

Pastor's Bible Study

Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study

Week Seventeen -Numbers 11 - 36

Review

Literary Period Covered: 1446 - 1406 B.C.E.

They are in the wilderness and their journey towards the promised land has begun.

The events began in the second year after the Israelites departed Egypt, as they camped at Mount Sinai around 1444 BCE (Numbers 1:1). The narrative ends thirty-eight years later "in the plains of Moab by the Jordan opposite Jericho" (36:13) in 1406 BCE.

Lecture Segment

Book of Numbers

The Book of Numbers is called, בְּמִדְבָּר 'Be•mid•bar,' in Hebrew,
it means 'in the wilderness.'

It doesn't take long before the complaining to begin. They will spend 40 years in the wilderness because of this conflict

Where can I get
meat for all these
people? They
keep wailing to
me, 'Give us meat
to eat!' I cannot
carry all these
people by myself;
the burden is too
heavy for me

A Sea of Quail

In Numbers 11:31, the text says God sent the Israelites so many quail that they were measured as "2 cubits deep a day's journey in every direction". A day's journey is between 15 and 25 miles. 2 cubits is about 3 feet, so we're looking at a shallow heap of quail about waist-deep covering an area roughly the size of San Antonio, Texas.

Taking 20 miles as the average estimate of a day's journey, that's 33,454,080,000 cubic feet of quail. If the average quail takes up a little over a quarter of a cubic foot, then that's over 1 trillion individual quail.



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Miriam and Aaron oppose Moses over his Cushite (Ethiopian) wife. The Bible does not say much about Moses' wife, Zipporah. We know that she was the daughter of a man called Jethro (or Reuel), who was a priest in the land of Midian (Exodus 3:1; cf. 2:18). The Bible does not explicitly say that Moses had more than one wife. However, Numbers 12:1 leads many to surmise another wife: "Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite."

Aaron's Staff Buds



Numbers 17:2-5: ² "Speak to the Israelites and get twelve staffs from them, one from the leader of each of their ancestral tribes. Write the name of each man on his staff. ³ On the staff of Levi write Aaron's name, for there must be one staff for the head of each ancestral tribe. ⁴ Place them in the tent of meeting in front of the ark of the covenant law, where I meet with you. ⁵ The staff

belonging to the man I choose will sprout, and I will rid myself of this constant grumbling against you by the Israelites."

Where will Aarons staff be placed? _____

The Bronze Snake



Die von giftigen Schlangen gebissenen Israeliten genesen beim Anblick der ebernen Schlange.
 Da machte Mose eine eberne Schlange und richtete sie auf zum Zeichen, und wenn jemand eine Schlange biss, so sah er die eberne Schlange an und blieb leben.
14 Mos. 6: 31. v. 9.

Illustration. Where the NIV reads "fiery serpents" the Aramaic O.T. has kwawatha kharmaney, the cockatrice. These shiny reddish colored snakes are extremely poisonous and aggressive as well. During the First World War the British army had many problems with these snakes, in the same area the ancient Israelites were passing through.

Interestingly, a copper serpent has been found by archeologists in a Midianite worship center dating from at least 1150 BCE

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Jesus drew an analogy between His cross and the bronze snake Moses raised on a pole.

14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” John 3:14-15 NIV

The theme of total destruction is sounded frequently in their story. They are to conquer Canaan and fulfill the covenant God made with Abraham. This conquest is twofold. First the Canaanites are to be destroyed as a punishment for their immorality and practice of idolatry. The second purpose is to protect the Israelites from corruption through worship of other gods.

The King's Highway is first mentioned by name in the Bible in Numbers Chapter 21:22. Moses wished to follow the Highway as he led his people north through the land of Edom, which today is in southern Jordan.

The name may, however, derive from the even earlier episode recounted in Genesis 14, when an alliance of “four kings from the north” marched their troops along this route to do battle against the five kings of the Cities of the Plain, including the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.”



Conclusion

As we reach the end of the Book of Numbers we witness how God shepherded His people through trials, triumphs, and tests in the wilderness. Through God's laws, His guidance in war and peace, and His distribution of the land among the tribes, we observe a God who is intimately involved in the lives of His people. The Book of Numbers serves not only as a historical account but also as a spiritual map, guiding us through the complexities of obedience, faith, and God's unyielding promises.

“you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation”

Encounter the Word Lecture Segment

Read Deuteronomy 1 – 34

Hebrew name of the book of Deuteronomy is, דְּבָרִים Devarim, which means “words.”
The book of Devarim is filled with Moses' words.

As you read and reflect, think about the journey of Israelites and their struggles to become the people God has called them to become. The Book of Deuteronomy is an essential part of the story and reflects the covenant between God and the Israelites. The story is told through the voice of Moses'. In it, we witness the Israelites' preparation to enter the Promised Land. The profound legacy of Moses as a leader and prophet is celebrated, and the importance of faithfulness to God's law is underlined.

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As a reminder in our journey here's Abrahams family tree" once again

