

THE FOURTH BOOK OF MOSES

A Study of
NUMBERS



GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gulf Shores, AL

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Prepared by Ray Reynolds

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

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This study guide was created by Ray Reynolds for the purpose of Sunday morning young adult Bible classes at the Gulf Shores Church of Christ (Gulf Shores, AL).

The material presented in this class series will be gleaned from personal notes, the New King James Study Bible, Dr. Coy Roper, Gleason L. Archer, Irving L. Jenson, Bruce Feiler, H. I. Hester, J. Vernon McGee, David Padfield, James Burton Coffman, and various other sources.

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

INTRODUCTION

Author:

Traditionally, both conservative Jews and Christians alike have held that Moses was the author/compiler of the first five books of the Old Testament. These books are known as the Pentateuch (meaning "five-volume book"). The Bible itself suggests Moses as the author (**Acts 15:1**, **Genesis 17**). Who else but Moses was more qualified to pen a book like Numbers? Miriam (20:1) and Aaron (20:22) will die before the end of the book.

Accepting the authorship of Moses can be based on internal evidence. We learn that Moses kept a journal (**Numbers 33:2**) and that God spoke to Moses multiple times (31x in this book) to instruct and lead the Israelites. Some scholars point to key passages that reveal someone else may be responsible for portions of this book (**Numbers 12:3, 21:14**), probably Joshua, who could have made some editorial adjustments. It is clear from Deuteronomy that canonizing these texts would be one of Joshua's duties assigned by Moses himself. However, Moses must have been the primary writer.

Date:

Dating Moses' lifetime, and the books he wrote, can be done fairly accurately thanks to Bible references. For instance, in **I Kings 6:1** it is evident that "*the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel*" was the same as "*the four hundred and eightieth year after the Israelites had come out of Egypt.*" Since the former was 966 BC, the latter - and thus the date of the exodus -- was 1446 BC (assuming that the 480 in **I Kings 6:1** is to be taken literally). The writing of this book would take place soon after the Exodus.

The 40 year period of Israel's wanderings in the desert, which lasted from 1446 to 1406 BC, would have been the most likely time for Moses to write the bulk of what is today known as the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy). Numbers begins the first day of the second month of the second year after leaving Egypt (**Numbers 1:1**). We already know, from previous books, that the Israelites spent a year at Sinai receiving the law and building the tabernacle. Now it is time to move forward.

Theme:

Genesis ends with the Israelites stuck in Egypt during a famine. Exodus reveals that they would remain in Egypt for over 400 years. Leviticus and Numbers point the way forward. After receiving the law, and building the tabernacle, God commands the Israelites to journey towards the Promised Land. They will send spies in to evaluate the situation. When the spies return the majority of them give a bad report. The Lord punishes them by condemning them to 40 years of wandering in the desert.

In spite of the dilemmas the Israelites face, in the book of Numbers, there will be celebration and worship. There is also a changing of the guard. New leadership would prepare them for the Promised Land. God renews His covenant with this new generation.

Audience:

The Israelites are the audience for this book. The book of Numbers receives its name from the two census reports given in the book (**Numbers 1:2-46, 26:2-51**). The Hebrew title comes from the fifth word in the first line of the Hebrew text: “in the wilderness.” This is probably a better title for the book since it contains more about Israel’s wanderings than any other book. The book begins at Mt. Sinai and ends at Mt. Nebo.

Literary Notes:

Numbers it is a narrative book made up of seven cycles (see outline below). It picks up right where Exodus leaves off. The people were ready to depart from Sinai and receive God’s instruction. They were eager to get to the Promised Land, but organization was needed. They take a census which had two purposes: organization for travel and warfare.

The book of Numbers seeks to make God the primary character in this book. It reveals that God is sovereign over His people and has control over all the nations. The book also shows the consequences of sin and punishment for rebellion. It recognizes God is holy and pure. The Lord requires obedience. There are laws and historical anecdotes along the way, but it is primarily about the fulfillment of the promise to Abraham (**Genesis 12:2, 15:1, 17:8**).

