

IN THE
Wilderness
NUMBERS



IN THE WILDERNESS - NUMBERS

- Introduction
- Read the Bible in 2 Years
- Daily reading Notes: In The Wilderness : Numbers

Week	Passage	Theme
1	1:1 - 10:10	Preparing for Life in the Wilderness
2	10:11 - 12:16	Heading into the Wilderness
3	13:1 - 14:45	"They shall never enter my rest"
4	15:1 - 19:22	The Laws of the Land
5	20:1 - 22:1	Shedding the Old Generation
6	22:2 - 24:25	Curse into Blessing
7	25:1 - 27:23	Perfect Holiness
8	28:1 - 29:40	Shadows
9	30:1 - 32:42	The Holy Army
10	33:1 - 36:13	Life in the Promised Land

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

Pray for three friends, once a week, for one minute (3-1-1).

List the names of your family and friends here:

TERM 3 - 2017

How to use this book:

1. PERSONAL READING

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His Word.

2. GROWTH GROUPS

- Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. CHURCH

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

SIGN UP FOR THESE NOTES AS A DAILY EMAIL AT:

www.evchurch.info/series

GIVING AT EV CHURCH

The New Testament teaches us to give generously, regularly and joyfully. Please join with us in bringing to the coast solid hope in Jesus.

More info on giving and account details:

www.evchurch.info/giving

INTRODUCTION: NUMBERS

STARTING OUR JOURNEY IN THE WILDERNESS

Unless you're an accountant, the book of Numbers probably has the least interesting name in the Bible. Until you realise what the numbers mean!

The book revolves around two censuses. The first census (Numbers 1) was a count of the Old Generation of Israel. The Old Generation were rescued out of Egypt by God and brought to Mount Sinai, where they received God's Law through Moses. Throughout Numbers, the Old Generation leave Sinai (Numbers 10) and are given an opportunity to enter God's promised land, Canaan (Numbers 13). Along the way, this generation continually sinned against God. Often by complaining falsely about God mistreating them, or by rebelling against God's appointed leaders, Moses and Aaron. Ultimately, the Old Generation were cursed to die wandering in the wilderness; they would never enter God's promised land of rest.

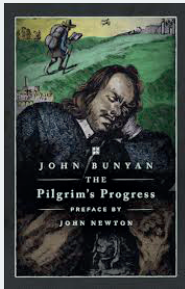
The first census was a census of death, but the second census was a census of life. The second census (Numbers 26) was a count of the New Generation. No one counted in the first census was included in the second census. Despite the constant sin of the Old Generation, God would keep His promise of a land of blessing through their children. Even Moses and Aaron had to be replaced before Israel could enter Canaan under Joshua's leadership. Israel's entry into Canaan is described in the book of Joshua.

Reading Numbers today involves several types of challenges. There are challenges involved in reading long sections of commands with only short pieces of narrative in between. Also, the characters and places in the book are usually unfamiliar. But the most significant challenge exists because of the difference Jesus makes.

While we can see similarities between the Israelites of Numbers and ourselves, particularly in our complaining and rebelling against God, Christians are very different. Israel had been saved from slavery in Egypt; Christians have been saved from slavery to sin. Israel had been promised a land of rest if they obeyed God, Christians have been promised a land of rest on the basis of Jesus' obedience to God. Israel faced God's wrath for their sin many times, Christians receive only fatherly discipline from God – not wrath. The difference can be expressed in so many more ways because Jesus has changed everything.

So, how should a Christian read Numbers? In God's kindness, there are many references to Numbers throughout the New Testament. These references can serve as a guide for how God would have us understand the relevance of Numbers. Throughout these Daily Reading Notes, New Testament references will be used in exactly this way. As we take this approach, we'll see that the God of Israel is also our God today; He has not changed. We will see that our problem today is the same as Israel's problem in the wilderness: our hearts are not satisfied with God and what He's given us, and we rebel. We will also see that it has always been the case that the only way to live as one of God's people is to live by faith in Jesus. Just as Jesus is the hero of the New Testament, He is also the hero of Numbers. May God use our time in Numbers to grow our faith in Jesus.

