Outline of the Book of Numbers Thursday 10/22/2026

I. Introduction to the Book of Numbers

As you know we did Luke the last time, and now we're back in the Old Testament with the Book of Numbers. Let me give you a little information here on how you want to do this. My goal is when I'm done with this book tonight, as with each one I do, that when you go back home and you start working it, you have a whole month—in fact, you're going to get an extra week this month—you're going to have a whole month to be able to put it in there.

We'll have an outline for you. I'd work off the outline instead of your notes, but you do what you want to do. My goal is for you to have a fundamental working knowledge of every book of the Bible. I can't get into everything, but I'm giving you 100% more than you've ever gotten, and enough for you to work with. I want you to be able to go to every book in the Bible. If you do your part, I want you to be able to go to every book in the Bible, open it up, and chapter by chapter, section by section, have everything you need to understand that book. The more our church develops, the more opportunities you're going to get to teach and preach and work with people. So it's going to be just a necessity that you get these books down. Some of this stuff, and I'll remind you as we go through, I just broke the sections down in the chapter. You need to just mark them out, write them out. So when you see it, you know what you've got, but I'll walk you through that when we get there.

II. The Book of Numbers—Overview

The Book of Numbers, obviously, is our fourth book of the five books by Moses.

The Book of Numbers: 36 chapters 1,288 Verses 32.902 Words

Christ Portrayed: Christ as our serpent

Theme: They're numbered in the wilderness for the coming wars when they're going to get into the land. So this book brings you up to them actually going into the land. You will find in Numbers 1:3 that you're told that they're numbered for war.

> *From twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel: thou and Aaron shall number them by their armies. Numbers 1:3*

We know that your first five books in the Bible are the first five books of Moses. Each one of them, and we've seen three of them so far, each one of them has another aspect to Israel. Genesis, obviously, was the beginning of everything, including Israel. Exodus, we saw their trials and God bringing them out of Egypt. Leviticus, that whole book was dedicated to the priest class or the priesthood. In Numbers, we see them out in the wilderness, and we see their unbelief and then their turning from God. It's in this book that you're going to find in the first section of the book, it only takes them 11 days to get to where the Promised Land is across over Jordan. The second

part of the book, because of their unbelief, is that they wander for 40 years. We'll cover that when we get into it. The next book we're going to get into after John next time will be Deuteronomy. "Deutero" – Two. Deuteronomy will be the second giving of the law after the generation dies out, and He has to give it again to the new generation. So we'll get into all that.

The book typifies Christ as Christ our serpent. You'll find this, in Numbers 21:8, the serpent on a pole. Then in John 3:14, He likens that to Christ being on the cross, becoming a serpent for you and for me, a serpent on the pole.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. Numbers 21:8

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: – John 3:14

There are a couple of pictures in the book that when I just look at the overall book, they stand out to me, and you can put these in the front of your Bible where the Book of Numbers is. First of all:

Historically: It shows you the trouble that Israel gets into when they turn from God.
Inspirationally: You might guess it, the trouble you and I get into when we turn from God.

You find in Numbers 2:3 that all the tribes are numbered for war except the tribe of Levi. That's the priest tribe. That's a picture of me as a New Testament priest. I don't fight. I stand on the Book, and Jesus does my fighting for me as we saw when we came through Exodus chapter 17. So that's another picture that emerges.

And on the east side toward the rising of the sun shall they of the standard of the camp of Judah pitch throughout their armies: and Nahshon the son of Amminadab shall be captain of the children of Judah. Numbers 2:3

One of the best pictures, one of the most unknown pictures, and that's not a hard, fast rule, but it certainly is a good principle to go by, is the calling for some young man to be a pastor. If you look in the book here, they go to war when they're 20 years of age. They have to be 20 years old before they go to war, but they can't become a priest and do the work of a ministry till they're 30. So I've always looked at that as any young man that has a heart for the ministry to be a pastor. It takes about 10 years to get into the battle to really learn what you need to learn if you get the right training to be ready to go. So that's a good story that's in there. So those stories kind of emerge out of this book.

In the book, you're also going to find the internal structure of every church. You're going to find that there are three aspects of people in every church, and we'll be talking about this later and in a couple of weeks too, but we'll get into that.

The outline of the book breaks down into two sections:

Section One: This will be **chapter one through chapter 19**. In this section, it's their journey from Sinai to Kadesh. That takes 11 days. That brings them right up to the Jordan River. Then

they send the spies over, if you remember, we'll see it in a little bit. Those spies come back, everybody's afraid, and then they go back into the wilderness, and that sets up the second section.

Section Two: **Chapter 20 to chapter 36**, and that is Kadesh to Jordan, and that takes 40 years. He takes them back around through the wilderness, and for the next 40 years, they wander to come back. He does that so that all of that fearful generation that came out of Egypt dies off, and then the new generation is what goes over, and that's why in Deuteronomy, He has to give them the second giving of the law. That's a great example. That's a picture of your spiritual growth and your relationship with God once you get saved. You can get there in 11 days, or you can get there in 40 years, and that's a great principle and a great concept in the Bible.

III. Section One—Chapters 1-19

Chapter 1: Numbering the Tribes for War

All right, let's look at chapter one. Here again, I'm going to break this chapter down, and it's where the tribes are numbered for war, and this is for 20 years upward. I'm going to give you the verse reference and the tribe.

BIBLE NOTE TIP: What I would do if I were you is, when you put this in your Bible, take your little yellow marker, write out the first one, just put a one there and put the tribe there, and then the second one and the third one. All you want to do with this is when you're done is have this chapter divided up into the 12 tribes and their number. You don't need to worry about the numbers, you just need to get where you can visually see it.