Key Verses:

Numbers 1:2-3, 10, 3:5, 40, 5:7, 6:7, 24-26, 7:8-11, 9:8, 17-23, 10:29, 35-36, 11:1-3, 11, 16, 23, 29, 12:1-4, 14-16, 13:30, 14:7-13, 37, 15:1-21, 32-41, 16:3, 15-17, 28, 40-46, 17:1, 10, 20:1, 10, 22, 21:4, 7-8, 14, 16, 34, 23:19, 24:17, 25:1-16, 27:1-23, 31:21, 32:20, 29, 33:2, 36:1-12

Outline of the Book:

- I. *The Consecration of Israel at Sinai (Numbers 1:1-6:27)*
 - A. The First Census (1:1-2:34)
 - B. The Levitical Duties (3:1-4:49)
 - C. The Various Laws (5:1-31)
 - D. The Vows & Blessings (6:1-27)

- II. *The Preparation for Departure to the Promised Land (Numbers 7:1-10:10)*
 - A. The Offerings of Leaders (7:1-89)
 - B. The Cleansing of the Levites (8:1-26)
 - C. The Observance of Passover (9:1-14)
 - D. The Procedures for Breaking Camp (9:15-10:10)

- III. *The Migration from Sinai to Kadesh-Barnea (Numbers 10:11-15:41)*
 - A. The Departure from Sinai (10:1-36)
 - B. The Appointment of the 70 Elders (11:1-35)
 - C. The Complaints of Miriam & Aaron (12:1-16)
 - D. The Twelve Spies (13:1-33)
 - E. The Disobedience of Israel (14:1-45)
 - F. The Laws of Sacrifice & Sin (15:1-41)

IV. The Rebellion Against the Aaronic Priesthood (Numbers 16:1-19:22)

- A. The Rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (16:1-50)
- B. The Vindication of Aaron (17:1-13)
- C. The Duties & Offerings of the Priests (18:1-32)
- D. The Laws of Purification (19:1-22)

V. The Migration from Kadesh-Barnea to Moab (Numbers 20:1-25:18)

- A. The Rebellion & Judgment of Moses & Aaron (20:1-29)
- B. The Judgment & Healing of Israel (21:1-35)
- C. The Work of Balak & Balaam (22:1-24:25)
- D. The Idolatry of Israel (25:1-18)

VI. The Instruction for a New Generation (Numbers 26:1-30:16)

- A. The Second Census (26:1-65)
- B. The Laws Concerning Inheritance (27:1-23)
- C. The Laws Concerning Offerings (28:1-29-40)
- D. The Laws Concerning Vows (30:1-16)

VII. The Preparation to Enter the Promised Land (Numbers 31:1-36:13)

- A. The Revenge on the Midianites (31:1-54)
- B. The Settlement of Reuben & Gad (32:1-42)
- C. The Review of the Journey (33:1-56)
- D. The Division of Canaan (34:1-29)
- E. The Levitical Cities (35:1-34)
- F. The Laws of Marriage & Inheritance (36:1-13)

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 1

1:1-19 Israel's First Census

How many months had passed since the Exodus?

Why did God command a census of males 20 years old and older?

Who took the census? Why?

1:20-46 The Results of the Census

How many were numbered from Reuben?

How many were numbered from Simeon?

How many were numbered from Gad?

How many were numbered from Judah?

How many were numbered from Issachar?

How many were numbered from Zebulun?

How many were numbered from Joseph (Ephraim)?

How many were numbered from Manasseh?

How many were numbered from Benjamin?

How many were numbered from Dan?

How many were numbered from Asher?

How many were numbered from Naphtali?

1:47-54 The Levites Chosen for Ministry

Why were the Levites not numbered in the census?

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CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 2

2:1-31 The Organization of Israel's Camp

How did God tell Moses to arrange the tribes?

Who was on the east side? How many people?

Who was on the south side? How many people?

Who was on the west side? How many people?

Who was on the north side? How many people?

Where was the tabernacle to be located? Why?

What is the purpose of the strategic encampment?

When and where was the tabernacle to be moved? Why?

2:32-34 The Obedience of Israel

How many people are living in this encampment?

Why were the Levites not listed in the encampment?

