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Week 8 Bible Readings

Sunday: Num. 1-3
 Monday: Num. 4-6
 Tuesday: Num. 7-10
 Wednesday: Num. 11,12; Psa. 90
 Thursday: Psa. 91; Num. 13,14
 Friday: Num. 15-17
 Saturday: Num. 18-20

Week 8 Chapter Titles

Numbers 1 The Numbering of the Tribes
 Numbers 2-9 The Arrangement of the Camp
 Numbers 10 Beginning of the March (Sinai to Kadesh Barnea)
 Numbers 11 The March Continues
 Numbers 12 The Murmuring of Miriam and Aaron against Moses
 Numbers 13 At Kadesh—the 12 Spies
 Numbers 14 The Unbelief of Israel at Kadesh
 Numbers 15-19 The Wandering in the Wilderness
 Numbers 20 No Water Situation #2
 Psalm 90 The Psalm of Death (First Adam)
 Psalm 91 The Psalm of Life (Second Adam)

Numbers p r i q m o i ???????????

Numbers is the Book of the Wilderness. This book details the passing of the Exodus generation, and the struggles of the Wilderness generation. A created and redeemed people, given specific instructions for holiness, must proceed volitionally to make application of what they have been commanded. Humble obedience requires a walk of faith, particularly in the face of external conflict that appears to be impossible. Moses sent 12 spies into the land of Canaan, and only two of those spies had the faith to believe that God will fulfill what God promises to do.

Title: Numbers takes its name from the two numberings of the population of Israel (Num. 1:2-46; 26:2-51). The Greek title in the Septuagint is *Arithmoi*, “Numbers.” The Latin Vulgate followed this title and translated it *Liber Numeri*, “Book of Numbers.” The most common Hebrew title, taken from the fifth word of the book, B^emidbar “in the wilderness.”

Author: As with Genesis, Exodus, & Leviticus, Moses is certainly the author of Numbers. Modern liberal scholarship has doubted this, but there is no compelling evidence to dispute the Mosaic authorship.

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Focus	Old Generation		Tragic Transition				New Generation		
	1-1	10-10	10-11	25-18	26-1	36-13			
Divisions	Organization of Israel <small>1:1 4:49</small>	Sanctification of Israel <small>5:1 10:10</small>	To Kadesh-Barnea <small>10:11</small>	At Kadesh-Barnea <small>13:1</small>	In Wilderness <small>15:1</small>	To Moab <small>20:1</small>	Reorganization of Israel <small>26:1</small>	Regulations of Offerings and Vows <small>28:1</small>	Conquest and Division of Israel <small>31:1</small>
Topics	Order		Disorder				Reorder		
	Preparation		Postponement				Preparation		
Place	Mt. Sinai		Wilderness				Plains of Moab		
Time	20 Days		38 Years, 3 Months, 10 Days				c. 5 Months		

Numbers 1

- The Lord commanded Moses to take a census of the nation of Israel, assessing the nation's fighting capacity.
 - The census was taken by (tribes, clans) families, and households (Num. 1:2).
 - The census specifically enumerated the fighting men from 20 years of age and upward (Num. 1:3).
- Moses and Aaron were to conduct this census with a committee of 12 Tribal leaders (Num. 1:4-19).
- The census figures (Num. 1:20-46).
 - Reuben Leah 46,500.
 - Simeon Leah 59,300.
 - Gad Leah via Zilpah 45,650.
 - Judah Leah 74,600.
 - Issachar Leah 54,400.
 - Zebulun Leah 57,400.
 - Joseph Rachel
 - Ephraim 40,500.
 - Manasseh 32,200.

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- h. Benjamin Rachel 35,400.
- i. Dan Rachel via Bilhah 62,700.
- j. Asher Leah via Zilpah 41,500.
- k. Naphtali Rachel via Bilhah 53,400.
- 4. The total figure 603,550.
 - a. Average: 54,900
 - b. Large tribes: Judah (74,600), Joseph (72,700), Dan (62,700).
 - c. Small tribes: Reuben (46,500), Gad (45,650), Asher (41,500), Benjamin (35,400).
- 5. The Levites were exempted from the census numbering, as they were set apart for the ministry of the tabernacle (Num. 1:47-54).

