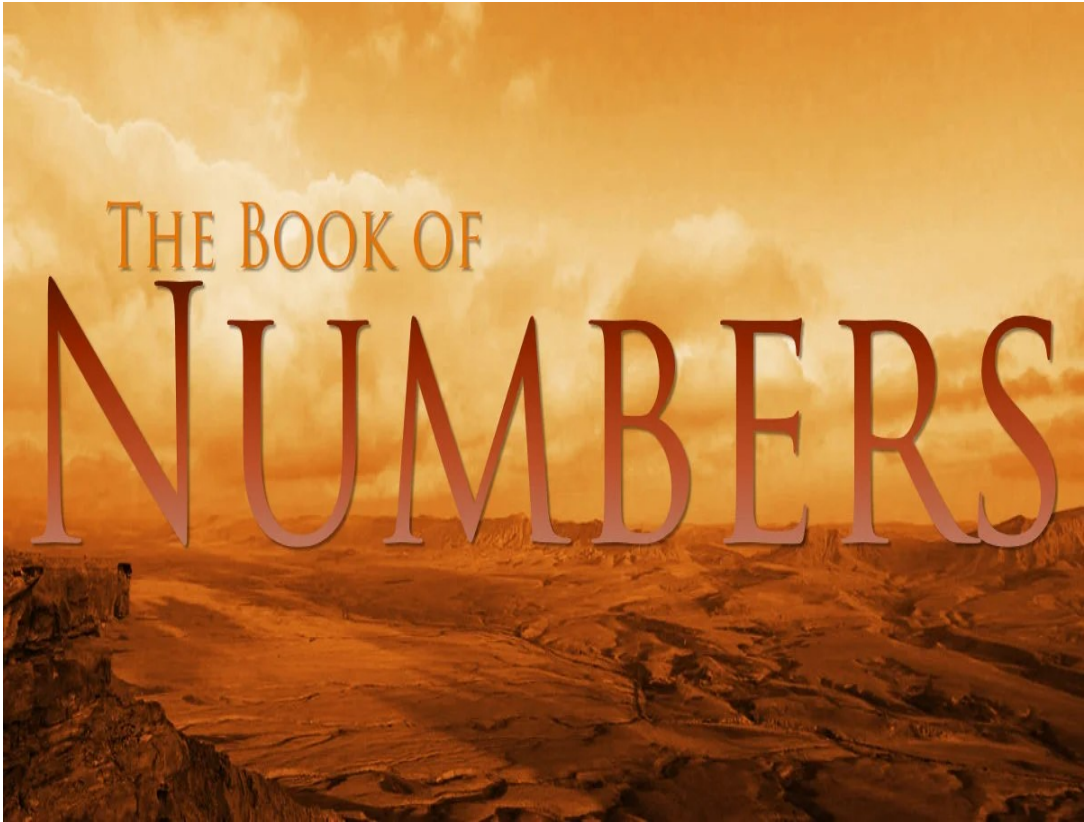


Let's Worship God

17th-22nd July 2023
Numbers

THE BOOK OF

NUMBERS



THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

Monday - Numbers 12:1-3 - Meekness

If even Moses can come under fire by people close to him, people he loves, for following God, we shouldn't be surprised or discouraged if the same thing happens to us. But this attack is still surprising because it comes from those who are themselves righteous, who should know better. Miriam is a prophetess, and Aaron is the high priest. It's also surprising because these are Moses' own brother and sister, his own family. Arguments and quarrels among family are especially hard to deal with. But this incident shows that Moses has been called purely by God's favour, and not because of who his family is. Our relationship with God can't be based on what our parents did, on being baptised, on attending church, on doing good things - it must be based on God's grace to us through Christ. It seems that Miriam begins the argument, and Aaron is drawn in. We need to be careful not to be drawn into quarrels by our relatives, for we know not how great a matter a little fire may kindle. Aaron ought to have remembered how Moses was his friend when God was angry with him for making the golden calf, and not to have returned evil for good. Two things they are angry with Moses about:—(1.) About his marriage: they don't like Zipporah, and (2.) About him having so much power. Striving to be greatest is a sin which we're all easily prone to, and it is very displeasing to God.

