

OT4: Numbers (Num: 36 Chapters) The Law**Theme: Israel's journey from Sinai to the Plains of Moab: A lesson of Sin & Grace.**

Numbers (named after the numbering of Israel) continues the narrative of Exodus. The Israelites refuse to enter the land God promised them, so they travel in the wilderness for forty years and finally arrive at Moab.

Brief Outline:

- Num 1-9: I. Preparations for leaving Sinai
- Num 10- Num 21:1-9: II. Journey from Sinai to the plains of Moab
 - Num 11-20 Repeated Sin & Resulting Failure
 - **Num 21:1-9 Jehovah's Grace: Serpent lifted up**
- Num 21:10- Num 36: III. Blessing & Victory in the plains of Moab

Prayers in Numbers

- Moses-for Miriam Num 12:11-14
- Moses-for a successor Num 27:15-17

Expanded Outline:

- I. Num 1-9 Preparations for Leaving Sinai
 - Num 1. 1st Census of Israel: The Tribes except Levi.
 - Num 2 Arranges Camp by Tribe
 - Num 3. Duties of Levi. Levi Instead of 1st Born
 - Num 4. Duties of Kohath of Levi
 - Num 5. Unclean People. How to test for Adultery
 - Num 6. Nazarite Vow.
 - Aaron's Benediction & Blessing: 6:24-26 "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace."
 - Num 7. Offerings offered through the chiefs of each of the 12 tribes. The Tabernacle is consecrated.
 - Num 7:89 The voice of the Lord speaks to Moses from above the mercy seat in the tent of meeting.
 - Num 8. Cleansing of Levites. Levites expected to serve from 25-50.
 - Num 8:18 "and I have taken the Levites instead of the firstborn among the people of Israel"
 - Num 9. Passover celebrated. God's rule on the unclean celebrating Passover. When Cloud or Fire descend on Tabernacle, time to travel.
- II. Num 10 - Num 21:1-9 Journey from Sinai to the Plains of Moab
 - Num 10. Silver Trumpets for Summoning Israel. 2nd Yr, 2nd Mo., 20th Day, Israel sets out from Sinai. Ark leads the way (Order: Cloud, Ark, Israel)

Repeated Sin & Resulting Failure

- Num 11. Complaints resulting in God sending Quail.
 - Num 11:10-15 Moses complains about his intercessory role
 - Plague on meat cravers - while they are eating – Struck Down
- Num 12. Dissension of Miriam & Aaron: Miriam inflicted w. Leprosy for 7 Days.
 - Num 12:3 "Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth"
 - The Lord reiterates that it is with Moses alone that he speaks mouth to mouth
- Num 13. Spies sent to Canaan. After 40 days of spieing: Caleb demonstrates faith, other spies: "we're grasshoppers!"

- Num 13:30 Caleb: **“Let us go up at once and occupy it for we are well able to overcome it.”**
- Num 14. Israel refuses to enter Canaan, but Moses intercedes for them. Generation will die; Joshua and Caleb Promised Entrance; Unfaithful Spies die immediately via plague; Presumptuous Unsuccessful Invasion
- Num 15. Laws concerning Sacrifice & Unintentional Sins (Corporate & Individual)
 - Num 15:32-36 Sabbath breaker (stick collecting) executed via stoning at God’s command.
 - Num 15:39 “And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the Lord, to do them, not to follow after your own heart and your own eyes, which you are inclined to whore after.”
- Num 16. Rebellion against Moses & Aaron (God’s Chosen)
 - Moses successfully intercedes for Israel twice. Korah & Co. is swallowed up. Fire consumes 250 men offering incense. Next Day, another 14,700 die from plague, because they complained about the Lord’s judgment on Korah & Co.
 - Compare verses 16:31-35 with 26:11
- Num 17. Budding of Aaron’s Rod: Aaron is God’s Chosen.
 - 12 Staffs (heads of each tribe), Aaron’s (Levi’s) staff, sprouted with ripe almonds.
- Num 18. Duties of Priests & Levites. A tithe for Levi instead of an inheritance. A tithe of the tithe is expected from Levi.
- Num 19. Laws for purification including the Red Heifer Ritual.
- Num 20. Miriam, Moses, and Aaron
 - Miriam Dies
 - Moses’ unbelief (vs 12) at the waters of Meribah inherit him death before entrance to promised land
 - Num 20:11 “Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod”
 - Edom refuses passage to Israel
 - Aaron Dies