Numbers 2

1. Chapter two takes the tribes of Israel, and establishes their camp position in relation to the tabernacle (Num. 2:1).
2. These tribes are positioned on the four sides of the tabernacle (Num. 2:2-31).
3. These tribes are also positioned in the order of march, when the camp set forth (Num. 2:9,16,24,31; 10:11-28).
4. The east side of the tabernacle was the camp of Judah, supported by the camps of Issachar & Zebulun (Num. 2:3-9).
5. The south side of the tabernacle was the camp of Reuben, supported by the camps of Simeon & Gad (Num. 2:10-16).
6. The tabernacle and Levites set out “in the midst of the camps” (Num. 2:17). This will be elaborated on later (Num. 10).
7. The west side of the tabernacle was the camp of Ephraim, supported by the camps of Manasseh & Benjamin (Num. 2:18-24).
8. The north side of the tabernacle was the camp of Dan, supported by Asher & Naphtali (Num. 2:25-31).

Numbers 3

1. Chapter three highlights the tribe of Levi, and the organization of the Levitical clans.
 2. The Aaronic priesthood will be comprised of two (instead of four) divisions: Eleazar & Ithamar (Num. 3:4).
 3. The tribe of Levi is set apart for the support services to the Aaronic priesthood (Num. 3:5-10).
 4. The tribe of Levi is also taken by the Lord in lieu of the firstborn that were to be dedicated to His service (Num. 3:11-14,40-51; Ex. 13:2,12,13,15; 22:29; Lev 27:26).
 5. The tribe of Levi is divided into the clans of Gershon, Kohath, and Merari (Num. 3:15-17).
 - a. The clan of Gershon was divided into the 2 families of Libni and Shimei (Num. 3:18).
 - 1) Their number, from a month old and upward, was 7,500 (Num. 3:22).
 - 2) The families of Libni and Shimei camped to the west of the tabernacle (Num. 3:23).
 - 3) Their duties included the tent, its covering, the screens, hangings, and cords (Num. 3:25,26).
 - b. The clan of Kohath was divided into the 4 families of Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel (Num. 3:19).
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- 1) Their number was 8,600 (Num. 3:28).
- 2) They camped on the south side of the tabernacle (Num. 3:29).
- 3) Their duties included the ark, the table of showbread, the lampstand, the altars, and utensils (Num. 3:31).
- c. The clan of Merari was divided into the 2 families of Mahli and Mushi (Num. 3:20).
 - 1) Their number was 6,200 (Num. 3:34).
 - 2) They camped on the north side of the tabernacle (Num. 3:35).
 - 3) Their duties included the frames of the tabernacle, its bars, pillars, sockets, pegs and cords (Num. 3:36,37).
- d. The east side of the tabernacle was reserved for Moses, Aaron, and Aaron's sons (Num. 3:38).
6. The enumeration of Levi was extraordinarily small. The other tribes were enumerated from 20 years of age and upward, and averaged 54,900, with Benjamin the smallest tribe at 35,400, and Manasseh the half-tribe at 32,200. Levi was enumerated from 1 month of age and upward, and still only reached 22,000.
7. The redemption of the 22,273 firstborn of Israel refers to the 22,273 firstborn children that have been born since the Exodus (Num. 3:43).

Numbers 4

1. Specific instructions for the Kohathite services are spelled out (Num. 4:1-20).
 - a. A census was taken, from age 30 to 50, for spiritual service to the Lord (Num. 4:3).
 - b. Out of the 8,600 Kohathites from 1 month of age and up (Num. 3:28), 2,750 were of an age for Levitical service (Num. 4:36).
 - c. Elaborate procedures were in place for the Kohathites in carrying the holy objects without endangering their lives in the process (Num. 4:5-20).
 - d. Eleazar was specifically tasked with overseeing the Kohathite endeavors (Num. 4:16).
2. Specific instructions for the Gershonite services are spelled out (Num. 4:21-28).
 - a. Out of the 7,500 Gershonites from 1 month of age and up (Num. 3:22), 2,630 were of an age for Levitical service (Num. 4:40).
 - b. Ithamar was specifically tasked with overseeing the Gershonite endeavors (Num. 4:28).
3. Specific instructions for the Merarite services are spelled out (Num. 4:29-33).
 - a. Out of the 6,200 Merarites from 1 month of age and up (Num. 3:34), 3,200 were of an age for Levitical service (Num. 4:44).
 - b. Ithamar was specifically tasked with overseeing the Merarite endeavors (Num. 4:33).