SUGGESTED READING

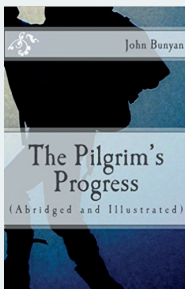


The Pilgrim's Progress (extended & shortened versions)

The Pilgrim's Progress has sold more copies than any other book written in English, except for the Bible. It's an illustration of the Christian life, *life in the Wilderness*. A theme that can be seen in the full title of the book, *The Pilgrim's Progress from This World, to That Which Is to Come*.

John Bunyan wrote the first part of the book while he was in and out of prison for 12 years for 'preaching without a licence'. During this time he financially supported his family by making shoelaces, and possibly carved a flute out of a table leg!

There are many versions of the Pilgrim's Progress available today, from 70-page abridged versions in modern English, to 400-page versions in Bunyan's original old-school English. Any thoughtful Christian is going to find themselves reading in this novel the words of a brother, encouraging them to push on in this life. Encouraging us to trust Jesus from this world, to that which is to come.



READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

Something you might like to use to extend your daily Bible reading.

The Bible is truly an extraordinary book, unique among all other books. It consists of 66 individual books, written by 40 different authors, in three different languages across 1,500 years of history. Yet for all of this diversity it contains a unified message that focuses on the coming of Jesus and the amazing salvation He offers through His death and resurrection!

The Bible contains words written by men in all the richness of literary types making it fun, challenging and enjoyable to dig into. Yet, at the same time, the Bible is also the very words of God given to us by His Spirit (1 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). These are not just words spoken in times past, but words that are alive for us to read today (Hebrews 4:12-13). The God of the universe actually addresses us today clearly in the pages of the Bible - amazing!

Jesus says the entire Bible points us to Him, that He is the focal point of it all. Listen to what He says, "He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." (Luke 24:44). Or, again Jesus says, "You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." (John 5:39-40).

Knowing this is helpful in motivating us to read the Bible regularly, to keep building a bigger understanding of God's purposes and how they are being fulfilled in Jesus. To help with this, the Daily Reading Notes now include an extra challenge: to read the whole Bible in two years. It's totally optional, are you up for it?

There is a list of around 15 chapters of additional reading for each week of the term that will help you achieve this challenge. These readings can be done on whatever days work best and in whatever order you prefer to read them. At the end of each term you have a chance to catch up before the next term's suggested readings begin again. You can also track your readings across the two years right here. Enjoy!

YEAR 1: TERM 1

Week 1	Genesis 1-5; Psalms 1-4; Genesis 5-10; Matthew 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Genesis 11-15; Psalms 5-7; Genesis 16-20; Matthew 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Genesis 21-25; Psalms 8-10; Genesis 26-30; Matthew 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Genesis 31-35; Psalms 11-16; Genesis 36-40; Matthew 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Week 5 Genesis 41-45; Psalms 17-19; Genesis 46-50; Matthew 10-11
- Week 6 Exodus 1-5; Psalms 20-24; Exodus 6-10; Matthew 12-13
- Week 7 Exodus 11-15, Psalms 25-27; Exodus 16-20; Matthew 14-15
- Week 8 Exodus 21-25; Psalms 28-31; Exodus 26-30; Matthew 16-17
- Week 9 Exodus 31-35; Psalms 32-34; Exodus 36-40; Matthew 18-19
- Week 10 Leviticus 1-5; Psalms 35-37; Leviticus 6-10; Matthew 20-21