What praise is given to the Israelites in this passage?

Why is it important we recognize all the times that Moses did everything that God commanded him?

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 3

3:1-4 Organization for Aaron & Moses

Why do we need to know the genealogy of Aaron?

What happened to Nabab & Abihu?

What happened to Eleazar & Ithamar?

Where did the Levites perform their ministry?

3:5-13 Organization for the Levites

Why were the Levites chosen to serve God in the tabernacle?

What is the purpose of this separation?

3:14-51 Organization of the Priests

Who are the key leaders among the Levites?

What are the names of the three great clans of Levites?

What did God change according to the law of the firstborn?

What was the difference between the numbered firstborn of the Levites and the other Israelites? Explain.

What were the Israelites required to do as a result of this difference?

What is the redemption price for the firstborn?

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CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 4

4:1-4 The Duties of the Priests

*What is the appointed age for service among Levites? Did King David change this appointment age (**I Chronicles 23**)? Explain.*

*What is the appointed age for retirement (**Numbers 8:25**)?*

Which clan family included both Moses and Aaron?

4:5-33 The Duties of the Levite Clans

What were the duties of the sons of Kohath?

Why did all the articles of the tabernacle have to be covered?

How are these articles to be transported?

What were the duties of the sons of Gershon?

What were the duties of the sons of Merari?

Why were the other tribes excluded from transporting of the tabernacle, the coverings, and the main structures?

4:34-49 A Summary of the Census of the Levites

How many from the family of Kohath?

How many from the family of Gershon?

How many from the family of Merari?

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CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 5

5:1-4 The Purity of Israel

Why did the Israelites need health regulations?

Who is to be excluded from the camp? Why?

Where did they send the outcasts? Why?

5:5-10 The Restitution of Israel

What are the social dilemmas of sin in the camp?

Why must there be confession and restitution?

What was to happen if the offended individuals were dead?

What can we learn about atonement from this passage?

5:11-31 The Jealousy Offering

What did a man do if he felt his wife had been unfaithful?

If a woman was guilty of unfaithfulness what would happen to her?

What if a man were guilty of adultery? What would be his punishment? Is there a double standard?

Why would the priest record blessings and cursings?

What is the purpose of drinking the bitter water?

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CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 6

6:1-21 The Nazirite Vow

Who was permitted to practice the Nazirite vow? Why?

What were the requirements to be a Nazirite?

What did a Nazirite do? Explain.

What is the purpose of shaving one's head?

What sacrifices are required in a Nazirite vow?

What is the purpose of the peace offering?

What is the purpose of a wave offering?

6:22-27 The Triune Blessing

What was the purpose of the blessing (Numbers 6:24-36)?

How does this summarize the role of the Levitical priesthood?

Why do people still memorize this Aaronic blessing?

Some have suggested that the Father keeps us, the Son makes His face to shine upon us, and the Holy Spirit gives us peace, making this a Triune blessing. How do you feel about that explanation?

Why should we remind ourselves that we wear the name of God?

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CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 7

7:1-11 The Gifts of the Princes

Who is appointed to set up, anoint, and sanctify the tabernacle?

When the time came to anoint the tabernacle, how many leaders brought offerings to the priest?

Why did they use the oxen and carts? Why didn't the sons of Kohath use a cart? Explain.

7:12-89 The Order of Service

Who led the offerings on the first day?

Who led the offerings on the second day?

Who led the offerings on the third day?

Who led the offerings on the fourth day?

Who led the offerings on the fifth day?

Who led the offerings on the sixth day?

Who led the offerings on the seventh day?

Who led the offerings on the eighth day?

Who led the offerings on the ninth day?

Who led the offerings on the tenth day?

Who led the offerings on the eleventh day?

Who led the offerings on the twelfth day?

What happened when Moses entered the tabernacle?

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CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 8

8:1-4 The Lord Spoke to Moses

What was the next specific task given to Moses & Aaron? Why?

Why is the lampstand mentioned between the gifts of the princes and the cleansing of the Levites?

How many lamps are mentioned? Why this number?

8:5-26 The Cleansing of the Levites

What does it mean to be ceremonially clean?