- 1. Numbers 1:20: Reuben
- 2. Numbers 1:22: Simeon
- 3. Numbers 1:24: Gad
- 4. Numbers 1:26: Judah
- 5. Numbers 1:28: Issachar
- 6. Numbers 1:30: Zebulun
7. Numbers 1:32: Joseph
8. Numbers 1:34: Manasseh
9. Numbers 1:36: Benjamin
10. Numbers 1:38: Dan
11. Numbers 1:40: Asher
12. Numbers 1:42: Naphtali

When you get your outline, it'll be clear; you just mark those out in your Bible, so you have a visual of how that chapter breaks down.

Chapter 2: Setting the Standards for the Four Corners of the Camp

In chapter two we have the setting of the standards for the four corners of the camp.

- **Verses**: 2:1-9: The east side will be Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.

1. **Verses**: 2:10-17: The south side of the camp will be Reuben, Simeon, and Gad.
2. **Verses**: 2:18-24: The west side will be Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin.
3. **Verses**: 2:25-32: The north side will be Dan, Asher, and Naphtali.

BIBLE NOTE TIP: You will want to section out each one of these and just put the tribe with the title on it, that this is where they set their standard for the four corners of the camp, north, south, east, and west.

- **Verses:**32-34 You're told that Levi is not in the battle lineup, and that's what this is for, the standards or the flags that they would carry in the battle. Levi is not in the battle lineup, the priest class, and we talked about that, but they are a picture of the New Testament believers. So, they don't go to war; they stay by the stuff, and Jesus does the fighting for them.

Chapter 3: Consecration of the Firstborn

- **Verses**: 1-4 This is where we've talked about this before, God kills Nadab and Abihu, Aaron's sons, for the offering of strange fire. I've laid this out many, many times. That, fire for the censer, which is a picture of prayer, was to come off the brazen altar, a picture of Christ's crucifixion. They got it someplace else or whatever the case may be, and God killed them because it was strange fire.

- **Verses:** 5-51: Deals with the firstborn that God claims as His. This one's very important. This is one of these places in the Bible that really gives you a solid concept of how God looks at things and how He does things. In the Bible, you have what is called the fullness of the Gentiles; you also have a fullness of time. Here, you have, as they come out of Egypt, the firstborn. God says, "They're mine."
    - **Verses**: 13-39: He lays it out that they are to number all the firstborn. That number initially is 22,000.
    - **Verses**:40-51: Then He adds 273 more. Now the new total is 22,273. That's the firstborn that He claims for Himself.

In Numbers 3:13, you find that He makes a reference to the firstborn that He killed coming out of Egypt when they put the blood on the door.

Because all the firstborn are mine; for on the day that I smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I hallowed unto me all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast: mine shall they be: I am the LORD. – Numbers 3:13

Most likely, this is the number that was killed that night, 22,273, and now Israel's number in God's mind is incomplete. So He has to make it complete. So He takes the firstborn and re-establishes that number. That's an incredible concept that we've talked about before.

Probably when Satan left heaven, he took a third of the angels, sons of God, with him. So heaven is incomplete, just as Israel was incomplete, and they had to put that firstborn back. The reason why, in the scheme of everything that God does, He has New Testament soul winning where we win people to Christ and they become sons of God is to replace that number that fell back there

in Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. God is very consistent in His numbers. It's an important concept that you see. That's what I've told you many times, the Bible says the rapture won't take place until the fullness of the Gentiles come in. That fullness of the Gentiles will be the number that matches up to how many left in Genesis 1:1. Just like here, He claims all the firstborn.

Chapter 4: The Internal Structure of the Nation of Israel & the Church

We start to see the internal structure of any church as we see the internal structure of the congregation of the nation of Israel. You have the three families that work extensively with the Ark in the ministry. Then you have the 12 tribes that camp around the Ark. Then you have the mixt multitude that gets as far away from the Ark as they can. Those are going to represent the three types of families that are going to be in any church. I don't care where you go. You're going to have those that are really dialed in. You're going to have ones that are just out there coming to church every Sunday but not committing anything. Then you're going to have the mixt multitude who you're going to find when you study it out, they never get Egypt, the world, out of their hearts. They're always talking about the lust of the flesh, and they make reference to the manna, which is a picture of the Word of God, just like people do today. "All we've got to eat Moses' is old dry manna." "Bob, all you've got in this church is that old dry King James 1611 Authorized Version." You bet, that's it. Those are the pictures that you'll find. We're going to get into this in a couple of weeks. In a couple of weeks, I'm going to lay out for you where we are going here and what God is doing, and it's a tremendous thing for next year. We're going to get into this in a little deeper way, but that's what you've got. I will remind you and bring you back to this as we get to that point.

Chapter 5: The Water Test Principle

Chapter five is another great biblical principle setting out to get the truth. You remember back in 1 Kings chapter three, we use this in our lessons on biblical counseling, how that Solomon had two harlots come before him, and they both claimed to have the same baby. One of them said, "This is my baby," and "Oh, this is your baby, you killed your baby, you took mine," "Oh, you killed it, that's mine." Solomon didn't know who was telling the truth. So, he took a sword, and he's going to cut the baby in half and give one half and the other half. The thought of losing the real child, the mother said, "Oh, no, no, don't do it, give it to her. I'd rather her have it than you kill it." The other one who was not her baby said, "Hey, I don't care, kill it." The principle is the sword, the Word of God, in any given situation will always produce the truth.

Here in chapter 5 is another one, this one's the water test, the water being a type of the Word of God. This woman is accused of some kind of uncleanliness, and nobody knows for sure. The Bible says her husband gets a spirit of jealousy. So nobody knows for sure if she's guilty or she's not guilty, so Moses says, "Okay, we'll give her the water test." She drinks the water, a picture of the Word of God. If she's innocent, nothing. If she's guilty, her belly bloats up and she dies.

That's another example of the Word of God, the water of life, always producing the truth when you're dealing with somebody. That's a great, great chapter on it.

Chapter 6: The Nazarite Vow

In chapter six, you have the Nazarite vow. The Nazarite vow was a vow that somebody took in the Old Testament that they were going to do something for the Lord; they took a Nazarite vow. That vow that they took had three conditions with it.