Numbers 5

1. As Israel was preparing to set out from Sinai, they were required to enforce the separation between clean and unclean (Num. 5:1-4).
 2. Israel was instructed in how to restore fellowship between men—the process of human restitution and human reconciliation (Num. 5:5-10).
 3. Israel was instructed in the Law of Jealousy (Num. 5:11-31).
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- a. This ritual was a highly specialized mechanism for investigating a potential case of adultery.
- b. The initiation of this ritual was a response to a spirit of jealousy coming upon a husband.
 $\text{ru}^{\text{a}}\text{ch-qin'ah}$.
 - 1) In the case of an innocent wife, the spirit of jealousy is obviously a deceiving spirit (1st Kgs. 22:22,23).
 - 2) In the case of a guilty wife, the spirit of jealousy is used by the Lord to bring the hidden shameful things to light (Ecc. 12:14; 1st Cor. 4:5).
- c. The nature of the ritual was of God revealing His will through the mediation of His priesthood on behalf of man—not a pagan trial by ordeal.

Numbers 6

1. Specific instructions for the Nazirite vow are spelled out (Num. 6:1-21).
 - a. This is a follow up to the previous teaching on “difficult vows” (Lev. 27).
 - b. The vow of a Nazirite. $\text{naziyr}^{\#5139}$: *consecrated one, devoted one*.
 - c. To dedicate Himself to the Lord. $\text{nazar}^{\#5144}$: *to dedicate, consecrate, separate*.
 2. Under normal circumstances, the Nazirite vow was for a finite period of time (Num. 6:4,5,6,8,13).
 - a. If the Nazirite was defiled during his time of separation, he was to go through the cleansing procedure, and restart his period of separation (Num. 6:9-12).
 - b. Samson was a lifelong Nazirite from birth (Jdg. 13:2-5), as was John the Baptist (Lk. 1:15; 7:33).
 - c. The Lord Jesus Christ was a Nazarene (from the village of Nazareth) (Matt. 2:23), and not a Nazirite.
 3. The Nazirite’s dedication to the Lord entailed a voluntary abstention from otherwise normal human activity (Num. 6:3-7).
 - a. Abstinence from alcohol (Num. 6:3,4).
 - b. Abstinence from all hair cutting, beard trimming, etc. (Num. 6:5).
 - c. Total separation from all dead things (Num. 6:6,7).
 4. Upon completion of the Nazirite vow time period, special offerings are brought to the Lord (Num. 6:13-21).
 5. The Lord provided a ritual benediction for the Aaronic priesthood to bless the people with (Num. 6:22-27).
 - a. The Lord bless you and keep you.
 - b. The Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you.
 - c. The Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace.
 - d. No such formula for benediction is to be found in the New Testament for Church Age believers.
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Numbers 7

1. The twelve princes of the twelve tribes of Israel brought freewill grace gift offerings to the Lord on the day that the tabernacle was completed (Num. 7:1-89).
2. The twelve princes are the same leaders that were designated by the Lord when the tribes were enumerated (Num. 7:2; 1:5-16).
3. The twelve princes brought a collective gift of six carts and twelve oxen for the transportation of the tabernacle (Num. 7:3).
 - a. Two carts and four oxen were given to Gershon for his service (Num. 7:7).
 - b. Four carts and eight oxen were given to Merari for his service (Num. 7:8).
 - c. No carts were given to Kohath, as their service was to carry the holy items with the designated poles (Num. 7:9).
4. The twelve leaders brought their gifts to the Lord one per day, over a period of twelve days (Num. 7:10,11).
 - a. The order was the same as the order of the camp (Num. 2:3-31).
 - b. The twelve day labor did not violate the Sabbath, as this was exactly what the Sabbath was for—the worship of the Lord.

Numbers 8

1. Specific instructions for the lighting of the lampstand are spelled out (Num. 8:1-4).
2. Like Aaron & his sons, for a consecrated priesthood, the Levites are set apart for their consecrated work of service (Num. 8:5-22).
3. The career of a Levite is designated as beginning at age 25, and ending at age 50 (Num. 8:23-26).
 - a. At 25 they entered apprenticeship (Num. 8:24).
 - b. At 30 they entered full service (Num. 4:3).
 - c. At 50 they entered their retirement (Num. 4:3; 8:25).
 - d. In times of unusual circumstances, the beginning age was dropped to 20 (Ezra 3:8).

