

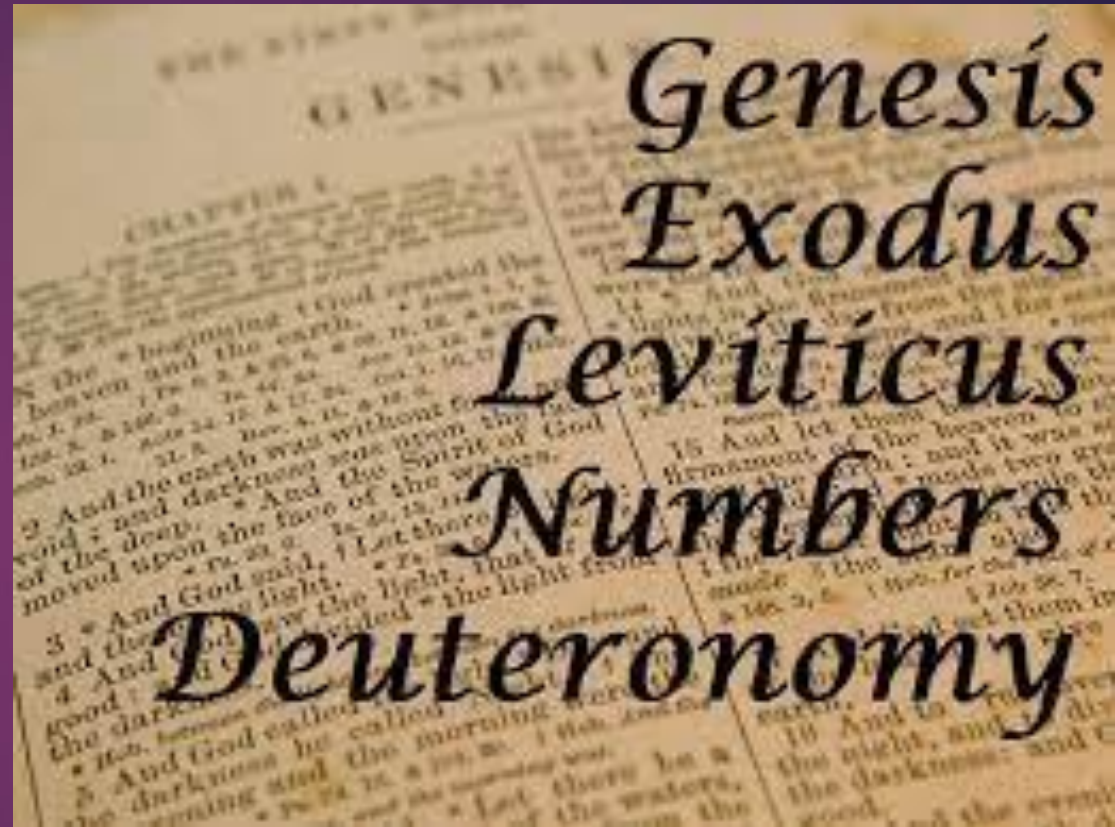
*Welcome to Women's  
Bible Study!*

MARCH 21, 2023



*Welcome!*

# *The Pentateuch*



## *Key Verses: The Call and Blessing of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)*

*Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*



# Numbers

# Review

1-7

8-10

11-15

16-17

18-20

21-22

23-27

CHAPTERS



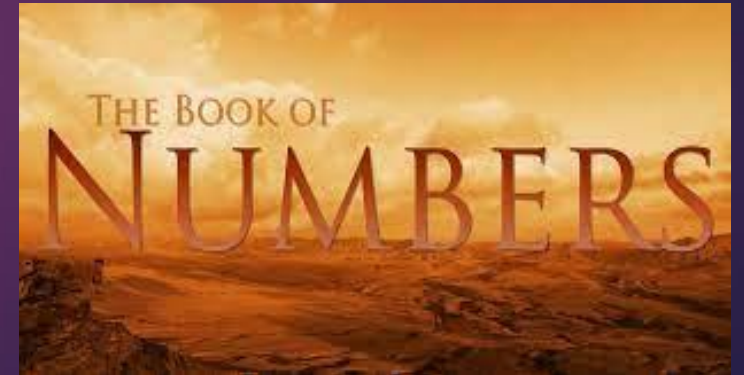


# Leviticus 16-17: Day of Atonement



# Numbers-Introduction

- *Numbers means, בְּמִדְבָּר Bāmīd̄bar, or “in the wilderness”*
- *It can be divided into 5 sections:*
  1. *Wilderness of Sinai (1-10)*
  2. *Travel to Paran (10-12)*
  3. *Wilderness of Paran (13-19)*
  4. *Travel to Moab (20-21)*
  5. *Wilderness of Moab (22-36)*



