

## **A Bible Overview- Session 4: Law and Land** **Facilitator Script**

### **Slide: A Bible Overview- Session 4: Law and Land**

#### **Slide: Summary- Sessions 1,2,3**

- God eternally exists
- God **created** the universe earth & universe (good)
- God made humans in His image, male & female (good)
- God gave humans dominion over creation
- Humans disobeyed God (not good)
- Each **human heart** has a sin nature that is full of evil (rebellious & selfish)
  - Each human needs rescue from God's righteous **judgment** (death)
  - No human can fix the situation

#### **Slide: Summary- Sessions 1,2,3**

- God promises a coming rescuer (**Redeemer**)
- Each human is in a battle against Satan, internal desires and the surrounding world
- **Disobeying** God (sin) has consequences- Cain, Flood, Babel
- God's **Covenant** with Noah (sign is bow in clouds)
  - Never again will all life or the earth be destroyed by flood waters

#### **Slide: Summary- Sessions 1,2,3**

- God's **Covenant** with Abram promised:
  - Land, Nation, Blessing
- Israelites to Egypt (70 people) (12 tribes of Israel)
- Pharaoh enslaves Israelites
- Pharaoh releases Israelites after Passover (last plague on Egypt)
- God leads Israelites out of Egypt (approx. 2.4 million people)

#### **Slide: Historical Highway Review**

Genesis:

- What was the main topic?
- Where did the main events take place?

Exodus:

- Where have they come from?
- Where will the rest of the book take place?

**Start Video (SR-04A) Session 4: Law & Land**

**Welcome to session 4 of A Bible OverView called: Law and Land**

In our last session, we learned how God miraculously brought the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. Now they need to learn how to be a nation and take hold of the promises God has been giving them.

As the Israelites traveled toward Mt. Sinai they were in the desert for approximately two months, and it was difficult to find food and water. They complained bitterly to Moses and Aaron and even wished they were back in Egypt. They were a challenging people to lead. When the people complained or came to Moses with a problem, he did not try to fix it himself. He always went to God in prayer to ask for guidance, to find out what God wanted him to do. The Bible says he fell on his face before God.

God cared for His people in several ways: 1) when there was bitter water, God made it pure 2) when there was no water, Moses struck a rock at God's command and water gushed out 3) when the people complained about not having enough food, God provided manna, a small granular food that was on the ground every morning and melted in the sun. They were to collect only the amount of manna they needed for their family for one day, and were to depend on the Lord to provide the next day's food. It was a test of their **faith**. In addition, God provided meat for them by causing quail to fly so low in the evenings that they could strike them down.

When they arrived at Mt. Sinai, God continued to reveal His power and presence to the Jews. He did so in a powerful thunder and lightning storm, in a dense cloud that came down on the mountain, in the loud blast of a ram's horn, in smoke when He descended on the mountain, and in the shaking of the mountain.

Only Moses could go up to the top of Mt. Sinai to meet with God. It was there that God gave instructions and laws to Moses so that these millions of people could live in an orderly fashion as a new nation, after being in Egypt for 400 years.

So it was at Mt. Sinai that God gave them the Ten Commandments to **obey**- also called "terms of the **covenant**". Let's read that in **Exodus 20:1-21-**

**20** *And God spoke all these words: 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.*

*3 "You shall have no other gods before me. (Show slide with Ten Commandments)*

*4 "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

*7 "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.*

*8 “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant,*

*nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. 11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*

*12 “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.*

*13 “You shall not murder.*

*14 “You shall not commit adultery.*

*15 “You shall not steal.*

*16 “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.*

*17 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”*

*18 When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance 19 and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”*

*20 Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”*

*21 The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.*

Notice that the first four commandments have to do with our **relationship with God**, and the last six have to do with our **relationships to others**.