Numbers 9

1. The tabernacle was erected on the first day of the first month of the second year of Israel's exodus (Ex. 40:1).
2. Aaron and his sons were consecrated over the next eight days (Ex. 40:12-15; Lev. 8).
3. For twelve days (overlapping the eight days of Aaron's consecration), the twelve princes of Israel brought their offerings (Num. 7).
4. On the fourteenth day of this month, it was time for Israel to observe their second Passover (Num. 9:1-14).
5. The death of Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10) may have occurred during the final four days of princely gifts, or during the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread.
6. The description for Israel's travel arrangements is given once again (Num. 9:15-23; Ex. 40:36-38; Neh. 9:16-21).

Numbers 10

1. The Lord instructed Israel to manufacture two silver trumpets (Num. 10:1-10).
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- a. A single trumpet blast was a summons for the tribal elders to assemble (vv.4,7).
- b. A double trumpet blast was an alarm for war, and order to break camp (v.3).
- c. Successive blasts of the alarm signaled the individual stages of march (vv.5,6).
- d. The trumpet blast was a responsibility of Aaron and his sons (v.8).
- e. The trumpet blast was a call for the Lord of Hosts to fight on their behalf (v.9).
- f. Single trumpet blasts were also mandated for:
 - 1) the appointed feasts (Lev. 23), including the new moon feasts.
 - 2) in conjunction with the burnt offerings and peace offerings of those feasts (Num. 10:9).
 - 3) The 7th month had an extraordinary degree of trumpet blasting—the Feast of Trumpets (Lev. 23:23-25).
2. After all the time of preparation, the nation of Israel set out from Sinai.
 - a. Their redemption out of Egypt was accomplished in great haste, with almost no preparation whatsoever—allowing God to do all the work.
 - b. The departure from Sinai was accomplished in great deliberateness, with extensive preparation—working as God’s fellow workers.
3. Israel set forth on the 20th day of the 2nd month of the 2nd year of the Exodus (Num. 10:11ff.).
 - a. The cloud was lifted up (Num. 10:11).
 - 1) The Lord my Banner, YHWH Nissiy (Ex. 17:15), sets forth.
 - 2) The command is to “follow the colors.”
 - b. The East Martial Division spearheaded the march (Num. 10:14-16).
 - 1) Judah Battalion was in command.
 - 2) Issachar Battalion & Zebulun Battalion were in support.
 - c. Gershon Company and Merari Company went forth (Num. 10:17).
 - d. The South Martial Division went forth (Num. 10:18-20).
 - 1) Reuben Battalion was in command.
 - 2) Simeon Battalion & Gad Battalion were in support.
 - e. Kohath Company went forth, bearing the holy objects (Num. 10:21).
 - f. The West Martial Division went forth (Num. 10:22-24).
 - 1) Ephraim Battalion was in command.
 - 2) Manasseh Battalion & Benjamin Battalion were in support.
 - g. The North Martial Division brought up the rear (Num. 10:25-27).
 - 1) Dan Battalion was in command.
 - 2) Asher Battalion & Naphtali Battalion were in support.
4. Moses invited his (brother?) in-law Hobab to accompany Israel, and to serve as a recon-platoon for their march (Num. 10:29-32; Jdg. 4:11).
5. Israel set forth on a three day march, following the Lord from Sinai (Num. 10:33-36).

