

SINAI: FROM MOSES TO JOSHUA

Numbers 1, 6, 13-14, 16, 21; Deuteronomy 30-31; 1 Corinthians 10; Hebrews 3-4

Review:

- CREATION (Genesis 1-11)
- ABRAHAM (Genesis 12-50)
- SINAI: Exodus 1-18: God rescues His people from slavery in Egypt
- SINAI: Exodus 19-24: God gives them His Law on Mt Sinai
- SINAI: Exodus 25-40: God makes a dwelling place for Himself among His people
- SINAI: Leviticus: God gives them a plan for atonement through sacrifice
- SINAI: Moses to Joshua (Numbers & Deuteronomy).

Overview of Numbers & Deuteronomy

- Numbers 1-10: At Sinai: Consecration, Blessing & Obedience
- Numbers 11-21: Journey from Sinai to Moab: Grumbling, Rebellion, Condemnation & Grace
- Numbers 22-36: At Moab: Numbering and Consecrating the Troops: Next Generation
- Deuteronomy: Renewing the Covenant with the Next Generation

NUMBERS 1-10: CONSECRATION, BLESSING & OBEDIENCE

Numbers 6: The Law of the Nazarite Vow

A Nazarite was someone who took a special vow of consecration to God, and during the period of their vow, they abstained from certain things and lived a dedicated, holy life.

Nazarites in the Bible: Samson, Samuel, John the Baptist

Numbers 6: The Aaronic Blessing

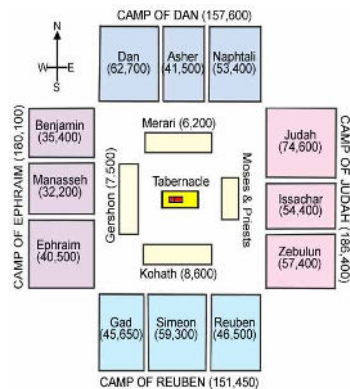
"The Lord bless you and keep you;

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." (Numbers 6:24-26)

“Face” or “countenance” refers to someone’s presence. **This is a blessing for God’s presence.** It is God’s presence which brings blessing, grace, and peace.

Numbers 10 - Preparation for Battle



Arrangement of the Camp of Israel
Numbers 2:1-3:39

The tribe of Judah - the priests - was in the place of prominence and the front line of the army. This was symbolic - pointing ahead to the Messiah being from the tribe of Judah, who would also go into battle for us.

Arranging them for battle like this was to show that they are going into the Promised Land **not in their own strength**, but trusting in the Lord to fight their battles for them.

“Rise up, Lord! May your enemies be scattered. May your foes flee before you!”
Numbers 10:35. (A prayer we can pray!)



For Personal Reflection:

We are fighting on the side of God’s kingdom against the evil forces of wickedness in this world. We are also commanded to not fear the enemy no matter how big it seems, to march into battle, following God wherever He leads, and to fight for God’s kingdom.

"Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand." (Ephesians 6:10-13)



Up to this point, while the people were still at Sinai, preparing to go into battle, they did everything the Lord commanded Moses. However, as soon as they got out into the wilderness, they began to grumble and doubt.

How often do you consecrate yourself in a Sunday worship service, head out into the world energized, only to realize on Monday morning that the wilderness feels hard, and begin to grumble and doubt?

NUMBERS 11-21: GRUMBLING, REBELLION, CONDEMNATION & GRACE

Recurring theme:

The people grumble, God gets angry and punishes them, but then relents of His anger.

God continues to forgive and show them grace. This is consistent with God's character. God doesn't let sin go unpunished, but His grace far outweighs His punishment.

Numbers 13: Joshua's Name is Changed

"Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua." Numbers 13:16

Hoshea = Salvation

Joshua = The Lord is Salvation

Numbers 14: The People Rebel

Only 2 of the 12 spies returned saying *"We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it" (Numbers 13:30).*

The people were fearful because of the strength of the enemies in the land, so they rebelled against Moses and Aaron.

The LORD said to Moses, How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them?" (Numbers 14: 11)



For Personal Reflection: How often am I like the people of Israel, struggling with doubt or fear because I am forgetting all that God has done for me in the past?

"Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's." (Psalm 103:1-5)

Numbers 14: Moses' Intercession

Moses appealed to God's character, His covenant promises to Abraham and His plan.