**End video (SR-04A)** (info above: 10 commandments/Covenant)

### **Slide: The Mosaic Covenant (the Law) Defined**

Moral, Civil, Ceremonial

- Reveals God’s holiness
- Reveals human’s sinful heart
- Defines relationships between God & humans to humans
- Offered grace through blood sacrifices and offerings
- Provided civil structure for the nation

- Provided ceremonies for worshipping & remembering God
- Set apart Israel as distinct from other nations

**Slide: 10 Commandments (picture on screen)**

**Relationship with God**

1. God first
2. Don't worship images
3. Don't misuse God's name
4. Keep Sabbath Day holy

**Relationship with others**

5. Honor father and mother
6. Don't murder
7. Don't commit adultery
8. Don't steal
9. Don't lie
10. Don't covet

- How do the 10 Commandments reveal the human heart?
  - We're conscious of our sin because we can't keep the law.

**Slide: 10 Commandments (picture on screen)**

**Relationship with God**

1. God first
2. Don't worship images
3. Don't misuse God's name
4. Keep Sabbath Day holy

**Relationship with others**

5. Honor father and mother
6. Don't murder
7. Don't commit adultery
8. Don't steal
9. Don't lie
10. Don't covet

- How do the 10 Commandments help provide civil structure for the nation?
  - God's moral law defines what is right and wrong. It provides standards for living in right relationships with others.

**Slide: 10 Commandments (picture on screen)**

**Relationship with God**

1. God first
2. Don't worship images
3. Don't misuse God's name
4. Keep Sabbath Day holy

**Relationship with others**

5. Honor father and mother
6. Don't murder
7. Don't commit adultery
8. Don't steal
9. Don't lie
10. Don't covet

- How do the 10 Commandments help make Israel distinct from other nations?
  - Their God revealed who He was and was alone to be worshipped. His ways for people to live were specific with high standards that respected others.

## Slide: The Mosaic Covenant (conditional)

*“If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep all his commands that I am giving you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the world. <sup>2</sup> You will experience all these blessings if you obey the Lord your God: ...” Deuteronomy 28:1-2*

This is a conditional covenant- a bilateral agreement: If Israel is obedient to the Mosaic law, then God will bless them, but if they disobey, then God will punish them. (also see Exodus 19:5,8)

- How does this **Covenant** relate to our lives?
  - Obey-Blessed. Disobey-punished
  - If we live God's ways, we'll be a witness to unbelievers and can influence culture for good.

## **Start video (SR-04B) Tabernacle**

God went on to give them more laws, including the building of the Tabernacle, a moveable tent which was necessary because they often changed locations.

The Tabernacle itself was made up of two parts: the larger outer chamber called the Holy Place and the inner room, called the Holy of Holies or Most Holy Place. An enclosed courtyard surrounded the Tabernacle. Daily, people would enter the courtyard to confess their sins and bring their sacrifices. Sin needed to be taken seriously. When a person saw an animal killed by the shedding of its blood, they were sensitized to the seriousness of their sin and guilt. The need for an unblemished animal symbolized the moral perfection demanded by a Holy God. The Holy Place was entered daily by priests who conducted rituals to honor God. It was separated from the Most Holy Place by a curtain.

Only the high priest could enter here, and then only once a year, on what is called the Day of Atonement. The Most Holy Place contained the Ark of the **Covenant**.

The Ark was built to hold the Ten Commandments. It symbolized God's **Covenant** with His people. The top was called “the atonement cover.” Two golden angels stood on the top of the Ark, with “the atonement cover” in between. God's presence was above the cover.

So to summarize, the Tabernacle is the place where people could restore their **relationship with God**. Since the **human heart** is sinful and God is holy, God provided the **blood sacrifice** as a way for **grace** instead of **judgment**. He set up the system of sacrifice to help the people keep their **relationship with Him**. And it was here that God's presence was revealed.

## **End video (SR-04B) (01:55.00) Tabernacle**

## Slide: The Tabernacle (picture on screen)

Ceremonial part of “The Law”: The Tabernacle provided the only place where sinful people could restore their **relationship with God** with sacrifices and offerings. God's presence was revealed.

