do what Moses says?

What does Aaron do?

What can we learn about Aaron from his actions?

What are some of the greatest changes you have seen occur in Aaron since leaving Egypt?

According to verse 48, what did Aaron do?

From this description, we learn more about what an intercessor does. When we intercede for someone, what are we doing?

In what way can you and I stand between the living and the dead?

What happened when Aaron made atonement for the people?

Earlier we discovered that the people deserved this punishment. Yet, the plague stops. What does this tell us about God?

How many people died from the plague?

After the plague stopped, what did Aaron do?

How difficult would it be for you NOT to lecture the people?

Why do you think God does not have Moses speak to the people?

19. Why do you think God included this episode about Korah?

Numbers 17

1. Unlike the other instances where the people complained, grumbled, and came against leadership, God does not stop with the punishment. What does God tell Moses to do in verse 2?

How are they to identify the staffs?

What do you think is the significance of these staffs?

Whose name was put on the staff of Levi?

What is Moses to do with these 12 rods?

According to verse 5, why is God doing this?

How will the people know Who God has chosen?

Why would this sign be so miraculous?

If you had been one of the 12 leaders, what might you have been thinking?

Today, how do we know whom God has chosen to be in leadership?

2. Why do you think Moses was not chosen as one the leaders?

According to verses 6 & 7, what does Moses do?

The next day, what did Moses find?

Look back at verse 5. What does the LORD say will happen to the staff of the man He chooses?

Why do you think God not only caused Aaron's rod to sprout but also to bud, bloom, and produce almonds?

Where specifically was Aaron's staff when it produced fruit?

What does this mean for us?

Look carefully at Matthew 3:8 & 10, Matt 7:16, and John 15:4 & 5. How do these verses relate to this episode with Aaron's staff?

What type of fruit did Korah and the others produce?

What does Moses do with the twelve rods after he enters the Tent of the Testimony?

Why does Moses not say anything?

Are there times the Lord does not want us to say anything? Please explain.

3. What does God have Moses do with Aaron's staff?

Why is Moses to do this?

Notice, God said the staff that has bloomed is to be a sign for whom?

Why do you think it was to be a sign for the rebellious and not the righteous?

4. According to verse 13, what do the people say?

From where do you think this "fear" came?

Look carefully at verse 14. What conclusion do the people reach?

How or why do you think they reached this conclusion?

Was this God's message? Please explain.

What is so "dangerous" about their conclusion?

Have you ever been affected by a misleading teaching about God? Without revealing names, please explain.

Do you think the people have "learned their lesson?" Please explain.

5. What conclusion can we draw from this chapter?

Numbers 18

1. Chapter 18 deals with the duties of the priests and Levites. This chapter seems to interrupt the narrative, but it actually adds to it. Let's do a little review. What event just took place in the camp?

What truth did God firmly establish among the Israelites?

What was the people's reaction this time to God's intervention?

2. Why do you think God addressed Aaron?

How does God's addressing Aaron help to alleviate the people's fears?

God's instructions were for whom?

According to verse 1, who was responsible for offenses against the sanctuary?

Who was responsible for offenses against the priesthood?

What are offenses against the sanctuary?

Against the priesthood?

How would these duties help to calm the people?

3. According to verse 2, who was to help Aaron and his sons?

The Levites were directly involved in the rebellion against Moses and Aaron. What can we learn about God from His choosing the Levites to assist Aaron?

What does this mean to you personally?

4. According to verse 4, Aaron and his sons are to take care of what?

The Levites are to take care of what?

What does it mean to you that the Levites were responsible to Aaron?

Look carefully at verse 5. Why does God instruct Aaron to take care of the sanctuary and the altar?

If you were among the people who witnessed the destruction of those who rebelled against Moses and Aaron, how would you react to God's words?

If you were Aaron, how might you react to the responsibility God had just given?

Read 1 Peter 2:9. What does this verse mean to you?

In what way can we as God's priests keep God's wrath from falling on this nation?

5. According to verse 6, who chose the Levites to do the work at the Tent of Meeting?

Why do you think God specifically says that He made this choice?

Verse 7 begins with "But," letting the people know that more is to come. What warning does God give to the Israelites?

6. According to verse 8, what other responsibilities does God give Aaron and his sons?

What is to be done with offerings the Israelites give to God?

What would it mean to you for God to give you the offerings given to Him?

How are Aaron and his sons to treat these offerings?

What does it mean to you to treat these items as most holy when eating them?

According to verses 11- 15, what else does God give to the Levites?

How does the Levite's rebellion look in relation to God's generosity?

7. Why do you think God says that first offspring of every womb belongs to Him?

Look at Luke 2:7-23 and Col 1:15. What do these verses tell us about the firstborn?

Verse 15 says that God gave the firstborn of man and animal to the Levites under what condition?

What does it mean to you to redeem something?

Why do you think firstborn daughters did not have to be redeemed?

How would the family redeem a son?

8. The following is an example of the ceremony to redeem the firstborn:

When the child is thirty days old, the father sends for one of the descendants of Aaron: several persons being assembled on the occasion, the father brings a cup containing several pieces of gold and silver coin. The priest then takes the child into his arms, and addressing himself to the mother, says: Is this thy son?

Mother. Yes.

Priest. Hast thou never had another child, male or female, a miscarriage or untimely birth?

Mother. No.

Priest. This being the case, this child, as first-born, belongs to me.

Then, turning to the father, he says: If it be thy desire to have this child, thou must redeem it.

Father. I present thee with this gold and silver for this purpose.

Priest. Thou dost wish, therefore, to redeem the child?

Father. I do wish so to do.

The priest then, turning himself to the assembly, says: Very well; this child, as first-born, is mine, as it is written in Bemidbar, (Numbers 18:16), Thou shalt redeem the first-born of a month old for five shekels, but I shall content myself with this in exchange. He then takes two gold crowns, or thereabouts, and returns the child to his parents.

What is your reaction to this ceremony?

Read Galatians 4:4-5 and Titus 2:13-14. What part do we play in these verses?

What does it mean to you that God redeemed us with the life of His firstborn Son?

9. According to verses 15 & 17, what animals could be redeemed? What animals could not be redeemed?

What does it mean to you that man is placed with unclean animals?

Read Ecclesiastes 7:20 and 1 John 1:8. How do these verses deal with man's need for redemption?

What were the priests to do with the clean animals that could not be redeemed?

10. What else does the LORD say to Aaron in verse 20?

In lieu of an inheritance, what does the LORD give to the Levites?

In return, what are the Levites to give to the LORD?

Would it bother you not to have an inheritance? Please explain.

11. What does God forbid the Israelites to do?

Instead, what are they to do?

What are the Levites to do?

What is to be a lasting ordinance? (See verses 23-24.)

We are God's priests. What is our inheritance? (Read Acts 20:32, Eph. 1:13-14, and Col. 3:23-24.)

12. To whom does God speak in verse 25?

Why do you think God is speaking to Moses and not Aaron?

What does God say to Moses?

