

In the Wilderness

Lesson #1

Numbers 1-13

Leviticus

The third book of Moses is Leviticus. This book points to the holiness of God and His desire to live among His people. Because God is holy, He also requires His people to live holy lives. After many Israelites were involved in worship at the golden calf, Moses called for all who were zealous for the LORD to come to him. The tribe of Levi rallied to Moses' side and carried out God's judgment on those who had broken the covenant with the gold calf worship. Because of their zeal for the LORD, the priesthood was given to the tribe of Levi. (Exodus 32:19-29) Leviticus details the priests duties, how the sacrificial system was to be carried out and the observance of the seven Feasts of the LORD.

Numbers

The fourth book of Moses is Numbers. That title comes from the Greek Septuagint and reflects the two numberings or census that was taken in this book. However, the Hebrew title *D'midbar* meaning "In the wilderness" better reflects the content of this book. Numbers tells the story of Israel's time in the wilderness as God prepared them to enter the Promised Land. The Israelites, while personally experiencing the LORD's provision and protection, continued to murmur and rebel resulting in the entire first generation, with the exception of Joshua and Caleb, dying in the wilderness because they had broken the Covenant. Because these events are the most often referred to in the New Testament, we will spend some time understanding this part of God's story.

The First Census - Numbers 1

1. How long had it been since Israel left Egypt? (Numbers 1:1)
2. Moses was instructed by the LORD to take a census of every man listing by name and clan. From Number 1:3, 4:
 - Who was to be counted?
 - Why was this census being taken?
 - Who was to help Moses take this census?

3. How quickly did Moses and Aaron obey the LORD? (Numbers. 1:1, 17-18)

4. What was the total number? (Numbers 1:46)

5. Israel consisted of twelve tribes descended from the sons of Jacob. Who wasn't counted in this census? (Numbers 1:47-49)
 - Why? (Numbers 1:50)

Preparing For the Journey - Numbers 8-10

6. Chapter 8 describes how the Levites were to be ceremonially cleansed to serve before the holy God. Who did the LORD say the tribe of the Levites would represent and why? (Numbers 8:15-19)

7. After the dedication of the Levites, Israel celebrated the second Passover. Then, the LORD instructed Moses to make two trumpets of hammered silver. What were these trumpets to be used for? (Numbers 10:1-7)

8. What happened on the 20th day of the second month of the second year of the wilderness experience? (Numbers 10:11-13)

9. As the LORD prepared to take His people into the land of promise, who did Moses ask to go with Israel and why? (Numbers 10:29-32)

Complaining - Numbers 11

10. What was their complaint this time? (Numbers 11:4-6)

11. Who was complaining? (Numbers 11:10a)

12. What was the response of: (Numbers 11:10b)
 - Moses

 - The LORD

13. What was the LORD's answer to their complaint? (Numbers 11:18-20)

14. Moses was not convinced the LORD could do this (Numbers 11:21, 22), but the LORD assured him He would provide. Exhausted with the weight of all these people, the LORD told Moses to bring 70 elders to the tent of meeting and these men would help Moses. (Numbers 11:16) How did the LORD authenticate these men as His servants? (Numbers 11:24-25)

15. Two of the elders had not come to the tent of meeting but they also received the Spirit. What did Joshua say to Moses about this? (Numbers 11:26-28)

16. How did Moses answer Joshua? (Numbers 11:29)

17. How did the LORD fulfill His promise? (Numbers 11:31, 32)

Opposition - Numbers 12

18. Who began talking against Moses? (Numbers 12:1)

19. What was the complaint? (Numbers 12:2)

20. Moses was a humble man and did not respond to the complaint, but the LORD knew. What was the LORD's reaction to this complaint? (Numbers 12:4-8)

21. What was the LORD's judgment for this rebellion? (Numbers 12:9, 10)

22. How did Moses' response to the Lord's judgment? (Numbers 12:13)

23. The LORD listened to Moses but there would be consequences. What was required for Miriam to come back into community? (Numbers 12:14b)

24. What was the LORD's gracious provision for her? (Numbers 12:15)

25. Why do you think Aaron was not disciplined?

First Glimpse of The Promised Land - Numbers 13

26. Who instructed Moses to send some men to explore the land? (Numbers 13:1, 2)
 - What was the LORD's reminder to Israel?

27. Notice the tribe of Levi was not included. They would not be going into battle but were to remain behind and serve the LORD. Because there must be twelve tribes, how was the tribe of Levi replaced? (Numbers 13:3-15)

28. What observations were these men to make? (Numbers 13:17-20)

29. When they reached the Valley of Eshcol, what did they do? (Numbers 13:23, 24)

30. How long were these men gone? (Number 13:25)

31. What was the first report these men brought to Moses and the Israelites? (Numbers 13:26, 27)

32. What was the “but” they added to their report? (Numbers 13:28, 29)

33. How do you think the people were feeling after their report?

34. Who spoke up to give encouragement? (Numbers 13:30)

35. "But" the other ten men spoke up. Of what did they convince the people?
(Numbers 13:31)

36. What information did these ten add to make their bad report credible?
(Numbers 13:32, 33)

37. Who were they frightening the Israelites with by saying they were in the land?
(Genesis 6:4)