## Slide: Summary of Journey to This Point

- God brought the Israelites out of hard labor slavery
- God provided the Israelites all their travel needs
- Israelites were now camped around Mt. Sinai
- God revealed himself with lightning, smoke, fire, trumpet and voice.
- Mountain was off limits under penalty of death.
- God had given them the moral, civil, and ceremonial law including not to make golden idols.
- Moses had been up the mountain several times.
- On this trip he would be on the mountain 40 days and nights.

### **Start video (SR-04C) Golden Calf- What God?**

Next we'll read **Exodus 32** which tells us what happened while he was gone.

**32** *When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."*

*2* *Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me."* *3* *So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. 4 He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."*

*5* *When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD."*

*6* *So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.*

*7* *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. 8 They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'*

*9* *"I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. 10 Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."*

*11* *But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. "LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. 13 Remember your servants Abraham,*

*Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'"*

*14 Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.*

*15 Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. 16 The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.*

*17 When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, "There is the sound of war in the camp."*

*18 Moses replied: "It is not the sound of victory, it is not the sound of defeat; it is the sound of singing that I hear."*

*19 When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. 20 And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.*

*21 He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?"*

*22 "Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil.*

*23 They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' 24 So I told them, 'Whoever*

*has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"*

*25 Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies. 26 So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me."*

*And all the Levites rallied to him.*

*27 Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.'"*

*28 The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died.*

*29 Then Moses said, "You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day."*

*30 The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."*



*31 So Moses went back to the LORD and said, “Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. 32 But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.”*

*33 The LORD replied to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book. 34 Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin.”*

*35 And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.*

**End video (SR-04C) – Golden Calf- What God? (05:10.00) (info above: Golden calf incident)**

### **Slide: Remember**

*When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him. Exodus 32:1*

- What did the Israelites fail to **remember**?
  - God had saved them from slavery bringing them out of Egypt by mighty signs and wonders
  - God had been faithful to provide all their needs in the wilderness
  - God had revealed His power and presence
  - God had a plan for them to become a great nation where they could be a witness to the pagan nations
  
- What do we need to **remember** in times of stress?
  - God has revealed Himself through His creation, His Word, and the Redeemer
  - The Redeemer, Jesus Christ- God incarnate- understands human’s needs.
  - We need to have faith in the goodness and faithfulness of God.
  - Trust and obey, there’s no other way...
  - Etc. ... have people share how their faith has helped them...

### **Slide: Importance of Remembering**

*7 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. 8 They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’ Exodus 32:7-8*

- What do the Israelite’s actions say about the **human heart**?



- It is fickle, ungrateful, impatient for its own way, forgetful of who God is and what He's done for us, easily corrupted, wants God to be more understandable/seeable/controllable...etc....

**Slide: Judgment & Grace**

*9 "I have seen these people," the Lord said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. 10 Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."...*

*11 But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God... Exodus 32:9-11*

*14 Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened. Exodus 32:14*

- What difference can one person's intercession make?

**Slide: Consequences Amidst Grace**

*28 The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died. (by the sword)*

*33 The Lord replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book."*

*35 And the Lord struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made. Exodus 32:28,33,35*

- Is there anything in these passages you didn't like?
  - That the Levites had to kill so many people- probably even family members who'd sinned against God- must have been impossibly hard to do and a terrible blood bath.
- What do these verses say about God?
  - God holds us accountable for our sin
  - Sin is serious.
  - God is just. We should fear God as the righteous Judge and check our lives to see if we're excusing sin.

**Slide: Remember**

*6 Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. 7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry." 1 Cor 10:6-7 (quote refers to Exodus 32:6b)*

- How does this statement by the New Testament writer, Paul, apply to us?
  - The valuable lessons we learn from the Old Testament accounts warn and teach us so we don't have to make the same mistakes.

**Start video (SR-04D) Atonement for Life**

After this event, the people camped at Mount Sinai for approximately two years. God continued to give them laws and before they left, approximately 615 laws in all.

