

THE R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY

NUMBERS

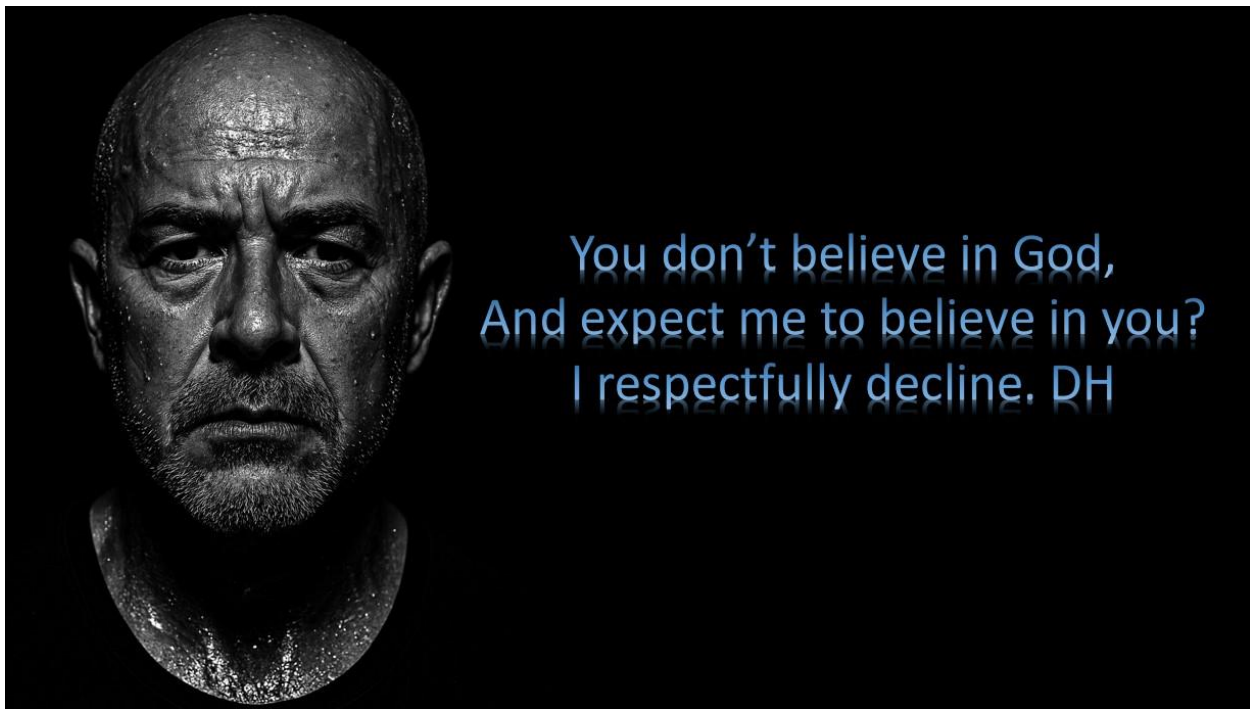


KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAST



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY FIRST EDITION 2020 VER.26

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Numbers

Israel fails to trust and obey God, and wanders in the wilderness for 40 years.

Author: Moses

In Numbers – Jesus is the Pillar of Fire and the Pillar of Cloud

Numbers 23:19

"God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change his mind."

TEACHER: 36 CHAPTERS

This Book is called the Book of Numbers because a census is taken on 2 separate occasions. The 1st is in the beginning of the book, and the 2nd in the middle, in chapter 26. There are 36 chapters in Numbers. It takes place in 3 main locations, 1-10 in the Sinai Desert, 10-21 in Kadesh, and 22-36 in Moab. You will remember the name of Moab from the Book of Genesis. The Moabites were the descendants of Lot and his daughter after Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by God. They were destroyed as a nation by Nebuchadnezzar after he destroyed Jerusalem around 600 B.C. They served the god Chemosh, under the leader Balaam, with the approval of their king Balak. They ruled the area where Modern day Jordan is located just east of the Dead Sea. Take a quick look at the map below.



TEACHER:

Perhaps the most well-known passage from Numbers is the Priestly Blessing from Numbers 6.

“May the Lord bless you and keep you;
may the Lord cause his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
may the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and grant you peace.”

This Blessing also happens to be the earliest Biblical passage ever discovered in an archeological find. Two silver amulets were uncovered in a burial chamber on the western slope of the Hinnom Valley in Jerusalem, with this verse carved on them. These have been dated from 600 BC. Because they are inscribed in Hebrew consonantal text. (The original Hebrew alphabet consisted only of consonants).

Let’s start with the census in chapter 1, note the census was only for the men of military age,

CH. 1

STUDENT:

On the first day of the second month in the second year after the people of Israel left Egypt, the LORD spoke to Moses there in the Tent of his presence in the Sinai Desert. He said, ²“You and Aaron are to take a census of the people of Israel by clans and families. List the names of all the men ³twenty years old or older who are fit for military service. ⁴Ask one clan chief from each tribe to help you.” ⁵⁻¹⁶ These are the men, leaders within their tribes, who were chosen from the community for this work: (GNT)

No need to read, this is purely for your entertainment.