Moses has a lot of reason to resent what they say; it is hateful and ill-timed, when the people are on the verge of mutiny, and have caused so much trouble with their complaining, which could easily break out again when they hear this. But Moses just doesn't listen. When God's honour is concerned, as in the case of the golden calf, no man is more zealous than Moses; but, when his own honour is attacked, no man is more meek.

Question

1. Who is bothering Moses now?
2. How does Moses react?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

In the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. Psalm 90:6

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 10 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - Numbers 12:4-9 - God Comes to Moses' Defence

Moses does not resent what is said or complain about it to God; but God resents it. He hears all we say in our anger, and is a witness of our hasty speeches, which is a reason why we should resolutely bridle our tongues, that we don't speak against others, and why we should patiently stop our ears, and not take any notice, if others speak against us. When we appreciate the fact that God is our ultimate Judge we don't need to worry so much about defending ourselves all the time.

Aaron and Miriam are informed that great as they are they must not pretend to be equal to Moses, nor set up as rivals with him. God not only clears Moses, but praises him. Moses is a man of great integrity and faithfulness. God trusts Moses to tell Israel what He thinks; Israel trusts him to deal with God for them; and he is faithful to both. He says and does everything as becomes an honest, good man. He aims at nothing else but the honour of God and the welfare of Israel. Moses is therefore honoured with clearer discoveries of God's mind, and a more intimate relationship with God, than any other prophet. Miriam and Aaron need to think about who it is they are insulting. We should be afraid to say or do anything against the servants of God; for what touches them touches the apple of God's eye. God, having shown them their fault and foolishness, next shows them His displeasure. The anger of the Lord is kindled against them. He departs and will not hear their excuse, for He doesn't need to, He understands their thoughts. The removal of God's presence from us is the surest and saddest sign of God's displeasure against us. But He never departs till we, by our sin and foolishness, drive Him from us.

Questions

1. What does God tell Miriam and Aaron to do?
2. What does God say to Miriam and Aaron?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God defends His people.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.
Psalm 90:6

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 11 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Numbers 12:10-16 - Miriam

Expect nothing good when God departs. Miriam is struck with leprosy, but not Aaron, because she is first in the sin. God makes a distinction between those that mislead and those that are misled. Aaron as priest is to be the judge of the leprosy, and his performing that part of his office upon this occasion, when he looks at Miriam, and sees her leprosy, is a sufficient humiliation to him. He can not pronounce her leprous without blushing and trembling, knowing himself to be equally displeasing to God. If Miriam is so punished for speaking against Moses, what will become of those that sin against Christ?

Aaron humbles himself to Moses, confesses his fault, and begs pardon. Moses makes it clear that he has forgiven Miriam, that he has not accused her to God, nor called for justice against her. By this example we are taught to pray for those that spitefully use us; and not to take pleasure in the most righteous punishment inflicted either by God or man on those that have been cruel to us. Mercy takes place in that Miriam shall be healed and forgiven. Justice takes place in that Miriam shall be humbled.

The people don't journey until Miriam is brought in again. This is a rebuke to the people, who have spoken against Moses as well. Many things oppose us, but nothing hinders us in the way to heaven as sin does. This is also a mark of respect to Miriam. If the camp had moved during the days of her suspension, her trouble and shame would be greater; therefore, in compassion to her, they shall stay. Those that are under rebuke for sin ought to be treated with a great deal of tenderness, and not be over-loaded, not counted as enemies but forgiven and comforted.

Question

1. What happens to Miriam?
2. Who prays on her behalf?

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

In the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.
Psalm 90:6

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 12 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Numbers 13:1-20 - The Spies Sent Out

Joshua is Moses's helper, but has been employed as general of the forces that are sent out against Amalek. The name by which he is generally called and known in his own tribe is Hoshea, but Moses calls him Joshua, as a sign of his love for him and power over him; and now, it seems, Moses orders others to call him Joshua, and fixes that to be his name henceforward. Hoshea means a prayer for salvation, 'You Save'; Joshua means a promise of salvation, 'Jehovah will save', in answer to that prayer. Prayers result in promises and promises direct and encourage prayers. Joshua is a type of Christ as Israel's captain, and conqueror of Canaan. Joshua is the saviour of God's people from the powers of Canaan, but Christ is their Saviour from the powers of Hell.