The next book, Leviticus, is basically about the law and how to live a holy life. The word holiness is mentioned 152 times. God also gives specific instructions about different festivals for worship and how to perform the sacrifices. Let's read **Leviticus 17:11**, which tells why a blood sacrifice was necessary.

*11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.*

Along with the daily sacrifices, there was the very important annual event called The Day of Atonement. It is described in Leviticus chapter 16. It is the greatest day of the year for Israel.

Atone means "to cover." Once-a-year the High Priest entered the Most Holy Place and sprinkled blood on the top of the Ark to atone for the sins of the entire nation. **Leviticus 16:2 says-**

*2 The LORD said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron that he is not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the ark, or else he will die. For I will appear in the cloud over the atonement cover.*

This event also included two unblemished goats which represented the two ways God was dealing with the Israelite's sins. Let's read about this in **Leviticus 16 verses 7-10 & 20-22**.

*7 Then he is to take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the entrance to the tent of meeting. 8 He is to cast lots for the two goats—one lot for the LORD and the other for the scapegoat. 9 Aaron shall bring the goat whose lot falls to the LORD and sacrifice it for a sin offering. 10 But the goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the LORD to be used for making atonement by sending it into the wilderness as a scapegoat. 20 "When Aaron has finished making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall bring forward the live goat. 21 He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the wilderness in the care of someone appointed for the task. 22 The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a remote place; and the man shall release it in the wilderness.*

The people would watch this "scapegoat" walk off, knowing that not only were their sins forgiven, but their guilt as well. This all showed the offer of God's **grace** instead of **judgment**.

Today the Jews still celebrate the Day of Atonement, which is called Yom Kippur.

**End video 3 (SR-04D) (03:03.00)** (info above: "life in the blood", Day of Atonement, scapegoat)

### **Slide: Atonement- "to cover"**

- In Hebrew, atonement means to cover sin so that God no longer sees it.
- Atonement involves an innocent party taking the punishment that was due to a guilty party.

### Slide: Ark of the Covenant (picture on screen)

The gold cover, the “Mercy Seat”, symbolized God’s presence.

On the Day of Atonement, the priest sacrificed an unblemished animal and sprinkled its blood on the cover.

### Slide: Day of Atonement- Sin Offering

*8 He is to cast lots for the two goats—one lot for the Lord and the other for the scapegoat.*

*9 Aaron shall bring the goat whose lot falls to the Lord and sacrifice it for a sin offering.*

Leviticus 16:8-9

*“For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.”* Leviticus 17:11

- What did the sacrifice accomplish?
  - temporarily covered the sins of the people for another year

### Slide: Day of Atonement- Scapegoat

*21 “He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat’s head. He shall send the goat away into the wilderness in the care of someone appointed for the task. 22 The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a remote place; and the man shall release it in the wilderness.”* Leviticus 16:21-22

- What was the purpose of the scapegoat?
  - The people could see their sins being taken away
- What did this signify to the people?
  - Their guilt was also removed

### Slide: Historical Highway (picture on screen with Numbers circled)

Numbers: Account of Israelite’s wanderings from Mt. Sinai to Moab

**Start video (SR-04E): Spies Report and consequences**

Now let’s return to Moses and the people at Mt. Sinai. At last God told Moses that he should lead the people into The Promised Land. But first, he wanted Moses to send in 12 spies, one from each of the tribes, to learn what the people, their cities, and the land were like.

The spies were gone 40 days and when they returned they told the people that the land was wonderful. It flowed with milk and honey and was bountiful in food. But on the negative side, the cities were well fortified and the people were huge.

Ten of the spies said that the Israelites could not possibly go against the people of Canaan and take this Promised Land. But two spies -Joshua and Caleb- had the faith that God would be with them because 1) God had made a covenant with them that He'd give them this land

and 2) they'd personally seen God lead them out of Egypt and across the Red Sea and more. So, they encouraged the people to have **faith** and **obey**.

