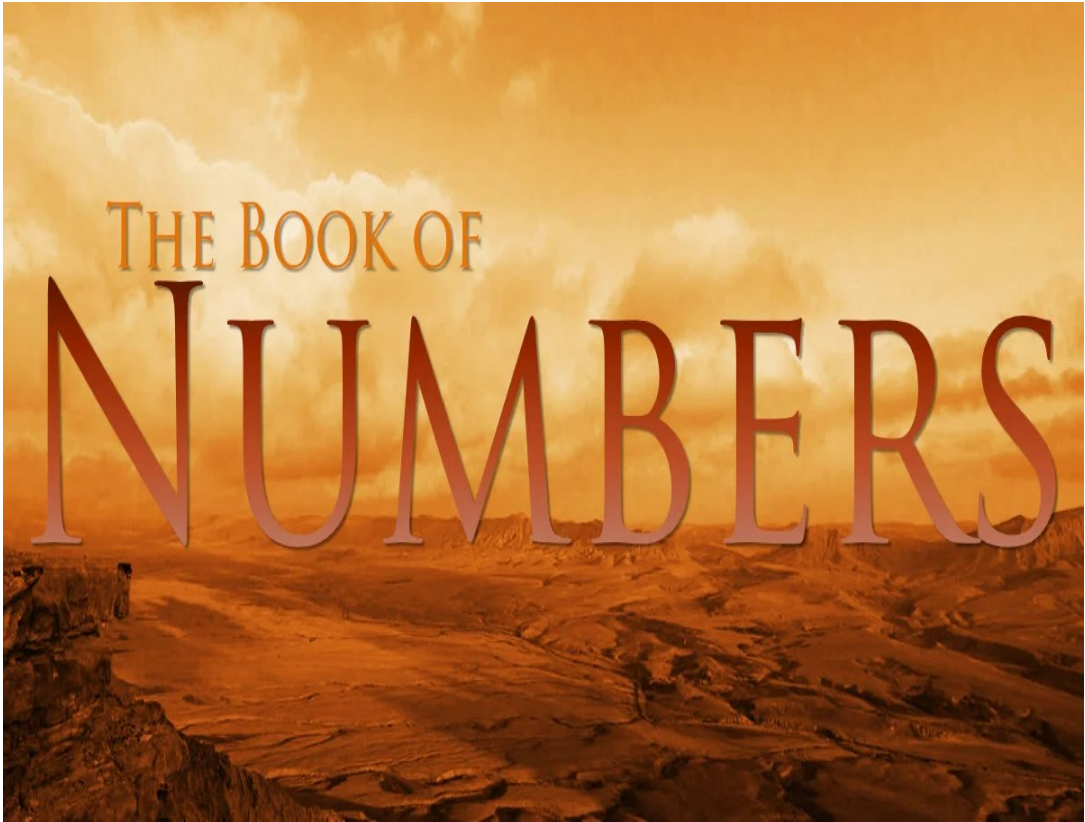


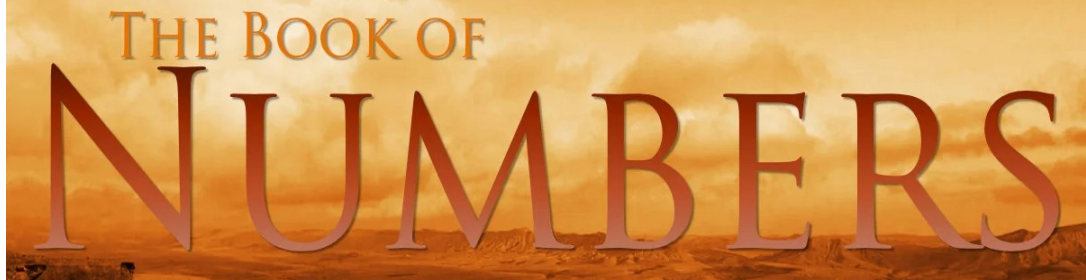
Let's Worship God

25th-30th September 2023
Numbers

THE BOOK OF

NUMBERS





THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

Monday - Numbers 33:1-49 - Remembering God's Mercy

This review of the travels of the children of Israel is a memorable history and worth preserving, to the honour of God that leads them and for the encouragement of the generations that follow. It can be helpful for us to put in writing an account of the providences of God towards us, the constant series of mercies we have experienced, especially those turns and changes which make some days of our lives more remarkable. Our memories are deceitful and need this help, that we may remember all the ways which the Lord our God has led us.