YEAR 1: TERM 2

- Week 1 Leviticus 11-15; Psalms 38-41; Leviticus 16-20; Matthew 22-24
- Week 2 Leviticus 21-27; Numbers 1-3; Proverbs 1-3; Matthew 25-26
- Week 3 Numbers 4-13; Proverbs 4-6; Matthew 27-28
- Week 4 Numbers 14-23; Proverbs 7-9; Acts 1-2
- Week 5 Numbers 24-33; Psalms 42-44; Acts 3-4
- Week 6 Numbers 34-36; Psalms 45-48; Acts 5-6
- Week 7 Deuteronomy 1-7; Psalms 49-51; Acts 7-8
- Week 8 Deuteronomy 8-17; Psalms 52-54; Acts 9-10
- Week 9 Deuteronomy 18-27; Psalms 55-57; Acts 11-12
- Week 10 Deuteronomy 28-34; Joshua 1-3; Psalms 58-61; Acts 13-14

YEAR 1: TERM 3

- Week 1 Joshua 4-13; Psalms 62-65; Acts 15-16
- Week 2 Joshua 14-23; Psalms 66-68; Acts 17-18
- Week 3 Joshua 24; Judges 1-9; Psalms 69-71; Acts 19-20
- Week 4 Judges 10-19; Psalms 72; Proverbs 10-11; Acts 21-22
- Week 5 Judges 20-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-4; Proverbs 12-14; Acts 23-24
- Week 6 1 Samuel 5-14; Proverbs 15-17; Acts 25-26
- Week 7 1 Samuel 15-24; Proverbs 18-20; Acts 27-28
- Week 8 1 Samuel 25-31; 2 Samuel 1-3; Proverbs 21-22; Mark 1-2
- Week 9 2 Samuel 4-13; Psalms 73-75; Mark 3-4
- Week 10 2 Samuel 14-24; Psalms 76-77; Mark 5-6

READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

YEAR 1: TERM 4

- | | | |
|---------|---|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | 1 Kings 1-5; Psalms 78-80; 1 Kings 6-10; Mark 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | 1 Kings 11-15; Psalms 81-83; 1 Kings 16-20; Mark 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | 1 Kings 21-22; 2 Kings 1-8; Psalms 84-86; Mark 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | 2 Kings 9-13; Psalms 87-89; 2 Kings 14-18; Mark 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 5 | 2 Kings 19-25; 1 Chronicles 1-3; Psalms 90-93; Mark 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 6 | 1 Chronicles 4-8; Psalms 94-96; 1 Chronicles 9-13; Romans 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 7 | 1 Chronicles 14-18; Psalms 97-101; 1 Chronicles 19-23; Romans 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 8 | 1 Chronicles 24-29; Psalms 102-104; Romans 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 9 | 2 Chronicles 1-5; Psalms 105-106; 2 Chronicles 6-10; Romans 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 10 | 2 Chronicles 11-15; Proverbs 23-25; 2 Chronicles 16-20; Romans 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

YEAR 2: TERM 1

- | | | |
|---------|--|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | 2 Chronicles 21-25; Proverbs 26-28; 2 Chronicles 26-30; Romans 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | 2 Chronicles 31-36; Ezra 1-4; Proverbs 29-31; Romans 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | Ezra 5-10; Nehemiah 1-4; Psalms 107-109; Romans 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | Nehemiah 5-13; Psalms 110-113; 1 Corinthians 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 5 | Esther 1-10; Psalms 114-117; 1 Corinthians 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 6 | Job 1-5; Psalms 118; Job 6-10; 1 Corinthians 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 7 | Job 11-15; Psalms 119:1-48; Job 16-20; 1 Corinthians 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 8 | Job 21-25; Psalms 119:49-96; Job 26-30; 1 Corinthians 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 9 | Job 31-35; Psalms 119:97-144; Job 36-40; 1 Corinthians 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 10 | Job 41-42; Ecclesiastes 1-8; Psalms 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