But the people's **hearts** were afraid and they refused to enter the Promised Land.

God was furious that the people didn't have **faith** in Him after all He'd done for them. So, their **disobedience** caused God to send **judgment**. Let's read **Numbers 14:26-35-**

*26 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: 27 "How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. 28 So tell them, 'As surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you the very thing I heard you say. 29 In this wilderness your bodies will fall—every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me. 30 Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. 31 As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected. 32 But as for you, your bodies will fall in this wilderness. 33 Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the wilderness. 34 For forty years—one year for each of the forty days you explored the land—you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you.' 35 I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will surely do these things to this whole wicked community, which has banded together against me. They will meet their end in this wilderness; here they will die."*

End video (SR-04E) (02:28.00) (Info above: Spies, national crime and punishment)

### Slide: National Crime

*"How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites."* Numbers 14:26

- What was their crime?
  - Lack of **faith**: after all God had done for them and promised them, they didn't have **faith** to go into the Promised Land
  - Ungratefulness to God for their freedom from slavery
  - Rebellion against God and their leaders by refusing to enter the Land
- What do you find significant about this verse?
  - God hears our grumbings/ungratefulness

### Slide: National Judgment

*30 Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. 31 As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected. 32 But as for you, your bodies will fall in this wilderness. 33 Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the wilderness.* Numbers 14:30-33

- What was the **judgment**?
  - Generation 20 years and above would die off and not enter the Promised Land
  - Children would be nomads until 40 years has passed
- What reward did Joshua and Caleb receive?
  - Because of their **obedience and faith**, they get to enter the Promised Land

### **Slide: The Israelite's Journey Continues**

- God killed the 10 spies that gave a bad report.
- Nation was rerouted back into the wilderness
- In disobedience they tried to enter Promised Land so were defeated
- Continual complaints & revolts against God and Moses
  - Complaint: “*Why have you brought us up out of Egypt ...*”
  - Rebellious leaders and families were swallowed by earth
  - 250 rebellious Levites were killed by God
  - 14,700 others died of plague

### **Start video (SR-04F) Bronze Snake**

The book of Numbers is about these 40 years of wandering.

There is one story in Numbers that you need to know because Jesus refers to it in the New Testament. **Let's read Numbers 21:4-9-**

*4 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; 5 they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”*

*6 Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.*

*8 The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.”*

*9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.*

We see **judgment** in the snakes, but **grace** was offered so people could live if they **obeyed** God's way of saving them. They had to look up at the bronze snake on a pole. They had a choice to make, whether to look up or not.

In the New Testament in John 3:14-15, we'll read how Jesus refers to this incident, because it foreshadows His death on the cross, and how we have to look up to Him to save us from our sins.

After the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, the unbelieving generation died off, and by God's **grace** the next generation entered the Promised Land. In addition, because of their faith, Joshua and Caleb were permitted to enter the land.

**End video (SR-04F) (01:50.00) - (info above: bronze snake)**

### **Slide: More Complaints**

*4But the people grew impatient on the way; 5 they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"* Numbers 21:4-5

- Why were the Israelites in the wilderness?
  - Punishment for not entering the Promised Land when God directed
- What do you find significant in these verses?
  - How easy they forgot delivery from slavery, God's provision, and the consequences of their actions.
  - Blame God and government. People today still respond the same way.

### **Slide: Judgment**

*6 Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.* Numbers 21:6-7

- What do you learn about God in these verses?
  - God gets angry. He is a just Judge and at times sends seriously hard judgments.
- What do you learn about people in these verses?
  - They recognized their suffering is due to rebelling against God
  - They admitted their sin and asked for help

### **Slide: Grace- Bronze Snake**

*"The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." Numbers 21:8*

- What was the choice the people were given?
  - Look up at the bronze snake and live or refuse to look up and die.
- If bitten, was there another way to live?
  - God provided no other way. They might not like there being only one way. They may not like having to look up at a bronze snake. But God provided only one way.

