

Bible Snapshots



Numbers – Book of Pilgrimage

Author – Moses, Ca. 1451 B.C.

Connection with Leviticus

- Events recorded cover about 40 years (32:13) as Israel prepares for their journey to and entrance into the Promised Land. It simply picks up where Exodus left off in the story. If Leviticus is the giving of law then Numbers is the application of it.

Facts

- 36 chapters, 1,288 verses
- Historical book

Themes

- Belief and trust in God during times of testing so we may be led to the place of blessing.

Key chapters/verse

- Chapter 14 – Unbelief at Kadesh-barnea / 33:1

Key phrase / word / thought

- These are the journeys (33:1) / sojourn
- Thought – the training of the nation of Israel. They are being trained in the laws and ceremonies of the God-imposed religion and life. They fail and must be retrained in the wilderness.

Christ In numbers

- The Rock – 20:11 and 1 Corinthians 10:4
- The Star – 24:17a and Rev. 22:16
- The Scepter – 24:17b and 1 Tim. 6:14, 15

Types of Christ

- The cloud and pillar of fire (9:15-23) – Though Israel turned back into the wilderness at Kadesh-barnea, the Lord did not leave them or forsake them. The cloud and pillar of fire were standing miracles that witnessed to God's presence and work among His people. The cloud appears and guides the people from bondage to freedom; in the same way Christ was manifest to guide us out of darkness of sin and despair.
- Moses as a type of Christ – deliverer, intermediary (see previous lesson; Heb. 3:1-6)
- Aaron – (18:1-20) like Christ is a revealer of God (John 8:12); has the holy entrusted to his care (Heb. 8:1, 2); was anointed for ministry (Acts 10:38); had a ministry of redemption (Gal. 3:13; Eph. 1:7); his seed is blessed (Eph. 1:3; Col. 2:10; Rom. 8:32). Also, there are many similarities between the death of Christ and Aaron. For instance, he knew his death beforehand (20:23, 24 and Mt. 20:28); It was because of sin (20:24 and 1 Pet. 2:24); he was stripped (20:28 and Mt. 27:25); two were with him at death (20:25, 28 and Mt. 27:44); died on a mount (20:25, 28 and Luke 23:33) and his work continued after he was gone (20:28 and Mt. 28:18-20)
- Brazen serpent (21:1-9 and John 3:14-18) – the only shadow of the cross mentioned by Christ.
- Cities of Refuge – 35:6; Joshua 20; Heb. 6:18-20. Kadesh (Holy); Shechem (shoulder); Hebron (fellowship); Bezer (fortification); Ramoth (high or exalted) and Golan (joy or exultation)

Hard Lessons Learned

Faith and sight – ten of the spies observed and doubted, having little faith (13). Joshua and Caleb had faith and saw victory. **The forty years of wandering** – sin leaves us wander in a desert of despair.

However, even then God is with us. They wanted to go back to slavery. **Man's choice and fiery serpents** – God did not remove the fiery serpents that plagued the people, though he could have. Instead, he gave them a way out that they must choose. So much for the notions of "faith only" or "grace only." There is always a choice for us to make and something for us to do to be saved by His grace.