Why is Moses charged with this task?

What else did the Levites do to become more godly?

What is the purpose of the water of purification?

Why were the Levites required to shave?

What were they supposed to do to their clothing? Why? How could that hinder their service to God?

What is said about their offering for sin?

What do we know about the prayers of the high priests?

What was the age range for service of the Levites?

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CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 9

9:1-14 The Observance of the Passover

When was Passover observed? Why?

What is the significance of the Passover?

What did Moses command them to do when they were hearing the word of the Lord? Why?

If someone could not keep the Passover because of uncleanness, or not available, what were they to do? Why?

How was Passover to be observed?

Could a Gentile observe the Passover? Explain.

9:15-23 The Israelites Guided By Pillars of Cloud & Fire

When did the Israelites know to pick up the tabernacle and move to another location?

Why do you think God used the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire?

*Was this a new way to guide the people (**Exodus 14:19-20**)?*

Why must God lead them every step of the way?

Why couldn't they just get a map and follow directions?

Did the leadership faithfully obey God's commands? Explain.

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CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 10

10:1-10 The Silver Trumpets

What was the use of the two silver trumpets?

How are trumpets used in other places in the Bible?

How could the use of these trumpets be a memorial to God?

10:11-28 The Marching Orders

*How long had the Israelites stayed at Mount Sinai (**Exodus 19:1**)?*

Who was to lead the procession of the Israelites? Why?

Which tribes are to be in the middle? How did they break camp?

Who was to march in the rear of the group? Why?

10:29-36 The Foreigners Travel With Israelites

Were there many foreigners, strangers, and slaves among the Israelites after they left Egypt? Explain.

Why does Moses extend a hand of fellowship to Hobab and allow him to travel with the Israelites?

*Who was this man (**Exodus 2:16, 3:1, 18:1-27, Judges 4:11**)?*

How did Hobab respond to Moses' invitation?

Why would they need Hobab to guide them if they had the pillar of cloud and fire? Explain.

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CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 11

11:1-3 The Complaints of the People

What did the Israelites complain about? Why?

How did God feel about their complaining?

What did God initially do after their initial complaining?

What name was given to this location? Why?

11:4-30 The Elders Listen to the Complaints of the People

What did God provide the Israelites as food?

How did the Israelites respond to this food?

Who did God tell Moses to use to help him with the workload?

What did God do to these men?

What happened to the ones who had complained that they were better off in Egypt?

11:31-35 The Lord Provides for the People

After hearing the complaints what did God send to the Israelites for food? How did it arrive?

How much did they gather up to eat?

What name was given to this location? Why?

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CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 12

12:1-8 The Jealousy of Miriam & Aaron

What did Aaron and Miriam say against Moses?

What was their accusation?

Why is this a problem for them? Explain.

Could this have something to do with his children? Explain.

How does God describe Moses?

12:9-12 The Judgment of Miriam

What happened to Miriam? Why?

How can we know this was a serious judgment?

How did Aaron respond to this action? Why?

12:13-16 The Intercession of Moses

What does Moses say to God?

Why would Moses intercede on their behalf?

What does this tell us about Moses's character and integrity?

How long did Miriam stay outside the camp? Why?

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CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 13

13:1-3 The Lord Requests Spies

Where does God want the spies to go?

Why would God allow these tribal leaders to enter the land?

13:4-16 The 12 Spies Are Chosen

What do we know about the spies?

Why did they only allow one spy from each tribe?

13:17-27 The Conduct of the Spies

What did they find in the land?

How is the land described?

What does the phrase “milk and honey” mean?

13:28-33 Weighing the Facts & Faith

How were the people described?

How are the cities described?

What was the report from the majority?

Who were the spies that rejected the negative report?

What was the final consensus?

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CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 14

14:1-12 The 10 Spies Cause the Israelites to Rebel
What is the heart of the problem?

How did the Israelites treat Joshua and Caleb?

What did they want to do to Joshua and Caleb? Why?

How did Moses and Aaron react to this conflict?

What did the Lord say to Moses?