### **Slide: Historical Highway (picture on screen with Deuteronomy circled)**

Deuteronomy: Reviews Israelite's history

- Repeats Law



- Blessed if **obey (grace)**
- **Judgment**- for disobedience
- Guidance for entering the Promised Land

## Start video (SR-04G) – Into the Promised Land

Now we're to the book of Deuteronomy, where Moses reviews the Jew's history and repeats much of the law. God repeatedly stresses that He will bless the Jews - which is **grace** if they **obey** His ways, but **judgments** if they **disobey** Him.

At the end of this book Moses transfers his leadership to Joshua in **Deuteronomy 31:7-8-**

*7 Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, "Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the LORD swore to their ancestors to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance. 8 The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."*

Right before he died at age 120, God allowed Moses to stand on a mountain and see the Promised Land.

Then God said to Joshua in **Joshua 1:2-9-**

*2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. 5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.*

*7 "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*

It is repeated here that **obedience** is the key to their success.

Next, we'll read about the great miracle of how the Israelites crossed the Jordan River from the east to the west side. We'll read **Joshua 3:7&8 and then verse 14 through chapter 4:7-**

*7 And the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. 8 Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: 'When you reach the edge of the Jordan's waters, go and stand in the river.'"*



*14 So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. 15 Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, 16 the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. 17 The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.*

*4 When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua,<sup>2</sup> "Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, <sup>3</sup> and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight."*

*4 So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, <sup>5</sup> and said to them, "Go over before the ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, <sup>6</sup> to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' <sup>7</sup> tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."*

As we read here, the Jordan River was at flood stage, yet it piled up in a heap as soon as the feet of the priests, by faith, stepped into the water. Their **obedience** allowed God to act on their behalf.

The 12- stone memorial was built so that future generations would always **remember** that God had brought them there.

End video (SR-04G) (05:03.00) (info above: Joshua new leader, cross Jordan, stone memorial)

### Slide: What Will Make Joshua Successful?

*<sup>7</sup> "...Be careful to obey all the law...<sup>8</sup> Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it...<sup>9</sup> Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* Joshua 1:7-9

- What are the key commands?
  - **Obey** all the law; Keep God's words always before you;
  - Be strong and courageous
  - Be not afraid or discouraged
- What is the promise?
  - God will always be with you wherever you go
- How does this apply to us today?

## **Slide: Stone Memorial**

*<sup>5</sup> Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, <sup>6</sup> to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ <sup>7</sup> tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.” Joshua 4:5-7*

- What is the significance of the stone memorial?
  - Remember what God had done
  - Remember what God can do
  - To teach future generations about the miraculous crossing of the Jordan River.
- Do you have events with God that should be remembered?

**Start video (SR-04H) Rules of Engagement- “Follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you”**

As they entered Canaan, God was very specific about how the Israelites were to conquer the land. It is important to know that the people living in Canaan worshipped many gods, or idols, that centered around child sacrifice, prostitution, and witchcraft. Moloch is an example of an idol which demanded children be sacrificed in its fire.

In contrast, God’s people were to worship the only true God and separate from the wicked cultures around them. God wanted to protect them from being infected by evil religious practices. Let's read some examples of this.

**First: Exodus 23:32 says -**

*<sup>32</sup> Do not make a covenant with them or with their gods. <sup>33</sup> Do not let them live in your land or they will cause you to sin against me, because the worship of their gods will certainly be a snare to you.”*

**Next: Leviticus 20:22-24-**

*<sup>22</sup> “Keep all my decrees and laws and follow them, so that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out. <sup>23</sup> You must not live according to the customs of the nations I am going to drive out before you. Because they did all these things, I abhorred them. <sup>24</sup> But I said to you, “You will possess their land; I will give it to you as an inheritance, a land flowing with milk and honey.” I am the LORD your God, who has set you apart from the nations.*

**Also: Deuteronomy 18:9-14-**

*<sup>9</sup> When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. <sup>10</sup> Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, <sup>11</sup> or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. <sup>12</sup> Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD; because of these same*

detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you.<sup>13</sup> You must be blameless before the LORD your God.