Numbers 11

1. Between Sinai and Kadesh, Moses had to deal with three rebellions (Num. 11:1-12:16).
 - a. General complaint over the adversity of traveling through the wilderness (Num. 11:1-3).
 - b. Specific complaint over the manna diet (Num. 11:4-35).
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- c. Family complaint by Aaron and Miriam against Moses' marriage to a Cushite woman (Num. 12:1-16).
 2. The general complaint of the people (Num. 11:1-3).
 - a. It was a complaint of adversity. *רָעָה* ^{#7451}: *bad, evil, wickedness*.
 - 1) God is good (Ex. 33:19; Num. 10:29,32).
 - 2) God's provision is good (Gen. 1:31; 2:9).
 - 3) Woe to those who call good evil and evil good (Isa. 5:20).
 - b. The Lord's judgment was immediate, and obvious, as it was with Nadab & Abihu (Num. 11:1a).
 3. The specific complaint of the manna diet (Num. 11:4-35).
 - a. This complaint was started by the rabble (Num. 11:4). *רָעָה* ^{#628}: *rabble*.
By reduplication, from *רָעָה* ^{#622}: *to gather, collect*.
 - b. The mixed multitude that came up with Israel out of Egypt (Ex. 12:38) begins to be a thorn in the side of Israel.
 - c. They had greedy desires, and expressed their mental attitude sin through verbal sin, and an intention to commit overt sin (Num. 11:4).
 - d. This rebellion was launched through a dissatisfaction of the Lord's gracious provision (Num. 11:6).
 - e. Moses reminded his readers of how perfect the provision of manna actually was (Num. 11:7-9).
 4. When the grumbling spread throughout the camp, Moses became angry in his prayers to the Lord (Num. 11:10-15).
 5. The Lord patiently answered Moses' prayer, and provided him with some assistance (Num. 11:16-20).
 - a. Moses doubts the Lord's provision (Num. 11:21,22).
 - b. The Lord reminds Moses with Whom he is dealing (Num. 11:23).
 6. 70 Elders are assembled, the leaders of the families within the 12 tribes of Israel (Num. 11:24,25).
 - a. They are given short-term prophetic ministry (Num. 11:25; 1st Sam. 10:6,10; 19:20-24).
 - b. Eldad and Medad are absent from the 70, at the tent of meeting, but receive the prophetic ministry anyway (Num. 11:26).
 - c. Joshua and the younger generation doesn't know how to handle it, but Moses rejoices over the longer manifestation of the Holy Spirit (Num. 11:27-30).
 7. The Lord answered the desire of Israel with the imperfect, cursed provision (Num. 11:31-35).
 - a. He sent them more quail than they could gather. A circle, of perhaps 20 miles radius, 18" deep of quail was provided (Num. 11:31).
 - b. The people gathered ten homers as a minimum, and proceeded to gorge themselves (Num. 11:32).
 - 1) A homer was equal to 10 baths, or 10 ephahs.
 - 2) A homer equaled the normal load of grain for a donkey.
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- c. The Lord struck the gluttons with a plague (rotten meat) while it was still in their mouths (Num. 11:32-35; Ps. 78:26-31; Job 20:14).
- 8. The naming of the camps along the way is becoming quite predictable—Rebellion, Bitterness, Fire, Graves of the Greediness.

Numbers 12

1. Miriam and Aaron spoke out in rebellion against Moses (Num. 12:1).
 - a. They disapproved of his marriage to a Cushite woman (Num. 12:1; Gen. 10:6).
 - 1) A first wife before Zipporah? Josephus, Ant. II, x, 2.
 - 2) A second wife after the death of Zipporah?
 - 3) A second wife in addition to Zipporah? One of the mixed multitude, perhaps?
 - 4) The same woman as Zipporah?
 - b. They viewed their own standing before the Lord as equal to Moses' standing before the Lord (Num. 12:2).
 - c. Their view was incorrect, as their humility did not match the humility of Moses (Num. 12:3).
2. The Lord's call to Moses, Aaron, & Miriam was a sudden call, and an immediate summons to His presence in the tabernacle (Num. 12:4).
 - a. The Lord's rebuke to Aaron & Miriam was such that it revealed the intimacy to His face-to-face relationship with Moses (Num. 12:6-8).
 - b. The principle of lifting one's hand against the Lord's anointed is introduced here (Num. 12:8; 1st Sam. 24:6; 26:11).
3. The rebellion was by Miriam and Aaron (Num. 12:1), but the Lord's rebuke was against Aaron and Miriam (Num. 12:4,5).
4. The reproof was against Miriam (Num. 12:10), but the repentance was voiced by Aaron (Num. 12:11,12).
5. Moses interceded on Miriam's behalf, but the answer to the prayer came in the Lord's timing, according to the Lord's standard for judgment (Num. 12:13-16).
6. After a week's delay, the nation of Israel arrived at the wilderness of Paran (Num. 12:16), a location later known as Kadesh (Num. 13:26).

