

# Pentateuch Overview: Numbers

[#16] Seeing What You are Fighting For – Numbers 26-36

**Sermon Outline** – July 9, 2017

## Children's Sermon: Why are things Hard?

Do you ever have hard days?

Do you ever wonder why God lets life be so hard?

How about if, at the same time, we saw smoke?

**Romans 5:3–5**

<sup>3</sup> ...*we rejoice in our sufferings*, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

**Luke 8:13b**

...But these have no root; they believe for a while, and *in time of testing fall away.*

Both kinds of people have hard times, what makes the difference?

"If God intended for all the days of your life to be easy, they would be. No, in grace, he intends for your days to be his tools of refinement." <sup>i</sup>

**Notes:**

Illustration: **No Graven Image**

Freedom & Life... Or Bitterness & Death

**Numbers:**

**Prepared for God's Army in the Wilderness**

**Today's Clear Biblical Bullet...**

God graciously takes Israel to the wilderness so that they would learn to look to the Promised Land.



Faith is... marked by a holy discontentment with this world, not merely when life is going badly but even when life is at its very best. Faith's eyes are always set onward, always looking beyond this world, always straining for a glimpse of the land of promise.<sup>ii</sup>

**Hearts Turned Towards the Inheritance (26-36)**

A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Census of Israel's Warriors - **601,730** (Cpt. 26), 603,550 (Cpt 1)

## Numbers 33:54

<sup>54</sup> You shall inherit the land by lot *according to your clans*. To a large tribe you shall give a large inheritance, and to a small tribe you shall give a small inheritance. Wherever the lot falls for anyone, that shall be his. According to the tribes of your fathers you shall inherit.

### B. The Daughters of Zelophehad (27:1-11)

### C. Joshua to Succeed Moses (27:12-23)

### Numbers 27:16–17 (Moses' Request)

<sup>16</sup> “Let the Lord, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the congregation <sup>17</sup> *who shall go out before them* and *come in before them*, who shall *lead them out* and *bring them in*, that the congregation of the Lord may not be as sheep that have no shepherd.”

### D. God's Relationship with Israel (28:1–30:16)

#### 1. The Appointed Times for God's Food Offerings (28-29)

There is a great spiritual analogy in these festivals. Passover (commemorating deliverance from Egypt and death) corresponds with Christ's crucifixion; Weeks or Pentecost (the day of firstfruits) corresponds with the sending of the Holy Spirit and the firstfruits of the gospel harvest (Acts 2). So Tabernacles corresponds with Christ's second coming at the close of the age, marking the end of the harvest. The time between Weeks and Tabernacles was a busy period when Israel laboured for the harvest. Similarly, between Pentecost and the second coming labourers are sent to reap the harvest among the Gentiles (Mt 9:37–38; 13:30–39; Lk. 10:2; Jn. 4:35). At the end of the age, the harvest will be gathered in and the weeds thrown into the fire (Mt. 13:39; Mk. 4:29; Rev. 14:15).<sup>iii</sup>

#### 2. Vows and the Authority of Fathers & Husbands (30)

Biblical vows and oaths were thus commitments to express thankfulness for the Lord's favor publicly, not attempts to win that favor.<sup>iv</sup>

### E. Vengeance on Midian and Transjordan Inheritance (31–32)

### F. Summary of the Journey, 42 stages (33:1–49)

### G. Commandments for the Inheritance (33:50–36:13)

#### 1. Drive Out the Inhabitants

#### 2. Boundaries of the Land

#### 3. How to Divide the Land (Cities of Refuge)

“Avenger” is not perhaps the perfect translation, since the same word is elsewhere translated “kinsman-redeemer” (*gō ‘ēl*). In other words, this person wasn’t simply a Mafia enforcer, whom the Godfather would send to rub out the responsible party. He was also the person who had a duty to buy family members back if they became so poor that they had to sell themselves into slavery (Leviticus 25:48) or to marry the widow of a kinsman who had died without an heir so his name would not be extinguished from the clan records (Ruth 3:13). In other words, the *gō ‘ēl* was the person in the family responsible to look out for his kinsman’s interests, at whatever personal cost. In this case, family blood had been spilt, and an accounting for that blood was necessary. Only another death could atone for that shed blood.<sup>v</sup>

#### 4. Marriage of Female Heirs (Zelophehad’s Daughters)

### *Our Inheritance is Secure!*

*...Fired at our Life & Heart*

God graciously takes away your future so that you can receive his.

At the center of our eternal home is a person: Our Father, our Husband, our Shepherd King!



### **1 Peter 1:3–9**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an ***inheritance*** that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, *kept in heaven for you*, <sup>5</sup> who ***by God’s power are being guarded through faith*** for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

<sup>6</sup> In ***this*** you rejoice, ***though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials***, <sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor ***at the revelation of Jesus Christ***. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, ***you love him***. Though you do not now see him, ***you believe in him*** and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup> obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## Where is your heart?

- Functional worship (what owns your Time, \$ & Joy)
- Do you long for your full inheritance?
- Do you see that having God is what matters most?

## Jesus is Leading us into the Promised Land

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<sup>i</sup> Tripp, Paul David (2014-10-31). *New Morning Mercies: A Daily Gospel Devotional* (Kindle Locations 2761-2762). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

<sup>ii</sup> Duguid, I. M., & Hughes, R. K. (2006). [\*Numbers: God's presence in the wilderness\*](#) (p. 340). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

<sup>iii</sup> Naylor, P. J. (1994). Numbers. In D. A. Carson, R. T. France, J. A. Motyer, & G. J. Wenham (Eds.), *New Bible commentary: 21st century edition* (4th ed., p. 193). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press.

<sup>iv</sup> Duguid, I. M., & Hughes, R. K. (2006). [\*Numbers: God's presence in the wilderness\*](#) (p. 323). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

<sup>v</sup> Duguid, I. M., & Hughes, R. K. (2006). [\*Numbers: God's presence in the wilderness\*](#) (pp. 358–359). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.