God exemplified His character in how He reacted – a blend of both justice and mercy. Punishing sin, yet showing grace. God forgave them and didn't destroy them, and yet He condemned them to wander in the wilderness until that generation died out.

God is a God of both justice and mercy. He struck down the ten unfaithful spies but not the two faithful ones. Both Joshua and Caleb would make it to the Promised Land, even though they were of that older generation.



For Personal Reflection: We are called to intercede for people, in partnership with God, for His plan to be accomplished. What is not accomplished because of our lack of prayer?

Numbers 15-21: Wandering in the Wilderness

Marriage Metaphor: God as the Faithful Husband, Israel the Unfaithful Wife

This period of time in Israel's history is the period between the Wedding (Rescue from Egypt-Redemption) and the Marriage (living together in the Promised Land) ... it's the "in between", or the Honeymoon.

God was their Provider, Protector, and Guide

Christians today are also living in an "in between" time - between redemption and the consummation of the kingdom

- Creation: Genesis 1-2
- Fall: Genesis 3
- Redemption: Christ's death and resurrection
- YOU ARE HERE
- Consummation: God's future kingdom

The Old Covenant's version of the Redemption/Consummation story is a shadow or type of the New Covenant.

OLD COVENANT		
<u>Redemption</u>	<u>Wilderness</u>	<u>Consummation</u>
Exodus: Rescue from Physical Slavery	Physical Wandering for 40 years	Physical Kingdom - The Promised Land

NEW COVENANT		
<u>Redemption</u>	<u>Wilderness</u>	<u>Consummation</u>
Jesus: Rescue from Spiritual Slavery	Redeemed, but Living in a Fallen World	God's Eternal Kingdom

We are living in between our Redemption and the Consummation. We have been redeemed from slavery to sin but we are still living in a fallen world, we have not yet gotten to the Promised Land of His future kingdom. We have been individually made new creations, but the whole world has not yet been made new as it will be in the consummation. We are “kingdom people” living in a fallen world.

Numbers 16: Rebellion of Korah

The Rebellion of Korah teaches us just how seriously God takes His holiness and His anointing on His chosen servants. We should guard ourselves against having critical spirits towards those God has placed in leadership over us.

God gives us each a role to play in His church and all of them are important. Every part is equally important and necessary in the body (1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12). We shouldn't be jealous of the gifts or calling someone else has. God has given each of us our own gifts and calling for a reason.

Stay away from divisive, argumentative, contentious people in the body of Christ. A divisive, contentious person will influence you, and you do not want to be consumed in their sins. (Titus 3:10-11); (Romans 16:17-18).

Numbers 21: The Bronze Serpent

Looking at the serpent on the pole was looking to God to be their Healer. They just had to trust that what God told them to do would heal them.

By using a serpent as a symbol for healing, the story is pointing us back to both the plagues of Egypt and the serpent in the Garden.

When Aaron's staff turn into a serpent, God showed His authority over all false gods/demons of Egypt, even the serpent in the Garden – Satan.

God sends serpents as the plague, but He also uses a serpent as the symbol they look to in faith for healing. Not to point to the power of the serpent, but to point to God's power OVER the serpent. The tempter brings sin and death, but God brings life and healing.

The Jesus Connection

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” John 3:14-15

The Healing Pool at Bethesda

Like God showed His superiority and authority over the serpent in the Garden and the false gods of Egypt, Jesus showed His superiority and authority over the false gods of Greece/Rome at the Pool at Bethesda.

NUMBERS 22-36 & DEUTERONOMY:

RENEWING THE COVENANT WITH THE NEXT GENERATION

“The Lord will deliver them to you, and you must do to them all that I have commanded you. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Deuteronomy 31:5-6

Moses said, “See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.... Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.” Deuteronomy 30:15, 19-20

Following God’s Law is life and blessing. Choosing other gods or living their own way would only lead to the people's death and destruction. This is true today in the New Covenant. Choosing to follow Jesus is the way to abundant life here on earth and eternal life in heaven.

EVERYTHING POINTS TO JESUS

The name "Jesus" and the name "Joshua are the same name - "The Lord is Salvation"

Joshua will lead this new generation into the Promised Land where the Lord will be their salvation, but Jesus will lead a whole new nation into the eternal kingdom of God, where we will find true rest and eternal blessing in His presence (Hebrews 4:1-11).

The Holy Spirit says,

Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion during the time of testing in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did. (Hebrews 3:7-9)