Tribe	Clan chief
Reuben	Elizur son of Shedeur
Simeon	Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai
Judah *	Nahshon son of Amminadab
Issachar	Nethanel son of Zuar
Zebulun	Eliab son of Helon
Ephraim **	Elishama son of Ammihud
Manasseh	Gamaliel son of Pedahzur
Benjamin	Abidan son of Gideoni
Dan	Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai
Asher	Pagiel son of Ochran
Gad	Eliasaph son of Deuel
Naphtali	Ahira son of Enan (GNT edited into a list by the Author)
	*Tribe of Mary the Mother of Christ **Tribe of Joseph, Mary’s husband

STUDENT

¹⁷ With the help of these twelve men Moses and Aaron ¹⁸ called together the whole community on the first day of the second month and registered all the people by clans and families. The names of all the men twenty years old or older were recorded and counted, ¹⁹ as the LORD had commanded. In the Sinai Desert, Moses registered the people. ²⁰⁻⁴⁶ The men twenty years old or older who were fit for military service were registered by name according to clan and family, beginning with the tribe of Reuben, Jacob's oldest son. The totals were as follows: (GNT)

Once again no need to read, I just wanted them included in your notes.

Tribe	Number
Reuben	46,500
Simeon	59,300
Gad	45,650
Judah	74,600
Issachar	54,400
Zebulun	57,400
Ephraim	40,500
Manasseh	32,200
Benjamin	35,400
Dan	62,700
Asher	41,500
Naphtali	53,400
Total:	603,550

(GNT edited into a list by the Author)

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TEACHER:

Notice if you will, this today would be called, "Homeland Security" or a "National Guard." Who's missing? Levi.

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STUDENT

⁴⁷ The Levites were not registered with the other tribes, ⁴⁸ because the LORD had said to Moses, ⁴⁹ "When you take a census of the men fit for military service, do not include the tribe of Levi. ⁵⁰ Instead, put the Levites in charge of the Tent of my presence and all its equipment. They shall carry it and its equipment, serve in it, and set up their camp around it. ⁵¹ Whenever you move your camp, the Levites shall take the Tent down and set it up again at each new campsite. Anyone else who comes near the Tent shall be put to death. ⁵² The rest of the Israelites shall set up camp, company by company, each man with his own group and under his own banner. ⁵³ But the Levites shall camp around the Tent to guard it, so that no one may come near and cause my anger to strike the community of Israel." ⁵⁴ So the people of Israel did everything that the LORD had commanded Moses. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 2 lays out the tribal organization of the camp around the tabernacle.

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CH. 2

STUDENT

The LORD gave Moses and Aaron the following instructions. ² When the Israelites set up camp, each man will camp under the banner of his division and the flag of his own clan. The camp is to be set up all around the Tent. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

The rest of the chapter deals with the children of Israel arranged around the tabernacle in the following array.

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TEACHER:

Chapter 3 of Numbers sets the appointment of the Priesthood including the census of the tribe of Levi, which was omitted in the previous census.

CH. 3

STUDENT:

This is the family of Aaron and Moses at the time the LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai. ² Aaron had four sons: Nadab, the oldest, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ³ They were anointed and ordained as priests, ⁴ but Nadab and Abihu were killed when they offered unholy fire to the LORD in the Sinai Desert. They had no children, so Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests during Aaron's lifetime. (GNT)

STUDENT:

⁵ The LORD said to Moses, ⁶ "Bring forward the tribe of Levi and appoint them as servants of Aaron the priest. ⁷ They shall do the work required for the Tent of my presence and perform duties for the priests and for the whole community. ⁸ They shall take charge of all the equipment of the Tent and perform the duties for the rest of the Israelites. ⁹ The only responsibility the Levites have is to serve Aaron and his sons. ¹⁰ You shall appoint Aaron and his sons to carry out the duties of the priesthood; anyone else who tries to do so shall be put to death." (GNT)

TEACHER:

The Lord separates the tribe of Levi not only as His priests, but as His own 1st born sons.

STUDENT:

¹¹ The LORD said to Moses, ¹²⁻¹³ "The Levites are now to be mine. When I killed all the first-born of the Egyptians, I consecrated as my own the oldest son of each Israelite family and the first-born of every animal. Now, instead of having the first-born sons of Israel as my own, I have the Levites; they will belong to me. I am the LORD." (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Verses 14-39 cover the results of the census, and the assignments of the Levites. Chapter 4 covers the Levites who were left out of the census in chapter 3.

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CH. 4

CENSUS OF THE LEVITES: No need to read. Just for your notes.

CLAN	NUMBER	LOCATION	RESPONSIBILITIES
Gershon	7,500	West	The Tabernacle, its coverings and curtains, but not For the Curtain in the Holy of Holies.
Kohath	8,600	South	The Ark, Showbread Table, Lampstand, Utensils for service in the Holy of Holies, and its curtain.
Merari	6,200	North	The wooden posts of the Tabernacle, all its bars posts and bases for the Inner and outer courts.
Total	22,000	The actual total is 22,300. This discrepancy most likely reflects the adjustments made after removing those who were disqualified from service for the reasons laid out earlier.	
Moses & Aaron		East	Temple services performed in the Holy of Holies.

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In chapter 4 another census is taken of the 3 clans to see how many men were old enough to serve as priests and were able bodied enough to handle the heavy work of animal sacrifice etc. the results of this census was:

Kohath	2,750
Gershon	2,630
Merari	3,200
Total	8,580

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TEACHER:

This must have been quite a sight to see. 22,000 people milling about from children to the aged, with over 8,000 priests carrying out the duties of the tabernacle.

Chapter 5 covers the unclean, repayment for harm done and husbands who were suspicious of their wives. We will cover some highlights here.

