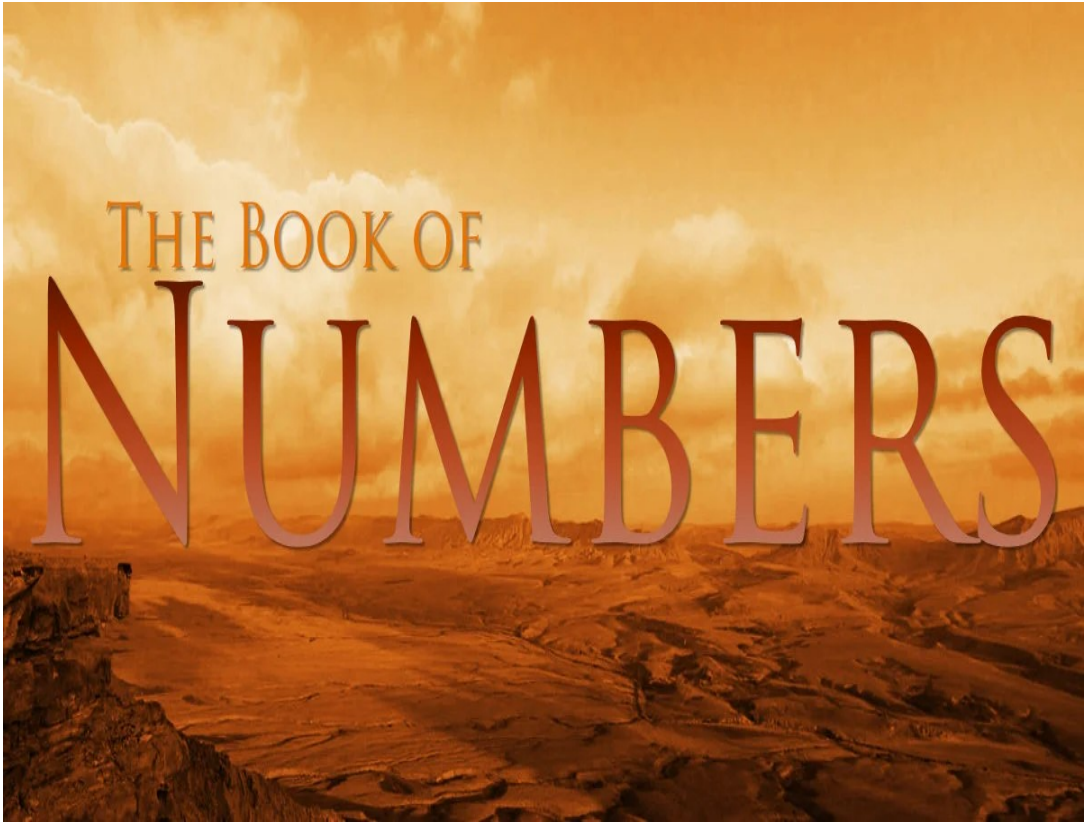


Let's Worship God

10th-15th July 2023
Numbers

THE BOOK OF

NUMBERS



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Monday - Numbers 10:29-36 - Prayer

Moses gives Hobab a kind invitation to go with them to Canaan. Those that are bound for the heavenly Canaan should invite and encourage all their friends to go along with them. It is good having fellowship with those that have fellowship with God, and going with those whom God is with.

Moses, as the mouth of the congregation, lifts up a prayer, both at the moving and at the resting of the ark; so their going out and coming in are sanctified by prayer, and it is an example to us to begin and end every day's journey, and every day's work, with prayer. They are now in a desolate country, but they are marching towards an enemy's country, and their dependence is upon God for success and victory in their wars, as well as for direction and supply in the wilderness. There are those in the world that are enemies to God, and haters of him: secret and open enemies; enemies to His truths, His laws, and His people. The scattering and defeating of God's enemies is a thing to be earnestly desired, and believingly expected, by all the Lord's people. This prayer is a prophecy. Those that persist in rebellion against God are hurrying towards their own ruin. Moses prays that God will give Israel success and victory abroad, and peace and tranquillity at home, and that God himself will rest among them. The church of God is a great body; there are many thousands belonging to God's Israel. We ought in our prayers to be concerned for this body, the church. The welfare and happiness of the Israel of God consists in the continual presence of God among them. Their safety consists not in their numbers, though they are thousands, many thousands, but in the favour of God, and His gracious presence with them.

