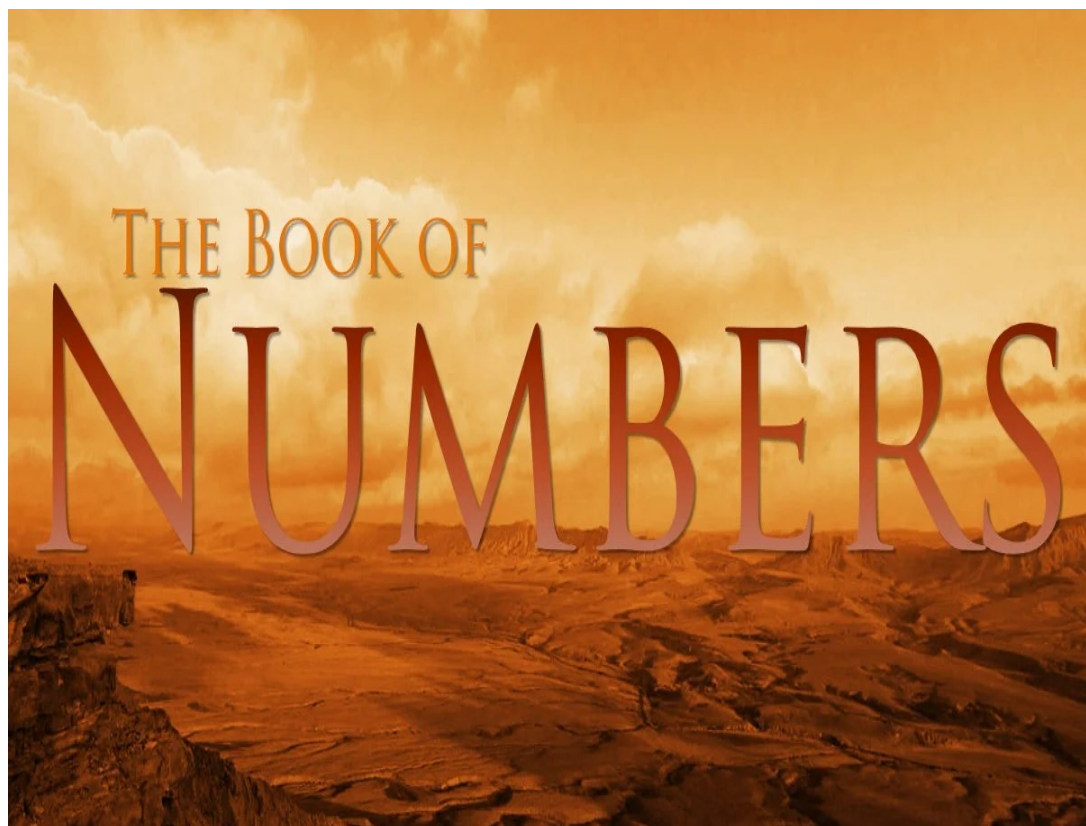


Let's Worship God

21st-26th August 2023
Numbers



THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

Monday - Numbers 21:1-3 - First Victory

When the Canaanites see that the Israelites are facing towards them, Arad decides to go on the offensive and fight them. But this proves disastrous; had he sat still, his people might have been the last to be destroyed of all the Canaanites, but now they are the first. At first Arad seems to succeed. His advance-guards pick up some straggling Israelites and take them prisoner. This, no doubt, puffs him up, and he begins to think that he will have the honour of crushing this formidable nation, and saving his country from the ruin which is threatened. It is also a trial to the faith of the Israelites and a rebuke to them for their distrusts and discontents. Israel comes to God with humility this time. It is a temptation to them to murmur as their fathers did, and to despair of getting possession of Canaan; but God enables them, by His grace, to trust in Him for relief against this fierce and powerful enemy. They, in their prayers for success, vow a vow. When we are desiring and expecting mercy from God we should bind our souls with a bond that we will faithfully do our duty to Him, particularly that we will honour Him with the mercy we are pursuing. Israel here promises to destroy the cities of these Canaanites, as devoted to God, and not to keep anything from them for themselves. If God gives them victory, He will have all the praise. A strong party is sent out, probably under the command of Joshua, which not only drives back these Canaanites, but follows them to their cities, which probably lay on the edge of the wilderness, and utterly destroys them, and so returns to the camp. The place is called Hormah, as a memorial of the destruction, to terrify the Canaanites, and probably to warn their descendants not to attempt to rebuild these cities, which are destroyed as devoted to God and sacrifices to divine justice.