*Is God's covenant still true?*

# Group Discussion

Teaching

# Numbers-Background





# Numbers-Introduction

- God initiates steps towards the fulfilment of His promises, but *it is delayed by Israel's unfaithfulness.*

→ Theme and contribution of the book: The Result of Unfaithfulness



UNFAITHFULNESS, TO GOD

# Numbers-Introduction

→ Question to consider: How does my foolishness or faithfulness influence or affect God's plan for my life?



UNFAITHFULNESS, TO GOD

# Numbers 1-10: Wilderness of Sinai



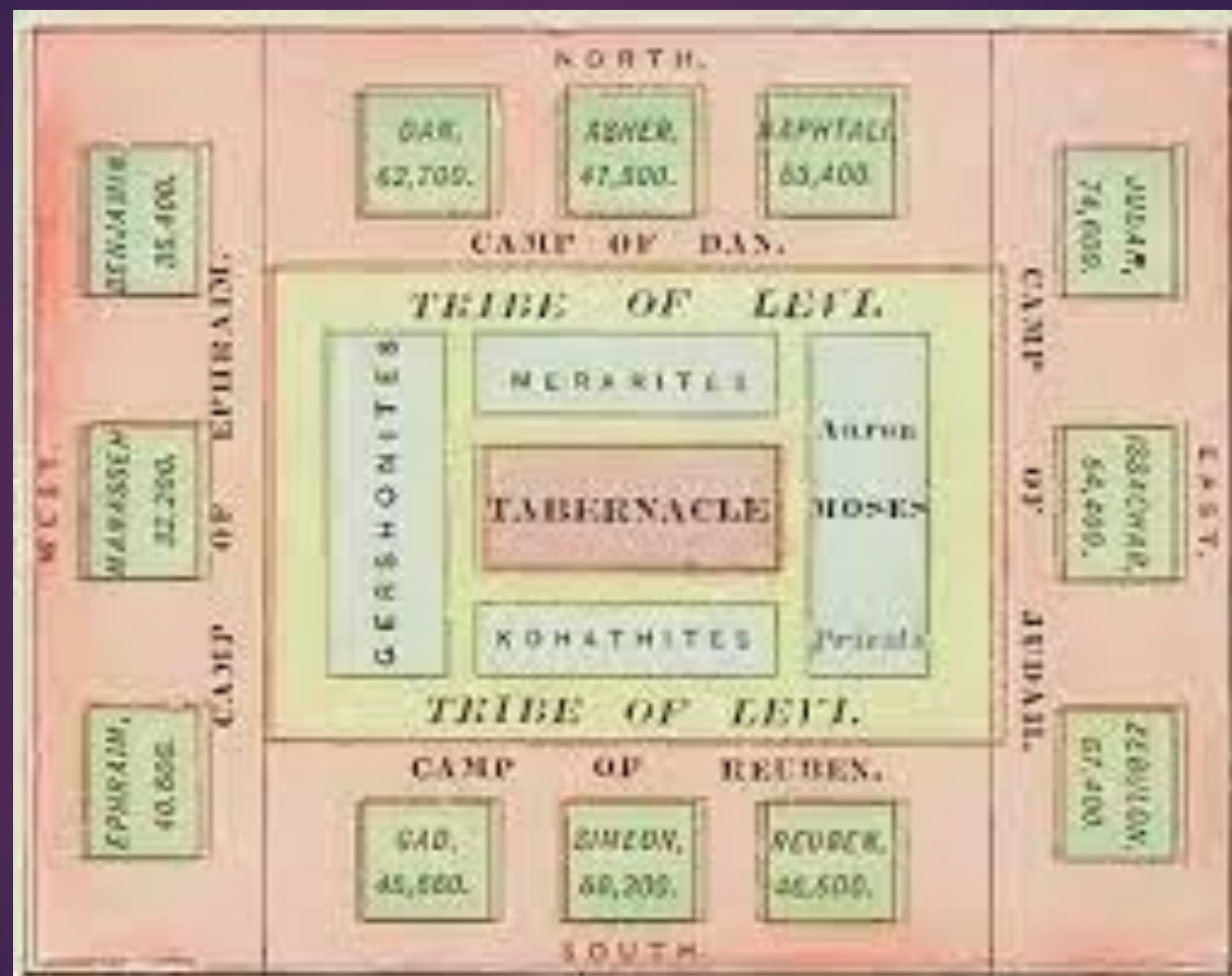


# Numbers 1-10: Wilderness of Sinai

Chapter 1:  
Census



Chapter 2:  
Layout of Camp



# Numbers 1-10: Wilderness of Sinai

Chapters 3-4:  
Duties of  
Levites,  
firstborn

Chapters 5-6:  
Uncleanness,  
adultery, vows

Chapters 7-8:  
Offerings for  
consecration of  
tabernacle

Chapter 9:  
Passover

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**THEY CAMPED  
AT THE LORD'S COMMAND  
AND THEY MARCHED  
AT THE LORD'S COMMAND.  
THEY FOLLOWED  
THE LORD'S DIRECTION ACCORDING  
TO THE LORD'S COMMAND  
THROUGH MOSES.**

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**Numbers 9:23**