The people are reminded of their departure out of Egypt, as a work of wonder never to be forgotten. Notice that they are continually on the move as they travel toward Canaan. Such is our life in this world; we have no eternal home here. Notice that most of their way lay through a wilderness, uninhabited, untracked, without even the necessities of human life, which magnifies the wisdom and power of God, by whose wonderful care the thousands of Israel not only survived for forty years in that desolate place, but came out as numerous and energetic as they went in. At first they camp on the edge of the wilderness, but afterwards in the heart of it; by small difficulties God prepares his people for greater. Our journeys in this world are but from one wilderness to another. Notice that they are led to and fro, forward and backward, as in a maze, and yet are all the time under the direction of the pillar of cloud and fire. The way which God takes in bringing His people to Himself is always the best way, though it does not always seem to us the shortest way. We ought to remember the providences of God concerning us and our families, and the many instances of God's care which has led us, and fed us, and kept us, all our days.

Question

1. Why can it be helpful to keep track of the things God has done for us?
2. Who led the Israelites in the wilderness?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all the ways God has taken care of you.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! Psalm 90:16-17

Praise: Psalm 17 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - Numbers 33:50-56 - A Promise And A Warning

While the children of Israel are in the wilderness their total separation from all other people keeps them away from temptation to idolatry, and perhaps this is one of the things intended by their long wandering in the wilderness, that the idols of Egypt might be forgotten, and the people purified from that infection, and the generation that enters Canaan might never know those depths of sin. But now that they are to pass over the Jordan they are entering again into that temptation. So, they are strictly ordered to utterly destroy all remnants of idolatry. They must not only drive out the inhabitants of the land, that they may possess their country, but they must destroy all their idols, and pull down all their high places. They must not keep any of them, but they must destroy all, as a sign of their hatred of idolatry and to prevent their being tempted to worship those images, and the false gods they represent, or to worship the God of Israel by such images. They are assured that, if they do so, God will give them the land of promise. If they will keep themselves pure from the idols of Canaan, God will enrich them with the wealth of Canaan. They are threatened that, if they spare either the idols or the idolaters, they will be punished. The Canaanites they leave alive will be thorns in their sides, insulting them, robbing them, and causing as much trouble as possible. We must expect trouble from that sin we allow in our lives, whatever it is. God also says that He will turn that judgement upon the Israelites which was to have crushed the Canaanites. It is intended that the Canaanites should be dispossessed; but if the Israelites learn their ways, they will be dispossessed, for God's displeasure will be greater against them than against the Canaanites themselves. If we do not drive sin out, sin will drive us out.

Questions

1. What are the Israelites commanded to do?
2. What does God say will happen if they don't?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! Psalm 90:16-17

Praise: Psalm 18 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Numbers 34:1-29 - The Boundaries of Canaan

God limits Canaan within certain bounds. The borders are set that the Israelites might know whom they are to drive out, how far that extends, and what they can expect to possess themselves. God sets bounds to our circumstances and possessions, and we need to learn to be content with that. The Promised Land is actually quite small. It is thought to be but about 160 miles in length and about fifty in width, and yet this is the country which is promised to the children of Israel. Though small it is extraordinarily fruitful, otherwise it couldn't have sustained such a great nation. Those that have their portion in heaven have reason to be content with a small part of this earth; but, as is the case here, what is lacking in quantity is made up in quality; a little that a righteous man has, having it from the love of God and with His blessing, is far better than the riches of the wicked.

Canaan is a pleasant land, and yet it is bordered by wilderness and seas. In the same way the church is surrounded with the desert of this world, which makes it appear the more beautiful. Many of Canaan's borders are its defenses, to remind Israel that the God of nature is their protector. The border reaches to the river of Egypt, that the sight of that country which they can look into out of their own might remind them of their slavery there and their wonderful deliverance. Their border begins at the Salt Sea, and there it ends. This is the lasting monument of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, a constant warning to them to beware those sins which were the ruin of Sodom. The conquest of the land is taken for granted here. Known unto God are all his works beforehand, and what is new and surprising to us He perfectly foresees, without any confusion or uncertainty.