Question

1. Who attacks the Israelites?
2. What do the Israelites promise to do?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's mercy to you.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you? Psalm 90:11

Praise: Psalm 137 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

Tuesday - Numbers 21:4-9 - The Bronze Serpent

Our Saviour has told us (John 3:14-15), that as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness so the Son of man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish. Notice the similarities: 1. Between their disease and ours. The devil is the old serpent. Sin is the biting of this fiery serpent; it is painful and poisonous. 2. Between their remedy and ours. It is God Himself that devises and prescribes this antidote against the fiery serpents; so our salvation by Christ is the plan of God. It is a very unlikely method of cure; so our salvation by the death of Christ is to the Jews a stumbling-block and to the Greeks foolishness. It is Moses that lifts up the serpent in the wilderness; Christ is lifted up by the rulers of the Jews, who are the successors of Moses. That which cures looks like that which wounds. So Christ, though perfectly free from sin Himself, yet is made in the likeness of sinful flesh (Rom. 8:3), so much so that it is taken for granted that He is a sinner, John 9:24. The bronze serpent is lifted up; so is Christ. He is lifted up upon the cross and made a spectacle to the world. 3. Between the application of their remedy and ours. They look and live, and we, if we believe, shall not perish; it is by faith that we look unto Jesus. We must be aware of our danger, receive the Word which God has given concerning His Son, and rely upon the assurance that we shall be healed and saved by Him. The brazen serpent's being lifted up would not cure if it was not looked upon. So if sinners either despise Christ's righteousness or despair that it will work, their wound will be fatal. But just as whoever looks up to the bronze serpent, though from the outmost part of the camp, though with a weak and weeping eye, is certainly healed; so whoever believes in Christ, though as yet but weak in faith, shall not perish.

Questions

1. How is the bronze serpent like Christ?
2. How were the people saved from the biting of the serpents?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you? Psalm 90:11

Praise: Psalm 138 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF

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Wednesday - Numbers 21:10-20 - Water in the Wilderness

The Israelites have now gone around the land of Edom (which they are not to invade, nor disturb, Deut. 2:4-5), and have come to the border of Moab. The enemies of God's people may slow their passage, but cannot prevent their entrance into the promised rest. Care is taken to let us know that the Israelites in their march observe the orders which God gives them to use no hostility against the Moabites (Deut. 2:9), because they are the descendants of Lot; therefore they pitch on the other side of Arnon.

Their water seems to have run out, yet we do not find that they murmur, and therefore God, in compassion to them, brings them to a well of water, to encourage them to wait on Him in humble silence and expectation and to believe that He will graciously notice their needs. Before they even pray, God grants, and anticipates them with the blessings of His goodness. They receive it with joy and thankfulness, which makes the mercy doubly sweet to them. Then they sing this song, to the glory of God and the encouragement of one another. As the bronze serpent is a figure of Christ, who is lifted up for our cure, so is this well a figure of the Holy Spirit, who is poured forth for our comfort, and from whom flow to us rivers of living waters. Does this well spring up in our souls? Whereas before the remembrance of the miracle is perpetuated in the names given to the places, which signify the people's strife and murmuring, now it is perpetuated in a song of praise, which preserves on record the manner in which it is done. The princes, probably by direction of Moses, make holes in the soft and sandy ground, and God causes the water miraculously to spring up. God promises to give them water, but they must open the ground to receive it. We need to use the means God gives us, but still the power is of God.

Question

1. Why do they not attack the Moabites?
2. How does God provide them with water?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God cares for all our needs.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you? Psalm 90:11

Praise: Psalm 139 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF

NUMBERS

Thursday - Numbers 21:21-35 - Sihon and Og

Sihon goes out with his forces against Israel in the wilderness, without any provocation given. Moses says that God hardens his spirit, that He might deliver them into the hand of Israel, Deut. 2:30. Sihon's army is routed, and all his country comes into the possession of Israel. The Amorites are one of the nations whose land God has promised to Abraham and his seed. The Moabites have lost this land to the Amorites, and Israel has no obligation to restore it to them. We see here the uncertainty of worldly possessions, how often they change their owners, and how soon we may be deprived of them. It is wise therefore to hold onto the eternal things that can't be taken away. This Amorite poem shows that the triumph of the wicked is short. Those that have conquered the Moabites and insulted them, are now themselves conquered and insulted by the Israel of God.