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STUDENT: Unclean

The LORD said to Moses, ²“Command the people of Israel to expel from the camp everyone with a dreaded skin disease or a bodily discharge and everyone who is unclean by contact with a corpse. ³Send all these ritually unclean people out, so that they will not defile the camp, where I live among my people.” ⁴The Israelites obeyed and expelled them all from the camp. (GNT)

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STUDENT: Repayment for wrongs

When any of you are unfaithful to the LORD and commit a wrong against someone, ⁷you must confess your sin and make full repayment, plus an additional 20 percent, to the person you have wronged. ⁸But if that person has died and has no near relative to whom payment can be made, it shall be given to the LORD for the priest. This payment is in addition to the ram used to perform the ritual of purification for the guilty person. ⁹Also every special contribution which the Israelites offer to the LORD belongs to the priest to whom they present it. ¹⁰Each priest shall keep the offerings presented to him. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Verses 9-10 are kind of funny to me. I think if my brothers and I alone had to pay our pastor every time we messed up as kids, he would've stopped taking offerings all together.

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STUDENT: Wives with suspicious husbands

It may happen that a man becomes suspicious that his wife is unfaithful to him and has defiled herself by having intercourse with another man. But the husband may not be certain, for his wife may have kept it secret—there was no witness, and she was not caught in the act. Or it may happen that a husband becomes suspicious of his wife, even though she has not been unfaithful. ¹⁵In either case the man shall take his wife to the priest. He shall also take the required offering of two pounds of barley flour, but he shall not pour any olive oil on it or put any incense on it, because it is an offering from a suspicious husband, made to bring the truth to light. (GNT)

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STUDENT: continued

¹⁶The priest shall bring the woman forward and have her stand in front of the altar. ¹⁷He shall pour some holy water into a clay bowl and take some of the earth that is on the floor of the Tent of the LORD's presence and put it in the water to make it bitter. ¹⁸Then he shall loosen the woman's hair and put the offering of flour in her hands. In his hands the priest shall hold the bowl containing the bitter water that brings a curse. ¹⁹Then the priest shall make the woman agree to this oath spoken by the priest: “If you have not committed adultery, you will not be harmed by the curse that this water brings. ²⁰But if you have committed adultery, ²¹may the LORD make your name a curse among your people. May he cause your genital organs to shrink and your stomach to swell up. ²²May this water enter your stomach and cause it to swell up and your genital organs to shrink.” The woman shall respond, “I agree; may the LORD do so.” (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 6 deals with the Vow of the Nazarites. Its duties cover the restrictions, the ritual (after the vow is complete), and the blessing from the priest.

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CH. 6

STUDENT: The Restrictions

Any of you, male or female, who make a special vow to become a nazirite and dedicate yourself to the LORD ³ shall abstain from:

1. Wine and beer.
2. You shall not drink any kind of drink made from grapes or eat any grapes or raisins.
3. You shall not eat anything that comes from a grapevine, not even the seeds or skins of grapes.
4. You must not cut your hair or shave.
5. You must not defile yourself by going near a corpse, not even your father, mother, brother, or sister.
6. If your consecrated hair is defiled because you are right beside someone who suddenly dies, you must wait seven days and then shave your head; and so you become ritually clean.
7. On the eighth day you shall bring two doves or two pigeons to the priest at the entrance of the Tent of the LORD's presence. ¹¹The priest shall offer one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering, to perform the ritual of purification for you because of your contact with a corpse.
8. On the same day you shall reconsecrate your hair ¹²and rededicate to the LORD your time as a nazirite. The previous period of time doesn't count, because your consecrated hair was defiled.
9. As a repayment offering you shall bring a one-year-old lamb. (GNT edited into a list by the Author)

STUDENT: The Ritual

¹³ When you complete your nazirite vow, you shall perform this ritual.

1. You shall go to the entrance of the Tent ¹⁴and present to the LORD three animals without any defects: a one-year-old male lamb for a burnt offering, a one-year-old ewe lamb for a sin offering, and a ram for a fellowship offering. ¹⁵You shall also offer a basket of bread made without yeast: thick loaves made of flour mixed with olive oil and thin cakes brushed with olive oil, and in addition the required offerings of grain and wine.
2. The priest shall present all these to the LORD and offer the sin offering and the burnt offering. ¹⁷He shall sacrifice the ram to the LORD as a fellowship offering, and offer it with the basket of bread; he shall also present the offerings of grain and wine.
3. At the entrance of the Tent you nazirites shall shave off your hair and put it on the fire on which the fellowship offering is being burned.
4. Then, when the shoulder of the ram is boiled, the priest shall take it and put it, together with one thick loaf of bread and one thin cake from the basket, into the hands of the nazirite.
5. Next, the priest shall present them as a special gift to the LORD; they are a sacred offering for the priest, in addition to the breast and the leg of the ram which by law belong to the priest.
6. After that, the nazirite may drink wine. (GNT edited into a list by the Author)

STUDENT: The Blessing

²² The LORD commanded Moses ²³to tell Aaron and his sons to use the following words in blessing the people of Israel:

²⁴ May the LORD bless you and take care of you;

²⁵ May the LORD be kind and gracious to you;

²⁶ May the LORD look on you with favor and give you peace.

²⁷ And the LORD said, "If they pronounce my name as a blessing upon the people of Israel, I will bless them."

(GNT)

TEACHER:

In chapter 7 God handles the moving of the camp. As you know this was a mobile encampment for the children of Israel. The Tabernacle and all its supplies and utensils, altars and the Ark would be mobile. This would take Oxen with some heavy duty wagons to haul all this equipment. Each tribe gave toward the cause. They also gave sacrificial animals for the dedication of the Tabernacle. The last verse is a look into what it must have been like for Moses.

STUDENT:

CH. 7 When Moses went into the Tent to talk with the LORD, he heard the LORD speaking to him from above the lid on the Covenant Box, between the two-winged creatures. (GNT)

TEACHER:

In chapter 8 God tells Moses to instruct Aaron on how to set up the Lampstand. He then tells Moses to separate the Levites and purify them.