YEAR 2: TERM 2

- | | | |
|--------|---|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | Ecclesiastes 9-12; Song of Songs 1-5; Psalms 120-122; 1 Cor 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | Songs of Songs 6-8; Isaiah 1-7; Psalms 123-125; Luke 1-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | Isaiah 8-12; Psalms 126-130; Isaiah 13-17; Luke 3-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | Isaiah 18-22; Psalms 131-135; Isaiah 23-27; Luke 5-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 5 | Isaiah 28-32; Psalms 136-138; Isaiah 33-37; Luke 7-8 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- Week 6 Isaiah 38-42; Psalms 139-142; Isaiah 43-47; Luke 9-10
- Week 7 Isaiah 48-52; Psalms 143-145; Isaiah 53-57; Luke 11-12
- Week 8 Isaiah 58-62; Psalms 146-147; Isaiah 63-66; Luke 13-14
- Week 9 Jeremiah 1-5; Psalms 148-150; Jeremiah 6-10; Luke 15-16
- Week 10 Jeremiah 11-15; Luke 17-21; Jeremiah 16-20

YEAR 2: TERM 3

- Week 1 Jeremiah 21-25; Luke 21-24; Jeremiah 26-30; 2 Corinthians 1
- Week 2 Jeremiah 31-35; 2 Corinthians 2-7; Jeremiah 36-40
- Week 3 Jeremiah 41-45; 2 Corinthians 8-13; Jeremiah 46-50
- Week 4 Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5; Galatians 1-6
- Week 5 Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6; Ezekiel 6-10
- Week 6 Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4; Ezekiel 16-20
- Week 7 Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4; Ezekiel 26-30
- Week 8 Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5; Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3
- Week 9 Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4
- Week 10 Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3, Philemon

YEAR 2: TERM 4

- Week 1 Daniel 11-12; Hosea 1-8; Hebrews 1-7
- Week 2 Hosea 9-14; Joel 1-3; Hebrews 8-13
- Week 3 Amos 1-9; James 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5
- Week 4 Obadiah; Jonah 1-4; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John 1-6; 2 John; 3 John
- Week 5 Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-3; Jude; Revelation 1-5
- Week 6 Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10
- Week 7 Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 19:11-22:21
- Week 8 Haggai 1-2; John 1-12
- Week 9 Zechariah 1-14; John 13-17
- Week 10 Malachi 1-4; John 18-21

WEEK 1: NUMBERS 1:1-10:10

DAY 1

Read Numbers 1:1-22

1. What could God be preparing Israel for with this census?

Read Numbers 1:44-54

2. This isn't your usual camping trip. Who is protecting Israel from the greater danger: the men listed in the census, or the Levites?
3. According to verse 54, everything seems to start well. How do you expect things will go?

Prayer: Ask God to help you get your head around the laws and circumstances that will shape Israel's journey in the wilderness.

Preparing for Life in the Wilderness

DAY 2

Read Numbers 8:5-26

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Joshua 4-13; Psalms 62-65;
Acts 15-16

1. Why do the Levites need to be purified?
2. Moses and Aaron are to make atonement for the Levites so that the Levites can make atonement for Israel. What does atonement achieve in this passage?
3. Why might God be so precise about when the Levites are allowed to start and retire from their service?

Prayer: Ask God to help you understand how dangerous sin is.

WEEK 1: NUMBERS 1:1-10:10

DAY 3

Read Numbers 9:1-14

1. What did the Passover meal represent?
2. In verse 13, there are two consequences for an Israelite who did not celebrate the Passover meal. What are they?
3. Do any of the descriptions of the way to celebrate Passover remind you of Jesus' crucifixion?

Prayer: Thank God for the better Passover, Jesus.

Preparing for Life in the Wilderness

DAY 4

Read Numbers 9:15-23

1. If God appeared to you in this way, how do you think you'd react?
2. How long did Israel's time in the wilderness appear to last?
3. How did Israel know what to do when God appeared to them in this way?

Prayer: Thank God for the way that He tells us how to live, in all different stages of history.