# Numbers 1-10: Wilderness of Sinai

## Chapter 10: Leave Mt. Sinai

10:29: *“Please do not leave us, for you know where we should camp in the wilderness, and you will serve as eyes for us.”*



# Numbers 10-12: Travel to Paran

Chapter 10-11:  
Complaining

*11:11-13: Moses heard the people weeping throughout their clans, everyone at the door of his tent.*





# Numbers 10-12: Travel to Paran



Chapter 12:  
Miriam and Aaron  
challenge Moses'  
leadership

# Numbers 13-19: Wilderness of Paran

Chapters 13-14:  
Spies in the land





# Numbers 13-19: Wilderness of Paran

Chapters 13-14:  
Spies in the land



# Numbers 13-19: Wilderness of Paran

→ The people refuse to enter the land and God honors their choice.



*“Do all things without grumbling or complaining.”*  
*~Philippians 2:14*



# Numbers 13-19: Wilderness of Paran

Chapter 15:

Regulations on  
sacrifices and  
offerings

Chapters 16-17:

Aaron's leadership  
challenged/Korah's  
rebellion

Chapters 18-19:

Purification  
laws and  
inheritance for  
Levites and  
priests

# Numbers 20-21: Travel to Moab

Chapter 20:  
Miriam dies, Moses and  
Aaron rebel

20:10:  
*“Shall we bring water  
from a rock?”*



# Numbers 20-21: Travel to Moab

Chapter 21:  
More rebellion

21:5:

*“We loathe this worthless food.”*





# Numbers 20-21: Travel to Moab

Serpents sent as judgment

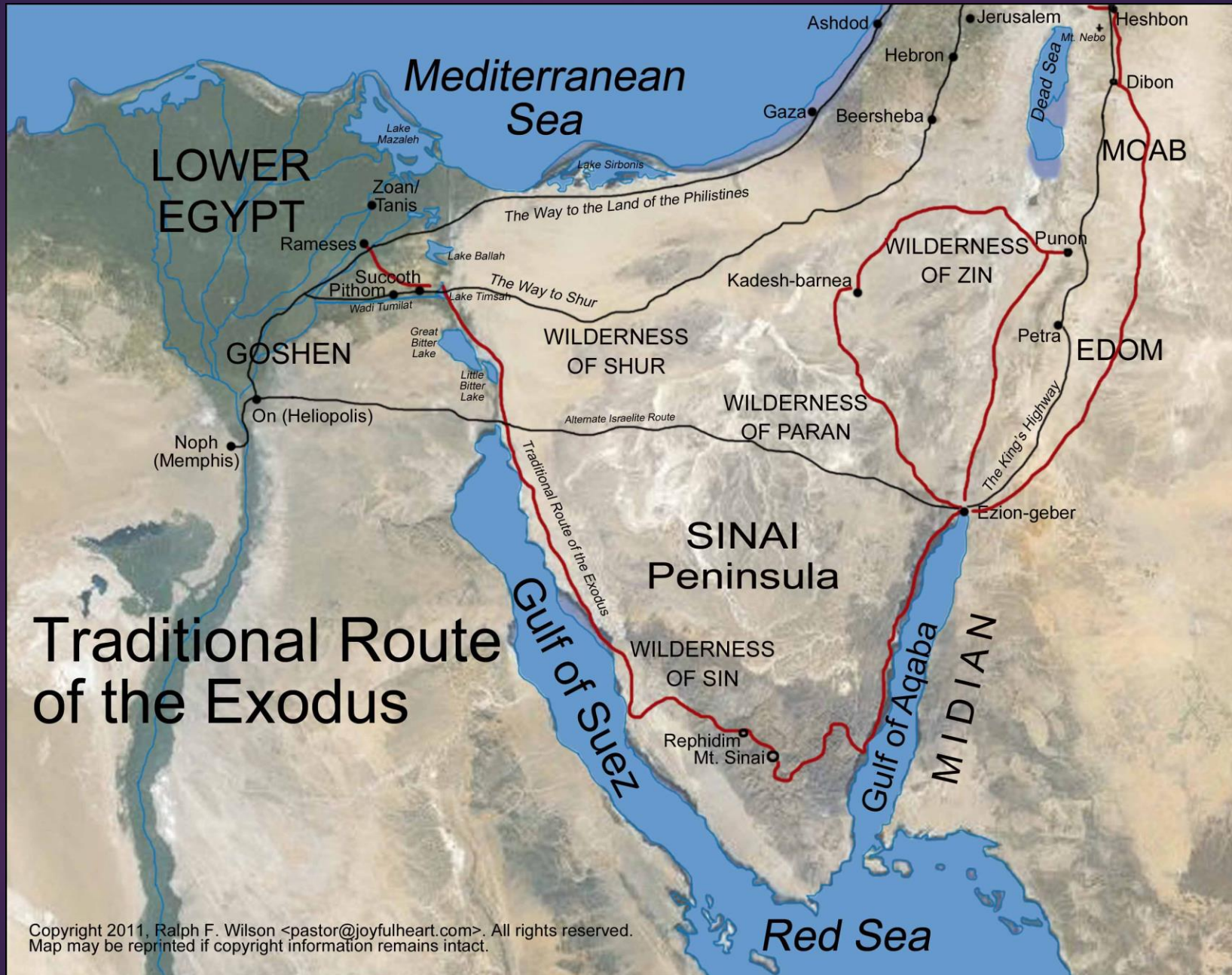


John 3:14-15:

*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.*





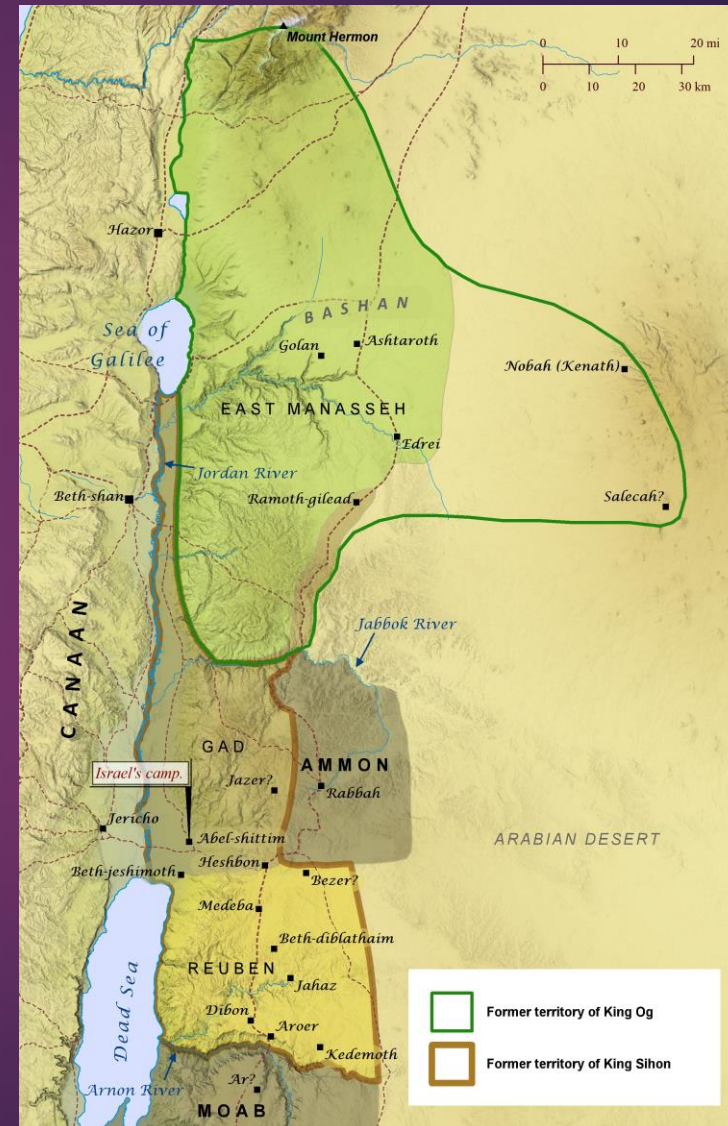


# Traditional Route of the Exodus

# Numbers 20-21: Travel to Moab

Kings of Sihon and  
Og are defeated

God continues to give them  
food, water, manna, and to  
provide for them. *(Their  
clothes did not wear out...  
Deut. 29:5*





*BREAK*



# Numbers 22-36: Wilderness of Moab

What about the covenant? Has God forgotten them?

The story of Balaam is the answer to that question.



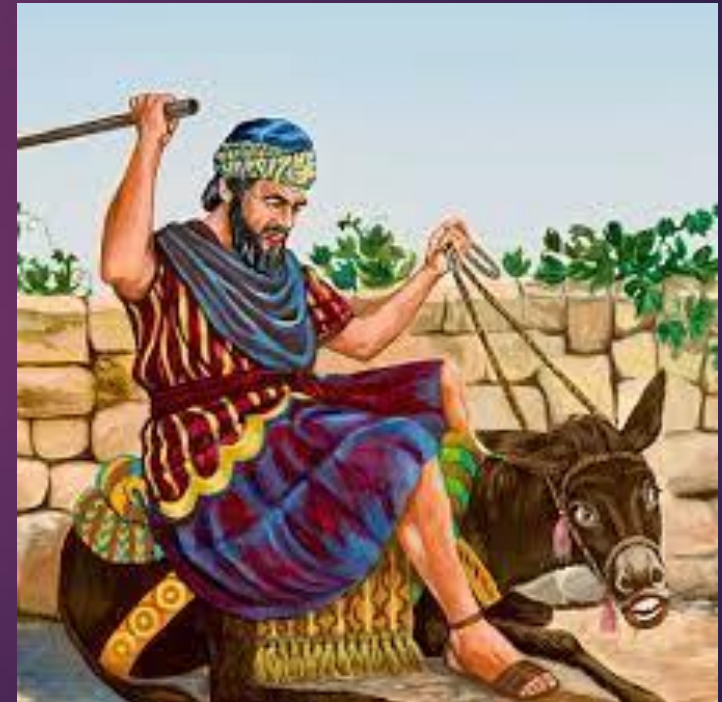
# Numbers 22-36: Wilderness of Moab



22:6:

*“I know that he whom  
you bless is blessed  
and he whom you  
curse is cursed”*

2 Peter 2:16: *“rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet’s madness”*



# Balaam's 4 Oracles or "Curses"



1. Numbers 23:9-10: *“your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth.”*
2. Numbers 23:19: *“He has blessed and I cannot revoke it.”*



## Balaam's 4 Oracles or "Curses"



3. Numbers 24:9: God will bless those who bless them and curse those who curse them.
4. Numbers 24:17: One who is coming, a ruler who will crush the foreheads of Moab. This isn't just an affirmation of Genesis 12, this is an affirmation of Genesis 3.



## *Balaam's 4 Oracles or "Curses"*

→ While Israel is down in the camp complaining, they are totally unaware that in the mountains overhead, God is blessing them.



# Numbers 22-36: Wilderness of Moab

Chapter 25:

Daughters of Moab,  
24,000 die in God's  
judgement



→ Balaam is brought up multiple times in Scripture as one who causes God's people to be led astray for personal gain.