Og, king of Bashan, instead of being warned by the fate of his neighbours to make peace with Israel, makes war with them, which proves to be his destruction. Bashan is very rich and pleasant, famous for the best timber and the best cattle. Wicked men do their utmost to keep themselves and their possessions safe against the judgments of God, but all in vain, when their day comes, on which they must fall. God tells Israel not to fear this threatening force, and promises a complete victory. Giants are but worms before God's power. Israel is more than a conqueror, not only routs the enemies' army, but gains the enemies' country, which afterwards is part of the inheritance. God gives Israel these successes, while Moses is still with them, both for his comfort (that he might see the beginning of that glorious work, which he will not live to see the end of) and for the encouragement of the people in the war of Canaan under Joshua.

Questions

1. Who does Israel defeat here?
2. Why would this encourage Moses?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is in control of all things.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you? Psalm 90:11

Praise: Psalm 140 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF

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Friday - Numbers 22:1-14 - Moab Terrified

The Moabites are terrified of Israel, but they have no need to be if they understand (and probably Moses let them know) the orders God has given to Israel not to fight with the Moabites, Deut. 2:9. But, if they do know about these orders, they don't trust them. Despite the old friendship between Abraham and Lot, the Moabites determine to destroy Israel if they can, and they assume that Israel feels the same way. These fears they communicate to their neighbours, the elders of Midian, that some plan can be thought up between them for their common safety. The Moabites have reason to rejoice, and give God and Israel thanks for freeing them from the threatening power of Sihon, king of the Amorites, who has taken from them part of their country, and was likely to overrun the rest. They have reason to befriend Israel and to come to their assistance; but having forsaken the religion of their father Lot, and being sunk into idolatry, they hate the people of the God of Abraham.

The king of Moab thinks if he can just get some prophet, with his powerful charms to curse Israel, then he will be able to deal with them. Balaam ought to have given the messengers their answer immediately, that he will never curse a people whom God has blessed; but he takes a night to think about it. When we stop to think about temptations we are in great danger of being overcome by them. Balaam is not faithful in returning God's answer to the messengers. He only tells them, the Lord refuses to give me permission to go with you. He does not tell them, as he ought to have done, that Israel is a blessed people, and must by no means be cursed. They are a target for Satan's temptation that speak lightly of God's commands, as if they amount to no more than the denial of permission.

Question

1. Why does Moab have no reason to be afraid?
2. What does Balaam reply to the messengers?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would resist temptation.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you? Psalm 90:11

Praise: Psalm 141 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

Saturday - Numbers 22:15-21 - A Second Attempt

Balak tries even harder to get Balaam to come. Sinners stick at no pains, spare no cost, and care not how low they stoop, for the gratifying either of their desires or of their hatred. Balaam seems to resist but actually yields to this temptation. His convictions tell him to stick to the command of God, and he replies as if he's doing that. It is an easy thing for bad men to speak very good words, and with their mouth to make a show of godliness. You cannot judge men by their words. God knows the heart. Balaam's corruptions at the same time strongly incline him to go contrary to the command. He seems to refuse the temptation. But even then he expresses no horror of it. It appears that he has a strong inclination to accept the offer; for he waits to see what God will say to him, hoping that He might change His mind and give him permission to go. This shows how poorly he thinks of God Almighty, as if He can change His mind, and allow those to be cursed whom He has pronounced blessed, and as if He will allow what He has already declared to be evil. Balaam thinks God is just like him. He has already been told what the will of God is, to which he ought to have submitted, and not to have desired a re-hearing of what God has already said. It is a very great insult to God, and evidence of the dominion of sin in the heart, to beg permission to sin.

God gives Balaam up to his own heart's lust and tells him to go with the messengers. God is sovereign even over wicked men; they may go no farther than He allows them. As God sometimes denies the prayers of His people in love, so sometimes He grants the desires of the wicked in wrath.

Question

1. How does Balaam give in to temptation?
2. What does God tell Balaam to do?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you? Psalm 90:11

Praise: Psalm 142 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

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