

NUMBERS

The name originated from the two numberings of the people:

- the first at Sinai 2 years after leaving Egypt
 - dividing the people into marching units
- the another was opposite Jericho in the 40th year.

-the major events of the book take place in the wilderness during the 40 years.

- much of those events involve the people complaining

-God prepares them for entrance into the land promised first to Abraham (Gen. 12:1).

- institution of the Nazarite vow
 - no alcohol, not hair cut, no touching a corpse (Sampson)

-first approach to promised land

-Who is Moses really?

- Moses is not just another character in the bible
 - we have all heard that God had a very close relationship with Moses
- Listen to these verses:

Num 12:1 Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman);

Num 12:2 and they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us as well?" And the LORD heard it.

Num 12:3 (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.)

Num 12:4 Suddenly the LORD said to Moses and Aaron and to Miriam, "You three come out to the tent of meeting." So the three of them came out.

Num 12:5 Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the doorway of the tent, and He called Aaron and Miriam. When they had both come forward,

Num 12:6 He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream.

Num 12:7 "Not so, with My servant Moses, He is faithful in all My household;

Num 12:8 With him I speak mouth to mouth, Even openly, and not in dark sayings, And he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant, against Moses?"

Num 12:9 So the anger of the LORD burned against them and He departed.

Num 12:10 But when the cloud had withdrawn from over the tent, behold, Miriam *was* leprous, as *white as* snow. As Aaron turned toward Miriam, behold, she *was* leprous.

Num 12:11 Then Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord, I beg you, do not account *this* sin to us, in which we have acted foolishly and in which we have sinned.

-12 spies sent to investigate

- 10 negative, 2 positive reports
- Which 2 brought back good reports? (Caleb and Joshua)
- name those who brought back negative reports?
 - when faced with a challenge or difficult situation, what kind of attitude do we have?
 - do we grumble and complain and see the cup as half empty?
 - or do we get involved and find a way to get it done?
- Remember, today people still name their kids Joshua and Caleb
- but we can't even remember the name of one of the other 10

- and if we think our attitude doesn't affect others around us, think again.
 - millions of people were turned away from the Promised Land and had to wander the wilderness until they died because of the attitude of 10 people

-Aaron's rod

- Moses commanded to take one rod from leader of each tribe to see whom God had chosen
- god says the one He chooses will sprout
- they are put in tent of meeting overnight
- the next morning, Aaron's rod not only sprouts, but puts on leaves, blossoms and ripe almonds

-Moses strikes the rock

- the first time (in Exodus) he was to strike the rock
- the second time he was supposed to speak to it
 - he struck it out of his anger
 - this act of rebellion keeps Moses from entering Promised Land

-story of the bronze serpent

- shortly after God delivers some enemies into their hands, the Israelites complain to Moses
 - why did you bring us to the wilderness to die?
 - we have no food, no water
 - and we hate this manna!
- God sends fiery serpents to the camp to attack them
 - they repent shortly after and God gives Moses instructions on how to help them

-He is to make a huge bronze serpent, put it on a pole and all who are tormented and dying will live

-Balaam and the talking donkey

Num 22:22 But God was angry because he was going, and the angel of the LORD took his stand in the way as an adversary against him. Now he was riding on his donkey and his two servants were with him.

Num 22:23 When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand, the donkey turned off from the way and went into the field; but Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back into the way.

Num 22:24 Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path of the vineyards, *with* a wall on this side and a wall on that side.

Num 22:25 When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she pressed herself to the wall and pressed Balaam's foot against the wall, so he struck her again.

Num 22:26 The angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn to the right hand or the left.

Num 22:27 When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam was angry and struck the donkey with his stick.

Num 22:28 And the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"

Num 22:29 Then Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a mockery of me! If there had been a sword in my hand, I would have killed you by now."

Num 22:30 The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I ever been accustomed to do so to you?" And he said, "No."

Num 22:31 Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way with his drawn sword in his hand; and he bowed all the way to the ground.

Num 22:32 The angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out as an adversary, because your way was contrary to me.

Num 22:33 "But the donkey saw me and turned aside from me these three times. If she had not turned aside from me, I would surely have killed you just now, and let her live."

Numbers closes in the plains of Moab opposite Jericho with God giving them instructions on how to divide the promised land once they enter.

Jesus Types:

-arrangements of the camps

-show picture

-serpent on the stake

-Moses was commanded to make a bronze serpent, put it on a pole and raise it high over head

-all people had to do was look at it and they were healed

- They are to look to the very image of the thing that was killing them and to bring them salvation
- doesn't seem to make sense

But then you remember that Jesus said:

-Joh 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."

-Joh 3:14 "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;

Paul said:

2Co 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- just like the serpents were killing the Israelites, sin is killing us
- those who looked to the bronze serpent lived
- those who look to Jesus also will also live

-striking the Rock

- why was God so angry with Moses for striking the rock?
- He was supposed to speak to it
- remember what Paul said to the Corinthians?

(speaking of those wandering in the wilderness)

1Co 10:4 and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

-The rock from where the water flowed was a picture of Christ

Rom 6:9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.

Rom 6:10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

- Jesus was beaten and crushed one time for our sin
- after that all we need to do is come and speak to Him