

Old Testament Survey Lesson Nine

Introduction

To date our focus has been the Pentateuch (5 scrolls).

- First 5 books of the Hebrew Bible
- Authored by Moses

Genesis—the beginnings of a people and a promise

Exodus—the people are given a law code and location of worship—Tabernacle

Leviticus—the people receive instructions and guidelines for HOW to worship a Holy God in the Tabernacle

Summary of Leviticus

- Reveals the depth and width of God's love
- Though separated from intimate fellowship since the garden, God desired to dwell in the midst of His people (Exodus/Tabernacle)
- To approach a Holy God would require holiness (thus the sacrifices, priesthood, offering, law code)
- Still these failed in totally bridging the gap between a Holy God and a sinful people
- Would have to do until the promised seed would come

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Genesis 3:15 KJV

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. Genesis 12:3 KJV

And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him. Genesis 12:7 KJV

For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. Genesis 13:15 KJV

Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. Galatians 3:16 KJV

Today—Wilderness Wanderings (Numbers and Deuteronomy)

I. Numbers

A. Overview of Numbers

1. Summarizes nomadic lives of Israelites and notes their travels.
2. 3 main camping posts (Sinai, Kadesh, Moab)
 - a. 1 year at Mt. Sinai—received instructions (Numbers 1:10)
 - b. Marched 11 days to Kadesh (11, 12)
 - c. From there Moses sent spies into Canaan but it led to unbelief (13, 14)
 - d. God's punishment—generation died in the wilderness (15-19)
 - e. After 40 years—next generation ready to enter Canaan (20-36). New generation prepared in Moab.—Journey from Kadesh to Moab
3. Interesting feature—chapters not all written in the order of events.
4. Dividing text
 - a. Sinai

Now the Lord spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai, in the tabernacle of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying. Numbers 1:1 NKJV

- b. Kadesh

Now it came to pass on the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle of the Testimony. Numbers 10:11 NKJV

Then the children of Israel, the whole congregation, came into the Wilderness of Zin in the first month, and the people stayed in Kadesh; and Miriam died there and was buried there. Numbers 20:1 NKJV

- c. Moab

Now the children of Israel, the whole congregation, journeyed from Kadesh and came to Mount Hor. Numbers 20:22 NKJV

Then the children of Israel moved, and camped in the plains of Moab on the side of the Jordan across from Jericho. Numbers 22:1 NKJV

B. About Numbers

1. Title
 - a. Vulgate—Numeri
 - b. Septuagint—Arithmoi

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NOTE: Are number lists and census taken but number chapters unusual.

- c. Hebrew—In the wilderness—4th Hebrew word of 1:1
2. Wilderness—unpopulated strips of land between Egypt and Canaan. First entering in Exodus 15:22.

So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. Exodus 15:22 NKJV

- a. Will be the place where they either deepen their trust in God to supply or doubt God's ability to provide.
 - b. Represents either possibilities or problems.
3. Its structure
- a. Disjointed—not in order
 - b. Some argue random collection of J/E/P materials
 - c. Brevard Childs—*"In spite of its diversity of subject matter and complex literary development, the book of Numbers maintains a unified Sacerdotal interpretation of God's will for His people which is to set forth in a sharp contrast the holy and profane!"*

C. Content of Numbers

1. At Sinai: God prepares Israel to inherit Canaan (1:1-10:10)
 - a. Preparing to march (1-4)

— Census taken of men (not women, children, or Levites)

"Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel, by their families, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, every male individually, Numbers 1:2 NKJV

So all who were numbered of the children of Israel, by their fathers' houses, from twenty years old and above, all who were able to go to war in Israel — 46 all who were numbered were six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty. Numbers 1:45-46 NKJV

- Add women, children, Levites probably 2 to 3 million
- Huge number to travel from place to place
- God directs census (all about those able to fight)—Moses not arrogant like David
- The presence of God with them does not mean they can sloppily prepare
- But worship also kept sacred
- Levites (1:47-54) transport Tabernacle, dismantle, re-assemble, keep charge of and guard the ark

b. Establishing the camp rules (5:11-6:21)

- To keep the Israelites holy rules established
- Health and cleanliness laws
- Tests for unfaithful wife (really a protection for women to force a man to prove)
- Nazarene vow (Samson takes in Judges)

NOTE: First 4 chapters have understood the sanctity of Tabernacle—now to focus on maintaining the camp as holy

- Priestly blessing

"The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; 26 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace." 27 "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them." Numbers 6:24-27 NKJV

c. Dedicating the Tabernacle (6:22-9:16)