So, God gives all tithes to the Levites. The Levites are then to give a tithe of that back to God. How much do the Levites get to keep?

What does this tell us about God?

Read Deu. 8:18 and Prov. 10:22. What do these verse mean to you?

Read Malachi 3:10. What does this verse say to us?

In what way are we like the Israelites?

13. What else does God tell Moses in verse 29?

Why should they bring the best part to the LORD?

In what way has God given us His best?

In what way can we bring our best to God?

Numbers 19

1. What does "this is a requirement of the law" mean to you?

What does the LORD command the Israelites to bring to Moses and Aaron?

What does it mean that the heifer was to be "without defect or blemish?"

What is the significance of its never having been under a yoke?

What is Eleazar to do with the red heifer?

All animals mentioned so far are sacrificed. Where were they sacrificed?

What type of animal, male or female, was to be used for sacrifices?

What is a heifer?

What does it mean to you that this "sacrifice" was to be female?

What word is used to describe what Eleazar is to do the heifer?

Why do you think it was to be slaughtered outside the camp?

What is Eleazar to do with the blood of the heifer?

2. After Eleazar sprinkles the blood, what happens to the red heifer?

What part or parts are to be burned?

What is the priest to add to the fire?

After throwing these items on the burning heifer, what is the priest to do?

Why is he to do this?

What made the priest unclean?

Who else was unclean?

3. What does it mean to you to be unclean?

What were some of the ways the Israelites could become unclean?

Can we become unclean today? Please explain.

If so, what are some ways we can become unclean?

4. Who is to gather up the ashes?

What is he to do with them?

Where are the ashes to be kept?

For what are the ashes to be used?

What happens to the man who was clean who gathered up the ashes?

What made him unclean?

5. Read 2 Timothy 3:16 and Romans 15:4. What do these verses say to you?

Therefore, these verses about the red heifer were written to teach us how to live Godly lives and to have hope. So, do they? Please explain.

Many say the red heifer teaches us about the Messiah. The red heifer was to be "without defect or blemish" and never to have been "under a yoke." How do these descriptions point to Jesus? (See John 18:38.)

Who was to slaughter the red heifer?

Who was responsible for Jesus' being condemned to death?

Read John 18:14. How does this verse relate to the red heifer and to Jesus?

Again, what three items was the priest to throw on the fire with the red heifer?

Of what do these items remind you?

Where was the red heifer to be killed?

Where was Jesus crucified?

What was the priest to sprinkle toward the Tent of Meeting? How does this remind us of Jesus?

The ashes of the red heifer made the priest unclean. Why?

Read 2 Cor. 5:21. What is the significance of this verse?

According to Numbers 19:11, what can make a person unclean?

What happened to Joseph of Arimathea who buried Jesus?

According to Numbers 19:9, for what were the ashes to be used?

Read 1 John 1:7. What does it say?

6. Verse 11 tells us that anyone who touches a dead body will be unclean for seven days. What must that person do?

What is that person to use to cleanse himself or herself?

What happens if the person does not become clean?

According to verse 13, what is the result of a person's not purifying himself?

How do we purify ourselves today so that we do not defile the Lord's temple?

7. What does it mean to you that a person was to cut from Israel?

Can you think of any reason why someone today would be cut off from the church?

Read 1 Cor. 5:1-7. What do these verses mean to you?

8. According to verse 14, what is the law when a person dies in a tent?

What does verse 15 tell us?

What difference does a lid make?

What does verse 16 say?

9. According to verse 17, what were they to do with the ashes of the red heifer?

Why do you think the water was to be fresh?

What was to be done with the water and ash mixture?

What is the clean person to do? (See verse 19.)

Again, what does the LORD tell us in verse 20?

10. Read Matthew 23:27. What point was Jesus making?

How do Jesus' words reflect these verses in Numbers?

Read Matthew 15:11. What does Jesus tell us?

What does 1 Corinthians 7:14 tell us? And 2 Corinthians 6:17.

Look at Hebrews 19:13-14. What hope does that hold for us?

11. Based upon these scriptures, how does God feel about unclean objects or people?

What does God say in verse 22?

How does this verse affect us today?

Now read Haggai 2:11-14. What does this tell us about clean and unclean?

Do we still need to be concerned about clean and unclean today? Please explain.

12. Why do you think God gives the Israelites this word now?

Numbers 20

1. The Israelites are nearing the end of their journey. How long has it been since they left Egypt? Since the spies first walked into the Promised Land?

Why do you think more is not said about the Israelites wanderings in the wilderness?

Do you see this as a weakness of the Bible? Please explain.

Where did the Israelites stop? Can you locate this place on a map?

What happened at Kadesh?

2. Remember that 37 years have passed since the episodes about the grumbling and complaining. This is a new generation. What does this new generation do in verse 2?

How do the people treat Moses in verse 3?

Why are they quarreling with Moses?

What do they say to him?

What conclusions can we draw from their behavior?

If you were Moses, how would these complaints make you feel?

Look carefully at what the people say in verse 5. What is so ironic that this generation talks so favorably of Egypt?

From whom did this generation learn this behavior?

What can we learn from this?

3. What do Moses and Aaron do?

Do you think this is the first time in 37 years that the people have complained? Please explain.

What does the LORD tell Moses to do?

Look carefully at the LORD's words in verse 8. Does the LORD sound angry to you? Please explain.

What does verse 9 tell us Moses did?

What do Moses and Aaron do in verse 10?

Up to this point, have Moses and Aaron obeyed the LORD? Please explain.

When Moses addresses the people, what does he call them?

Why do you think he says this?

4. According to Moses, who is going to bring water out of the rock?

Read Isaiah 42:8. Acts 12:22-23. How do these verses relate to Moses?

What does Moses do in verse 11?

Why do you think he struck the rock?

What did God tell him to do?

If you were among the crowd, what might you assume about God from Moses' actions?

Despite Moses' disobedience, God still brings forth water. Why? What does this tell us about God?

What are the consequences of Moses' actions?

Why is God being so harsh with Moses when He was so lenient with the people? (See Psalm 106:33 and James 3:1.)

What did they name that place?

What did the people do at this place? What did the LORD do?

What does it mean to you that God showed Himself holy while the people quarreled with Him?

As members of God's priesthood, what can we learn from this episode with Moses?

5. Where are the Israelites camped?

To whom does Moses send a message?

Why does Moses refer to Israel as Edom's brother?

What was the message?

What pledge does Moses make in verse 17?

What was the king's highway?

What do you make of Moses' request?

6. What was Edom's answer?

How do you explain their harsh response to their brothers?

Look again at what Moses told Edom in verse 16. Why do you think Edom was not afraid to attack Israel?

How does Moses react to Edom's threat?

How do you explain Moses' acquiescent attitude?

How does Edom respond to Israel's request the second time?

What can we learn about Edom from her refusal to let Israel pass and from the fact that the king's highway ran through Edom?

Why do you think Israel did not fight Edom?

What can we learn from this relationship between Edom and Israel?