14:13-19 Moses Pleads for Israel
How did Moses react to what the Lord had said?

Why does he keep defending these people?

What can we learn from the content of this prayer?

14:20-45 God Brings Judgment
What did God resolve to do to the children of Israel? Why?

How long would it be before the children of Israel could enter into the Promised Land? Why is that important?

Who would eventually enter the land? Why?

What happened to the men who brought back the bad report?

What did the children of Israel decide to do on their own?

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CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 15

15:1-31 The Laws for Canaan

What can we learn about the sacrificial system?

How can we know that some of these people will make it into the Promised Land? Consider “when” not “if.”

What are the regulations for the grain offering?

What are the regulations for the drink offering?

*What are the requirements for the treatment of strangers living with them (**Exodus 12:43-50**)?*

What is said about an offering of thanksgiving? When would this sacrifice be offered?

How can we know that people were held accountable even when they sinned unintentionally?

15:32-36 The Death Penalty

What happened to a man picking up sticks on a Sabbath?

How can we know this was a deliberate and rebellious sin?

15:37-41 The Death Penalty

Why were tassels attached to the Israelites garments?

What descriptions are given for the relationship we have with or against God?

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CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 16

16:1-40 The Rebellion of Korah

Who rebelled against Moses and Aaron? What connection does he have to their family?

What did God initially say He wanted to do with the rebels?

What did Moses ask God to do? Why?

How did God react to the rebels? What did He do to them? Why?

Why did God ask Moses and Aaron to separate themselves from the congregation before the judgment was issued? Explain.

Why did God allow the women and children to die?

Why did God use Eleazar in His service instead of Aaron?

16:41-50 The Israelites Complain (Again)

What can we learn from this sixth murmuring in the desert?

Who did they blame for the deaths of their brothers?

What did God do to them about this complaining?

How many people died in the plague?

How was this plague stopped?

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CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 17

17:1-5 God Vindicates Aaron

What was the purpose of the rods?

How many rods were used? Why this number?

Where did they place these rods?

What would happen to the rods? Why?

17:6-9 God Uses the Rods

Who placed the rods at the tabernacle? Why?

How long did it take for the rod to blossom?

What did Moses do with the rod of Levi? Why?

17:10-12 The Rod of Aaron

What did the Lord tell Moses to do with Aaron's rod? Why?

How long would this rod stay in that location?

Why was this rod to be kept as a sign for the Israelites?

Why does the text constantly remind us that Moses did everything God commanded him?

How did the Israelites respond to God and Moses?

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 18

18:1-7 The Support for the Levites

What does this text tell us about the holiness of God?

Why did God choose the priests to attend to the needs of the people?

What can we learn about the outsider?

What assurance is given to the people if they promise to faithfully worship God?

Why is the priesthood called a “gift” for service?

18:8-19 The Duties of the Levites

What does God tell Aaron to do in this text?

When do we know about the Levitical inheritance?

What did God want to do with all the heave offerings?

Why does God deserve our best?

What is the significance of the firstborn, best, and new things?

Who has possession of every devoted thing in Israel? Why?

18:20-32 The Duties of the Levites

What were the Levites to tithe to God?

Does God show favoritism to the Levites? Explain.

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 19

19:1-10 The Offering of a Heifer's Ashes

What is the purpose of slaughtering the heifer outside the camp?

Why weren't they allowed to use the altar for the sacrifice?

What else was to be included in the offering?

What was mixed with water for purification of sin?

Where was this stored?

Why did they use ashes instead of water?

19:11-22 The Pursuit of Cleanliness

What instruction is given about dead bodies? Why?

How long do they remain defiled?

What must they do to be clean or uncontaminated?

Why must they keep themselves so sanitary?

How was the hyssop to be used?

What would happen to someone if they refuse to be clean?

How does this keep Israel safe?

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 20

20:1-13 The Sin at Kadesh

Who died here? What happened?

Where are the Israelites staying? Where is this located?

Why were the people complaining this time?

How do Moses and Aaron react to this complaining?

What were the exact directions God gave to Moses?

Did Moses follow the directions? Explain.

20:14-21 Edom Refuses the Israelites

What request is given to the King of Edom?