The spies are sent into the land of Canaan to see whether it is good or bad. All parts of the earth do not share alike in the blessing of fruitfulness; some countries are blessed with a richer soil than others. Moses himself is well satisfied that Canaan is a very good land, but he sends these spies to satisfy the people. The spies are to observe the inhabitants—their number, few or many—their size and stature, whether strong able-bodied men or weak,—their habitations, whether they live in tents or houses, whether in open villages or in walled towns.

Moses dismisses the spies with this charge, Be of good courage, implying, not only that they should be themselves encouraged against the difficulties of this expedition, but that they should bring an encouraging account to the people and make the best of everything. It is not only a great undertaking they are on, but it is a great trust that is in them, which requires that they should be faithful.

Questions

1. Whom does Moses rename?
2. What does Moses tell the spies to do?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would be faithful in the job God gives you to do.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.
Psalm 90:6

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 13 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Numbers 13:21-25 - Foretaste

We have here a short account of the survey which the spies made of the promised land. They go right through it, from Zin in the south, to Rehob, near Hamath, in the north. Probably they don't go all together in a big group, so they won't be suspected and captured, which would be a big danger if the Canaanites knew how close the Israelites are; but they divide themselves into several groups, and so pass unsuspected, as way-faring men.

They take particular notice of Hebron, probably because near there is the field of Machpelah, where their ancestors are buried. They find the adjoining city to this field in the possession of the sons of Anak, who are named. In the place where they expect the greatest encouragements they meet the greatest discouragements. Where the bodies of their ancestors are a reminder that the land is theirs, it has been promised to them, the giants are a reminder that they are going to have to fight for it.

They bring a bunch of grapes with them, and some other of the fruits of the land, as a proof of the extraordinary goodness of the country. The cluster of grapes is so large and so heavy that they hang it upon a bar, and carry it between two of them. The place where they take it from is, from this circumstance, called the valley of the cluster, that famous cluster which is to Israel a symbol of all the fruits of Canaan. When we have fellowship and communion with God through worship, Bible reading, and prayer, this is a foretaste of the fullness of joy we can expect in the heavenly Canaan.

Question

1. Who is buried at Machpelah?
2. What do they bring back with them?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the foretaste we have of Heaven.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.
Psalm 90:6

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 14 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - Numbers 13:26-33 - Caleb

The majority of the spies discourage the people from going into Canaan. God has promised them a land flowing with milk and honey, and the evil spies themselves admit that it is such a land. But they say the conquest of it is completely impractical, and that it is useless to attempt it. Apart from anything else, this attitude is cowardly. But worse than cowardice is the unbelief behind this. It is not any human ability they are required to depend upon, but they have God's presence with them and His power for them. The Canaanites are stronger than Israel; but are they stronger than the God of Israel? Don't they have Him in their midst? Doesn't He go before them? Is anything too hard for Him? They have had tremendous experience of the strength and power of God on their behalf. They have had particular promises made to them of victory and success in their wars against the Canaanites. After all this, for them to say, "We are not able to go up against them", is in effect to say, "God himself is not able to keep His promises."

If Joshua had spoken first, he would have been suspected of partiality to Moses, whose helper he is; and so he prudently leaves it to Caleb to speak first, who is of the tribe of Judah, the leading tribe, and therefore the fittest to be heard. Caleb has seen and observed the strength of the inhabitants as much as the others, and he speaks very confidently of success. He does not say, "Let us go up and conquer it;" he looks upon that to be as good as done already; but, "Let us go up and occupy it; there is nothing to be done but to enter, and take the possession which God our great Lord is ready to give us." Difficulties that lie in the way of salvation dwindle and vanish before a lively active faith in the power and promise of God. All things are possible, if they are promised, to him that believes.

Question

1. What do the majority of the spies say?
2. What does Caleb say?

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

In the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.
Psalm 90:6

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 15 - 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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If you have any queries please contact - rpchurchscotland@gmail.com