7. According to verse 22, where did the Israelites go?

Can you locate Mount Hor on a map?

This is a picture of Mount Zin or Mount Hor.
What strikes you about this place?

Why do you think the Israelites stopped here?



What did the LORD said to Moses and Aaron at Mount Hor?

If you had been Aaron, what might have been your reaction to the LORD's declaration?

Again, why is Aaron not going into the Promised Land?

Moses is the one who became angry and struck the rock instead of speaking to it. How, then, do you explain Aaron's rebellion?

Although God is not going to allow Aaron into the Promised Land, how would you explain God's attitude toward Aaron?

8. What was Aaron to wear as he climbed Mount Hor?

What is the significance of this act?

Who accompanied Moses and Aaron?

What does verse 27 tell us?

Why was this done in the sight of the entire community?

When they reached the top, what did Moses do?

What did this act signify?

What do you think Eleazar was feeling?

9. What happened when the priestly garments were placed on Eleazar?

What does Leviticus 21:11 tell us?

Who would have buried Aaron?

Look again at Numbers 19:16. What does it say?

Yet, after burying Aaron, what do Moses and Eleazar do?

How do you explain Moses' and Eleazar's not becoming unclean?

What do the people do when they learn Aaron has died?

Numbers 21

1. Where is Arad located?

How long had Israel mourned Aaron's death?

What do we know about the Canaanite people?

How do you think he heard that Israel was coming?

Why do you think the king wanted to attack them?

What happened in Numbers 14:43-45?

What happened when he did?

Since Israel was God's people, how do you explain that some of them were captured?

2. What is a vow?

Have you ever made one? Please explain.

What do Ecc. 5:4-6 and Deu. 23:21-23 say about making vows?

What do Matthew 5:33-37 and James 5:12 say about oaths?

What is the difference between a vow and an oath?

Based upon these scriptures, should we ever swear to tell the truth?

3. What vow do the Israelites make to the Lord?

What does "totally destroy" mean in verse 2?

Again, how does God view our vows?

How did God react to their vow?

With God's help, what does Israel do?

What do the Israelites name the place? What does it mean?

How do you feel about Israel's completely destroying the people and their towns?

How would you explain God's part in this destruction to someone of another faith?

4. Verse 4 tells us that the Israelites went around Edom. Why?

According to verse 4, what route did they take? (Can you locate this route on a map?)

What does it mean to you that they traveled "along the route to the Red Sea?"

What happened to the people as they took this roundabout route?

We have read several times where the people complained and grumbled. This is the first time they are described as being impatient. What does this mean to you?

Can you remember a time when you became impatient? What happened when you did?

What is the danger in becoming impatient with God?

Because they were impatient, what did the people do?

What does it mean to you that they spoke against God?

Do people still speak against God today? Please explain.

What is our attitude when we do this?

5. According to verse 5, what specifically do they say against God and Moses?

How many times have we heard this accusation?

What is the miserable food that they detest?

In what ways is this generation similar to the last?

Why do you think God does not destroy this generation as well?

6. What does God do?

What is the result?

What do you think life in the camp was like with all the snakes?

What would have been your biggest concern?

Why do you think God was angry with the people? (See 1 Corinthians 10:9.)

What does it mean to you that they tested or tempted the Lord?

In what ways can we or have we tested or tempted God today?

7. What do the people do in verse 7?

The people had earlier spoken against Moses and accused him of bringing them to their deaths. Now they go to him for help. How might you have reacted in such a situation?

Read I Corinthians 13:6. In what way or ways does Moses live up to this verse?

What can we learn from Moses?

What do the people say to Moses?

Compare verse 7 with Numbers 14:40. What differences, if any, do you notice between the two generations' statements?

8. Reread Numbers 16:46-48. What had the people done to anger God?

How did the LORD punish the people for their disobedience?

How was the plague stopped?

Now return to Numbers 21:7. Moses once again prays for the people. What instructions does God give Moses?

Why do you think God did not stop the deadly snakes the same way He stopped the plague earlier?

If a snake bites someone, what is the only way he or she can be saved? (See verse 9.)

If you were part of this camp, what would you be telling your family and friends?

Read John 3:14-15. How does it relate to Moses and the people?

What is the relationship between "looking and living" for the people of Israel and "believing and living" for us?

What would you do if a snake bit your wife, husband, or child?

What should be our response to unbelievers today?

9. Verse 10 tells us that the Israelites move on. The snakes are gone. What would you have done with the bronze snake that had saved people's lives?

How could keeping the bronze snake serve as a reminder to the people?

Read Exodus 20:4-6. What does this commandment say?

Of what do you think when this commandment says we are not to worship idols?

What does 2 Kings 18:4 tell us?

Why would God have had Hezekiah destroy the bronze snake?

Can you find how much time elapsed from Moses to Hezekiah?

Who were some of the leaders, prophets, and kings who had reigned and ruled during this time?

Why do you think none of these people destroyed the bronze snake?

What lesson can we learn from this episode with the snake?

Do we have any such idols in the church? In this nation?

10. Using verses 10-16, plot the Israelites trail?

What book is mentioned in verse 14?

What can you learn about this book?

Why do you think the LORD mentioned a book of which we have no knowledge?

According to verse 16, what did the people find at Beer?

Why do you think people like to revisit historical sites?

What do the people sing?

Why do you think people sing to the LORD instead of simply talking to the LORD?

How does singing to the LORD affect you?

11. Verses 18b through 20 details Israel's travels. Can you locate their journey on a map?

Where do they end up?

Who was Sihon?

Who were the Amorites?

What message do the Israelites send to Sihon?

According to verse 23, what was Sihon's response?

Why do you think he chose to attack Israel instead of let them pass?

What was the result of the battle?

Verse 24 says that Israel put Sihon to the sword. What does that mean?

How much land did Israel conquer?

What did Israel do once they defeated Sihon?

What was the significance of Heshbon?

What do the poets say as a result of this battle?

12. Verse 31 says that Israel settled in the land of the Amorites. How do you explain this if they were on their way to the promised land?

Again, Moses sends out spies. Where does he send them this time?

Can you locate Jazer on a map?

What does Moses do when the spies return?

Who marches out to stop Israel?

What does the LORD tell Moses in the first part of verse 34?

Why do you think the LORD would tell Moses not to be afraid?

What does God tell Moses to do to Og, King of Bashan?

What was the result of that battle?

13. How many battles has Israel fought after being denied entry by Edom?

Look at Exodus 13:17. Why did God lead them the long way?

Early in their wanderings, God led them from war. Why do you think God does not do that now?

What has this generation learned from their recent battles?

What can we learn about God from this?

Can you remember a time when you asked God to lead you around conflict only to have God lead you through it? Please share.

Numbers 22

1. As this chapter opens, where do the Israelites find themselves?

The Israelites are in sight of the Promised Land. What do you think the people were feeling?

Had you been part of that group, would be feeling any hesitation? Please explain.

What type of reputation did Israel have among the peoples in this area?

Who was Balak?

Why was Moab terrified of Israel?

