

Final Preparation
Lesson #6
Numbers 26-34

The story of Balak and Balaam emphasized how the LORD protected His people, even from a local king and a money hungry prophet. Even though Balaam had been hired to curse Israel, the LORD sent His Spirit on Balaam and rather than curse Israel, he blessed them and prophesied how the LORD would continue to bless Israel and subdue her enemies. Going from that “*mountain top*” experience with the LORD, it was disheartening to discover that Balaam was successful in getting the Midianite women to turn some of the men of Israel to Baal worship. (Numbers 31:16) When, in defiance of the LORD and His covenant, a prince from the tribe of Simeon brought a princess of Midian into his tent, the LORD’s judgment in the form of a plague, immediately fell on those involved in Baal worship. Phinehas, son of the priest, turned the LORD’s anger away when he killed both the man and woman.

The Second Census - Numbers 26

1. What was the purpose for this second census? (Numbers 26:1, 2)

2. What was the total number after the 40 years in the wilderness and God’s judgments upon those who had broken the Covenant? (Numbers 26:51)
 - How did that compare to the first census when they had just come out of Egypt? (Numbers 1:44)

3. What reminder was given in Number 26:63-65)

4. God had indeed been faithful and blessed Israel. As the Israelites prepared to enter the land and receive their inheritance, one family was concerned. What was the situation in the family of Zelophehad? (Numbers 27:1-4)

5. When Moses brought their concern before the LORD, what was the answer?
(Numbers 27:5-7)

6. What additional instructions did the LORD give regarding this? (Numbers 36:6-9)

Final Preparations - Numbers 27:12

7. When Israel had cried out for water, rather than speaking to the rock as the LORD had instructed, in anger and frustration Moses struck the rock twice. As a result the LORD said, *“Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.”* (Numbers 20:12) Although Moses would not go into the land of promise, what was the LORD’s gracious provision? (Numbers 27:12)

8. After this, what would happen to Moses? (Numbers 27:13, 14)

9. Moses, ever the servant of the LORD, had a request for the people he had led for forty years. What did Moses ask the LORD to do and why? (Numbers 27:15-17)

10. What was the LORD’s answer to Moses’ request? (Numbers 27:18-21)

Moses obeyed the LORD and with everything in place, it was time to enter the Promised Land. Numbers then gave a reminder of the importance of the offerings to the LORD, observance of the seven Feasts of the LORD and of keeping their vows. But before Moses died, there still remained the issue of the Midianites who had seduced the Israelites into worship of the Baal of Peor. Moses gave the Israelites the LORD’s instructions that they were to go to war against the Midianites. This is called a “holy war” and was only at this time in history. It was God’s judgment upon those nations that lead His people Israel away from their God and into idol worship.

11. Who and what was to go into war? (Numbers 31:4-6)

12. What article from the sanctuary would accompany them to battle? (Numbers 14:44)

13. How did that battle go? (Numbers 31:7-11)

Interesting to note that although Balaam had been sent home by Balak because he failed to curse Israel, he did not leave. Rather he chose to bring Israel down through the seduction of Baal worship. As a result, he too died by the sword. (Numbers 31:8b)

14. When the war was over, Moses along with the priest Eleazar and the leaders went out to meet the returning men. After so great victory, why was Moses angry with the officers of the army? (Numbers 31:14-16)

Because this was God's judgment against the Midianites for turning them away from the LORD, all the boys that had been taken captive were also to be put to death. There was to be no one to carry on the Midianite lineage. A seven-day purification process was observed to purify the men and everything that had been involved in the war. On the seventh day, the men were to wash their clothing after which they would be considered clean and allowed to return to camp. Moses, Eleazar and the heads of each family divided all the spoils of the war. The first spoils went to the LORD followed by the Levites. The rest of the spoils were divided equally among all the people, not just the soldiers who fought the battle.

15. What amazing fact was mentioned to show the LORD's faithfulness to Israel?
(Numbers 31:48, 49)

16. What did the commanders do to show their appreciation and faith in the LORD?
(Numbers 31:50-54)

The Transjordan - Numbers 32

17. After Israel's great victories over Sihon and Og on the Transjordan side, it was time to take possession of the Promised Land. What did Jacob's oldest son Reuben and his brother Gad ask Moses and Eleazar? (Numbers 32:1-5)
18. Moses' reaction was strong. Viewing this as indifference to God's promise considered rebellion, what history of Israel did Moses remind Reuben and Gad had taken place in the previous generation? (Numbers 32:6-13)
19. What was Moses' fear for this generation? (Numbers 32:14, 15)
20. Then the Reubenites and Gadites presented a second option. (Numbers 32:16-19)
- What did they want to do for themselves?

 - What did they offer to do for the rest of Israel?
21. What was Moses' conditional response? (Numbers 32:20-23)
- If:

 - If:

 - If:

 - Then:

 - But if:

- Then you may be sure:
22. How did the Gadites and Reubenites answer Moses? (Numbers 32:25) Note that Gad now is always listed before Reuben because he will take the lead.
 23. With Moses agreeing to their request, who else said “me too, I want this”?(Numbers 32:33)
 24. Chapter 33 is a summary of Israel’s journey in the wilderness. There were a few additional facts added. When did Aaron die? (Numbers 33:38)
 - How old was Aaron when he died? (Numbers 33:39)
 25. Once again Moses gave Israel the LORD’s warnings. Israel was to: (Numbers 33:50-56)
 - Drive out:
 - Destroy:
 - Take possession:
 - But if you do not:
 - Then they will:
 - And I will:
 26. Chapter 34 gives the boundary of the land the LORD would give to Israel as their inheritance. How was the land to be divided among the people? (Numbers 34:13-15)

Death of Moses - Deuteronomy 34

The book of Deuteronomy is called the “Second Law” as it repeats what the LORD had commanded Israel in the books of Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers. The most important message is used as a daily prayer called the *Shema* to help Israel (and Jews today) to remember God’s Commands.

“Hear O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your heart. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Moses also gave them a song to help remember their history. And like the Patriarchs, Moses gave God’s blessing and prophecy for each of the tribes of Israel.

27. What was Moses’ final warning to the Israelites he had so faithfully led for forty years? (Deuteronomy 32:46, 47)

28. After delivering his final message, what did the LORD tell Moses to do? (Deuteronomy 32:48, 49)

29. What would happen on the mount? (Deuteronomy 32:50-52)

30. What was recorded about the death of Moses? (Deuteronomy 34:5-8)
 - Moses was called:

 - He died in:

 - Buried by the LORD But:

 - Moses’ age and physical condition at his death was:

 - When the Israelites learned of Moses’ death they:

31. Who was the new leader of Israel and what was said about him? (Deuteronomy 34:9)

The five books of Moses ends with this epitaph, "Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, who did all those miraculous signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt - to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel." Deuteronomy 34:10-12