- 1. They were not to take any strong drink, nothing from the vine tree.
- 2. They were not to cut their hair in any way, shape, form or fashion. The Jews had a particular way that they cut their hair. When you took a Nazarite vow, you couldn't cut it. The greatest example of this, obviously, is Samson, who had long hair and did not cut his hair because he was under the Nazarite vow.
- 3. They could not come close or touch a dead body.

All three of them are pictures of a New Testament Christian and the three things that we should have in our life, even though we don't take a Nazarite vow, but simply because we have a special relationship with God to do the work that He wants us to do. One, no strong drink. Sorry, that's just the way it is. There are a lot of churches in town that could learn from that concept. Two, no razor upon his head. That's because in 1 Corinthians chapter 11, the Bible says the shame of a man will be his long hair. So we as a child of God, spiritually speaking, should bear the shame of Christ. Obviously the third one, no dead people, not messing around with unsaved people. So you see the three concepts. Again, it's the picture of us abstaining from the world, and the greatest example of that was going to be Samson.

Chapter 7: The Offerings of the Princes

Chapter seven is the second longest chapter in the Bible. It's got 89 verses in it. The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 119; it's got 176 verses in it. This chapter will deal with the 12 princes of Israel and the offerings that they bring. There's a great concept here, and you will want to mark these down, so you have it at face value.

- 1. Numbers 7:12: Judah
- 2. Numbers 7:18: Issachar
- 3. Numbers 7:24: Zebulun
- 4. Numbers 7:30: Reuben
- 5. Numbers 7:36: Simeon
- 6. Numbers 7:42: Gad
7. Numbers 7:48: Ephraim
8. Numbers 7:54: Manasseh
9. Numbers 7:60: Benjamin
10. Numbers 7:66: Dan
11. Numbers 7:72: Asher
12. Numbers 7:78: Naphtali

BIBLE NOTE TIP: You just put those in there and put the title across there. You can put this is the second longest chapter in the Bible, but you label as this chapter deals with the princes of Israel and the offerings they bring, and then just mark them out so you can see them.

The principle is this: these are the leaders of Israel. The principle is for you and for me, leaders should always lead in the offering to God by example. That's the principle that comes out of this.

Chapter 8: Consecration of the Levites

In chapter eight, another great study, you have the consecration of the Levites. You'll find in Numbers 8:2 that it's connected with seven lamps of God, the seven lampstands of God. That's a great picture because Numbers 8:4 basically tells us that He does the work by those lamps. It's a picture of once you and I get consecrated as a priest, we have to have the light of the Holy Spirit of God in our life to be a consecrated priest and do the job. The seven lamps are a picture of the seven spirits of God found in Isaiah chapter eleven and Revelation chapter four.

Chapter 9: The Passover

- **Verses**:1-5: The keeping of the Passover.
- **Verses**:6-14: The rules of keeping the Passover.
- **Verses**:15-23: They're following the cloud that God used to guide them.

The cloud told them when to move, when not to move. It's a picture of the leading of the Holy Spirit of God in your life. Note the word "cloud" and then the word "commandment" is used in the same text. It's a picture of God leading through the Word of God.

Chapter 10: The Silver Trumpets

Another great one. This book is filled with them. Two trumpets made of silver. The first one blows and then the second one blows. This is dealing with the two trumpets and the nation of Israel. In a doctrinal concept, here's what you've got.

- ❖ The **first** blowing of the trumpet was the re-gathering of the nation of Israel. That was in 1948.
- ❖ The **second** blowing of the trumpet was an alarm that the enemy is coming; that'll be the second coming of Christ and the Antichrist.

Typified by two trumpets of silver. Notice trumpets of silver, silver being redemption.

- **Verses**:11-36: You find the order of their march as they go into combat.

Chapter 11: The Mixt Multitude

Here we have the chapter on the mixt multitude. It's a picture of God's people in Christianity that are half in and half out. They're always the source of Israel's problem. As I said, they're always lusting after the flesh, and they're always infecting the rest of the 12 tribes. Their statement is, "Give us flesh to eat. We should have never left Egypt," a picture of the world. It's a complete picture of people who are saved, and yet they just can't get Egypt out of their life, the world. As I said, they complain about all that they have to eat is just that dry old manna, which is a picture of the Word of God.

- **Verse**:16: God chooses 70 men, strong leaders, who are going to lead the nation of Israel.

If you remember back when we came through Exodus, we saw the advice that Jethro gave to Moses about picking leaders and setting them over the camp. That was the wrong advice. Those guys led to the problems that Israel had. Here you find God is telling him, you pick the 70 men that are based on the relationship they have with Me. He does and this is where Israel gets a strong leadership.

Chapter 12: Miriam's Leprosy

In chapter 12, here we have another good lesson to learn. You want to get this down in your Bible. In Numbers 12:1, Miriam and Aaron speak against Moses. Moses has taken an Ethiopian wife, and Miriam and Aaron are not happy about it. They challenge him on it.

In the story, and I have been asked this question many, many times, God gives Miriam leprosy for her two cents being put into the matter. But then Moses prays for her, and after seven days, she's cleansed of her leprosy. The question I'm asked many times is, "Why did she get leprosy and nothing happened to Aaron?" You may get this from somebody when they start getting into their Bible. First off, the thing that you want to remember is that Moses, in Exodus 33:11, has a very good relationship with God face to face.

God deals with Moses. He doesn't need Miriam's two cents being put into it. Aaron is different. In Exodus chapter four, Aaron was given to Moses as his teammate, so he does have a say in things.

The teaching is that as far as Miriam is concerned, she didn't have any say in it. God will deal with Moses, and Miriam needed to just focus on her own life. But because she didn’t do that, she got the leprosy. Aaron didn't because Aaron was given as a teammate, and Aaron does have a say in what he does. That's the answer to that. You want to put that in there.