WEEK 1: NUMBERS 1:1-10:10

DAY 5

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

1. Why did the events in Numbers occur?
2. What do we share in common with Israel?
3. What makes us very different to Israel?

Prayer: Thank God for recording the warnings for us in Numbers, and ask for help to heed them.

Preparing for Life in the Wilderness

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 2: NUMBERS 10:11-12:16

DAY 1

Read Numbers 10:11-11:3

1. Israel are moving as an army. What seems to be the greatest threat to their safety?
2. What is the particular sin that Israel committed against God?
3. Do you think it's still wrong for Christians to complain about how hard their lives are today?

Prayer: Ask God to help you be thankful in any circumstance.

Heading into the Wilderness

DAY 2

Read Numbers 11:4-35

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Joshua 14-23; Psalms 66-68;
Acts 17-18

1. How are Israel misrepresenting the facts about their circumstances?

2. How much quail does God provide Israel:
 - a. In depth?

 - b. In weight?

3. What was so wrong about Israel craving other food?

Prayer: Ask God to help you be satisfied with whatever He provides you.

WEEK 2: NUMBERS 10:11-12:16

DAY 3

Read John 6:25-59

1. How is Jesus like the manna that Israel ate in the wilderness?
2. How is Jesus better than the manna that Israel ate?
3. What is the work that God requires us to do to have eternal life?

Prayer: Thank God that we can have bread that doesn't spoil, not by obedience, but simply by believing in the One He sent!

Heading into the Wilderness

DAY 4

Read John 6:25-59

1. How were the Jews in the passage guilty of the same thing that the Israelites were guilty of in the wilderness?
2. Why is it foolish to set our hearts on food that spoils?
3. What might change in your life if you were more serious about setting your heart on the life Jesus gives?

Prayer: Ask God to help you live with your heart joyfully set on the life Jesus gives.

WEEK 2: NUMBERS 10:11-12:16

DAY 5

Read Numbers 12:1-16

1. How humble was Moses?
2. How much greater was Moses than a standard prophet?
3. How much greater is Jesus than Moses? (Read Hebrews 3:1-6)

Prayer: Thank God that we aren't part of Moses' great family, but part of Christ's!

Heading into the Wilderness

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 3: NUMBERS 13:1-14:45

DAY 1

Read Numbers 13:1-25

1. God has promised Israel a land of rest, a land flowing with milk and honey many times since their slavery in Egypt (Exodus 3:8, 17; 13:5; 33:33 and Leviticus 20:24). What do you think the Israelites would have been expecting to see in Canaan?
2. What are your impressions of Canaan from this passage?
3. What do you think these explorers will say in their report back to Moses and the Israelites when they return?

Prayer: Praise God for His faithfulness in bringing Israel out of Egypt and in to Canaan.

“They shall never enter my rest”

DAY 2

Read Numbers 13:26-33

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Joshua 24; Judges 1-9;
Psalms 69-71; Acts 19-20

1. Why are most of the explorers afraid of entering Canaan?
2. Why do you think Caleb is confident about entering Canaan?
3. Do you think Israel should try and enter Canaan, or find somewhere else to live? Why?

Prayer: Ask God to help us find our confidence in Him, “who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20).

WEEK 3: NUMBERS 13:1-14:45

DAY 3

Read Numbers 14:1-25

1. How are Israel misrepresenting the facts about their circumstances?
2. What does Moses appeal to when he asks God to relent from destroying Israel with a plague?
3. How are God's justice and mercy displayed in His future plans for Israel?

Prayer: Thank God that He has relented from destroying you when you've sinned against Him, and that He continues to show mercy to you day after day.

“They shall never enter my rest”

DAY 4

Read Numbers 14:26-45

1. How does God’s punishment fit Israel’s crime?
2. How do you see God’s mercy hidden within His punishment?
3. What is wrong with Israel’s change of heart in this passage?

Prayer: Ask God to protect you from attempting to cover sin with more sin. Ask Him to help you humbly accept your sins, and His free forgiveness.