- Chapter 6 ends with what God wants to do for His people
- Chapter 7-God receives blessing in the form of offering

NOTE: Longest chapter in the Pentateuch

- Chapter 8—Consecration of priests

NOTE: Age of priests (25-50—see v. 23-26)

- Reminder in chapter 9 to celebrate Passover

d. Following divine guidance to Canaan (9:17-10:10)

- When they camped—Tabernacle at the center
- Cloud of God's glory would cover
- God guided cloud by day, pillar of fire by night

Now on the day that the tabernacle was raised up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the Testimony; from evening until morning it was above the tabernacle like the appearance of fire. 16 So it was always: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night. 17 Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, after that the children of Israel would journey; and in the place where the cloud settled, there the children of Israel would pitch their tents. 18 At the command of the Lord the children of Israel would journey, and at the command of the Lord they would camp; as long as the cloud stayed above the tabernacle they remained encamped. Numbers 9:15-18 NKJV

- Trumpets to call for assembly, feasts, and battle (10:1-10)
- 2. At Kadesh (10:11-21:35)
 - a. Complaints and Spirit outpouring (10:11-12:16)
- Constant complaint against Moses/God—God judged

Now when the people complained, it displeased the Lord; for the Lord heard it, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the Lord burned among them, and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp. Numbers 11:1 NKJV

- No meat

Now a wind went out from the Lord, and it brought quail from the sea and left them fluttering near the camp, about a day's journey on this side and about a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the ground. 32 And the people stayed up all that day, all night, and all the next day, and gathered the quail (he who gathered least gathered ten homers); and they spread them out for themselves all around the camp. 33 But while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the wrath of the Lord was aroused against the people, and the Lord struck the people with a very great plague. 34 So he called the name of that place Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had yielded to craving. Numbers 11:31-34 NKJV

- 70 elders filled with the Spirit to help Moses

But two men had remained in the camp: the name of one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them. Now they were among those listed, but who had not gone out to the tabernacle; yet they prophesied in the camp. 27 And a young man ran and told Moses, and said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." 28 So Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, one of his choice men, answered and said, "Moses my lord, forbid them!" 29 Then Moses said to him, "Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!" Numbers 11:26-29 NKJV

- Spirit of complaint was upon Aaron and Miriam-criticized his authority and choice of Ethiopian wife—12:1-15
- Zipporah is wife
- Does the Lord speak only to Moses (2)
- Miriam struck with leprosy and placed outside of the camp for 7 days

NOTE:

Now a wind went out from the Lord, and it brought quail from the sea and left them fluttering near the camp, about a day's journey on this side and about a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the ground. Numbers 11:31 NKJV

Then the Lord came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again. Numbers 11:25 NKJV

(Spirit/wind—both “ruah” in Hebrews—potential for blessing or judgment)

- b. Rebellion with ten spies (13, 14)
 - As camped in the Desert of Paran—12 spies sent to Canaan
 - Ten had negative report

Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. 28 Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan." Numbers 13:27-29 NKJV

- Caleb's response (he and Joshua)

Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it." Numbers 13:30 NKJV

- Bad report continued

But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." 32 And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. 33 There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight." Numbers 13:31-33 NKJV

- People believed 10 spies—rebelled against Moses
- Threatened to stone Joshua/Caleb
- God ready to destroy nation—Moses intercedes
- God relented but they would wander until that generation died

c. 38 years of wandering (15-19)

- Further laws of unintentional sin (15)
- Rebellion of Korah (16)

NOTE: New attack on Moses come from Levitical tribe Korah, his first cousin (Exodus 6:14-25). He and two laypersons—Dathan and Abriam plus 250 prominent men.

COMPLAINT: Does Moses have monopoly on sanctity?

They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?" Numbers 16:3 NKJV

- Korah's sin—wanted more authority than he had been given (Priest, but not High Priest)

Then Moses said to Korah, "Hear now, you sons of Levi: 9 Is it a small thing to you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to do the work of the tabernacle of the Lord, and to stand before the congregation to serve them; 10 and that He has brought you near to Himself, you and all your brethren, the sons of Levi, with you? And are you seeking the priesthood also? Numbers 16:8-10 NKJV

- Aaron confirmed as High Priest by bringing his rod to life (17)—later placed in the Ark of Covenant

Which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. Hebrews 9:4 NKJV

- Duties of priests and Levites (18)
- More laws about purity/impurity (19)

d. From Kadesh to plains of Moab (20-21)

- Miriam dies/buried (20:1)
- Moses sin at Meribah—struck rock and lost privilege to enter Canaan

Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them." Numbers 20:12 NKJV

- Edom refuses passage through the land
- Aaron died—priestly garments placed on Eleazar
- Small skirmishes with a few Canaanites (21:1-31)
- More complaining by Israel—fiery snakes
- Cry out to God—brazen serpent (John 3:14)
- Few more skirmishes and victories along the way

3. At Moab (22-36)

- a. Balak (King of Moab) concerned about strength of Israel—hired Balaam to curse.