# *Numbers 22-36: Wilderness of Moab*

Chapters 26-27:

New census, female  
heirs, Joshua to  
succeed Moses

Chapters 28-30

Various offerings

# Numbers 22-36: Wilderness of Moab

## Chapter 31: Judgment on Midian and Balaam



→ A direct fulfilment of God “cursing those who cursed them” and the seriousness with which God judges those who entice His people to sin.

# Numbers 22-36: Wilderness of Moab

Chapter 32:  
Reuben, Gad and ½  
tribe of Manasseh  
settle in Gilead:

Chapters 33-36:  
Recount the journey,  
boundaries, cities of  
refuge, female heirs



## Numbers 22-36: Wilderness of Moab

Chapter 32:

Reuben, Gad and ½  
tribe of Manasseh  
settle in Gilead:

Chapters 33-36:

Recount the journey,  
boundaries, cities of  
refuge, female heirs

→ The book ends as they are about to enter the land and Moses is about to die. Before they go in, he is going to give them his last words and that is what Deuteronomy is about.



## *Thoughts on Numbers*

- Numbers is an example of unfaithfulness which we are not to follow.
- The choices we make to obey or disobey God matter.
- You can make choices to put yourself in a place where God can bless you and express more love to you or you can remove yourself from that blessing by disobedience.



## *Thoughts on Numbers*

- Our relationship with God is that-a relationship. His unconditional and conditional love aren't contradictions. They are part of a relationship.
- We are loved unconditionally in Christ, but we must not presume upon God's forgiveness as if what we do doesn't matter.

## *Discussion/Sharing Time*

1. Do you struggle with complaining about day-to-day things? What does that communicate to God about your trust in Him and your faith in His plans? How does complaining open a door for rebellion against God?
2. In what ways do we presume upon God's forgiveness and not consider the consequences for our sin? How can we rightly understand the forgiveness we have in Christ with the reality that our sin can still have consequences?
3. How should the example of the people in Numbers motivate us to guard our hearts against rebellion and to press on in faith?

## Closing Thoughts on Numbers

Three main points:

1. We must continue in faith.
2. Our decisions matter.
3. God will remain faithful to His covenant.

→ We can rest in God's faithfulness to His promises and that is our hope. But we are not to be lazy in our pursuit of Him. What we do matters, and we ought to "*work out our salvation with fear and trembling.*"

## Quote from The Chronicles of Narnia

“But what would have been the good?”

Aslan said nothing.

"You mean," said Lucy rather faintly, "that it would have turned out all right – somehow? But how? Please, Aslan! Am I not to know?"

"To know what would have happened, child?" said Aslan. "No. Nobody is ever told that."

"Oh dear," said Lucy.

"But anyone can find out what will happen," said Aslan. "If you go back to the others now, and wake them up; and tell them you have seen me again; and that you must all get up at once and follow me – what will happen? There is only one way of finding out.”

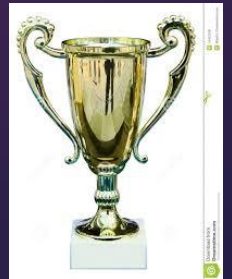
## Closing Thoughts on Numbers

→ God doesn't want us to live in regret over the past or fear of the future. As the Lord tells Peter when he asks about what will happen in the future, "*You follow Me!*" (John 21:22)



## Closing Thoughts on Numbers

Philippians 3:12-14: *“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize of God’s heavenly calling in Christ Jesus.”*



## Closing Thoughts on Numbers

→ Hebrews 4:7/Psalm 95:11:

*“Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.”*











## *Homework:*

- *Read Deuteronomy (Listening is great!)*
- *Work through the study guide as you read.*
- *Consider getting additional resources to help in your study time.*
- *Next Study: Tuesday, April 18*

## Sources Used:

ESV Study Bible

Logos

Hill, Andrew E & John Walton. A Survey of the Old Testament. Grand Rapids: 2009.

The Bible Project: The Torah Series

T. Desmond Alexander, T. Desmond. From Paradise to the Promised Land: An Introduction to the Pentateuch, Fourth Edition. Grand Rapids: 2022.

Cedarville University: Dr. Miller Old Testament Literature Course