What does it mean to you that they were terrified?

Did they have reason to be terrified? Please explain.

2. According to verse 4, to whom do the Moabites turn?

What do the Moabites say?

What image did they use to describe Israel?

Was this an accurate description? Please explain.

Should the world be afraid of God's people? Please explain.

3. To whom does Balak send a message?

What can you learn about Balaam? (See Joshua 13:22.)

What message did Balak send to Balaam?

What can we learn about Balak from his hiring Balaam to curse Israel?

How does the Bible say about curses? (See Ex. 21:17 and Mark 11:13 & 22.)

What does the last part of verse 6 say?

What can we learn about Balaam from this statement?

Did Balaam know the one true God? Please explain.

4. What did the elders of Moab and Midian have with them when to see Balaam?

Do you think it is ever permissible for a person of God to charge for his or her services? Please explain.

Look at 2 Peter 2:15. What does Peter say about this transaction?

What was Balaam's response to Balak's message?

What does it mean to you that he wanted to seek the LORD's answer before doing anything?

Why is "lord" capitalized in verse 8?

Look at *Genesis 4:1*. To whom does Eve thank?

The word for "LORD" in *Genesis 4:1* is the same word as in *Numbers 22:8*. What conclusions can we draw from this?

Based upon what we have read so far concerning Balaam, how would you describe him?

How do you explain people who would use their gifts for monetary gain?

5. What happens in verse 9?

Has God ever spoken to you through a dream? Please share.

Does God's visiting Balaam mean that Balaam is a true prophet of God? Please explain.

What does God ask Balaam?

What was Balaam's reaction to God's presence?

What can we conclude from Balaam's reaction?

What answer does Balaam give God?

Does he tell God the truth?

The Moabites and Midianites had heard about Israel. Do you think Balaam has also heard about Israel? Please explain what this means.

6. What is God's answer to Balaam in verse 12?

What does it mean to you that Israel was blessed?

What does it mean to you to be blessed by God?

Does Balaam listen to God?

What answer does Balaam give to the messengers of Balak?

Was anything left out of Balaam's answer to the messengers? Please explain.

Why do you think Balaam left out this part of God's answer?

What does it mean to you that a person has the appearance of being good?

Has God ever refused to let you do or say something? Please explain.

If He did, how did His refusal make you feel?

7. What did Balak do when he received Balaam's answer?

What do you think Balak hoped to accomplish by sending people more numerous and distinguished than the first time?

What does this tell us about Balak?

What makes Balak think that he can change Balaam's mind?

How do you explain people who believe they can ignore God?

In verses 16-17 Balak sends his second message to Balaam. What does he offer this time that he did not offer the first time?

How is this request more tempting than the first?

8. What is Balaam's answer in verse 18?

What is the very last thing Balaam says in this verse?

What was God's command to Balaam concerning Israel?

What does Balaam tell this delegation in verse 19?

Why do you think Balaam wanted to go back to God when God had been so clear the first time?

Have you ever asked God something because you did not like His first answer? Please explain.

9. Would God ever change His mind? Please explain.

What does God answer in verse 20?

If God does not change His mind, how do you explain God's telling Balaam to go with the men after telling Balaam not to go?

What does Balaam do the next morning?

What might Balaam been thinking as he rode off with the princes of Moab?

What does verse 22 tell us?

God told Balaam to go with the men, yet God is angry at Balaam. How do you explain this?

What does God do to stop Balaam?

Whom do you think this angel was?

Why do you think Balaam could not see the angel but his donkey could?

What is the significance of the angel's having his sword drawn?

What does the donkey do when it sees the angel?

What does Balaam do?

How does Balaam's treatment of the donkey reflect his relationship with God?

10. What does the angel do next?

What does this tell us about God that He continually tries to prevent Balaam from going forward?

What does the donkey do this time?

Finally, what does the donkey do in verse 27?

Look at Psalm 32:8-9. What do these verses mean to you? How do they relate to this story about Balaam?

11. Now comes one of the most amazing parts of this story. What does the donkey do in verse 28 after Balaam beats it again?

Look carefully at Balaam's response to his donkey in verse 29. What does he say to the donkey?

How does the donkey respond to Balaam?

Does Balaam seem surprised that his donkey spoke to him? Please explain.

Some use Balaam's lackadaisical attitude as proof that this story is not true. Instead, it is an fable, where animals can speak. Could this be a fable? Please explain.

How might you respond if God spoke to you through an animal?

What "lesson" can we learn from the donkey?

Where else in the Bible does God allow an animal to speak?

12. What does God do in verse 31?

What does Balaam do when he sees the angel of the Lord with his sword drawn?

What does the angel ask Balaam in verse 32?

What does the angel tell Balaam about the path Balaam has chosen?

What does it mean that his path was a "reckless" one?

In what ways can we be reckless with God today?

To let Balaam know how serious this was, what was he prepared to do had the donkey not turned aside?

What does this tell us about God?

What does Balaam say to the angel once he understands the entire situation?

Look carefully at Balaam's words. He admits he has sinned.. However, what excuse does he give for continuing on his way?

He ends by saying to the angel, "If you are displeased...." What evidence do we have that God was definitely displeased?

Have you ever tried to make excuses to God for your behavior? Please explain.

Why do you think we do this?

13. What does the angel tell Balaam in verse 39?

What does Balak do when he hears Balaam is coming?

What do you think is going through Balak's mind?

What does Balak say to Balaam when they finally meet?

Why does Balak think Balaam has delayed in coming?

What was Balaam's answer?

Why do you think Balaam does not tell Balak the entire story?

Is telling someone part of the truth the same as lying? Please explain.

What is Balak's response when Balaam says he can say only what God puts in Balaam's mouth?

What does this tell us about Balak?

14. What does Balak do in verse 40?

Why did Balak take Balaam to Bamoth Baal?

What does Balak believe Balaam is going to do?

15. What is the most important lesson you have learned from this episode concerning Balaam?

Numbers 23

1. As this chapter opens, Balaam gets his first glimpse of PART of the people. What might have been your reaction had you been on that mountain looking at the nation of Israel?

What about them might strike fear in your heart?

2. Why do you think Balak took Balaam to a high place?

What was the name of this high place? (See 22:41.)

Did the high places have any significance for Israel? Please explain.

What does Balaam ask Balak to do?

For which god do you think Balak believed he was making altars?

What did Balaam and Balak do once the altars were complete?

3. According to verse 3, whose offering was this?

What does Balaam say he is going to do?

4. So far, would you say that Balaam was in the LORD's will? Please explain.

Whenever God instructed someone to build an altar, how many altars did He tell them to build?

Why do you think God instructed them to build only one altar?

Did God ever tell anyone to build an altar on a high place?

What is the danger of blended the worship of God with the worship of any type of idol?

Can you give an example where people today have mixed the worship of God with the worship of the world?

Now, would you say Balaam was in God's will?

5. Look carefully at verse 3. Why does Balaam go off by himself?

What is the significance of Balaam's saying that "perhaps" God will come to meet with him?