Why did the Edomites refuse to let them pass?

What threat is given to the Israelites?

How can we know that this threat was serious?

20:22-29 The Death of Aaron

What happens to Aaron? Where? Why?

How long did the Israelites grieve?

What does this mean for the Israelites moving forward?

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 21

21:1-3 The Victory of Israel

What is significant about this victory?

What did the Israelites do after they were victorious?

How did God respond to their vows and prayers?

21:4-9 The Murmuring of the Israelites (Again)

What is the purpose of this eighth murmuring?

What did God send against His people for judgment?

How could the people be saved? What did Moses build? Why?

*How can we know this would become a stumbling block in the future
(Exodus 20:4-6, II Kings 18:4)?*

21:10-20 The Journey North

What book is quoted in this text? Where is that book?

What happened to the enemies of Israel? Why?

21:21-35 The Trouble With the Amorites

Who came out against Israel when they left the city of Sihon?

What happened to these people?

What is the purpose of the proverb given in this text?

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 22

22:1-4 The Fear of Balak

What do we know about Balak?

Why is he fearful of the God of the Israelites?

22:5-21 The Influence of Balak

What do we know about Balak's character?

Why did Balak send for Balaam?

What was the purpose of the diviner's fee?

What do we know about Balaam's character?

How can we know that Balaam was obedient to God in the past?

22:22-41 The Miracle on the Road

Why did God get angry with Balaam?

When leaving for Moab who spoke to Balaam?

What did the Angel of the Lord try to do to Balaam?

What did Balaam do when he realized the depth of his sin?

What can we learn from Balaam's conversation with the Angel of the Lord? What did he discover?

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 23

23:1-17 Balaam's First Prophecy

What prophecy did Balaam have for Balak?

What does the phrase "took up his oracle" mean?

Why was Balaam originally willing to curse Israel? Why was he struggling with this issue?

How can we know that Balak was having a strong influence over Balaam at this time?

23:18-24 Balaam's Second Prophecy

What is the significance of this second prophecy?

Why does God continue to use Balaam?

Who is the true Source of Israel's strength?

23:25-30 The Erroneous Ways of Balaam

What hope does this story give us sinners?

What does this story teach us about the grace of God?

What was the purpose of the seven altars?

Did God instruct them to build these altars and/or offer these sacrifices? Explain.

What does this tell us about false teachers and false teachings?

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 24

24:1-14 Balaam's Third Prophecy

Why did Balaam continue to try to help Balak?

Why would Balaam use sorcery and seek out mediums?

What made Balaam resolve to give up sorcery?

*What do we know about Agag and the Amalekites (**Exodus 17:8-16, I Samuel 15, Esther 9:24**)?*

Who is blessed? Who is cursed?

Why is Balak angry at Balaam?

Why did Balaam set up the altars and sacrifices each time?

24:15-25 Balaam's Fourth Prophecy

What is the significance of the Star and Scepter? Messianic?

What prophecy is given concerning the Moabites?

What prophecy is given concerning the Edomites?

What prophecy is given concerning the Amalekites?

What prophecy is given concerning the Kenites?

What prophecy is given concerning the Assyrians?

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 25

25:1-5 The Sin of Intermarriage & Idolatry

What charge was given against Israel?

What harlotry did Israel commit in Moab?

What did God tell Moses to instruct the Israelites to do? Why?

What do we know about Baal of Peor?

*Why did Balaam suggest immorality to Balak, knowing that it would lead the Israelites astray (**Numbers 31:16**)?*

25:6-17 The Zeal of Phinehas

Who was zealous for God against the sinful Israelites?

What do we know about this brave and courageous man?

Why did Moses and Aaron (and his sons) refuse to take action on Zimri when he committed this terrible act in front of the tabernacle?

How many people died because of God's anger? What happened?

What did Phinehas receive from God for his zeal?

What did God command Moses to do to the Midianites?

What does this chapter tell us about tolerance and compromise with the enemies of God?

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 26

26:1-4 The Required Census

What did God tell Moses and Eleazar to do at this time? Why?

Was this census any different than the first one? Explain.