Jehovah’s Grace: Serpent Lifted Up

- Num 21:1-9 “Make a Fiery Serpent”: In response to Israel’s complaints, God sends fiery serpents. To save them, God has a Fiery Serpent made out of Bronze. After a bite, a look to the bronze serpent saves.
- III. Num 21:10 - Num 36 Blessing and Victory in the Plains of Moab
 - Num 21:10-35 Defeat of Amorite King Sihon & Og King of Bashan
 - Num 22-24: Balaam and Balak King of Moab
 - Num 22:1-21 Balak of Moab sends for Balaam. Eventually God allows Balaam to go to Balak, but with strict command to say only what God says to say.
 - Num 22:22-41 Balaam, the Angel of the Lord, and the Donkey. God’s anger is kindled because Balaam went.
 - Num 23 Balaam utters God’s exact words, a blessing on Israel. Balak & Balaam move to another place, but Balaam still blesses Israel.
 - Num 24 After another move, Balaam blesses Israel again. 4th oracle of Balaam = Prophecy. Then Balaam & Balak go their separate ways.
 - Num 25 Israel’s harlotry with women and Baal Peor of Moab.
 - Zimri & Cozby speared to death by Phineas, stopping the plague of God at 24K death toll.
 - God commands execution by hanging, in the sun, of idolatrous chiefs of the people.
 - God honors Phineas.

- Num 26 2nd Census of Israel
 - Num 26:11 “But the Sons of Korah did not die
 - Num 26:65 “None of those from Sinai are left, except Joshua and Caleb
- Num 27 Inheritance Laws & Joshua Appointed
 - Num 27:1-11 Daughters of Zelophehad & Inheritance Laws
 - Num 27: 12-23 Joshua appointed as next leader of Israel
- Num 28 Offerings for: Daily, Sabbath, Monthly, Passover, Feast of Weeks
- Num 29 Offerings for: Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles
- Num 30 Men & Woman & Vows: Woman vows can be negated by husbands/fathers if males assert disapproval on the day they hear about the vow.
- Num 31 At God’s command, Israel slaughters Midian. Balaam is killed. Plunder is collected. Of the Plunder, Moses commands all but the virgins (woman & children) to be killed.
 - Num 31:16 Balaam advised the harlotry of chapter 25.
- Num 32 Reuben, Gad, Manasseh settle for transjordan area. (N to S: E. Manasseh, Gad, Reuben). They vow to fight with the rest of Israel, to keep from being like their afraid fathers from chapter 13.
 - Num 32:23 (Moses) “But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the Lord, **and be sure your sin will find you out.**”
- Num 33 Recap by Moses of Journey from Egypt. Instruction for Canaan Conquest.
 - Num 33:2-3 “Moses wrote down their starting places, stage by stage, by command of the Lord...”
 - 1st Mo, 15 Day, while Egypt is burying their dead 1st born, “Israel went out triumphantly” (vs3)
 - Num 33:4 “On their [the Egyptians] gods also the Lord executed judgements”
 - Num 33:38 40th Yr, 5th Mo, 1st Day, Aaron Dies on Mt Hor at age 123
 - Num 33:55-56 **But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those of them whom you let remain shall be as barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land where you dwell. 56And I will do to you as I thought to do to them.**”
- Num 34 God defines the boundaries of the Inheritance, and states the Tribal chiefs that Joshua & Eleazar (new Priest & Aaron’s son) are to work with in dividing the land.
- Num 35. Levite cities (42) + Cities of Refuge (6) = 48 Levite Cities. Rules are given about how to determine murder vs manslaughter.
 - Num 35:33 **“You shall not pollute the land in which you live, for blood pollutes the land, and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of the one who shed it.”**
- Num 36. Daughters of Zelophehad: Female Land inheritors must marry within their father’s clan – thereby keeping their land in their tribe.
 - Last verse of Numbers 36:13: “These are the commandments and the rules that the Lord commanded through Moses to the people of Israel in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho.”