What is augury?

Some commentaries state that Balaam was using his skills at augury to hear from the LORD. (See 24:1.) Do you agree?

If Balaam was practicing augury, why did God meet with him?

Read 1 Samuel 28:7-20. How does this passage relate to Balaam's situation?

6. What does Balaam say to God when God meets with Him?

Why do you think Balaam opened with this statement?

What does 1 Samuel 15:22 tell us?

Have you ever felt that your actions "earned" a response from God? Please explain.

If God met with you in this way, what might be your first words to Him?

What does it mean to you that God put a message in Balaam's mouth?

Have you ever felt that God put a message in your mouth? Please explain.

What does God tell Balak after He places the message in Balak's mouth?

7. Where does Balaam find Balak?

Who else was waiting with Balak?

What does the first part of the oracle address?

What questions does Balaam put before Balak?

With these questions, to what is Balaam admitting?

What does this tell us about God's blessings?

Beginning with verse 9, Balaam's oracle takes a different tone. What does Balaam see when he looks at Israel?

What does it mean to you that he sees Israel as a people who live apart?

Why does Israel not consider themselves as one of the nations?

In what way is Israel different from all other nations, past, present, and future?

How long has Israel been a nation?

Read John 17:14-19. What does this say about us?

8. What question does Balaam ask in verse 10?

What is the purpose behind this question?

What promise did God make to Abraham? (See Genesis 13:16.)

What does this tell us about God's promises?

To end his oracle, Balaam makes an amazing statement. How does he end the oracle?

Do you think he was serious? Please explain.

What do you think Balaam means with "the death of the righteous"?

What had Israel done to make an impression on Balaam?

Have you ever made an impact - good or bad - on someone without ever saying a word to him or her? Please explain.

What does this tell us about our witness?

Balaam gives this oracle in front of the king and his royal advisors. What do you think he was thinking as these words came forth?

Can you remember a time when you knew the words God had given you to say would not be popular? Please explain.

9. What is Balak's response to Balaam's oracle?

Why was Balak angry?

Do people today still think they can influence God through money or deeds? If so, can you give an example?

When we see pictures of churches in books or on the news, we usually see very ornate churches with beautiful architecture. What does this say about us?

How does Balaam respond to Balak's anger?

So far, how would you describe Balaam's obedience to the LORD?

10. Balak is not one to give up easily. What does he do in verse 13?

What do you think Balak was hoping to accomplish by changing locations?

What is the significance behind Balaam's statement that Balak will only see part of Israel but not all of them?

Where does Balaam go to view them a second time?

What does Balaam do this time?

What does he tell Balak?

Do you see any difference in Balaam's behavior this time? Please explain.

11. What happens in verse 16?

In verse 17, when Balaam returns to Balak, what does Balak ask?

Why do you think he asked Balaam this question?

Balaam begins this oracle by telling Balak to "Arise." Since Balak was already standing, what do you think God meant by this?

Briefly restate what God said in the first oracle?

12. Read verses 19-24. How does the second oracle differ from the first?

More specifically, what is the first thing God tells Balak?

Why do you think God began with this statement?

Have you ever tried to get God to change His mind? Please explain.

Can you think of others in the Bible who tried to get God to change His mind?

Why is it important for us to know that God does not lie or change His mind?

What rhetorical questions does God ask Balak?

What do these questions mean to you?

13. Who is the "I" in verse 20?

What command did Balak receive?

As a result of this command, what must Balaam do?

What does it mean to you that God had blessed and Balak cannot change it?

Therefore, what had Balaam just told Balak that Balaam was going to do?

Does it bother you that we cannot change God's mind? Please explain.

Read Isaiah 46:10, Revelation 21:6, and Revelation 22:13. What do these verses mean to you? How do they relate to God's words to Balak and Balaam?

14. What does Balaam say in verse 21?

How many times has God had to punish Israel for their actions since their leaving Egypt?

As a matter of fact, why have they been wandering for the past 40 years?

What does it mean to you that no "misfortune" or "misery" is seen in Israel?

How do you reconcile Israel's actions with God's words?

How do Balaam's words continue the blessing he said he must speak?

What does it mean when Balaam states that the LORD their God is with them?

What meaning would this have to Balak?

What does it mean to you that you can say to others, "My God is with me"?

What is the last thing Balaam says in verse 21?

What does this blessing mean to you?

15. What does Balaam say about Israel in verse 22?

Some versions state that Israel had the "strength of a unicorn." What does that mean to you?

The word for "unicorn" actually means a wild ox with powerful horns. Look at Ps. 22:21 and 92:10. Deu 33:17. Isaiah 34:7. What is God saying about Israel by comparing them to a wild ox?

Now, if you were Balak, what would you be thinking?

16. What does God say about Israel in verse 23?

What does this mean to you?

What does this mean for Balak?

What will be said about Israel?

Can you say about your life, "Look what God has done?" Please explain.

Balak has his gods. He actually wants them to curse Israel. Can he say about his gods, "Look what my god has done"?

17. What image does God use to describe His people in verse 24?

Have you ever seen a video of a lion slowly rising with its eyes on its prey? If so, how did it make you feel?

What does this image say about Israel?

18. Summarize what God said through Balaam in this second oracle.

What affect would you assume these words would have on a person?

According to verse 23, how did Balak respond to Balaam's oracle?

What does this tell you about Balak?

How did Balaam respond to Balak's statement?

How do you react to people who are not moved by God at all?

Read Acts 19:1-21. What are some of the things that Jesus did through those who believed?

Now read Acts 19:23,28-29. Why would people be so angry about the Way when such good things had been done?

19. So, after two failed attempts to curse Israel, after direct words from God that no enchantment will work against Israel, what does Balak decide to do in verse 27?

What does this tell you about Balak?

Why does he want to change places again?

How do you explain his actions after God specifically said that He does not change His mind?

What does Balaam do?

What does Balaam want Balak to do?

How do you explain Balaam's actions?

20. What is the most important lesson for us today from these scriptures?

Numbers 24

1. What does it mean to you for someone to be stubborn?

Can you think of a time when being stubborn could be a good trait?

What is the difference between being stubborn and being committed?

Would you call Balak stubborn? Please explain.

2. Up to this point, how would you describe Balaam?

According to verse 1, what happens to Balaam?

What caused him to make this change?

What does it mean to you that he did not resort to sorcery as at other times?

Have you ever "buted heads" with God? If so, please explain. If so, what happened?

When we see that God wants to bless a person or a people, what should we do?

What is the significance of Balaam's looking out over the desert?

What does he see?

Before, Balaam could only see part of Israel. This time he sees every tribe. What effect might this have had on him?

3. What happened to Balaam as he looked toward Israel?

Read Acts 10:44 & 11:15. Describe what happened in these verses.

What does it mean to you that the Spirit of God came upon Him?

Now, all believers are filled with the Holy Spirit. However, have you ever felt the Spirit "come upon" you suddenly? If so, please explain the circumstances.

What does it tell you that the Spirit of God came upon a person who practiced sorcery?