STUDENT:

CH. 8 The LORD said to Moses, ⁶“Separate the Levites from the rest of the people of Israel and purify them ⁷ in the following way:

1. Sprinkle them with the water of purification
 2. Have them shave their whole bodies and have them wash their clothes.
 3. Then they are to take a young bull and the required grain offering of flour mixed with olive oil; and you are to take another bull for the sin offering.
 4. Assemble the whole community of Israel and have the Levites stand in front of the Tent of my presence.
 5. The people of Israel are to place their hands on the heads of the Levites
 6. Aaron shall dedicate the Levites to me as a special gift from the Israelites, so that they may do my work.
 7. The Levites shall then put their hands on the heads of the two bulls; one is to be offered as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering, in order to perform the ritual of purification for the Levites.
- (GNT edited into a list by the Author)

TEACHER:

After this they would be qualified to serve in the Tabernacle. Moses and the people followed the instructions to a “T.” Then The Lord adds that the age limit for Tabernacle worship was 25-50. At 50, they had to retire from the physical portion of the worship, and would fall to a position of training the younger priests who were coming up. Chapter 9 now finds us after the 1st full year has passed from the last Passover. They would now observe their 1st Passover outside of Egypt. But there was a problem. Some of the people were unclean. With a congregation this size, there were some people who had died, so the relatives who buried them, were unclean. Moses goes to God to see what to do. Rules are rules, but where there’s a will, there’s a way.

STUDENT:

CH. 9 The LORD told Moses ¹⁰ to say to the people of Israel, “When any of you or your descendants are unclean from touching a corpse or are far away on a journey, but still want to keep the Passover, ¹¹ you are permitted to observe it one month later instead, on the evening of the fourteenth day of the second month. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Chapter 9 ends showing us the relationship between the Pillar of Cloud and the Pillar of Fire, with the Tabernacle.

STUDENT:

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ On the day the Tent of the LORD's presence was set up, a cloud came and covered it. At night the cloud looked like fire. ¹⁷ Whenever the cloud lifted, the people of Israel broke camp, and they set up camp again in the place where the cloud came down. ¹⁸ The people broke camp at the command of the LORD, and at his command they set up camp. As long as the cloud stayed over the Tent, they stayed in the same camp. ¹⁹ When the cloud stayed over the Tent for a long time, they obeyed the LORD and did not move on. ²⁰ Sometimes the cloud remained over the Tent for only a few days; in any case, they remained in camp or moved, according to the command of the LORD. ²¹ Sometimes the cloud remained only from evening until morning, and they moved on as soon as the cloud lifted. Whenever the cloud lifted, they moved on. ²² Whether it was two days, a month, a year, or longer, as long as the cloud remained over the Tent, they did not move on; but when it lifted, they moved. ²³ They set up camp and broke camp in obedience to the commands which the LORD gave through Moses. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Not having cell phones, the Lord commanded Moses to make Trumpets to sound an alarm when it was time to assemble the people for announcements or break camp and move to a new location. This job was given to Aarons sons.

CH. 10

STUDENT:

The LORD said to Moses, ² "Make two trumpets of hammered silver to use for calling the people together and for breaking camp. ³ When long blasts are sounded on both trumpets, the whole community is to gather around you at the entrance to the Tent of my presence. ⁴ But when only one trumpet is sounded, then only the leaders of the clans are to gather around you. ⁵ When short blasts are sounded, the tribes camped on the east will move out. ⁶ When short blasts are sounded a second time, the tribes on the south will move out. So short blasts are to be sounded to break camp, ⁷ but in order to call the community together, long blasts are to be sounded. ⁸ The trumpets are to be blown by Aaron's sons, the priests. (GNT)

TEACHER:

These trumpets were also used according to God's command to sound the alarm for battle. After the unclean people enjoyed their belated Passover, It was time to move out of the Sinai desert.

STUDENT:

³³ So they departed from the mountain of the LORD on a journey of three days; and the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them for the three days' journey, to search out a resting place for them. ³⁴ And the cloud of the LORD *was* above them by day when they went out from the camp.

³⁵ So it was, whenever the ark set out, that Moses said:

"Rise up, O LORD! Let Your enemies be scattered,
And let those who hate You flee before You."

³⁶ And when it rested, he said:

"Return, O LORD, To the many thousands of Israel." (NKJV)

TEACHER:

It didn't take long for the trouble to start. Chapter 11.

STUDENT:

CH. 11

Now *when* the people complained, it displeased the LORD; for the LORD heard *it*, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the LORD burned among them, and consumed *some* in the outskirts of the camp. ²Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the LORD, the fire was quenched. (NKJV)

TEACHER:

1st they complained in general, and then they complained about the menu.

STUDENT:

⁴Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat?" ⁵We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; ⁶but now our whole being *is* dried up; *there is* nothing at all except this manna *before* our eyes!" (GNT)

TEACHER:

Moses turns to God in disbelief regarding the ingrates he was called to lead. He literally tells God to kill him. God seeing how the burden was stealing Moses' joy, tells Moses to appoint 70 elders. He says to consecrate them so they may lessen his burdens, and that they will all eat meat for a straight month. Moses doesn't believe Him, and God says to Moses.....

STUDENT:

'I will give them meat, that they may eat *for* a whole month.' ²² Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, to provide enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to provide enough for them?"

²³ And the LORD said to Moses, "Has the LORD's arm been shortened? Now you shall see whether what I say will happen to you or not." (GNT)

TEACHER:

Supper time!