Psalm 90

1. Psalm 90 is the one psalm of Moses in the Book of Psalms.
2. Moses also authored a psalm at his death (Deut. 33).
3. This beautiful psalm highlights God's Eternal Life (Psa. 90:1,2).
4. This beautiful psalm highlights God's eternal purpose, and His unique timetable (Psa. 90:3-6).
5. This beautiful psalm highlights the short time that man has upon the earth, and the importance of staying faithful to the Lord (Psa. 90:7-12).
6. This beautiful psalm highlights a sinful people, repentant of their evil, and looking to the lovingkindness of the Lord (Psa. 90:13-17).

Numbers 91

1. Some ancient traditions ascribe this psalm to Moses as well as Psalm 90.
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2. The titles of Most High and Almighty are certainly early titles for the Lord.
 - a. **ʾēlyōwn**^{#5945}: *most high* (Gen. 14:18,19,20,22).
 - b. **šadday**^{#7706}: *almighty* (Gen. 17:1; often throughout Job).
3. The setting, if it is indeed of Mosaic, certainly finds its application in the life of the young man Joshua, who will fulfill the short-term prophecy of this psalm.
4. Joshua is the type of Christ, Who ultimately fulfills the long-term prophecy of this psalm.
5. Regardless of the strategic odds against him, Joshua has total confidence in the provision of the Lord (Psa. 91:1-10).
6. The guarantee of angelic protection is a passage that every believer may claim, and one that the Devil used in his temptation of Christ (Psa. 91:11-13; Matt. 4:6).
7. The Lord's view toward this faithful servant is expressed (Psa. 91:14-16).
 - a. This passage is perfectly applicable to Joshua, but is also appropriate for a Davidic authorship—another long-standing tradition that should not be ignored.
 - b. The Bible student is best to not make dogmatic assertions regarding authorship of various Books of the Bible, especially in light of the Lord's intentional design to not give us specific authorship for various Books of the Bible.

Numbers 13

1. The Lord instructed Moses to dispatch 12 spies from the 12 tribes, and send them throughout the land of Canaan (Num. 13:1,2).
2. Moses dispatched the following “leaders.” **ʾrōš**^{#7218}: *head, chief* (Num. 1:4; 13:3).
 - a. The “heads” of Num. 1 are tribal heads.
 - b. Those “heads” are heads of other divisions—either clan, family, or house.
 - c. Caleb the son of Jephunneh represented the tribe of Judah (Num. 13:6).
 - d. Hoshea (Joshua) the son of Nun represented the tribe of Ephraim (Num. 13:8,16).
 - 1) **hōwshe**^{a, #1954}: *salvation*.
 - 2) **yehōwshu**^{a, #3091}: *YHWH is salvation*.
3. Moses commissioned the 12 spies with the following responsibilities:
 - a. Assess the military strength of the inhabitants (Num. 13:18).
 - b. Evaluate the quality of the land, open field and cities for military operations (Num. 13:19).
 - c. Estimate the quality of the farmland, and obtain fruit samples (Num. 13:20).
4. The spies thoroughly investigated the land (Num. 13:21-24).
 - a. Their survey covered the land in its entirety (Num. 13:21), over a period of forty days (Num. 13:25).
 - b. The biggest impression any city made was the city of Hebron.
 - 1) Hebron, or Kiriath-Arba (Gen. 23:2; 35:27; Josh. 14:15), is one of the most ancient cities of the post-deluvian world.
 - 2) The oldest cities are the most fortified, as the most fortified cities endure the longest.
 - 3) Hebron was fortified, and inhabited by 3 Anakim giants (Num. 13:22,28,33).

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- (a) The Anakim are a division of those Nephilim (Num. 13:33) that were generated upon the earth after the flood (Gen. 6:4).
 - (b) Like the Nephilim that were generated upon the earth before the flood, these giants are the offspring of fallen angels and human women (Gen. 6:1,2,4).
- c. The biggest impression any agricultural location made, was the Valley of Eshcol (Num. 13:23,24).
- 5. The spies return, and give a bad report (Num. 13:25-33).
 - a. The spies return to Kadesh: “holy” and fail to appreciate what the Holy God is providing for them (Num. 13:26).
 - b. The spies had good news and bad news (Num. 13:27-29).
 - 1) Good news: the land’s agricultural potential is amazing (Num. 13:27).
 - 2) Bad news: we will never enjoy the land’s bounty, because of the giants in the land (Num. 13:28,29).
 - c. Caleb speaks up with a positive message (Num. 13:30).
 - d. The faithless spies reject Caleb’s encouragement, and spread the negative volition human viewpoint among the people of Israel (Num. 13:31-33).

