

# Numbers

## A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF **NUMBERS**

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# Why Numbers?

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# Why Numbers?

Behind every number is a name  
Behind every name is a story  
And every story is important to God  
To show His love and His purposes

<sup>2</sup>  
Tim. **3:16**

*“All scripture is given by inspiration of God,  
and is profitable  
for doctrine,  
for reproof,  
for correction,  
for instruction in righteousness”*

# Putting it in context

	<b>GENESIS</b>	<b>EXODUS</b>	<b>LEVITICUS</b>	<b>NUMBERS</b>	<b>DEUTERO- NOMY</b>
<b>Key Idea</b>	Beginnings	Redemption	Worship	Wandering	Renewed Covenant
<b>The Nation</b>	Chosen	Delivered	Set Apart	Directed	Made Ready
<b>The People</b>	Prepared	Redeemed	Taught	Tested	Retaught
<b>God's Character</b>	Powerful Sovereign	Merciful	Holy	Just	Loving Lord
<b>God's Role</b>	Creator	Deliverer	Sanctifier	Sustainer	Rewarder
<b>God's Command</b>	"Let there be!"	"Let my people go!"	"Be holy!"	"Go in!"	"Obey!"

# About Numbers

*Arithmoi* (Septuagint) – Numbers Chapter 1 and Chapter 26

Numbers 1:1 “*And the Lord spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tabernacle of the congregation, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they were come out of the land of Egypt”*

*Bemidbar* (Hebrew)

# Numbers about Numbers

**4**

Book of the  
Pentateuch

**36**

Chapters

**1288**

Verses

**1**

Author = Moses

**39**

Recorded years  
of Israel's history

**1406**

BC – ~year of  
writing

# Connecting the Numbers

480 years

**1446 BC**

Passover; Start  
of the Exodus

**1445 BC**

Arrival at Mt.  
Sinai; start of  
events in  
Numbers 1

**1406 BC**

Writing of the  
Book of Numbers  
completed;  
Approximate year  
of Moses' death

**966 BC**

4<sup>th</sup> year of  
Solomon's Reign  
1 Kings 6:1

# Lesson Plan

## **Week 1**

Overview  
of the  
journey



## **Week 2**

Direction  
for the  
journey



## **Week 3**

Delay in  
the  
journey



## **Week 4**

Dangers  
facing the  
journey



## **Week 5**

Wrap-up  
and  
Practical  
Applications



# Overview

<b>Portion</b>	<b>Journey</b>	<b>Instruction</b>
Num 1:1 – 10:10	Rameses to Sinai	Direction for the Journey
Num 10:11 – 19:22	Sinai to Kadesh	Delay in the Journey
Num 19:23 – 36:13	Kadesh to Nebo	Dangers facing the Journey

# Overview: Direction for the Journey (Ch. 1-10)

## ORGANIZATION

- Ch. 1: Census of the warriors
- Ch. 2: Order of the Camp
- Ch. 3: Service of the Levites
- Ch. 4: Vessels which were to be carried

## PURIFICATION

- Ch. 5: Purity of the Camp
- Ch. 6: Law of the Nazarite
- Ch. 7: Dedication of the Altar and offerings of the Princes
- Ch. 8: Cleansing and Consecration of the Levites

## ANTICIPATION

- Ch. 9-10: Second Passover, law of the Cloud, law of the Trumpets

# Overview: Delay in the Journey (Ch. 11-19)

**FAILURE**

Ch. 11: Rejection of the manna

Ch. 12: Rejection of Moses

Ch. 13: Rejection of the inheritance

Ch. 14: Rejection of God's discipline

Ch. 15-19: Silence, Sin, Stalemate

# Overview: Dangers facing the Journey (Ch. 20-36)

## NEW GENERATION

Ch. 20-25

- Edomite (natural relationships)
- Cannanite (materialism and commerce)
- Amorite (human wisdom)
- King of Bashan (ease and prosperity)
- Balaam (unseen evil influences)
- Moabite (idolatory and lust)

## NEW CENSUS

Ch. 26-27: Second numbering of the people; law of inheritance

## NEW INSTRUCTIONS

Ch. 28-36: Ceremonies and offerings to be kept; division of the land

# Numbers in the New Testament

- **John 3:14** – The Lord Jesus referring to the brazen serpent (Num 21)
- **1 Cor 10:8-13** – Paul reminds believers of what happened to the nation of Israel in the wilderness; application to the assembly
- **2 Pet 2:15; Jude 11; Rev 2:14** – references to the character of Balaam
- **Heb 9:13-14** – Contrast of the red heifer (Num 19) with the sacrifice of Christ

# Why Numbers?

*“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”*

Romans 15:4

*“Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”*

1 Corinthians 10:11

*“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”*

Hebrews 11:13

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