STUDENT:

³¹ Now a wind went out from the LORD, and it brought quail from the sea and left *them* fluttering near the camp, about a day's journey on this side and about a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the ground. ³² And the people stayed up all that day, all night, and all the next day, and gathered the quail (he who gathered least gathered ten homers); and they spread *them* out for themselves all around the camp. ³³ But while the meat *was* still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was aroused against the people, and the LORD struck the people with a very great plague. (NKJV)

TEACHER:

In chapter 12 of Numbers even Aaron and Miriam speak against Moses. This upset the Lord greatly because He says in verse 3 that "the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth."

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STUDENT:

CH. 12 ⁴ Suddenly the LORD said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tabernacle of meeting!" So the three came out. ⁵ Then the LORD came down in the pillar of cloud and stood *in* the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam. And they both went forward. (NKJV)

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TEACHER:

Then God spoke.

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STUDENT:

"Hear now My words:
If there is a prophet among you,
I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision;
I speak to him in a dream.
⁷ Not so with My servant Moses;
He *is* faithful in all My house.
⁸ I speak with him face to face,
Even plainly, and not in dark sayings;
And he sees the form of the LORD.
Why then were you not afraid
To speak against My servant Moses?" (NKJV)

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TEACHER:

After God spoke these words, Miriam became leprous. Moses prays for her, and this was God's response.

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STUDENT:

¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, would she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp seven days, and afterward she may be received *again*." ¹⁵ So Miriam was shut out of the camp seven days, and the people did not journey till Miriam was brought in *again*. (NKJV)

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TEACHER:

I have often pondered on why Miriam was made leprous and not Aaron as well. My best guess is Aaron was the High Priest and he had ceremonies to attend to, or *that it was originally Miriam's idea*. The latter is the most probable because everywhere else in the Bible, Aaron is mentioned 1st. Miriam being mentioned 1st in this 1 instance is an indicator to me that perhaps she started the thought.

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TEACHER:

Chapter 13 starts with an assignment for Moses.

STUDENT:

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Send men to spy out the land of Canaan which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader among them.” (NKJV)

TEACHER:

For the next 40 days Israel waits as they spy out the land.
When they came back.....

STUDENT:

²¹ So they went up and spied out the land from the Wilderness of Zin as far as Rehob, near the entrance of Hamath. ²² And they went up through the South and came to Hebron; Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, *were* there. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) ²³ Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried it between two of them on a pole. *They also brought* some of the pomegranates and figs. (NKJV)

TEACHER:

The descendants of Anak (the Anakites in other passages), were a race of very tall, very muscular people who most bible scholars think intermarried with locals after they settled in Gaza, Gath etc. and became the Philistines. Goliath is a Philistine, and this is practically the only evidence I found for this claim. Could be true.

STUDENT:

²⁶ Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ Then they told him, and said: “We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this *is* its fruit. ²⁸ Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land *are* strong; the cities *are* fortified *and* very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. (NKJV)

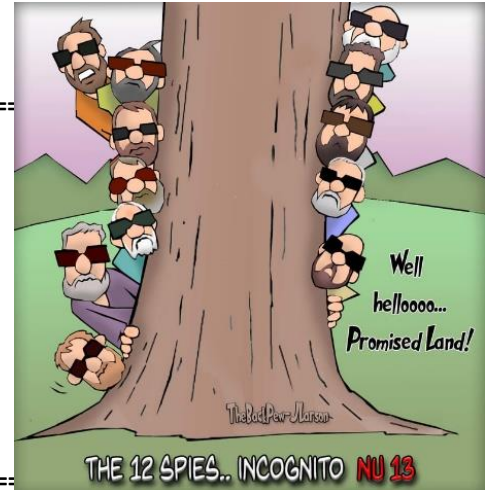
TEACHER:

The people were frightened, but not all the spies agreed with the negative report.

STUDENT:

³⁰ Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.”

³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they *are* stronger than we.” ³² And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies *is* a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it *are* men of *great* stature. ³³ There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.” (NKJV)



TEACHER;

After everything God brought them through you might get buried in how anyone could behave this way. But that is not the story of Numbers. Think of all the reasons God had to abandon them all. Yet the pillar stood in front of the Tabernacle the whole time. We have no right to doubt, that God will keep His promises to us, after all He has done for us so far. He wrote His dedication to His people in His own blood.

"Don't look at what Israel does in the book of Numbers. Look at God. He will impress you." DH

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Chapter 14 starts with Israel voting no.

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STUDENT:

CH. 14 So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. ² And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! ³ Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" ⁴ So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt." (NKJV)

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TEACHER:

Joshua and Caleb tried to sway the crowd. "He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' ⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they *are* our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD *is* with us. Do not fear them." (NKJV)

The people responded with "stone them." All of a sudden the glory of the Lord appeared in the Tabernacle in front of the whole congregation.

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STUDENT:

¹¹ Then the LORD said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? ¹² I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they." (NKJV)

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TEACHER:

Notice what God said. "How long will they reject Me?"

"A lack of faith in the promise of God, is the rejection of God." DH

God in His anger, tells Moses He will disinherit the people of Israel, and raise up a greater nation through Moses, But Moses intercedes on their behalf. God pardons Israel, but the pardon comes at a price.

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STUDENT:

²⁰ Then the LORD said: "I have pardoned, according to your word; ²¹ but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD— ²² because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, ²³ they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it. ²⁴ But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it. ²⁵ Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valley; tomorrow turn and move out into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea." (NKJV)

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TEACHER:

The Lord goes on to tell Moses regarding the congregation that “the little ones who you said would be victims would go into the Promised Land and that you will die in the wilderness.” He says that “your sons will be shepherds in the wilderness for 40 years, and bear the brunt of your infidelity.” He marks 1 year of wandering for every day the spies spent in the land, and kills the 10 spies that gave the evil report on the spot with a plague. Some felt bad and thought they would go and take the land. But it was presumption. They were defeated immediately. They went alone, without the Ark, and without God’s servant Moses.