Chapter 13: The Spies and the Giants

Chapter 13 will be our pivotal chapter. You remember that I told you that we're dealing with two generations. We see a pivotal chapter in the book.

- **Verses:** 1-25: This is where they send out the spies over to scope out the land to do a recon. They come back and give their report. They say it's a great land flowing with milk and honey, a fruitful land.

- **Verses**: 28-33: But the Amalekites, the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Canaanites, and the sons of Anak, those are the giants, are back again.

What you've got is this. God takes Israel at the end of Genesis down to Egypt. For 430 years, they're in bondage in Egypt. That bondage is a slavery. But through that slavery, God's purpose behind what He was doing and the adversity that they went through was that He was forging them into a tough nation. He knew that they were going to have to face all of the rigors of the wilderness, and then when they got into the land, facing these enemies. So He builds them through the adversity, just like He builds God's people today through adversity. They come out of there as a strong, unified nation.

- There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that----

At the same time, they're down there for 430 years. The devil is not, and this is a great principle, he's not losing any ground or traction. While they're strengthened for 430 years, the devil is reinforcing that land that he knows they're going to come to. He brings in all of his nations. Along with that, in Genesis chapter six, you have the sons of God that came down, and the devil used them to try to take over the world. They were all drowned out in a flood. When you get into Genesis 6:4, it says, "*There were giants in the earth in those days; **and also after that***." We see the "*also after that*", right here in chapter 13. He brings them back down again. For the purpose that Israel is on the march, he wants to keep them out of the land. He does it with these nations, the Amalekites, the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Canaanites. They are the Middle East nations today that are against Israel. They're right in the land where Israel was headed back then. That's Israel's land. Israel may be in Jerusalem as a nation, but she just has a fingernail hold on Jerusalem. She doesn't have the temple mount. She just got a small section of the overall great promised land that God has given to them. Then who else has got it? The Palestinians, all of those Muslim groups that came out of these five nations right here, running it.

The giants came back again. You'll find that the great notable giant is Goliath. He's singled out to show you that he was somebody that David, a type of Christ, wiped out. It shows you the wickedness that is going on. Goliath was probably 18, 19 feet tall. David is just a little guy. He goes up against Goliath and he defeats him. Goliath is one of the 18 types of the Antichrist. David is one of the 21 types of Christ, and he defeats him. But when you read the story and the account of Goliath, you begin to see how it all comes together. A lot of the things that are out in the world today that people don't have any idea where they start or where they come from,

they're right back to your Bible. You'll go to one place in your Bible and the Bible says that Goliath had four brothers. This is why David picked up five smooth stones. I've heard preachers say, "Well, that's his lack of faith in God. So if he missed the first time, he had four more shots at it." He knew Goliath had four brothers. If the brothers want to make this a family affair, he's going to go five for five. There's another verse that names the same boys that are his brothers, and they say that they're his sons. Goliath fathered these boys through his own mother, which brings up one of the most familiar terms of foul-mouthed, dirty-mouthed people like to use and takes the term about having sex with your mother. Where does it come? Right here with Goliath.

- The giants out there will try to defeat you

The devil knows that Israel is fearful now. God's plan was to bring His people into the land. For 430 years, He got them ready. For that 430 years, the devil was getting it ready. The picture today for you and for me is that God right now, if you're in this church and you're being discipled or you're getting into the Bible or you're doing what God wants you to do, right now at this point in your life, you're in your 430 years of getting ready. The devil's got the giants out there that are going to meet you to try to defeat you. It's just that simple. The principle comes all the way across the dispensation to the church. The giants of your life want to stop you like the giants back there wanted to stop God's people.

So they go over and they come back, everybody's afraid except two guys, Caleb and Joshua. They say, "Ah, come on, man, let's go right now." But the people, the nation, they're not ready. They're afraid. 45 years later, we'll get to this when we get into Joshua. Forty-five years later, Joshua 14:10-12, Joshua by himself takes this exact same spot single-handed. The prayer for every pastor in his church should be "God, give me more Calebs and Joshuas." You see, the people, and it's just as true today, the people saw the obstacles, the giants. Joshua and Caleb saw the opportunities. God wants to build men and women who don't look at the obstacles, but who look at the opportunities, and the opportunities will override the obstacles.

Chapter 14: The People Murmur Against God & Moses

- **Verses**: 1-10: The people are murmuring against God and Moses, and they want to go back to Egypt. They're scared.

- **Verses**:11-19: God's fed up with them. He wants to wipe them out. Wants to kill them all. This is one of the great places in the Bible, Moses spoke to God face to face, like a man speaks to his friend. Moses intercedes for them and says, "Oh, Lord, you can't do that," verses 15 through 19.

- **Verses**:20-45: God pardons them. One of the greatest comical things in the Bible is right here. Here's where God wants to wipe them out. Moses says to God, "You can't do that. Come on now, don't kill them all." And God says, "Okay, I won't." Then there are times when Moses wants to wipe them out, and God says, "Now, come on, Moses, you don't

want to do that." Let me tell you something. If God and Moses got out of sorts on the same day, they'd wipe out the whole planet Earth. But it shows you the relationship we should have with God, that a man can speak to God just like speaking to your friend. It's incredible.

Chapter 15: The Law of Offerings

BIBLE NOTE TIP: Now here, put a title across it. In every one of these chapters, I'm giving you the title of what the chapter is. You ought to write that across the top and then fill in what you need to fill in.

Here in Chapter 15, he takes them back to the law of the different offerings.

- **Verses:** 1-41: The New Testament principle is this: we are to stay with the book. That is the key to the land and the blessings for them. You never want to forget what got you where you're at. That's why He takes them back to the basics of the law, the fundamentals, to get them to see where they have come from and where they're at, and then where He wants them to go. That's the key principle in the chapter.