**Next: Numbers 33:55-56-**

*55 “But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land, those you allow to remain will become barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides. They will give you trouble in the land where you will live. 56 And then I will do to you what I plan to do to them.”*

**Last: Deuteronomy 7:3-11-**

*3 Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, 4 for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD’s anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you. 5 This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire. 6 For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. 7 The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. 10 But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him. 11 Therefore, take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you today.*

And there is another reason why it was important for the Jews to **remember** God's ways and **obey** them. **Deuteronomy 4:6 says-**

*6 Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.”*

End video- **(SR-04H) (04:13.35) Rules of Engagement** (info above: verses on why to kill wicked people & be holy people)

**Slide: Command Guidance**

*24 But I said to you, “You will possess their land; I will give it to you as an inheritance, a land flowing with milk and honey.” I am the Lord your God, who has set you apart from the nations.*  
Leviticus 20:24

- Who is the owner of the Land?
  - God

- What does “give it to you as an inheritance” mean?
  - The owner has the right to give what they own to whom they want.

### **Slide: Conditions**

<sup>22</sup> “Keep all my decrees and laws and follow them, so that the land where I am bringing you to live may not vomit you out. <sup>23</sup> You must not live according to the customs of the nations I am going to drive out before you. Because they did all these things, I abhorred them.” Leviticus 20:22-23

- What are the conditions?
  - They have to keep God’s decrees and laws
  - They must not live like the other nations
- Who is driving out the nations?
  - God will do it
- What do you find significant about “so the land will not vomit you out”?
  - They can lose the Land with all the accompanying blessings

### **Slide: Customs & Practices of the Canaanites**

<sup>9</sup> “...detestable ways of the nations... <sup>10</sup> sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft...<sup>11</sup> who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead...” Deuteronomy 18:9-11  
 “...altars...sacred stones...Asherah poles...idols...” Deuteronomy 7:5

- How would you describe the Canaanites compared to God’s standard?
  - The opposite of good and right: they’re extremely evil in their practices and thoughts. Think: they’re like a Hitler, Stalin, Mao, Osama bin Ladin, ISIS people whose children/families are immersed in their ideology

### **Slide: Goal- Be an Example to the Nations**

<sup>6</sup> Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.” <sup>7</sup> What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him? <sup>8</sup> And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today? Deuteronomy 4:6-8

- What must Israel do to be an example to other nations?
  - Carefully observe (**obey**) God’s decrees.
- What do these verses say about God’s concern for people?
  - He cares for all people and is providing an example nation.

- How does this relate to us today?
  - We need to live God's ways as an example to others. Be a light in the dark world.

### **Slide: Hinderances to Obedience**

*“Do not let them live in your land or they will cause you to sin against me, because the worship of their gods will certainly be a snare to you.” Exodus 23:33*

*<sup>55</sup> “But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land, those you allow to remain...<sup>56</sup> will give you trouble. And then I will do to you what I plan to do to them.” Numbers 33:55-56*

- Why were the Jews to drive out the Canaanites?
  - Their ways would influence them to sin against God and worship their idols
- What gods in our culture can be a snare to us?

### **Slide: Hinderances to Obedience**

*<sup>3</sup>Do not I intermarry with them... <sup>4</sup>for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods, and the LORD's anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you.” Deuteronomy 7:3-4*

- How would intermarriage affect the people's relationship with God?
  - Their hearts would turn away from following God and serve other gods.
  - God would then have to punish them.

### **Start video (SR-04i) - Battle of Jericho**

When the Israelites enter Canaan, the first city they attacked was Jericho, whose walls were 25 feet high, and in some places, 20 feet thick. It was supposed to be unbeatable.