26:5-65 The Results of the Census

How many in the house of Rueben? How much inheritance?

How many in the house of Simeon? How much inheritance?

How many in the house of Gad? How much inheritance?

How many in the house of Judah? How much inheritance?

How many in the house of Issachar? How much inheritance?

How many in the house of Zebulun? How much inheritance?

How many in the house of Manasseh? How much inheritance?

How many in the house of Ephraim? How much inheritance?

How many in the house of Benjamin? How much inheritance?

How many in the house of Dan? How much inheritance?

How many in the house of Asher? How much inheritance?

How many in the house of Naphtali? How much inheritance?

What was the number of those able to go to war?

In the second census, how many people remained of the first census?

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 27

27:1-11 The Daughters of Zelophehad

Why did these women come before Moses?

How can we know that God wanted the Israelites to know that He was the true owner of the Promised Land?

If they did not own the land, but only held it in trust, could they sell the property? Explain.

What law did God enforce in the situation?

27:12-23 Preparing for the Death of Moses

Why did the Lord announce the successor of Moses?

Who did God say would replace Moses? Why?

What do we know about the obedience of Joshua?

What do we know about the obedience of Eleazar, the priest?

How can we know that these men were of good character?

*What is the purpose of the Ephod, Urim and Thummim for the priest (**Leviticus 8:7-8**)?*

Who inaugurated Joshua and Eleazar? Why?

What happened at the ceremony? How was it conducted?

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 28

28:1-8 The Daily Offerings

*Why does God instruct the people of Israel about the offerings again (**Exodus 29:38-42**)?*

What was the purpose of the drink offering? Where was it done?

28:9-10 The Sabbath

Why does God ask for a double offering on the Sabbath?

What does this mean about the purpose of that holy day?

28:11-15 The New Moon

*What instruction is given concerning these offerings (**Leviticus 25**)?*

Are these offerings commanded? Explain.

28:16-25 Passover/Feast of Unleavened Bread

*What instruction is given concerning these offerings (**Exodus 12, Leviticus 23**)?*

Are these offerings commanded? Explain.

What would happen at the holy convocation?

28:26-31 Pentecost/Feast of Weeks

*What instruction is given concerning these offerings (**Leviticus 23**)?*

Are these offerings commanded? Explain.

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 29

29:1-6 The Feast of Trumpets

*What instruction is given concerning these offerings (**Leviticus 23**)?*

Are these offerings commanded? Explain.

What was the purpose of this holy event?

29:7-11 The Day of Atonement

*What instruction is given concerning these offerings (**Leviticus 16, 23**)? What was the purpose?*

Are these offerings commanded? Explain.

What event (in the future) fulfills this event?

29:12-40 The Feast of Tabernacles

*What instruction is given concerning these offerings (**Leviticus 23**)?*

Are these offerings commanded? Explain.

What was the purpose of this holy event?

What did they do on the eighth day of this assembly?

How can we know that Moses commanded everything exactly the way God said to do it? Explain.

Why are there so many events, sacrifices, and commands?

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 30

30:1-2 The Significance of Vows

What does it mean to make a vow?

If a man made a vow to God, could it be unbound? Explain.

What does the New Testament teach us about vows?

30:3-8 The Vows of Marriage

How can we know that the vows of marriage are between a husband, his wife, and God?

If a woman makes a vow in her father's house who could break it?

If a father did not overrule his daughter's vow, what must she do?

If a woman had taken a vow and marries, what can her husband do?

What do we know about the dowry? How does this influence the vows?

30:9 The Vows of the Divorced or Widowed

Why could the vow of a widow or a divorced woman not be broken?

*Does this mean they are still considered to be husband and wife beyond the grace (**Matthew 19**)?*

30:10-16 More Teaching on Vows

How could a husband confirm his wife's vow?

Does any of this sound unreasonable? Explain.

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 31

31:1-24 The Judgment of Midian

*What had God previously said about the Midianites (**Numbers 25**)?*

Why did God want these enemies defeated?

*What are the holy articles discussed in this text (**Numbers 10, 14**)?*

Why did Moses get angry with the men who came back with the spoils from the Midianites that they had defeated?