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CH. 15

TEACHER:

Chapter 15 covers different types of offerings and laws previously mentioned in greater detail. We also see some of the meanings of the Garments the priests were to wear.

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TEACHER:

Chapter 16 is the story of Korah. We will cover the highlights. As a side note, Korah’s father and Moses father were brothers. Moses and Korah were cousins.

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CH. 16

STUDENT: The proposal from Korah

Now Korah the son of..... Levi, with Dathan and Abiram.....sons of Reuben, took *men*; ² and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, men of renown. ³ They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, “*You take* too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation *is* holy, every one of them, and the LORD *is* among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?” (NKJV)

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STUDENT: Moses response.

⁴ So when Moses heard *it*, he fell on his face; ⁵ and he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, “Tomorrow morning the LORD will show *who is* His and *who is* holy, and will cause *him* to come near to Him. That one whom He chooses He will cause to come near to Him.....you and all your company *are* gathered together against the LORD.....Moses was very angry, and said to the LORD, “Do not respect their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them, nor have I hurt one of them.” (NKJV)

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STUDENT: God’s separation of the good and the evil.

²³ So the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁴ “Speak to the congregation, saying, ‘Get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.’ ”

²⁵ Then Moses rose and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him. ²⁶ And he spoke to the congregation, saying, “Depart now from the tents of these wicked men! Touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins.” ²⁷ So they got away from around the tents..... (NKJV)

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STUDENT: Moses prophetic prayer regarding his calling.

²⁸ And Moses said: “By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these works, for *I have not done them* of my own will. ²⁹ If these men die naturally like all men, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, *then* the LORD has not sent me. ³⁰ But if the LORD creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the LORD.” (NKJV)

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STUDENT: God fulfills the words of Moses.

³¹ Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them, ³² and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all *their* goods. ³³ So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly. ³⁴ Then all Israel who *were* around them fled at their cry, for they said, "Lest the earth swallow us up *also!*"

³⁵ And a fire came out from the LORD and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense. (NKJV)

TEACHER:

The very next day, the people complain again. This time because of the people that died the day before. A huge plague spreads through the people. 14,700 died, and Aaron stood between the plague and the untouched people with the incense from the Altar, and the plague stops. This power struggle was real in the congregation so God had a solution. He told Moses to have each of the tribes to pick a rod, and scratch the name of the tribe on each respective rod. For the rod of Levi, Aarons name was to be inscribed.

STUDENT:

⁶ So Moses spoke to the children of Israel, and each of their leaders gave him a rod apiece, for each leader according to their fathers' houses, twelve rods; and the rod of Aaron *was* among their rods. ⁷ And Moses placed the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness.

⁸ Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses went into the tabernacle of witness, and behold, the rod of Aaron, of the house of Levi, had sprouted and put forth buds, had produced blossoms and yielded ripe almonds. ⁹ Then Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD to all the children of Israel; and they looked, and each man took his rod. (NKJV)

TEACHER:

This rod of Aaron was put in the Tabernacle as a sign against rebellion. That is the end of chapter 17. Chapter 18 Starts with the priestly duties and the Levitical duties. Most of the chapter deals with tithes.

STUDENT: Offerings for the Priests

⁸ And the LORD spoke to Aaron: "Here, I Myself have also given you charge of My heave offerings, all the holy gifts of the children of Israel; I have given them as a portion to you and your sons, as an ordinance forever.....every offering of theirs, every grain offering and every sin offering.....*shall be* most holy for you and your sons. ¹⁰ In a most holy *place* you shall eat it; every male shall eat it. It shall be holy to you.....¹² "All the best of the oil, all the best of the new wine and the grain, their firstfruits which they offer to the LORD, I have given them to you. Everyone who is clean in your house may eat it.

STUDENT:

¹⁵ "Everything that first opens the womb of all flesh, which they bring to the LORD, whether man or beast, shall be yours....²⁰ Then the LORD said to Aaron: "You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them; I *am* your portion and your inheritance among the children of Israel. (NKJV)

CH. 17

CH. 18

STUDENT: Tithes for the support of the tribe of Levi

²¹ "Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting. ²² Hereafter the children of Israel shall not come near the tabernacle of meeting, lest they bear sin and die. ²³ But the Levites shall perform the work of the tabernacle of meeting, and they shall bear their iniquity; *it shall be* a statute forever, throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance. ²⁴ For the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer up as a heave offering to the LORD, I have given to the Levites as an inheritance; therefore I have said to them, 'Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.' " (NKJV)

STUDENT: The Levitical responsibility to Tithe.

²⁵ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁶ "Speak thus to the Levites, and say to them: 'When you take from the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them as your inheritance, then you shall offer up a heave offering of it to the LORD, a tenth of the tithe. ²⁸ Thus you shall also offer a heave offering to the LORD from all your tithes which you receive from the children of Israel, and you shall give the LORD's heave offering from it to Aaron the priest. ²⁹ Of all your gifts you shall offer up every heave offering due to the LORD, from all the best of them, the consecrated part of them..... ³¹ You may eat it in any place, you and your households, for it is your reward for your work in the tabernacle of meeting. ³² And you shall bear no sin because of it, when you have lifted up the best of it. But you shall not profane the holy gifts of the children of Israel, lest you die.' " (NKJV)

TEACHER:

The Laws of Purification. The Red Heifer. This is very important to us today. To the end time's scholar this is the biggest single issue in scripture. The Red Heifer is the only method of purification for a Jew who has touched or been in close proximity to a corpse. All Jews on the planet believe they are currently unclean since the destruction of the Temple 2,000 years ago.