Question

1. Who did Moses invite to come with them?
2. What did Moses do at the beginning and end of each journey?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for our sister churches around the world.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: Psalm 90:5

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - Numbers 11:1-3 - It All Begins To Unravel

Up to now things have gone pretty well in Israel; there have been few problems since the matter of the golden calf; the people seem teachable in marshalling and purifying the camp, the chiefs generous in dedicating the altar, and there is good hope that they will be in Canaan soon. But in this chapter, things start to go wrong.

The people have received from God excellent laws and care, and yet no sooner have they departed from Sinai than they begin to quarrel with God Himself. When we consider how their camp is guided, guarded, graced, what good food they have and good company, and what care is taken of them in their marches that their feet should not swell nor their clothes wear out (Deut. 8:4), we may ask, "What more could have been done to make it any easier?" And yet they complain. Those that are of a discontented spirit will always find something or other to complain about.

The Lord hears them. God knows the secret complaints and murmurings of our hearts, no matter how well we hide them from everyone else. He is displeased and angry with Israel, and the fire of the Lord burns among them. They have had great experience of God's care of them, and now to distrust Him is inexcusable. But even in this, God shows mercy, by burning only the outlying part of the camp that they might be warned.

The people cry to Moses, who is their intercessor. When Moses prays to the Lord (he is always ready to stand in the gap to turn away the wrath of God) God has respect to him and his offering, and the fire is quenched. By this we see that God does not delight in punishing, for, when He has begun, He is soon persuaded to stop.

Questions

1. What do the people start to do here?
2. Who turns away God's wrath?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for forgiveness for complaining.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: Psalm 90:5

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 5 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Numbers 11:4-15 - Frustration

The mixed multitude here spoken of are not numbered with the children of Israel, these are hangers on, that have just come along for the ride. A few argumentative, discontented, ill-natured people, can cause a lot of trouble. With the smell of the fire still in the air, the Israelites return to complaining. While they were in Egypt their lives were made bitter to them with hard bondage; and yet now they talk of Egypt as if they had all lived like princes there. They are sick of the good provision God makes for them in the manna. They distrust the power and goodness of God as sufficient for their need. They ask, Who will give us meat to eat? taking it for granted that God can not. If God doesn't grant you a desire, a desire that may not necessarily be wrong, how do you react? If you obsess and lust over something God hasn't yet given you, if you complain and are unhappy with what He has given you, you are just like these Israelites.

We can understand why Moses gets so upset and takes what the people say personally. But his reaction still isn't what it should have been. He undervalues the honour God has put upon him, in making him the leader of the people. He exaggerates when he says that all the burden of the people is on him; when in reality it's on God. Moses doesn't need to provide homes for them or food; God is doing that. And, if any difficult case happens, God directs him, backs him, and bears him out. He takes too much on himself and forgets about God. He distrusts God's grace when he despairs of being able to bear all this people, and he selfishly wants to die. Is this Moses? Is this the meekest of all the men on the earth? The best men sin and fail in the work God gives them. But God graciously overlooks Moses' frustration at this time.

Question

1. Who starts the people complaining?
2. How does Moses react?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: Psalm 90:5

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Numbers 11:16-23 - God Can Do Anything

God answers Moses in a merciful way. Instead of being relieved of leadership, as God might justly have done, assistants are appointed to help him, and to bear the burden of the people with him. The people are too hotheaded and tumultuous to be entrusted with the election; Moses must himself choose the men, that he may not afterwards complain. He is to choose seventy men, according to the number of the souls that went down into Egypt. He must choose those he knows to be elders, that is, wise and experienced men. God promises to qualify them. Though Moses has talked too boldly with God, yet God does not break off communion with him; He bears a great deal with us, and we must with one another. Those whom God employs in any service He qualifies for it, and those that are not in some measure qualified cannot think themselves duly called. All good qualifications are from God; every perfect gift is from Him.