What were they commanded to do as a means of purification? Why?

What does this tell us about the significance of sin and idolatry among God's people?

31:25-54 The Plunder of the Midianites

What were they to do about the spoils?

How did the Israelites divide the spoils? Why?

Why did the men of war give a special offering to the Lord?

*What was the council of Balaam (**Numbers 25:3**)?*

Why does the text emphasize all the offerings and tributes?

Who ultimately deserves the credit for every victory? Why?

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 32

32:1-15 The Strange Request

Where are they now? What does this mean?

What tribes decided they wanted their inheritance early?

What strange request is given? Why?

How could this threaten the unity of Israel?

What did Moses think about their request?

32:16-42 The Great Compromise

What did they agree they would do first before they received their inheritance?

Who is going to stay behind while the men go to war? Why?

What does Moses mean when he speaks of your sin “finding you” out?

What role does Eleazar the priest play in this compromise?

How did Moses divide the workers/warriors?

How can we know that Moses was ready for war?

What role does Joshua fill in this text? What will that mean as we move forward in the Scriptures?

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 33

33:1-49 A Review of the Journey

What is the purpose of reviewing the journey?

Why did they need to log their trip and accomplishments?

How many times did they move? Why is that important?

Does this mean that their journey was uneventful? Explain.

How would you feel if you spent 40 years of your life wandering around the desert?

33:50-56 A Plan to Move Forward

What did God want the children of Israel to do when they crossed over into the land of Canaan?

How would the inhabitants of the land be a thorn in the side of the children of Israel?

If Moses is going to die, and Joshua is going to take over command, why is God still speaking to Moses?

Why is God giving Moses all of the plans and battle strategy?

What were the Israelites supposed to purge from the land? Why?

Do you think it was a cruel command from God for the Israelites to drive out all the inhabitants and kill their enemies? Explain.

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 34

34:1-2 The Borders of the Promised Land

Why should they set up borders in the Promised Land?

If God owns the land, why would He tell them to set up borders?

34:3-5 The Southern Border

What do we learn about these borders?

What names and places are associated with this territory?

34:6 The Western Border

What do we learn about these borders?

What names and places are associated with this territory?

34:7-9 The Northern Border

What do we learn about these borders?

What names and places are associated with this territory?

34:10-15 The Eastern Border

What do we learn about these borders?

What names and places are associated with this territory?

34:16-29 The Borders of the Promised Land

Who did God instruct Moses to use to divide the inheritance?

Why were these men more qualified to divide the inheritance?

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 35

35:1-15 The Levitical Cities

What is the purpose of these Levitical cities?

Why weren't the Levites allowed to have an inheritance?

If the Levites are supposed to be near the tabernacle, and regularly engaged in priestly duties, why would they need these cities?

How could the cities help the priests minister to the entire nation?

What is the purpose of the city of refuge?

How long was the city to be a "place of refuge" for an individual who fled to that city? Why?

How many cities of refuge were established?

Where were the cities to be strategically located? Why?

35:16-34 The Laws Concerning Murder

Who is supposed to judge a murderer?

Why is there a role for a "revenger" or "avenger" in the first place?

How can bloodshed lead to vengeance? Was it legal?

Why would God allow vigilantes? Is that what this is?

How could the Israelites avoid defilement?

Study Guide for the Book of Numbers

CHAPTER BY CHAPTER STUDY NOTES

Numbers chapter 36

36:1-12 The Need for Property Rights

*What other problem did the daughters of Zelophehad face? Why wasn't this addressed previously (**Numbers 27**)?*

How did God solve this problem?

How can we know that God is fair and just?

What does this decision tell us about the judgment of God?

Why was the land supposed to stay within its appointed tribe?

Why couldn't the Israelites swap or sell property?

How could this law protect all the people?

36:13 The Closing Statement

What are the last things said about Moses in this book?

What are the last things said about God in this book?

Why do you think the book of Numbers ends with the laws on property rights and the conclusion to the public ministry of Moses?

How does this set up the book of Deuteronomy?

What have you enjoyed the most about the study of the book of Numbers?