Then there's another great principle that comes out of this. I've told you this many, many times. When you get to the judgment seat of Christ, God is not going to hold you and me accountable for what we did know and what we didn't know. He's going to hold us accountable for what we could have found out, but we chose not to. Ignorance in that day as here will not be an excuse because He takes them back to the fundamentals, so everybody understands what it is.

Chapter 16: Rebellion of Korah

In this chapter, we see a rebellion against Moses and his leadership. This is called the rebellion of Korah. When you get over to the Book of Jude in Jude 1:11, he will be called Core.

Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. Jude 1:11

In the Old Testament, he's spelled K-O-R-A-H. In the New Testament, it's C-O-R-E, same guy. It's called in Jude verse 11, the gainsaying of Core. Now I'm going to explain this to you. Korah is jealous of Moses and Aaron, and he thinks he can lead Israel better than Moses. So he gets some men, and they try to overthrow Moses and Aaron in Numbers 16:3. The Bible says there are 250 of them. This is your first church split in the Bible.

- **Verses:** 31-50: The earth opens up and swallows them up, and the fire consumes them. In Numbers 16:35, it says that all 250 go down to the pit.

This again will be a common practice in most New Testament Baptist churches, the power players. It's called in Jude verse 11, gainsaying. You want to look at the structure of the words that are used in the Bible, “gainsaying”. You want what the pastor has that God has not given to

you. So you get a group of people to follow you, and then you gain power by saying things against the pastor. Gainsaying. Brother, a lot of that goes around today, believe me. But that's the picture you have here.

Chapter 17: The Budding of Aaron's Rod

This is a good one. I love this one. The budding of Aaron's rod over all the other rods of the 12 tribes. Again, everything in this life, one way or the other, it goes back to the Bible. I know some of it sounds goofy, but I am telling you, this is Aaron's rod. It's the priestly rod, and it buds with almonds. None of the other rods budded. It's showing you the priest class, a picture of you and me, the fruitfulness of what we should have in our lives. Almonds are a picture of the blessings of God. In your Bible, palm trees are a picture of the millennial reign of Christ. What comes off a palm tree? Coconuts. So you have almonds and coconuts. One represents the blessings of God. One represents the millennial reign of God. So next time you've got a sweet tooth, go get you an Almond Joy. Almonds plus coconut, Almond Joy. Aren't you glad you're here tonight? I'm telling you that Book is something else.

Moses uses it as a token of remembrance against the rebels, Korah, in chapter 16. The picture is clear, that the pastor of the priest class will always prevail against any of the rebels if he stays with the Word of God. It's a great picture.

Chapter 18: Charges from God to the Priest class

Here we have, and again, put the title across here, here you have the charges from God to the priest class of what they're to do.

- **Verses**: 1-8: Keeping the charge of all the tabernacle.
- **Verses**: 9-24: Keeping the different portions of the work within the tabernacle.
- **Verses**:25-32: The heave offering.

I've always thought, in the Old Testament, the priests, in the offerings, they had a heave offering and a wave offering. Most people just think of it as, "Well, okay, he waved the offering and he lifted the offering up." But it's an incredible picture because when you took that priest and he took the offering and he did the wave offering, he took the offering and waved it this way and he waved it that way. When he took the heave offering, he lifted it up. You know what he just made? That's the first time the sign of a cross is found in the Bible, and it had nothing to do with the Roman Catholic Church. It was the wave offering and a heave offering. Here is the offering of the priest. He lifts that offering up to God, and it's called a heave offering. So on Sunday morning, when we take up the offering, you put in your tithes, your offering, your sacrificial giving, spiritually speaking, you're giving a heave offering, see, as the priest. You're lifting it up to the Lord.

You know, I'm old school. A lot of things that pastors do out there, I'm just too old school to do it. I think that everything that we do or should do is rooted in the Bible. A lot of churches will have church services on Saturday night. Not Catholic churches, I mean Baptist churches. You'll see them, they'll have church on Saturday night, so you don't have to come on Sunday morning. Now, to me, that's catering to a group of Laodicean Christians to make life easy for them. My problem with that is simply this: in the Bible, it says that they met on the first day of the week. It wasn't Saturday night. You see, there's a principle involved in that. I know, I'm a stickler, I get it, I get it. You know, my biggest problem, I spent too much time in the Bible. I should have been more in the bars, like some of you. But I got to the place where that book, every principle in it means something.

- There is something missing about the concept of God's house in our lives

Again, this is not a criticism. I even hate to say this, but I just can't keep my mouth shut. With a lot of churches, you can go online and they have a, PayPal, whatever it is, and you can put your offering in through PayPal. So, they do it online. I'm not fighting that, but I'm telling you, there's something missing about the concept of God's house in our lives today. There's something about when you come to church on Sunday morning, the first day of the week, which is in the morning because it's all based on the resurrection of Christ. There's something about just taking up their offering in God's house, praying over it, and then spiritually lifting it up and giving it to Him. That's just me, but I'm telling you, I know what happens in time with human nature when you start to violate and fudge just a little bit on the principles. It's like my grandmother used to say, "You gave the devil an inch, and someday he'll be the ruler, all 12 inches." You just can't do that. So you have to stick with the principles, even though the Christian world today doesn't want to stick with them anymore. They're there for a reason. These stories are here for a reason. The principles are here for a reason. So, whatever you want to do, I don't care.

Chapter 19: The Red Heifer and Heresy

In chapter 19, we come to one of the New Testament heresies found in Jewish tradition and also in neo-Christianity stupidity. This is the tradition of the ashes of a red heifer. Here is the idea. You get on YouTube, you can see this, there are books written about it. I've known preachers that got on a campaign about this. The idea is the red heifer, that is a form of cattle, female cattle, has to come and be sacrificed before the Jews can build the temple. As of 1997, a group down in Texas were busy breeding red heifers to make all this happen with a team of rabbis and a bunch of stupid God's people trying to make it all happen so that the Jews can build the temple.

