

A SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: Numbers

“God directs His people while they progressed through the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land.”

The Hebrew title _____ comes from the fifth word of chapter one, “in the wilderness of...” to describe the book’s primary location.

Written by : _____.

- Numbers is widely recognized as part of the _____.
- In Numbers the phrase, “God spake unto/with Moses” is used _____ times.
- The recipient of God’s message would logically be the one to write it down.
- Numbers also records that it was written by Moses.
 - Numbers 33:2 _____
 - Numbers 36:13 _____

Date: _____/before the 11th month of the 40th year after Exodus.

- Deuteronomy 1:3 _____
- It was begun immediately after Leviticus ended.
- It was completed immediately prior to the writing of _____, Israel’s entrance in the Promised Land, and Moses’ death.
- It covers about _____ years of Israel’s history.

Key People

- Moses
- _____
- Aaron
- Caleb
- Eleazar
- Balaam

Background

- In Genesis, God set up a special people, Israel to be His people.
- In Exodus, God executed judgement on _____ for mistreating Israel; Exodus also records the foundation of Israel’s national Law.
- In Leviticus, God delivered specific laws that He expected His people to keep so they would be _____ like His is holy.

Setting:

- Numbers is set, as the Hebrew name implies, in the _____
- When the Israelites failed to trust God’s ability to give them the land, they wandered in the Arab desert for _____ years.
- Finally, God directed them back to the wilderness of _____ (20:1).
- The book concludes with Israel in the Plains of _____ (33:48).

Key Words:

- _____
 - The entire book takes place in a wilderness
 - The book sets up and maintains a strict tension between being in the wilderness and being in the Promised Land.
 - The wilderness is a picture of _____ - specifically the sin of unbelief – which caused Israel to wander for 40 years (14:11).
- _____
 - The nation's military power (1:2-3); Israel's military might, not including the trip fo Levi, was _____ men ages 20+ (1:45-46).
 - The Levites (3:15)
 - The first-born Israelites (3:40)
 - The numbering for dividing the inheritance (26)

Key Doctrines:

- _____ is a punishable sin from God's perspective.
 - When the Israelites refused to enter Canaan the first time, their actions demonstrated unbelief.
 - When we refuse to do what God has commanded us, we demonstrate a spirit of unbelief as well.
 - James 2:17-24
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Key Themes:

- _____

God's unconditional love for the nation of Israel (Gen 12) motivated Him to maintain His faithfulness to a people that continually spurned Him.
- _____
 - The Israelites complained about everything in the wilderness – lack of bread, mead, or water. Every time, God proved His faithfulness by providing for them.
 - Their complaining earned punishment
 - Their children did not realize that complaining is not a good idea and they _____ their parent's examples (20:2-5).

Outline

- Success, failure, and death of a generation (1-20)
 - Obedient relationship to the Tabernacle (1:1-10:36)
 - Organization around the _____ (1-6)
 - Establishing the Tabernacle (7)
 - Administration of the Tabernacle (8)
 - Celebration of the Passover (9)
 - The Tabernacle as a communication center (10)
 - Failure to obey God and its consequences (11-20)

- Complaining on the road (11-12)
 - Israel's rebellion and its consequences (13-19)
 - Moses and Aaron's disobedience (20)
- Another generation succeeds in _____ the Promised Land (21-36).
 - Renewed complaints (21:1-22:1)
 - Israel is blessed by Balaam (22:2-24:25)
 - Israel commits idolatry with Baal-Peor and is punished (25)
 - Preparations to conquer Canaan (26-32)
 - Reviewing the Exodus journey (33:1-49)
 - Looking forward to the conquest (33:50 – 36:13)

Challenges to Numbers

Question: Isn't the bronze serpent an example of _____?

Answer: No, because the people were acting in _____.

- The people had sinned.
- The serpents were God's judgment on sin.
- When the people repented, God instructed Moses to build the serpent; anyone that _____ at it would be healed.
- This is a type of Christ
 - John 3:14-15

Christ in the Book of Leviticus: _____'s prophecy

- Balak, the king of Moab, called Balaam to come and curse the Israelites so he could defeat them.
- Instead, Balaam pronounced a series of blessings that came straight from the LORD.
- Finally, after giving _____ blessings, Balaam made a prophecy about what was going to happen in the last days.
- Numbers 24:15-19

Application: Do your works reveal your belief or unbelief in God?