Can you think of any other instances in the Old Testament when the Holy Spirit came upon people? (See Judges 3:10; 6:34; 14:19, I Samuel 19:20 & 23.)

Why did God send His Spirit upon these people?

How does God get your attention?

According to verse 3, what was the result of the Spirit's coming upon Balaam?

How does Balaam's delivering this oracle differ from his giving the first two?

4. Now begins Balaam's third oracle. What does verse 3 say about Balaam?

What does the phrase "whose eye sees clearly" mean to you?

Can you remember a time when God opened your eyes and you saw clearly?

What are some of the reasons why one might not "see" clearly?

Verse 4 continues with the description of Balaam. He is one whose eye sees clearly. What does the next description say?

How does God usually speak to you?

Do you think you hear God clearly? Please explain.

What is the third description?

Has God ever given you a vision? If so, please explain.

What is the fourth description given in verse 4?

What is the relationship between falling prostrate and having our eyes opened, if any?

5. What did Balaam and Balak think when they first looked at Israel?

How does Balaam describe Israel in verse 5?

After having your eyes opened, can you think of something that changed from displeasing to beautiful?

According to Balaam, what was so beautiful about Israel?

Now we come to a section (beginning with verse 6) that reads like poetry as it is filled with imagery. Can you remember what a simile is?

What is the first simile Balaam uses to describe Israel?

Have you ever been in the mountains and looked out over a valley? If so, what was so beautiful about it?

What does this image tell us about Israel?

What does the second simile Balaam uses tell us about Israel?

The third simile refers to aloes. What are aloes? What does it mean to you that the LORD planted them?

Finally Balaam compares Israel to what? What is the significance of cedars beside water?

What can you learn about cedars in this area?

If these words were the first you had heard of the Hebrews, What might your impression of this nation be?

6. In verse 7 Balaam says water will flow from Israel's buckets. What is the significance of water?

In the Bible water is used as a symbol for what?

What does this image mean to you?

Read John 7:38. How does this verse relate to Balaam's words about Israel?

What does the last part of verse 7 say?

Who was Agag? Why does God use this name and not Balak, who wants to curse Israel?

Why is "king" singular and not plural?

7. Balaam continues with his prophecy over Israel. What does he say in verse 8?

What type of nations does Israel devour?

Why do you think God used the word "devour" to describe Israel?

What does this mean to Balak?

To what animals is Israel compared? Why?

To what animals has America been compared? Why?

What does the last part of verse 9 say?

Where have we heard these words before?

What did God say about Himself in the second oracle? (See 23:19.)

What are some ways we can curse Israel today? That we can bless Israel?

8. When was the last time you became really angry? How did you act?

Why is Balak so angry with Balaam?

What does it mean to you that Balak struck his hands together?

If you were Balaam, would you be worried? Please explain.

What does Balak say to Balaam?

Whom does Balak blame for Balaam's not getting paid?

What does Balaam say in response to Balak?

Based upon Balaam's response, would you say Balaam has changed as a result of these encounters with God? Please explain.

What does Balaam say in verse 14?

9. How do you explain Balaam's fourth and last oracle?

This oracle begins much like the third one. What is similar about the way they open?
What is different?

Whom does Balaam see?

What does it mean that Balaam sees him but not now?

What is the significance of the star and the scepter?

What will this person do according to verses 17-19?

To whom might the scepter refer? (See 2 Samuel 8:2, 14)

To whom else might this passage refer?

What similarities do you see between 1 Kings 11:16 and verse 19?

10. What oracle does Balaam utter in verse 20? In verses 21-22?

What does Balaam's statement at the beginning of verse 23 mean to you?

What does Balaam do when he is finished with his oracles?

Why do you think God had Balaam give these last oracles about Israel's future?

Do you think Balaam or Balak understood these oracles? Please explain.

Why give an oracle to people who do not understand it?

Everyone of these oracles came to pass. All of these tribes were defeated by Israel. What does this mean to you? What does it tell you about God?

Do you believe that God is still gives such prophesies today? Please explain.

Have you ever given or received a prophecy that you know came from God? Please explain.

If so, how did you feel?

11. Before we continue with the story of Israel, let us return to Balaam. Reade Deuteronomy 23:3-5. What do these verses say?

Why would their descendants not be able to enter the assembly of the LORD?

Does this statement seem harsh to you? Please explain.

Read Joshua 13:22. What happens to Balaam and why?

Read 2 Peter 2:1-3. What warning do these verses contain for us?

Read 2 Peter 2:14-15. What do these verses tell us about Balaam?

What warning do they contain for us?

One more verse. Look at Revelation 2:14. What does Jesus tell us?

What was the teaching of Balaam that we must guard against?

What did Balaam entice the people to do?

In what ways are people trying to entice us to sin in the same ways?

12. Why do you think God included Balaam's story in His word?

What does it mean to you that God used a man like Balaam, who would be put to the sword for divination, to utter some of the most astounding prophecies in the Bible?

What have you learned from this study on Balaam?

Numbers 25

1. Can you remember a time when it seemed like God was doing nothing in your life? Please explain.

How did that make you feel?

What did you do about it?

2. Israel had no idea that God was actively involved in having them blessed. What can we learn from this?

When we do not "see" God working, what we do during that time is very important. According to verse 1, where were the people camped?

What was Israel doing while God was protecting them from Balaam's curses?

Again, who were the Moabites?

According to verse 2, what did the Moabite women do?

How did the Israelites respond?

According to the last part of verse 2, what was the final result of Israel's mixing with the Moabites?

Whom specifically did Israel begin worshipping?

How do you explain Israel's decision to worship Baal instead of God?

3. We are seeing more and more Christian churches holding joint services with other religions in the name of unity. How do you feel about this?

How should a Christian react to such an invitation? Please explain.

According to verse 3, what was God's reaction to this decision?

What should Israel have done when the Moabites invited them to join in their sacrifices?

4. Do you believe God still gets angry? If so, what angers Him?

Read Proverbs 1:7. What does this verse mean to you?

How does the verse in Proverbs relate to Israel's situation?

What does the LORD tell Moses to do in verse 4?

Why do you think God wanted Moses to kill the people in the open daylight?

Which people were to be killed?

Why do you think God did not warn the people first?

How do you react that the death of these people is the only thing that will appease God's anger?

What does this tell us about God?

What acts today do you think would make God angry? Please explain.

5. Whom does Moses command to kill the idolaters?

Who or what were the judges?

Why did Moses and these leaders gather at the Tent of Meeting?

Why do you think they were crying?

While Moses and the others were crying before the LORD, what happened?

What does it mean to you that the Israelite man brought a Midian woman to his brothers?

What is the significance of his doing this in plain sight of Moses and all the people?

How do you think this made Moses feel?

What sins do you see people flagrantly committing in full view of others?

How easy or hard would it be for you to pray for someone who flagrantly flaunts his or her sin before your eyes? Please explain.

6. Who was Phinehas?

What did he do when he saw the two enter camp?

Why do you think Moses did not take action to stop this activity?