Here is what's wrong with that. God's temple will not be built in this life or in the tribulation. The temple that's built in the tribulation and the temple that's here in the tribulation will be the one the Antichrist builds and he sits in. Any building of any temple will be for the Antichrist. You find that in 2 Thessalonians chapter two and Daniel chapter 11. I don't know how you could miss that. In Ezekiel chapter 40 through chapter 48. Hello! That is the greatest eight chapters that show you when and where the temple will be built. It has nothing to do with a red heifer.

Then we're told that there's a group of rabbis who are conducting all of this that's going to offer it. Here is where it all goes to pieces. Nobody today knows where the 12 tribes are. Nobody today knows who the priest class is. Nobody. That is all lost in the times of the Gentiles. They have no idea. When they went back under Cyrus in Ezra and Nehemiah and they're rebuilding the temple. It's only been 70 years. You know what the big problem is? They can't find out who the priests are. They're looking around for the genealogies, and they've got guys who say they're a priest and they're not priests, and they kick them out. Well, it's been 3,000 years! Nobody knows where the priest class is today. Nobody knows where the 12 tribes are today. Will they come back in the tribulation under Moses and Elijah? Forget it. So all of that shows you that it's worthless. The red heifer in its ashes was an Old Testament sin offering that was a picture of Christ's death on the cross. Notice Numbers 19:9, it says, "It was for a purification of sin." It's a red heifer. Hebrews 9:13 talks about the blood of bulls and goats.

And a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of separation: ***it is a purification for sin****. Numbers 19:9*

For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: Hebrews 9:13

Of course, it has nothing to do with the craziness that goes on out there. Most of those quote, unquote Christians are Charismatics, and this is where it all got started, with those guys that get on the TV and don't know what they're talking about.

IV. Section Two—Chapters 20-36

Chapter 20: The Death of Miriam & Moses Strikes the Rock

There are a couple of key things here.

- **Verse:** 1: You will want to mark the death of Miriam.
- **Verses**:2-11: This is another good story. No water, so the people murmur. God tells Moses that you take Aaron's rod, and there's going to be a rock there. You take Aaron's rod and you speak to the rock, and the water will come forth.

There are <u>two times in your Bible in the Old Testament where they have no water</u>, and Moses comes to a rock. The first time is in Exodus chapter 17. If you notice in Exodus chapter 17, he goes to that rock. <u>That rock is a picture of Christ</u>, 1 Corinthians chapter ten. The rod that he has in his hands is Moses' rod of judgment. Here he's told to smite the rock. It's a picture of Christ being crucified and water, the Word of God, coming forth out of that rock.

And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. – 1 Corinthians 10:4

Here we are some 20 years later. Same scenario, no water. They're murmuring. God tells Moses to go to a rock. This time he doesn't have the rod of judgment in his hand. He has the priestly rod of Aaron, which represents the church age. Here he's not to smite the rock, he's to speak to the rock. It is a picture of you and I having conversations with God because of the fact of His death on the cross. Moses gets angry at the people, and instead of speaking to the rock, he whacks the rock, and he breaks the type by crucifying Christ twice. In Numbers chapter 27, we'll see it in a little bit, why Moses does not get to go into the Promised Land. He smote the rock instead of speaking to the rock. It shows you the exactness that we have to have in following what the Word of God says. You can't reinterpret it because of your emotions. He got angry, and he smote the rock instead of speaking to the rock. He lost the Promised Land because of it. But I want you to see this. In spite of his failure of smiting the rock instead of speaking to the rock, and he failed, the water still came out. Showing you that God's blessings will come out in spite of us if we don't do what's right to other people. One of the greatest studies in the Bible are the two rocks.

- **Verses:**24-29: You have the death of Aaron, and Eleazar takes his place.

Chapter 21: The Brazen Serpent

- **Verses:** 1-5: We see the murmuring again of the people of God.

- **Verses**: 6-7: God sends them fiery serpents. The fiery serpents came, and they bite the people, and they died.

- **Verses**: 8-9: Moses is told to take a brazen serpent, put it on a pole, and hold that pole up. Anybody who gets bitten, if they look at that serpent on a pole, gets healed. In your hymn book, on page 195, there's a hymn called, "Look and Live." It's based on Numbers chapter 21. That serpent, as I told you earlier, is a picture of Christ hanging on the cross, who became a serpent for us. So it's a picture of an unsaved person being bitten by the sin of this world, looking to Christ on the cross and getting healed.

I told you about Goliath and sex with his mother. I told you about stopping on your way home and getting you an Almond Joy candy bar. In the army medical corps, in American medical corps, the sign for medical healing will be a serpent wrapped around a pole, right out of your King James 1611 Authorized Version.

Chapter 22-23: Balak and Balaam

In chapter 22, we see a man showing up who tries to destroy Israel. His name is Balak. He'll be one of the 18 types of the Antichrist in the Bible. He enlists the help of a man named Balaam. Notice Baal, Balaam. Here is the storyline. Balak wants to destroy the nation of Israel. He tells Balaam, "If you destroy them, I'll make you rich."

- **Verses**:12-21: Balaam knows that he cannot curse or destroy Israel without God killing him. But he wants the money, so he comes up with another plan to get it done.

- **Verses**:22-41: You have the story of Balaam's ass. Balaam is on his way, and God is standing in the way, or Christ is standing in the way, and the ass won't move. He's beating the ass, trying to get it to go. Then God has the ass speak to him. He says, "Look, if I go over there, there's an angel that is going to kill you."

Balaam knows that he cannot attack God's people. He knows that God was waiting to kill him. So, he plays both sides to get it done, so he can get rich.

Chapter 24: Balaam, Baal worship

- **Verses:**1-25: He puts a plan together in verses 1-25. This is a picture of the future Roman Catholic church right here, Baal, Balaam, Baal worship.