Numbers 14

- 1. The propaganda of the 10 faithless spies launches an organized rebellion on the part of Israel (Num. 14:1-4).
 - a. Human viewpoint sees no solution to the problem, and so it goes into an emotional reaction (Num. 14:1).
 - b. Human viewpoint wants to blame somebody, and find fault (Num. 14:2).
 - c. Human viewpoint assumes that God is out to get them (Num. 14:3).
 - d. Human viewpoint seeks leaders according to their own desires (Num. 14:4).
 - 2. In the face of spiritual rebellion, Moses & Aaron gave their case to the Lord (Num. 14:5).
 - 3. In the face of spiritual rebellion, Joshua & Caleb take a stand for God’s absolute standard of Righteousness (Num. 14:6-9).
 - a. Their stand was not accepted by the people, and they faced imminent physical death (Num. 14:10a).
 - b. The Lord will defend those believers who faithfully stand for His Righteousness (Num. 14:10b).
 - 4. The Lord tests Moses for the second time with an opportunity to make a people and a name for himself (Num. 14:11-19).
 - a. The Lord promises to destroy Israel, and make a new nation from Moses (Num. 14:11,12).
 - b. Moses passes the test, as he did before, and calls upon the Lord to be faithful to His unconditional covenant promises (Num. 14:13-19).
 - 5. Since Moses confessed the sins of Israel (Num. 14:19), the Lord forgave them (Num. 14:20).
 - 6. Although they are forgiven, the consequences of their rebellion will last throughout the remainder of their days (Num. 14:21-38).
 - a. The entire generation is banned from entrance into the promised land (Num. 14:28,29).
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- b. The children (which they used as an excuse for not going in) will be the ones who inherit the land (Num. 14:31).
 - c. Only Caleb & Joshua will be permitted to live long enough, and enter into the land of promise (Num. 14:30).
 - d. The 10 faithless spies died of a plague before the Lord (Num. 14:37; 1st Cor. 10:10).
- 7. After disobeying the Lord's will to go into the land, Israel disobeys the Lord's will to go away from the land (Num. 14:25,39-45).
 - a. The Lord instructed Israel to leave tomorrow for the wilderness of the Red Sea (Num. 14:25).
 - b. In the morning, Israel decided to go into the promised land after all (Num. 14:40).
 - c. Moses warned them that their actions were doomed to fail (Num. 14:41-43).
 - d. He was right (Num. 14:44,45).

Numbers 15

1. The Lord begins His instruction for the subsequent generation—the Wilderness Generation (Num. 15:1,2,18).
2. The Lord presents Israel with “supplement offerings” to go with their other offerings (Num. 15:3-13).
 - a. These grain and drink offerings are over and above the sacrificial instructions presented to their parents—the Exodus Generation.
 - b. ½ hin of wine = ½ gallon.
3. The Lord also instructed Israel that the alien among them, who desired to worship with them, could do so, exactly as they did (Num. 15:14-16).
4. The Lord gives instructions to the new generation concerning:
 - a. First-fruits (Num. 14:17-21).
 - b. Unintentional national sin (Num. 14:22-26).
 - c. Unintentional personal sin (Num. 14:27-29).
 - d. Defiant sin (Num. 14:30,31).
5. During this time of instruction, a man was found breaking the Sabbath (Num. 14:32-36).
6. The Lord arranged for Israel to wear tassels on the corners of their garments, for memorials of His law (Num. 15:37-41).