How was Phinehas able to drive the spear through both the man and the woman?

What happened as a result of Phinehas' act?

According to verse 9, how many died in the plague?

What does it tell you that the people continued to sin even while they were dying from the plague?

Had you read a newspaper account titled "God's Priest Kills Couple," what would you think of Phinehas' actions?

What does Romans 6:23 mean to you?

7. After the plague stops, God speaks to Moses. What does God say?

What does it mean to you to be zealous?

Of what was Phinehas zealous?

What does it mean to you when God says that Phinehas was zealous as God was?

Read Proverbs 23:12, Isaiah 9:7, John 2:17, and Gal 4:17-18. What do these verses tell us about being zealous?

Of what, if anything, are you zealous?

Would you call yourself a zealot for God? Please explain.

How might being zealous for God look today?

8. According to verse 12, what does God do as a result of Phinehas' actions?

What does it mean to you to have covenant of peace with God?

What does God say in verse 13?

What does Hebrews 9:22 mean? Romans 3:25?

What does it mean that Phinehas made atonement for the Israelites?

9. Now the narrative changes and returns to the man and woman who were killed. Who was the man?

Who was the woman?

Why are we given this information now?

What is the significance that both Zimri and Cozbi come from leading families?

What does God tell Moses about the Midianites?

Why does God do this?

What was the affair at Peor?

10. God tells Moses to kill the Midianites. Yet, Israel, who sinned against God, is allowed to remain. How do you explain this?

How would you explain Israel's sin?

What lesson does this hold for us?

Numbers 26

1. What is the purpose of a census?

When was the last census taken? (See Numbers 1:1)

Why was it taken?

2. After the plague, whom does the LORD command to take a census?

How are they to take the census?

Who is to be included in this census?

Why do you think those under 20 years of age were not included?

3. Let's compare the two censuses. The first is listed in Numbers 1. The second in Numbers 26. For each tribe. For each tribe, list the census number for each tribe.

Tribe	Numbers 1	Numbers 26

4. How many tribes increase in number?

How do you explain the increase in these tribes since they have been wandering in the wilderness for 40 years?

Again, why has Israel been wandering in the wilderness for 40 years?

At times we may find ourselves wandering in a spiritual wilderness. What does this mean to you?

What significance does the increase of these tribes have for those who find themselves in such a wilderness?

Which tribes decrease?

What information is included in verses 8-11?

Why do you think this information was included?

Which tribe decreased the most?

How do you explain this sizable decrease? (Note, what happened in Numbers 25:14?)

Would the plague account for the entire decrease? Please explain.

According to Numbers 1:46, what was the total number of Israelite men?

According to Numbers 26:51, what was the total number of men 40 years later?

What can we learn from the two totals?

5. One reason for taking a census was to determine the number of fighting men. In verse 53, what was another reason for this new census?

We hear a great deal about taking from the wealthy and giving to those with less. It is called spreading the wealth. How do you feel about this concept?

Read Matthew 25:14-15, 28-29. How do these verses relate to this idea?

According to verse 54, how was the land to be divided?

Does it seem fair to you that some tribes will receive a larger inheritance than others? Please explain.

What determines the size of a tribe's inheritance?

6. According to verse 55, how is the land to be distributed?

What does Proverbs 16:33 say about lots?

What was casting lots?

Can you find other times when a decision was made by casting lots?

Does this mean we can choose leaders in the church by casting lots? Please explain.

7. Why were the Levites (verse 57) numbered separately?

Who was Jochebed?

Where was she born?

Usually children are listed as descendants of the father. Why do you think the mother is listed by name?

The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for 400 years. Jochebed was born into slavery. What future do you think she saw for her children?

What does it mean to you that her three children were among that first generation to be free?

What does Galatians 6:9 say?

How would you apply this verse to Jochebed's situation in Egypt?

Some young people say that because of the dangerous and wicked condition of the world, they do not want children. What would you say to them?

Through these genealogies, we are reminded of God's grace and mercy. We are also reminded of His divine judgment. What does verse 61 say?

8. Why were the Levites not to receive an inheritance?

Read Eph. 1:11-14. What is our inheritance?

What does Proverbs 20:21 say about an inheritance?

How does this verse in Proverbs pertain to the Israelites?

How does it pertain to us?

Verse 64 gives another reason for the taking of this census. What was it?

9. After 40 years, only two men from that rebellious generation will step into the Promised Land. Who are they?

What had Joshua and Caleb done that set them apart?

During Israel's wanderings in the wilderness, we have read nothing about Joshua and Caleb. What does that mean to you?

What do you believe these two men were doing those 40 years?

What is the best way we can serve the LORD during our lifetimes? Please explain.

With the death of that rebellious generation, the time had come for Israel to possess their inheritance. About how long ago had the LORD promised Abram that his descendants would have a land of their own?

What would it mean to you to be part of the generation that witnessed the fulfillment of God's promise after hundreds of years?

What can we do to help the next generation come into their promised land?

Numbers 27

1. This chapter turns away from the Israelites as a people and focuses on one particular family. What family?

Specifically, about whom are these verses talking?

How many daughters were there?

What did these daughters do that was so unusual?

What happened to their father?

According to the inheritance laws of Israel, who received the inheritance when the father died?

What do we learn about the father from his daughters in verse 3?

What is the significance of his not being among Korah's followers?

The last part of verse 3 states that the father died for his own sin. What does this mean to you?

2. What is the significance of his not having any sons?

According to verse 4, what would happen to Zilophehad's name?

Why would his name disappear from his clan?

How important is an inheritance today?

When we think of inheritances, what usually comes to mind?

What do the daughters ask of Moses?

3. What does Moses do when he hears the daughters' request?

Why do you think Moses went to the LORD with this situation?

How easy or hard is it for you to admit you do not know something?

When talking to someone about God, do you "worry" about being asked a question for which you do not have an answer?

What can we learn from Moses when we are confronted with a situation for which we do not have an answer?

4. What is the LORD's answer?

What can we learn about God from this answer?

Up to this time, daughters could not receive an inheritance. With the daughters' request, that law changes forever. How do we know when to change a "law"?

The LORD goes into more detail about inheritances. If a man dies and has no sons, what happens to his inheritance?

If he has no daughters, what happens?

If he has no brothers, what?

If he has no uncles?

All of these legal requirements guarantee what?

5. The narration changes once again and returns to Moses and the Israelites. Why do you think God included the episode with Zelophehad's daughters?

What does the LORD say to Moses in verse 12?

Where are the Abarim range of mountains located?

Why does God tell Moses to go up the mountain?

What was the name of this mountain? (See Deu. 32:49.)

Why is God showing Moses the Promised Land?

What does God tell Moses in verse 13?

For 40 years you have led these people to the Promised Land. You have finally arrived. You can see the land but not enter it. How do you think you would feel if you had been Moses?

How do you think you would feel knowing that after you saw the land, you were going to die?

6. According to verse 14, what had Moses and Aaron done that prevented them from entering the Promised Land?

What does it mean to you that they failed to honor God?

