

## OUTLINE: THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

### I. The Preparation of Israel for the Pilgrimage (1-8)

#### A. Order in the camp (1-4)

1. The census for Israel's warriors (1)
2. Arrangement of the camps (2)
3. The census, position, and service of Levites on wilderness march (3)
  - a. Aaron and Moses (v1-4)
  - b. The Tribe of Levi given to Aaron (v5-13)
  - c. The three families of Levi (v14-20)
  - d. The responsibilities of Gershon — in charge of curtains, coverings, and cords (v21-26)
  - e. The responsibilities of Kohath — in charge of articles of furniture (v27-32)
  - f. The responsibility of Merari — in charge of boards, bars, pillars, sockets, and vessels (v33-37)
  - g. The total of Levites—22,000 (v38-39)
  - h. The census of the firstborn of Israel—22,273 (v40-51)
4. The Levites serve in the tabernacle (4)

#### B. Cleansing the camp (5-8)

1. The restitution and jealousy offering (5)
  - a. Defilement by disease and death (v1-4)
  - b. Restitution (v5-10)
  - c. Jealousy offering (v11-31)
2. The Law of the Nazirites (6)
  - a. Nazirite vow (v1-21)
    1. Do not drink wine or strong drink (v3)
    2. Do not shave his head (v5)
    3. Do not touch a dead body (v7)
  - b. Triune blessing (v22-27)
3. Offerings of the leaders (7)
4. The lamps and the Levites (8)
  - a. Light the lamps (v1-4)
  - b. The Levites cleansed (v5-26)

## II. Forward March (9-10)

### A. The Passover and the covering cloud, Chapter 9

1. The Passover is observed by all on the wilderness march (v1-14)

2. A pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (v15-23)

**B. The silver trumpets (10:1-10)**

**C. The tribes are on the move (10:11-32)**

**D. The tribes stop (10:33-36)**

**III. From Sinai to Kadesh (11-12)**

**A. The people complain (11)**

**B. Jealousy of Miriam and Aaron; judgment of Miriam (12)**

**IV. Mentally Defeated at Kadesh (13-14)**

**A. Spies chosen and sent into land of Canaan; return and report (13)**

1. Cause for sending spies (v1-3) (cf. [Deuteronomy 1:22](#)), vv. 1-3
2. The choice of spies (v4-16)
3. The commission of spies (v17-20)
4. The conduct of spies (v21-25)
5. The confirmation of facts (v26-27)
6. The misinterpretation of facts (v 28-29; 31-33)
7. The correct interpretation of facts (v30)

**B. Israel paralyzed in unbelief (14)**

- V. Faltering, fumbling, and fussing through the wilderness (15-25)**
  - A. The delay of God's blessing (15)**
  - B. Incidents relating to the priesthood (16-25)**
- VI. Future (new) generation prepares to enter land (26-36)**
  - A. The census of a new generation (26)**
  - B. The law of inheritance (27)**
  - C. The law of offerings (28-29)**
  - D. The law of vows (30)**
  - E. The judgment of Midian (31)**
  - F. Reuben and Gad settle in the wrong place (32)**
  - G. A journal of the journeys (33)**
  - H. The borders of promised land and how to apportion the land (34)**
  - I. The cities of refuge given to Levites (35)**
  - J. The law of land regarding inheritance (36)**

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: NUMBERS**

**Chapters 1-8—The Preparation of Israel for the Pilgrimage**

1. What was the purpose of a national census, and why were the Levites excluded?
2. What is the significance concerning the central placement of the Tabernacle?
3. What is a Nazirite, and what is the purpose of such vows?

### **Chapters 9-10—Forward March**

1. What do these two chapters teach about God's glory?

### **Chapters 11-12—From Sinai to Kadesh**

1. Why did the people complain? In what ways does the complaining resemble the western church today?

### **Chapters 13-14—Mentally Defeated at Kadesh**

1. Why did Joshua and Caleb give a different report from the other spies?
2. What lessons do these two chapters teach about the importance of seeing opposition as opportunities to honor God?

### **Chapters 15-25—Faltering, fumbling, and fussing through the wilderness**

1. What does Korah's rebellion in chapter sixteen reveal concerning spiritual authority?
2. Why did striking the rock verses speaking to the rock matter in chapter twenty? What do we learn about man and about God from this event?

3. What can we learn from the circumstances surrounding Balaam and his donkey in chapters twenty-two through twenty-four?
4. What does chapter twenty-five teach us about worship and about God?

### **Chapters 26-36—Future (new) generation prepares to enter land**

1. What important spiritual leadership lessons can be learned from the commissioning of Joshua?
2. What does the following verse mean 32:23?
3. What other lessons did you learn from the Book of Numbers, and how will these lessons impact your life moving forward?