As we read what happens in **Joshua 2:1-18**, note how the people of Jericho had heard about God-

***2** Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there. **2** The king of Jericho was told, “Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land.”*

***3** So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land.”*

***4** But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. **5** At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them.” **6** (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.)*



*7 So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut.*

*8 Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof <sup>9</sup> and said to them, “I know that the LORD has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. <sup>10</sup> We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what*

*you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. <sup>11</sup> When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.*

*12 “Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign <sup>13</sup> that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.”*

*14 “Our lives for your lives!” the men assured her. “If you don’t tell what we are doing, we will treat you kindly and faithfully when the LORD gives us the land.”*

*15 So she let them down by a rope through the window, for the house she lived in was part of the city wall. <sup>16</sup> She said to them, “Go to the hills so the pursuers will not find you. Hide yourselves there three days until they return, and then go on your way.”*

*17 Now the men had said to her, “This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us<sup>18</sup> unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house.*

In this story, we have an example of how people living in idolatrous nations knew of God and had the chance to avoid **judgment** if they chose **faith** in Him. We'll continually see how God offers **grace** before **judgment**.

Rahab is actually one of the few women from the Old Testament who is mentioned in the New Testament. (Heb. 11:31; Mt. 1:5). She is in the genealogy of Jesus Christ as she will be King David’s great-great grandmother.

Next, God gave His battle plan for conquering Jericho in **Joshua 6:1-5-**

***6** Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. <sup>2</sup> Then the LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. <sup>3</sup> March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. <sup>4</sup> Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the*

*trumpets. 5 When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in.”*

They must have doubted that this actually was a battle plan, yet they **obeyed** and did as instructed. As God promised, the walls fell down and the Jews captured the city. It was such a miracle that only God could get the credit.

Let's read **verses 22-24** to see what happens to Rahab-

*22 Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her.”*

*23 So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel. 24 Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the LORD’s house.*

It's important to know that before the Israelites took Jericho, they had been given a warning in **chapter 6:18-**

*18 But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it.*

But a man named Achan **disobeyed** and took some objects and hid them in his tent.

Thus, when the Israelites went into battle next against the town of Ai, they were defeated. Some of the Jews were killed. Joshua went to God in anguish because he did not know why this had happened. God told him that someone had disobeyed His warning and taken treasure for himself. Losing the battle was His **judgment**. When Joshua found out that Achan and his family were guilty they were put to death.

This story shows that when we sin, we are not the only ones to suffer. Other people also suffer. We see this in our daily news, how the innocent suffer because of others who are evil.

The rest of the book of Joshua is basically about how the Israelites conquered much of Canaan. This book also describes how the land was divided among the twelve tribes. (show map of divisions)

Now at last they possessed the land, as God had promised in the Abrahamic **Covenant**. The book of **Judges chapter 2, verses 7&8**, tells us what happens to Joshua-

*7 The people served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel. 8 Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of a hundred and ten.*

**End Video (SR-04i) (06:48.21) Battle of Jericho**



## Slide: Knowledge of God

*10 “We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea...what you did to Sihon and Og...whom you completely destroyed. 11 When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.” Joshua 2:10-11*

- What did the people living in Canaan know about God?
  - They knew God had opened up the Red Sea so the Israelites could escape the Egyptians
  - They knew God was helping them destroy other kings
  - They recognized He was more powerful than any god they knew of
- How did Rahab demonstrate **faith**?
  - She believed the reports about God’s power and so hid the spies. Also, she requested they save her and her family once they took the city.

## Slide: Warning Before Judgment

*But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. Joshua 6:18*

- How does this show the seriousness of disobedience?
  - Destruction affects not only the person but the nation as well (innocent people)

## **Start Video (SR-04j) End**

In this session we have learned about the Israelites’ journey in the desert, the Tabernacle, the twelve spies checking out the Promised Land, Moses’ death, Joshua’s leadership, how the walls of Jericho fell down, and the conquering of the Promised Land.

In the next session we’ll learn about the Judges, or the military leaders, whom God sent to Israel as His means of **grace** towards them.

## Slide: A Bible Overview

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