You cannot start the construction on the Temple without the ashes from a red heifer. To qualify as a candidate for the role of "red heifer" the calf must:

1. Not have more than 2 non red hairs on its entire body.
2. It must never have been pregnant.
3. This is the only sacrifice using a female cow.
3. It must have no blemishes or deformities.

This has not happened in Israel for 2,000 years. Not one time. The ashes go a long way. Only 9 red heifers were prepared to keep ancient Israel ritually pure for almost 2,000 years.

On September 4th, 2018, the 1st red heifer to qualify in 2,000 years was born in Israel. A 2nd was born not long after. Study this entire chapter at home. Numbers 19. We will read a snippet here.

STUDENT:

Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, ² "This *is* the ordinance of the law which the LORD has commanded, saying: 'Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring you a red heifer without blemish, in which there *is* no defect *and* on which a yoke has never come. ³ You shall give it to Eleazar the priest, that he may take it outside the camp, and it shall be slaughtered before him; ⁴ and Eleazar the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger, and sprinkle some of its blood seven times directly in front of the tabernacle of meeting. ⁵ Then the heifer shall be burned in his sight: its hide, its flesh, its blood, and its offal shall be burned.

STUDENT:

⁶ And the priest shall take cedar wood and hyssop and scarlet, and cast *them* into the midst of the fire burning the heifer. ⁷ Then the priest shall wash his clothes, he shall bathe in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp; the priest shall be unclean until evening. ⁸ And the one who burns it shall wash his clothes in water, bathe in water, and shall be unclean until evening. ⁹ Then a man *who is* clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and store *them* outside the camp in a clean place; and they shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for the water of purification; *it is for purifying from sin*. ¹⁰ And the one who gathers the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until evening. It shall be a statute forever to the children of Israel and to the stranger who dwells among them. (NKJV)

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TEACHER:

Chapter 20 of Numbers finds us with Moses and the children of Israel camped in Kadesh. Miriam died here and was buried here. The people came to Moses and Aaron complaining that there was no water. Moses and Aaron go to the Lord.

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STUDENT:

⁷ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ⁸ "Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals." ⁹ So Moses took the rod from before the LORD as He commanded him. (NKJV)

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TEACHER:

Moses then, being angry at the constant complaining, and sins.

Understand something before we continue. It's not a sin to want water, or meat or anything else. But why does Israel always insinuate that God didn't care, or that His plan was to starve them in the desert?

Why not go to Moses and Aaron and thank God for bringing them this far, and asking nicely? Why not say "we love You and thank You Lord. We know you will provide, bless Moses and Aaron and help them lead us."

We should do the same with our pastors and deacons.

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STUDENT:

¹⁰ And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?" ¹¹ Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank. ¹² Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them." (NKJV)

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TEACHER:

With that 1 mistake, Moses loses his free ticket to the Promised Land. Aaron soon after dies and his mantle is placed on his son Eleazar. In chapter 21 Israel fights with King Arad, the Canaanite and some in Israel are captured. Israel goes to God in prayer, and God answers their prayer. Edom refused them passage so as they journeyed around Edom, they grew discouraged. They complained about Egypt, manna, water supply etc. God sends fiery serpents among them.

CH. 20

CH. 21

STUDENT:

⁷Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived. (NKJV)

TEACHER:

The rest of the chapter deals with battle with everyone they passed. In Numbers 22, Balak the King of the Moabites, sends Balaam to head them off at the pass.

STUDENT:

"Look, a people has come from Egypt. See, they cover the face of the earth, and are settling next to me! ⁶Therefore please come at once, curse this people for me, for they *are* too mighty for me. Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them out of the land, for I know that he whom you bless *is* blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed." (NKJV)

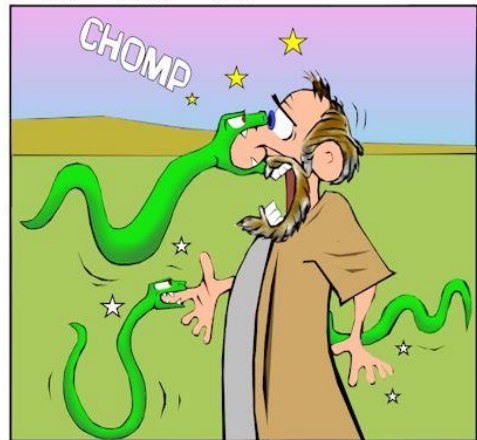
TEACHER:

Balaam goes to God, and asks God to curse them. God says "no, for they are blessed." Balak sends money and dignitaries to Balaam to up the stakes, and he refuses again. Then God tells Balaam that if they ask again, to go but only say what I tell you to say.

STUDENT:

²²Then God's anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the LORD took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants *were* with him. ²³Now the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road. ²⁴Then the Angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, *with* a wall on this side and a wall on that side. ²⁵And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck her again. ²⁶Then the Angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place where there *was* no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. ²⁷And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff. (NKJV)

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



The complaining Jews were literally SNAKE BIT. **Nu 21:6**.. and the first Snake Handler Church of the Old Testament is inspired.

CH. 22

STUDENT:

²⁸ Then 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?"

²⁹ And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!"

³⁰ So the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever ^[f]disposed to do this to you?"

And he said, "No."

