

1. The Book of Numbers is divided into 3 parts:

- a. Num. 1 – 10: Israel at Mt. Sinai preparing to enter the Promised Land
- b. Num. 11 – 21: Israel on the short trip to Kadesh Barnea, after which they wander in the desert for 38 years due to their disobedience.
- c. Num. 22 – 36: Israel again on the threshold on entering the Promised Land.

2. Chapter 15 begins with God giving Moses instructions about sacrifices that are to be made after they enter the Promised Land.

3. No matter how disobedient and rebellious you might choose to be, you will not ultimately thwart the will or purpose of God.

4. Chapter 15 again illustrates the seriousness of sin.

5. Hebrews 10:26 shields us from a casual view of sin in the “age of grace.”

6. I John 1:9: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

7. “If we deliberately keep on sinning...” – turning grace into presumption.

8. Numbers 15 is the origin of the tassels worn of the clothing of Orthodox Jews.

9. Korah’s rebellion:

a. Korah and 250 leaders complained that Moses and Aaron were violating their rights.

b. Moses handled the situation properly – he fell on his face before God and let God defend him

5. Leadership brings with it great responsibility.

6. Tithing

- a. Tithing does not originate with the Levitical system.
- b. The basic idea is this: The first and best part of everything God gives you belongs to Him.
- c. The New Testament does not specifically use the word “tithe.”
- d. Jesus’ words in Luke 6:38 “Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap. For with the measure your use, it will be measured to you.”
- e. God’s promise in Malachi 3:6-12 concerning tithing:
- f. God says: “Test me in this...”

1. The second section of Numbers was finished with today's reading.

2. Another ritual for cleansing:

c. It is an unusual ritual.

d. 4 commentators:

1) #1 – the way for a poor person to become ceremonially clean

2) #2 – a way to keep Israel pure during the marching times

3) #3 - A way to cleanse a large number of people at once, like after the sin of Korah

4) #4 - It was a "typical" ritual – pointing to Christ

3. After nearly 40 years, the children of Israel are returning to Kadesh, the place where their fathers sinned, and it almost happens again.

4. Moses is kept from entering Canaan because he 'hit' the rock when God had told him to 'speak' to it to get the needed water.

5. Near enough is not good enough when it comes to obeying God's Word.

a. God's word to Joshua when he becomes leader

b. Nadab and Abihu

c. Caleb

6. Miriam and Aaron die in chapter 21.

7. Israel moves up the east side of the Jordan River to the place where they will enter the Promised Land.

8. Two types (divinely planted sign posts):

a. The rock from which the water flowed – I Corinthians 10

b. The bronze serpent on the pole that the people were told by God to look on for healing – John 3:14-15

4. 6 times Balaam tries to curse Israel – 6 times he blesses her instead. The prophecies were:

- a. 23:9: Israel would live as a separated nation.
- b. 23:10: They would greatly increase in population
- c. In the second Oracle: God would be with her in a special way to bless her.
- d. 24:9: The victories Israel would have over other nations
- e. 24:17: The star that would come out of Jacob, the scepter that would rise out of Israel

- f. Lastly, the defeat of the Moabites and Edomites

5. Balaam's blessings cover all 3 parts of the Abrahamic Covenant's promises:

- a. The land
- b. The descendants
- c. The covenantal relationship

6. Numbers 23:19 - Important truth about God that comes from Balaam's mouth: "God is not a man that He should lie, nor a son of man that he should change his mind. Does He speak and not act? Does He promise and not fulfill?"

6. The idea to defeat the children of Israel by enticing them into sexual immorality came from Balaam. (Num. 31 and Rev. 2:14)

- a. It was Balaam's strategy against Israel.

- b. It is Satan's strategy against Christians today.

7. Another census is done before entering the Promised Land.

8. Joshua is to lead the nation after Moses.

- a. He is God's choice.

- b. The nation without a leader would be like sheep without a shepherd.

- c. God had been preparing Joshua for this leadership task for at least 40 years as he served as Moses assistant.
 - 1) At the Tent of Meeting

 - 2) In the battle with the Amalekites

 - 3) As one of the spies into Canaan who came back with a favorable report

 - 4) As the one disturbed when the spirit fell on the 2 elders not at the meeting

 - 5) He learned by standing beside a godly leader.