

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH  
BIBLE STUDY – CHRISTIANITY 101

TUESDAY, March 25, 2025

Stan Campbell, *Bible to Go: Genesis to Revelation in One Hour*, (New York: Faith Words, 2006)

**Forty Years In The Wilderness (Exodus 15-40| Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)**

The presence of God goes before the people in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Exo. 13:21). He leads them on a somewhat circuitous route to prevent encounters with threatening nations. God provides fresh water, even from polluted pools and solid rock (Exo. 17:1-7). God caused manna which taste “like wafers made with honey,” to fall everyday (except the Sabbath – Exodus 16:31).

Along the way, God has the people to stop at Sinai, where He calls Moses to the top of the mountain and gives him laws for the people to live by, including the Ten Commandments (Exo. 19). God also provides specific plans for the construction of a tabernacle, a portable house of worship for the people during their travels (and precursor to the temple – Exo. 25).

But in spite of everything God is doing for them, the people perpetually complain. They don’t like the monotony of manna (Num. 11:4-6). They fear they will run out of food and water, and the enemies will overpower them. They keep wanting-sometimes demanding- to return to Egypt where at least they knew what was in store for them (although that meant slavery -Exo. 16:2-8)!

Even at the edge of the promised land, their final destination, they hesitated. Twelve spies are sent to scout out the land. It is truly a wonderful place, but the natives are large and intimidating. Ten of the spies recommend turning around and going back. Only two - Joshua and Caleb – insist on entering, and those two are almost stoned by the crowd (Num. 13:25 – 14:10). But God has had enough. He is ready to strike the people down with a plague and start over, but Moses intercedes (Num. 14:13-16). So instead, God decrees that they must wander in the wilderness for forty years until the unbelieving generation has died off and is replaced by more faithful people (Jos. 5:6). Upon hearing the news, the remorseful Israelites then try to enter the land, are severely routed (Numbers 13-14).

And sure enough, forty years later the new generation of Israelites is ready to move forward. Moses has been forbidden to enter the promised land because of a frustration-inspired act of disobedience (Numbers 20:10-12 and Deuteronomy 32:51-52), but God takes him onto a mountain and allows him to see the land before he dies (Duet. 34:1-4). So, it is Joshua who eventually takes the people into the land (Josh. 1:1-9).

Here are a few important stories from this section of the Bible:

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH  
BIBLE STUDY – CHRISTIANITY 101

TUESDAY, March 25, 2025

Stan Campbell, *Bible to Go: Genesis to Revelation in One Hour*, (New York: Faith Words, 2006)

- The bones of Joseph travel with the Israelites (Exodus 13:17-19)
- The golden calf (Exodus 32)
- Moses' sin (Numbers 20:1-13; Deuteronomy 34)
- Balaam and his talking donkey (Numbers 22)
- The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20 :3-17; Deuteronomy 5 :7-21)
- Rahab and the Israelite spies (Joshua 2)
- A miraculous entry into the promised land (Joshua 3)
- Achan: The effects of one person's sin on a nation (Joshua 7)

**Joshua and the Promised Land** (Book of Joshua)

Joshua is an exemplary leader, personally chosen by God to complete the Israelites' journey: The mighty city of Jericho is the first obstacle they face in the new land, but Joshua follows God's instructions to the letter and the walls come tumbling down.

After establishing themselves in the promised land, the Israelites divide into tribes and go to their respective areas that God has assigned to them. Their assignment is to completely clear out the natives of the areas and establish themselves. They are to show no mercy and to have no interaction with the non-Israelite people.

The people are strong, and God is with them, yet very few tribes do as they have been instructed. If they rid the new land of potential oppressors, they could live in peace and prosperity for a long while. But they don't. And in the next chapter we'll see what happened as a result.

**Next Week's Focus on 4/1/2025:**

- Settling Down – Building a Nation
- The Judges
- Deborah (Judges chapters 4-5)

**Note:** Please continue to read the above chapters in preparation of our Bible Study's discussion.