Question

1. Why does God set bounds to Canaan?
2. What should the sight of Egypt remind them of?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would be content with what God has given you.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! Psalm 90:16-17

Praise: Psalm 19 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Numbers 35:1-8 - Cities for the Levites

The laws about the tithes and offerings have provided very plentifully for the Levites, but now care must be taken to provide homes for them, in which they might live comfortably and usefully. Cities are allotted to them, with their pasture land. They don't need fields because they are not to sow, or reap, or gather into barns. Their heavenly Father feeds them with the tithes, that they might be able to closely study the law, and have more time to teach the people. They are not to be lazy but give themselves wholly to their work and not be entangled in the affairs of this life. Cities are allotted to them, that they might live near each other, and talk together about the law, to their mutual understanding; and that in doubtful cases they might consult one another, and in all cases strengthen one another's hands. These cities have pasture land annexed to them for their cattle. Care is taken that they should not only live, but live plentifully, that they might not be looked upon with contempt by their neighbours.

These cities are to be assigned to them out of the possessions of each tribe. In this way each tribe might make a grateful acknowledgment to God out of their personal estates (for what is given to the Levites is accepted as given to the Lord). Each tribe also has the benefit of the Levites' dwelling among them, to teach them the good knowledge of the Lord. Jacob's curse on Levi's anger was, "I will scatter them in Israel" (Gen. 49:7). But that curse is turned into a blessing, and the Levites, by being scattered, are able to do more good. It is a great mercy to have faithful ministers in all parts of a country. The number of cities allotted is forty-eight in all. So, the Levites are blessed with a good ministry, and that ministry with a comfortable living.

Questions

1. Why do the Levites get cities?
2. Where do these cities come from?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for our minister.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! Psalm 90:16-17

Praise: Psalm 20 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Numbers 35:9-34 - Cities of Refuge

There is a great deal of gospel in the cities of refuge. There are several cities of refuge, and they are in several parts of the country that the man-slayer, wherever he lives in the land of Israel, might in half a day reach one of them; so, though there is but one Christ appointed for our refuge, yet, wherever we are, He is a refuge at hand, a very present help. The manslayer is safe in any of these cities; so in Christ believers that flee to Him, and rest in Him, are protected from the wrath of God and the curse of the law. There is no condemnation to those that are in Christ Jesus, Rom. 8:1. They are all Levites' cities; it is a kindness to the poor prisoner that though he might not go up to the place where the ark is, yet he is in the midst of Levites, who will teach him the good knowledge of the Lord. It might also be expected that the Levites will comfort and encourage him, and bid him welcome; so it is the work of gospel ministers to bid poor sinners welcome to Christ, and to assist and counsel those that through grace are in Him. Even strangers and sojourners, though they are not native Israelites, might benefit from these cities of refuge. So in Christ Jesus no difference is made between Greek and Jew; even the sons of the stranger that by faith flee to Christ shall be safe in Him. The protection which the manslayer finds in the city of refuge is not due to the strength of its walls, or gates, or bars, but purely to God's law; so it is the word of the gospel that gives souls safety in Christ. If the offender is ever caught outside the borders of his city of refuge, or stealing home to his house again, he loses the benefit of his protection, and is exposed to the avenger of blood; so those that are in Christ must abide in Christ, for it is at their peril if they forsake Him and wander from Him.

Question

1. What do these cities teach us about Christ?
2. What happens if the manslayer leaves the city of refuge?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ is our refuge.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! Psalm 90:16-17

Praise: Psalm 21 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - Numbers 36:1-13 - Final Commands

The heads of the tribe of Manasseh speak of the land of their possession, and the inheritance of their fathers, with as great assurance as if they have it already in their hands, knowing whom they have trusted. They foresee trouble in daughters who have an inheritance marrying outside the tribe, and they bring the case to Moses, that he might consult God. They are concerned for the reputation of their tribe, and also want to prevent contests and quarrels among their descendants.

Those that consult God concerning their inheritance will not only be directed what to do, but their enquiries shall be graciously accepted. God commands that these daughters are not to be forced to marry any particular man, but they are confined to marry within their own clan, that their inheritance may not go to another family. God wants them to know that the land is divided by Him, and they should not alter it. The inheritances must not move from tribe to tribe, lest there should be confusion among them, their estates entangled, and their genealogies mixed up. God will not have one tribe enriched by the impoverishing of another, since they are all alike the seed of Abraham.

Now we have come to the end of this book. Ever since chapter 26 these have been the judgments which the Lord commanded in the plains of Moab, most of which relate to their settlement in Canaan, into which they are now entering. We learn from this that whatever new circumstances God is by His providence bringing us into, we must ask Him to teach us how to obey Him in those circumstances and enable us to do it.

Question

1. What concern does the tribe of Manasseh have?
2. What should we do when we are starting a new phase in our lives?

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

Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! Psalm 90:16-17

Praise: Psalm 22 - 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!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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