NOTE: Balaam not an Israelite. A sorcerer like Simon or Magi. Rejects Balak first but he ups the price. First God tells him not to go then relents. Then God gets angry. (Maybe Balaam doesn't know the voice of God at all.)

- b. Donkey incident

READ: Numbers 22:22-35

- 4 oracles—3 requested, one spontaneous but blessing instead of cursing
- READ: Numbers 23:7-13; 18-27; 24:3-11; 15-25

- c. God judges his people who turn to Moabite idols (25)
- d. Census and question about inheritance (26, 27)

NOTE: Daughters Zelophehad—father is deceased and no sons only 5 daughters. New land established that inheritance can pass to daughters.

- e. Commission of Joshua (27:12-23)

"Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, 17 who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the Lord may not be like sheep which have no shepherd." 18 And the Lord said to Moses: "Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; 19 set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. 20 And you shall give some of your authority to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. 21 He shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall inquire before the Lord for him by the judgment of the Urim. At his word they shall go out, and at his word they shall come in, he and all the children of Israel with him — all the congregation." 22 So Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation. 23 And he laid his hands on him and inaugurated him, just as the Lord commanded by the hand of Moses. Numbers 27:16-23 NKJV

- f. Religious calendar, vows, and offerings (28-30)
- g. Final events in Moab (31-36)

— Holy war against Midian (31)

The king of Arad, the Canaanite, who dwelt in the South, heard that Israel was coming on the road to Atharim. Then he fought against Israel and took some of them prisoners. 2 So Israel made a vow to the Lord, and said, "If You will indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities." 3 And the Lord listened to the voice of Israel and delivered up the Canaanites, and they utterly destroyed them and their cities. So the name of that place was called Hormah. Numbers 21:1-3 NKJV

NOTE: Had led Israel into harlotry and idolatry

- Territories allotted east of Jordan to Reuben, Gad, half tribe of Manasseh. Must first assist the conquest of Canaan (32)
- Review of travels from Egypt to Moab (33)
- Boundaries of Promised Land and identifies those in charge of dividing the land (34)
- Description of 48 Levitical cities to be established in Canaan (35)

NOTE: 6 cities of refuge for manslayer cases

- Review of issues of inheritance (36)

II. Deuteronomy

A. Its title

1. Deutero—second
2. Nomos—law
3. Second—law

B. Its purpose

1. Moses last will and testament—farewell discourse
2. Review laws before entering Canaan
3. Reminds them of God's faithfulness

C. Its structure—4-fold

1. Moses' First Message: History (1-4:43)
 - a. Alludes to both positive and negative aspects of their history
 - b. Tending to consistently complain and turn away from God

- c. Reminds them that God's promises are conditional—contingent upon obedience
2. Moses' Second Message: Law and Love (4:44-26:19)
- a. Repetition of Decalogue (4:44-5:33)
 - b. Shema

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 NKJV

- c. Exhortation to love God, neighbors, and foreigners

"And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Deuteronomy 10:12 NKJV

Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. Deuteronomy 10:19 NKJV

- d. Many ethical standards for living (12-25)
- e. Prophecy of coming prophet

I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. 19 And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him. Deuteronomy 18:18-19 NKJV

NOTE: Fulfilled in Christ

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote — Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." John 1:45 NKJV

Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world." John 6:14 NKJV

For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. 23 And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' 24 Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. 25 You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' 26 To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."

Acts 3:22-26 NKJV

3. Moses' Third Message: Blessing or Curses (27-30)

- a. 27 curses
- b. 28 blessings/curses

"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God: 3 "Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. 4 "Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. 5 "Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. 6 "Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. Deuteronomy 28:1-6 NKJV

c. Conclusion

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; 20 that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them." Deuteronomy 30:19-20 NKJV

4. Moses' Farewell (31-34)

- a. Commissions Joshua (31:1-8)
- b. Song to warn against idolatry (32—see 44-47)
- c. Instructions to protect the Ark of Covenant
- d. Blessing over every tribes (33)
- e. Climb to Mount Nebo (there buried)—READ: 34)