In what ways can we fail to honor God?

Moses will not enter the Promised Land. He will die shortly. Yet, in verse 15, about what is Moses concerned?

What qualities would you look for in a man who would lead Israel?

Moses asks God to appoint a man who will lead them out and bring them in. Why do you think Moses mentioned both going out and coming in?

What is likely to happen to a people without a shepherd?

To what does Moses compare the Israelites if he says they need a shepherd?

In what ways are we like sheep who need a shepherd?

7. Whom is Moses to name as the new leader of Israel?

What is Moses to do with him?

What does laying on of hands mean to you?

Have you ever had someone lay hands on you? If so, how did you feel? Why did this person lay hands on you?

Why do you think Moses laid hands on Joshua?

Why do you think God chose Joshua as the new leader?

8. What does God have Moses do in verse 19?

Why was Joshua to stand before Eleazar? The entire assembly?

Why commission Joshua in the presence of all the people?

What can we learn about selecting leaders from this?

9. What was Moses to do in verse 20?

How might Moses give some of his authority to Joshua?

What do you think is the most important trait a leader for God should have?

Why was Moses to do this before the whole community?

What does verse 21 say?

Joshua was to be the new leader. Yet, he was to obtain decisions from Eleazar. Why?

How might you feel if you were placed in charge of an entire people yet could not make the decisions?

Why would it not be a good thing for one person to have the authority and the ability to make decisions?

What does Moses do in verse 22?

What do you think Joshua was feeling?

10. What can we learn about the exchange of authority between two people?

How should we choose leaders in the church?

Numbers 31

1. Let's have a little review. Who were the Midianites?

What was their relationship to Israel?

What is a nomadic tribe?

Read Leviticus 19:18, Hebrews 10:30, and Romans 12:19. What do these verses say about our taking vengeance?

What had the Midianites done so that God wanted to take vengeance on them?

God could any means to take vengeance on the Midianites. Remember what He did to Egypt. Why do you think God chose to use Israel to exact His vengeance?

How do you feel about God's taking vengeance on an entire people?

People can sin. Can nations sin? Please explain.

If so, can you give an example of a national sin?

What will happen to Moses after this battle?

How would you react to this news if you had been in Moses' place?

2. If you were going to war, how many men would you arm?

How many men does Moses command to be armed to fight the Midianites?

Remember, Moses just took a census of all the fighting men. Why do you think he did not arm all of them?

What was Israel's purpose in going to war with Midian?

How would you feel if God chose you to exact His vengeance?

Verse 5 again tells us how many men are prepared for battle?

3. According to verse 6, whom did Moses send to accompany the 12,000?

Read Deuteronomy 20:1-3. What do these verses say about Israel's going to war?

Do these verses hold any relevance for us today? Please explain.

Why do you think Phineas was sent with the men?

What did Phineas take with him?

Why did he take these items?

The Bible does not say, but whom do you think led this army? Please explain.

4. According to verse 7, how did the battle go?

Who were the five men listed in verse 8?

What can we learn about Midian from its having five kings?

We also see a familiar name in this verse. Who else was killed?

Why do you think Balaam was mentioned by name?

5. What does verse 9 tell us?

Why do you think they took all the women captive instead of killing them along with the men?

What else did the Israelites keep?

According to verse 10, what else did Israel do?

What did they do with all the spoils of war?

Why do you think they spared the Midianite children?

6. What reaction do you think the fighting men expected to receive from Moses and Eleazar?

What do Moses, Eleazar, and the other leaders do in verse 13?

Why is Moses angry when he meets Israel's army?

Read Deuteronomy 20:12-14. What are God's instructions to Israel?

Based upon these verses, it seems the army obeyed God's command. However, Moses was angry with them. How do you explain this?

What does Moses ask the commanders in verse 15?

Moses then explains the reason for his anger. What did he say in verse 16?

What do we learn about Balaam from Moses' statement?

How did the Midianite women turn the Israelites away from the LORD?

What is Moses' concern?

7. What does Moses tell the army to do in verse 17?

How difficult would it be for you to carry out this order? Please explain.

Why were all the boys to be killed?

Which of the Midianite women were allowed to live?

Why were they spared?

Numbers 32

1. How had God blessed the tribes of Reuben and God?

Where were the lands of Jazer and Gilead located?

What request did these two tribes make?

To whom did they make the request?

Why do you think the tribes asked Moses, Eleazar, and the leaders instead of just Moses?

2. Verse 3 lists several towns. To whom did these towns belong?

Why do these two tribes want to settle here?

What do you think the land was like if it was suitable for livestock?

What do these tribes ask in the last part of verse 5?

Why was this such a controversial request?

3. How does Moses respond to their request?

What can we learn about going to war from Moses' answer?

Of what does Moses accuse these tribes of doing? (See verse 7.)

What are some ways in which people can be discouraged?

What are some examples from Israel's past when they became discouraged?

Have you ever been discouraged? If so, how did you overcome that discouragement?

Why would discouragement be so dangerous at this point in Israel's journey?

4. In verse 8, Moses continues accusing these two tribes. To whom does he compare them?

What is Moses insinuating through this comparison?

Why did God become angry?

What oath did God make because of Israel's actions?

What does it mean to you to follow God wholeheartedly?

What are some things that can prevent us from following God wholeheartedly?

5. In verse 14, Moses gets quite blunt. What does he call the men of these two tribes?

Of what does Moses warn them in verse 15?

What does it mean to you to jump to a conclusion?

Why do you think people do this?

What is the danger of jumping to a conclusion?

Have you ever done so? If so, would you share the circumstances and the outcome?

How might you react if a respected man of God falsely accused you?

6. Read verses 16 & 17. How would you describe the accused men's reaction to Moses' accusation?

What do they say to Moses in verse 16?

Why do you think they did not respond first to Moses' accusation?

What do they tell Moses and the other leaders in verse 17?

How will they protect their women and children when they cross over to fight?

What promise do these tribes make in verse 18? Verse 19?

What does this tell us about the men of the tribes of Reuben and Gad?

If you had been Moses, how would their response have affected you?

Has your first impressions of someone ever proved wrong? If so, how did you react when you learned of your mistake?

What can we learn from this episode when someone jumps to the wrong impression of us?

7. What three conditions does Moses put on these tribes in verses 20 and 21?

If they do all that Moses requires of them, what will they gain?

If they fail to do what Moses requires, what will happen?

What will their sin be?

Moses gives these tribes to do what before they lead the way?

Do you think it irresponsible of the men of Reuben and Gad to leave their wives and children behind? Please explain.

8. What does it mean to you to be humble?

What do the men of these tribes say to Moses in verses 25-27?

In what way or ways does their response show their hearts? Please explain.

What does Moses do in verse 28?

What does Moses tell the leaders of Israel?

Once again, the Gadites and Reubenites reaffirm their position. What do they tell the leaders in verses 31-32?

What do these men do when Moses gives them the land?

What does verse 39 tell us?

9. What can we learn from this episode?