Chapter 25: The Doctrine of Balaam

So, in chapter 25, we see the plan. He says to Balak, "Look, I can't curse him, I can't attack him, I can't kill him. God will kill me but come here, let me tell you how you can get that done. I can't do it. But if you can get those Jewish boys to marry your godless, perverted women, God will come down and kill them." So you know what happens in chapter 25? In chapter 25, you see three areas of Balaam and Baal worship at work, and it is all laid out in the New Testament. In 2 Peter 2:15, it talks about the way of Balaam.

> *Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following **the way of Balaam** the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 2 Peter 2:15*

In Jude 1:11, the error of Balaam.

> *Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after **the error of Balaam** for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. Jude 1:11*

In Revelation 2:14, the doctrine of Balaam.

> *But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold **the doctrine of Balaam**, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. Revelation 2:14*

In chapter 25, we see the doctrine of Balaam start to play out. The integration of God's people with the devil's people and bringing in of Baal worship. God sends a plague to Israel, and God kills them, and 24,000 die. This is in Numbers 25:18 called the matter of Peor.

*For they vex you with their wiles, wherewith they have **beguiled you in the matter of Peor**, and in the matter of Cozbi, the daughter of a prince of Midian, their sister, which was slain in the day of the plague for Peor's sake. Numbers 25:18*

The key word is defined in this chapter, oh, this is a nugget, is the word "**beguiled**." The word "beguiled" here is defined as physical sex. You will find in the New Testament, in 2 Corinthians 11:1-4, where Paul was afraid the church was going to be beguiled.

*But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent **beguiled** Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. – 2 Corinthians 11:3*

Then in Genesis, where Eve says the devil beguiled me. One of the greatest keys in the Bible.

*And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent **beguiled** me, and I did eat. Genesis 3:13*

Chapter 26: Renumbering for War

Numbers. After He killed the 24,000, then He renumbers the people for the coming battles and the coming war, because God had just killed 24,000 of them. Again, you want to put that title across, and then in:

- 1. Numbers 26:5: Reuben
- 2. Numbers 26:12: Simeon
- 3. Numbers 26:15 Gad
- 4. Numbers 26:19: Judah
- 5. Numbers 26:23: Issachar
- 6. Numbers 26:26: Zebulun
7. Numbers 26:28: Joseph
8. Numbers 26:29: Manasseh
9. Numbers 26:35: Ephraim
10. Numbers 26:38: Benhamin
11. Numbers 26:44: Asher
12. Numbers 26:48: Naphtali

The total comes up to 61,730. You can mark all that in your Bible.

- **Verses:**64-65: He's had it with them, and He says that they're going to go back in and they're going to wander until that old generation dies. Everybody dies except Caleb and Joshua.

Chapter 27: Daughters' Inheritance and Moses

In this chapter, we see **two key things**. You want to mark these in here, nothing spectacular, but just so you understand the chapter.

- **Verses**:1-11: There are a group of daughters that do not have a father and they come to Moses, and they're afraid that they'll lose their inheritance because they don't have any father. Moses takes it to God, and God says, "Yeah, they're absolutely right. You make sure that they get an inheritance."

- **Verses**:12-23: God tells Moses, "You're not going into the Promised Land," and He breaks the news to him. The reason in verse 14 is what took place back in chapter 20. You smote the rock instead of speaking to the rock. As I said, this is what keeps him from going in.

Chapters 28-29: Review of Feasts and the Old Guard

In these two chapters, He reviews with them the feasts that God has given them. Israel by this time is completely falling apart. The generation that came out of Egypt, they've certainly struggled. The mixt multitude had done their work. Now they will wander for 40 years until this generation dies, and God starts again with the new generation, which we see in the next book, Deuteronomy, the second giving of the law to the new generation.

There is a great principle here. As I told you already, the only two that go in are Joshua and Caleb. Joshua and Caleb represent the old guard. They represent the two guys that stayed with the Lord no matter what nobody else did. They're certainly in the minority, but they represent what every pastor would love to have in his church beyond anything else. That is a church filled with the old guard. The lessons that they have learned, and the lessons that they have brought along, and they have stayed with the Lord through the stuff. When everybody else wants to go back, and nobody else is going into the Promised Land, these two guys, the old guard, are going in.

Chapter 30: Vows to God

This chapter will be on making vows to God. That's the title you want to put across the top. Basically, what He's saying here in the Old Testament scenario, if you make a vow to God, you keep it and then what He does in here is He gives you three exceptions to that.

- 1.) Verse: 3: A maid's vow, somebody unmarried. It can be overridden by her father.
- 2.) Verses:6-8: The wife that is married, her vow can be overridden by the husband.
- 3.) Verses:9-12: A widow or a woman who was divorced, she can change her vow.

Obviously, all three of them are dealing with women who in the Old Testament scenario are ruled by the husband, and therefore if she makes a vow that is not the right vow, it can be overridden.

Chapters 31: Spoils of War

Here is another great story.

- **Verses:**1-3: Here they go to battle with the Midianites. This deals with the spoils of war. This chapter shows us that the battles we face in this life, even though they are intense battles, God gives us the blessings which translate into the spoils of the spiritual warfare, just like they were going to get the spoils of a physical warfare.

- **Verses**:4-6: The tribes rally for war.
- **Verses**:8-18: God gives them a great victory.
- **Verses**:30-54: The great victory then brings great spoils.

It's all a picture of the battle with the spiritual warfare that you and I are in, but the blessings that come out of that battle. God will never put you in the heat of the battle without supplying the spoils of that battle, which will be the blessings by going through the battle.

    - **Verses:**37-41: Once he gives them the spoils, everybody that takes the spoils takes 10% of it, a tithe off the spoils, and gives it to God. Everywhere you go.

Chapter 32: The Dangers of the Blessings of God –Complacent

In chapter 32, we see the other side of this. In this chapter, we see the dangers and the blessings of God. You fight the battles, you get the spoils of the battle and the blessings, but there are dangers that come with that blessings. We as God's people can become satisfied and complacent with all the blessings that God gives us.