³¹ Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face. ³² And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because *your* way is perverse before Me. ³³ The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live." (NKJV)

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CH. 23

TEACHER:

CH. 24

In chapters 23 and 24, Balaam is with Balak overlooking all of Israel's camp. He prophesies prosperity over the children of Israel 4 times and parts ways with Balak.

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TEACHER:

In chapter 25 Israel commits harlotry with Moab. Moab couldn't defeat Israel with power or curses, but they succeeded with lust. Destroyed from within. Sound familiar?

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CH. 25

STUDENT:

Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. ² They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. ³ So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people and hang the offenders before the LORD, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel."

⁵ So Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Every one of you kill his men who were joined to Baal of Peor."

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STUDENT:

⁶ And indeed, one of the children of Israel came and presented to his brethren a Midianite woman in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who *were* weeping at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. ⁷ Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw *it*, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; ⁸ and he went after the man of Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel. ⁹ And those who died in the plague were twenty-four thousand. (NKJV)

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TEACHER:

In chapter 26 there is a second census taken. On the next page is the comparison between the earlier census and the latter.

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TRIBE	1 ST Numbering	2 nd Numbering	Variance
Reuben	46,500	43,730	-2,700
Simeon	59,300	22,200	-37,100
Gad	45,650	40,500	-5,150
Judah	74,600	76,500	+1,900
Issachar	54,400	64,300	+9,900
Zebulun	57,400	60,500	+3,100
Manasseh	32,200	52,700	+20,500
Ephraim	40,500	32,500	-8,000
Benjamin	35,400	45,600	+10,200
Dan	62,700	64,400	+1,700
Asher	41,500	53,400	+11,900
Naphtali	53,400	45,400	-8,000
Total	603,550	601,730	-8,000

TEACHER:

Chapter 27 covers the inheritance for the 12 tribes, and the succession of Joshua.

STUDENT:

¹² Now the LORD said to Moses: "Go up into this Mount Abarim, and see the land which I have given to the children of Israel. ¹³ And when you have seen it, you also shall be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother was gathered.....

¹⁵ Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying: ¹⁶ "Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation, ¹⁷ who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep which have no shepherd."

STUDENT:

¹⁸ And the LORD said to Moses: "Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom *is* the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; ¹⁹ set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. ²⁰ And you shall give *some* of your authority to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.....

²² So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation. ²³ And he laid his hands on him and inaugurated him, just as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses. (NKJV)

TEACHER:

Chapter 28- Daily offerings, Sabbath offerings, monthly offerings and the Passover reviewed.

Chapter 29- Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles reviewed.

Chapter 30- Vows.

STUDENT:

CH. 30 "This *is* the thing which the LORD has commanded: ² If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

³ "Or if a woman makes a vow to the LORD, and binds *herself* by some agreement while in her father's house in her youth, ⁴ and her father hears her vow and the agreement by which she has bound herself, and her father holds his peace, then all her vows shall stand, and every agreement with which she has bound herself shall stand. ⁵ But if her father overrules her on the day that he hears, then none of her vows nor her agreements by which she has bound herself shall stand; and the LORD will release her, because her father overruled her. (NKJV)

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TEACHER:

Not sure where this thought comes from, but let me ask you. Is God trying to tell us that men are the boss, or that we better listen when our wives speak? Both?

In chapter 31 the Lord takes vengeance against the Midianites for the trouble they caused earlier after Balak failed to curse Israel. After Israel defeats Midian, Eleazar deals with the spoils in a telling way.

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CH. 31

STUDENT:

²¹ Then Eleazar the priest said to the men of war who had gone to the battle, "This *is* the ordinance of the law which the LORD commanded Moses: ²² Only the gold, the silver, the bronze, the iron, the tin, and the lead, ²³ everything that can endure fire, you shall put through the fire, and it shall be clean; and it shall be purified with the water of purification. But all that cannot endure fire you shall put through water. ²⁴ And you shall wash your clothes on the seventh day and be clean, and afterward you may come into the camp." (NKJV)

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CH. 32
CH. 33

TEACHER:

Chapter 32 deals with the tribes of Reuben, Gad and ½ the tribe of Manasseh making a deal with Moses to own the land just outside of Israel. This was a choice that left them not stepping into their full inheritance of God's plan for them. God promised them something else. They had huge flocks, and loved the grasslands on the east of Jordan. When Assyria would come to power in 2 kings, they would be the 1st captured. They were constantly under attack because they settled for less than God's will.

Chapter 33 is a review of the journey from Egypt to the banks of the Jordan River.

Chapter 34 God lays out the boundaries of Canaan.

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CH. 34

TEACHER:

Chapter 35 deals with Levitical cities and cities of refuge. Since the Levites had no land, they were allotted cities among all 12 tribes. This way everyone had representation in the Tabernacle. God also assigned 6 cities for people to find refuge after a crime of manslaughter was committed. This way the priests would be able to minister to those who have fallen.

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CH. 35

STUDENT:

⁶“Now among the cities which you will give to the Levites *you shall appoint* six cities of refuge, to which a manslayer may flee. And to these you shall add forty-two cities. ⁷ So all the cities you will give to the Levites *shall be* forty-eight; these *you shall give* with their common-land. ⁸ And the cities which you will give *shall be* from the possession of the children of Israel; from the larger *tribe* you shall give many, from the smaller you shall give few. Each shall give some of its cities to the Levites, in proportion to the inheritance that each receives.” (NKJV)

CH. 36

TEACHER:

The final chapter deals with marriage inheritance among people without sons. To protect the families inheritance.

NEXT LESSON DEUTERONOMY



*I will bless your life and keep
watch over you.*

Numbers 6:24