God tells the people that they shall have their fill of meat. What is greedily coveted will soon make them sick. Whenever God turns us over to our sinful desires, the result is always misery. Moses objects that this is impossible, as if He that provides bread for them all can't, by the same unlimited power, provide meat too. Even true and great believers sometimes find it hard to trust God under the discouragements of life. God gives a short but sufficient answer to the objection. Has Moses forgotten what wonders God has done for that people? Is God weaker than he used to be? Or is He tired? Whatever our unbelieving hearts may suggest to the contrary, it is certain that God's hand is not short; His power cannot be restrained; with Him nothing is impossible. This is sufficient to silence all our distrust. Is anything too hard for the Lord?

Questions

1. Who is to help Moses?
2. What does God tell the people He will give them?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God can do anything.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: Psalm 90:5

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 7 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Numbers 11:24-30 - The Seventy

God gives of His Spirit to the seventy elders, which enables them to prophesy, and they do not stop all that day. They teach the people the things of God with clearness and fullness, so that all who hear them might see and say that God is with them. Those are fittest to rule in the Church that are well acquainted with God's Word and are well able to teach it.

Eldad and Medad are nominated by Moses to be assistants, but they don't go to the tabernacle. Some think they haven't got the message yet to meet at the tabernacle, but most think that they decline coming to the tabernacle out of a feeling of humility. It's good that they are humble, but bad that they disobey. The Spirit of God finds them in the camp, and there they prophesy. Joshua wants them silenced. Though Joshua is Moses's particular friend and confidant, though he says this out of a respect to Moses, whose honour he does not want to see lessened by the call of those elders, yet Moses reproves him. We must not secretly be upset at the gifts, graces, and usefulness of others, and we must not be quick to get angry at the weaknesses of others. Our zeal must always be tempered with the meekness of wisdom. Moses wishes all the Lord's people were prophets, that is, that God would put His Spirit upon them. We ought to be pleased that God is served and glorified, and good done. And now Moses has many to share with him in his work and honour. Leadership is a burden. It is a burden of care and trouble to those who faithfully rule; and to those who are unfaithful it will prove a heavier burden when they have to give an account one day. Let the example of Moses be imitated by those that are in power; let them not despise the advice and assistance of others, but desire it, and be thankful for it, not wanting to monopolise power.

Question

1. What happens to the seventy elders?
2. How does Moses reply to Joshua?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the work that is being done for God in other places.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: Psalm 90:5

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 8 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - Numbers 11:31-35 - Lust

God, having kept His promise to Moses by giving him helpers in the government, proves the power His Spirit has over the minds and hearts of men. Here He keeps His promise to the people by giving them meat, proving His power over creation.

Notice that the people are satisfied with meat in abundance. A wind brings quail that provide a month's feast for Israel. Notice how greedy the people are of this meat that God sends them. They devour it with an insatiable appetite, ignoring what Moses has told them from God, that they will make themselves sick. Two days and a night they are at it, gathering meat, till every family had brought home ten homers (that is, ten donkey loads) at least. It would have been good for the Israelites to think about refusing this meat, which is obtained by complaining, and which, they can tell by what Moses has said, is given them in anger; but they want their lusts fulfilled, even though it will damage their souls. But they dearly pay for their feast. The Lord sends a very great plague upon them, some bodily disease, which probably is the effect of their gluttony, and is the death of many of them. No matter what is said to them they are not dissuaded from their greed, and therefore, while the meat is in their mouths, the wrath of God comes upon them.

What we greedily desire, if we get it, we have reason to fear that it will be some way or other a grief and problem to us. The remembrance of this is preserved in the name given to the place. Moses called it Kibroth-hattaavah, the graves of lusts or of lust.

Question

1. What promise does God keep?
2. What punishment did God send?

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

You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: Psalm 90:5

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 9 - 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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