You want to remember for the nation of Israel; a group of Jews have come to the place where they got all the spoils from this battle. They're satisfied now. They have lost the idea. They want to stay on this side of Jordan and don't want to cross over. They say, "Hey, we got it here, man. We don't need to go over. We got the blessings of the spoil, man. We got it right here." You see, they forgot that the main objective of everything that God was doing was to get them to the Promised Land. They had the spoils, but they lost sight of their inheritance. There are some folks who don't want to go over. They're satisfied to stay on this side of Jordan. They lost sight of the fact that the blessings of God were all based on the final objective and that was getting into the land.

Just like so many of God's people today, they had lost the sight of the real cause. They lost the sight of the real cost. They lost the sight of the consequences of not going over. They lost sight of everything that God was doing. I guarantee you, they didn't have cars back then, but I guarantee you the bumper stickers on their chariots were "more cattle, less battle."

There were four things that we have to remember so that we don't get satisfied and complacent.

- ❖ 1.) There was a battle to be fought. Ecclesiastes tells us there's no discharge from this war.
- ❖ 2.) There's a building to be built. They had to get into the land to build the temple for Christ to come back.
- ❖ 3.) There's a bulwark to be built. On that wall they had to build, they had to build a tower up to protect them.
- ❖ 4.) There was an alarm to be sounded. They had to tell other people and warn them about the enemies that would destroy them.

They gave it all up.

Chapter 33: Historical Account of Their 40 Years of Wanderings

Here is one of these chapters as you would read through it you would think that this has got to be one of the most boring chapters in the Bible. Because all 56 verses, Numbers 33:1-56, is a complete historical account of their 40 years wandering. You start going through that and you think, "What is the point?" But in reality for us, this is a great lesson. You never want to forget where God brought you and what He brought you through to get you where you're at. So He takes the time here in this chapter at the end of this book and He goes through everything. Every battle they had, everything that God did for them, every event that made any difference in their life. The key for you and for me is lest we forget. We get to the place where we forget all of the details of our own 40-years of wandering and where God brought us to and how He got us here, the Promised Land.

Chapter 34: Borders and Inheritances

- **Verses**:1-13: It is the setting up of the borders for their inheritance, each tribe.
- **Verses**:14-29: He lists the tribes, and you can mark them out in your Bible.

Chapter 35: Six Cities of Refuge

We come to one of the important doctrines in the Bible, and now that they're getting ready to go into the land, He gives them six cities of refuge. Let me explain these. In the land grant given to Abraham, connected around Jerusalem, within a day's journey, He planted six cities. These cities are called the cities of refuge. Their purpose was this: if you accidentally killed somebody, manslaughter, not premeditated murder. If you accidentally killed somebody and there was no intent behind what happened, you were not to be put to death under the law, but a kinsfolk of the person that you slew could kill you. He's called the Avenger of Blood. So, God put a system in to help with that. Say you accidentally killed this person, and the Avenger of the Blood is now

going to kill you. If you could get to one of these six cities of refuge, every one of them was a day's journey from every place else. If you got to that city of refuge and you stayed there, the Avenger of Blood could not kill you. If at any time you left that city and he found you, he could kill you. You had to stay there until the death of the high priest. Then once the high priest was dead, you could leave that city, and the Avenger of Blood could not come after you anymore. That story is in the Bible because in the tribulation period, these six cities are going to be places that the Jews are going to flee and are going to be cities of refuge during the tribulation period. That's how they fit doctrinally based on the historical application.

Chapter 36: Inheritance for each Tribe

This is the last chapter, and it brings us up to the end of the 40 years wandering. We saw them in the first section, they came up to the river Jordan and they were afraid. They went back and wandered for 40 more years. That old generation has died, Moses is dead, and now they're ready to cross over. We're going to see in Deuteronomy chapter one where it recounts the death of Moses. Now, they're ready to cross over. He deals with the issues of the inheritance for each tribe,

- **Verses**:1-13: He talks about the fact that they need to marry within their own tribes. The idea being that if you don't, then you have to split up the inheritance between the tribes, which is not a good thing.

- **Verse**:13: He deals with the aspect of each tribe that gets their inheritance, and they're supposed to take care of that because it's an inheritance of their fathers to the Lord.

V. Summary

The Book of Numbers shows you the incredible struggles that Israel went through and how they turned from God because of their unbelief, their fear, and how it just prolonged their trip to get to the Promised Land. But through it all, it shows you that the failures of the nation of Israel, even though it cost them a lot of heartache, God still got them into the Promised Land. I look at that original crowd that came out of Egypt. There must have been at least two million people, maybe more. But out of two million people, only two men went into the Promised Land with the new generation: Caleb and Joshua. It shows me that in New Testament Christianity, the majority of God's people are going to just be that. The majority of God's people are always going to be fearful, they're always turning from God, and they're always struggling. What God is looking for, what God is always looking for, is the old guard, the men and the women who represent Joshua and Caleb, who are going to go into the Promised Land when nobody else does.

The book of Numbers has always been a favorite book of mine. I love the name, Numbers, because it shows you that everything that God does, He does by numbers. God is a mathematical formula. Billy Graham witnessed to Einstein one time, and he asked Einstein if he believed in

God. Einstein said, "I could never believe in a God that's not a mathematical formula." He didn't know how close he was to finding God. God is a mathematical formula. He wrote a book of Numbers. Everything in this world, if you want to find God, you've got to go through a number system. If you want to find the person next to you and you want to call him on your cell phone, you've got to go through a number system. If you want to send him a letter, you've got to send it through a number system. If you want to find God, you've got to get into your Bible, you've got to go to the sixth chapter, the 14th verse, you go through a number system. The Book of Numbers is a key book in your Bible. So, what I would do, get all of that stuff in there, take your time. If I can help you in any way, shape or form, come see me.