Numbers 16

1. Chapter 16 deals with a Levitical and Reubenical rebellion against the authority of Moses & Aaron.
 2. The conspirators:
 - a. Korah, a Levite in the division of Kohath. The ringleader of the entire rebellion (Jude 11).
 - b. Dathan & Abiram, sons of Eliab, son of Reuben. The ringleaders of Reubenite cooperation with Korah's Rebellion (Num. 26:9).
 - c. On, son of Peleth, son of Reuben. Not mentioned in subsequent references to this event.
 - d. An additional congress of 250 princes of Israel (Num. 16:2).
 3. The rebellion is a rebellion against the Lord's delegated authority (Num. 16:3).
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- a. Korah's argument was that all of Levi should have spiritual authority, not just the house of Aaron.
 - b. Reuben's argument was that Reuben should have temporal authority.
 - c. The supporting congress was in favor of Korah's party platform, as it was much more appealing than dying in the wilderness under Divine discipline.
4. Moses establishes a test to demonstrate the Lord's Sovereign choice between Korah & Aaron (Num. 16:4-7,16-19).
5. Moses rebukes Korah for his attempt to usurp the Aaronic priesthood (Num. 16:8-11).
6. Dathan and Abiram defied their summons, and asserted independence from Moses' authority (Num. 16:12-15).
7. The Lord tells Moses and Aaron to stand back, but they intercede for the nation of Israel (Num. 16:20-22).
8. The Lord then warns Israel to get away from the dwellings of Korah, Dathan, & Abiram (Num. 16:23-34).
 - a. Warning was issued so that those who feared God could choose to break their association with evil.
 - b. Divine judgment came upon all who volitionally chose to identify with evil.
 - c. Interestingly, the sons of Korah chose to forsake their carnal father, and humble themselves before their Heavenly Father (Num. 26:11).
 - 1) The Sons of Korah will become a great body with tremendous fruit (Psa. 42,44-49,84,85,87,88).
 - 2) The prophet Samuel was of this Levitical division (1st Chr. 6:33).
 - 3) Heman the singer (Samuel's grandson) was in this Levitical division (1st Chr. 6:33-38; Psa. 88).
9. Israel responded with fear to the expression of Divine wrath (Num. 16:34).
10. The Lord also destroyed with fire the 250 princes who were bearing the incense (Num. 16:35).
11. Eleazar was instructed to manufacture plating for the altar, in full view of all Israel as a warning (Num. 16:36-40).
12. A follow up rebellion of grumbling occurred in protest of God's judgment for Korah's rebellion (Num. 16:41-50).

Numbers 17

1. Following the back-to-back rebellions and judgments, the Lord performed a miracle to assert Aaron's preeminence as the Lord's High Priest.
 2. Twelve rods were produced, each one labeled with the name of the leader for each tribe (Num. 17:2).
 3. Aaron's name was inscribed upon the Levitical rod, as Aaron is given rulership over the entire tribe of Levi (Num. 17:3).
 4. The Lord demonstrated His Sovereign, gracious choice of Aaron with the visible budding of Aaron's rod (Num. 17:4-11).
 5. The people responded with tremendous fear, that the Lord's executioner was about to come upon them (Num. 17:12,13).
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Numbers 18

1. After the rebellions of chapters 16&17, the Lord admonishes Aaron to his responsibility for the priests and Levites under his charge (Lev. 18:1-7).
2. The provisions and privileges of the Aaronic priesthood are reviewed (Lev. 18:8-20).
3. The provisions and privileges of the Levites are reviewed (Lev. 18:21-24).
4. Levi is admonished to tithe their tithe (Lev. 18:25-32).

Numbers 19

1. This chapter details the cleaning procedure for the unclean person, due to the touching of a dead body.
2. The special ritual, like the cleansing procedure and sacrifices for a leper, is precise and detailed, and absolutely required.
3. The recipe here described is for the manufacture of a special water for impurity.

Numbers 20

1. This chapter begins with the death of Miriam (Num. 20:1), and ends with the death of Aaron (Num. 20:23-29).
2. Israel is faced with a second no-water situation (Num. 20:2-13; cf. Ex. 17:1-7).
 - a. Moses and Aaron appeal to the Lord for His forgiveness (Num. 20:6).
 - b. Moses is instructed *to speak* to the rock (Num. 20:8), and not to strike the rock, as he did once before (Ex. 17:6).
 - c. Moses in anger strikes the rock twice, and forfeits his entrance into the land of promise (Num. 20:9-13).
3. Israel attempted to pass through the region of Edom, but was treated as an enemy rather than a brother (Num. 20:14-22; Deut. 2:1-7).

Aaron died on Mt. Hor, and his office passed to Eleazar (Num. 20:23-28).