WEEK 3: NUMBERS 13:1-14:45

DAY 5

Read Hebrews 3:7-19

1. How did the Israelites have sinful, unbelieving hearts that turned away from the living God in Numbers 14?
2. Why do you need to hear God's warning, "do not harden your hearts"?
3. What is the test in verse 14 that will show that we have come to share in Christ?

Prayer: Ask God to keep you from hardening your heart. Ask Him to help you hold on to Christ firmly, until the very end.

“They shall never enter my rest”

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 4: NUMBERS 15:1-19:22

DAY 1

Read Numbers 15:1-21

1. When are these laws in effect for Israel?
2. There is a gracious promise implied in the mere existence of these laws. What is it?
3. How do you see that God cares for more than just the nation of Israel in this passage?

Prayer: Praise God that His mercy flows over and through human sin, and that He longs for the salvation of the world.

The Laws of the Land

DAY 2

Read Numbers 15:32-41

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Judges 10-19; Psalms 72;
Proverbs 10-11; Acts 21-22

1. This man has broken one of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:8-11). Unlike the commands in 15:1-22, the Ten Commandments are also in effect for Israel outside of Canaan. What does the seriousness of God's punishment tell us about the seriousness of this man's crime?
2. What is the purpose of God's command about wearing tassels?
3. Why don't we as Christians wear tassels on the corners of our garments today? Should we?

Prayer: Ask God to help you know how to obey Him, to protect you from sinning against Him in every situation.

WEEK 4: NUMBERS 15:1-19:22

DAY 3

Read Mark 2:23-3:6

1. Jesus broke one of the Ten Commandments on several occasions. What does this tell us about Jesus' authority?
2. Why were the Pharisees confused about Jesus breaking the Sabbath?
3. Just as Israel had special laws to obey when they lived in Canaan (e.g. Numbers 15:2 and 18), we now obey Jesus instead of Moses. How should Christians think about the Sabbath?

Prayer: Thank God that in Jesus we're free from the Law of Moses. Ask Him to help you use that freedom to do good not evil.

The Laws of the Land

DAY 4

Read Numbers 16

1. Spiritual leadership isn't about lording over other people, but about humble service. How do you see this principle being misunderstood in this passage?

2. How do you see Moses and Aaron humbly serving Israel as they speak with God in this passage?

3. Moses and Aaron obviously know that God will accept appropriate atonement. How is Aaron's act of atonement here similar to Jesus on the cross, and how is it different?

Prayer: Thank God for the atonement provided in Jesus' death. Thank God for your Christian leaders (e.g. Andrew Heard, Church leaders, Growth Group leaders and ministry team leaders). Ask God to help them (and you also) continue in humble service.

WEEK 4: NUMBERS 15:1-19:22

DAY 5

Read Numbers 17

1. Why is Aaron's name written on Levi's staff?
2. How does God put an end to Israel's grumbling?
3. Why do the Israelites say what they say in verses 12 and 13?

Prayer: Praise God for He led His people like a flock, by the hand of Moses and Aaron (Psalm 77).

The Laws of the Land

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 5: NUMBERS 20:1-22:1

DAY 1

Read Numbers 20:1-13

1. What is the constant tendency of the Israelite community?
2. What led Moses to disobey God?
3. When are you tempted to fail to honour God as holy?

Prayer: Ask God to help you consider His holiness as being far more important than anything else.

Shedding the Old Generation

DAY 2

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Judges 20-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-4; Proverbs 12-14; Acts 23-24

1. How does Jesus do what the rock did in verse 4?
2. What are the four sins described in verses 6-10?
3. How does the example of Israel help you not commit these sins?

Prayer: Thank God for recording the warnings for us in Numbers, and ask for help to heed them.

WEEK 5: NUMBERS 20:1-22:1

DAY 3

Read Numbers 20:22-29

1. Why isn't Aaron allowed to enter the land?
2. What do you think the repeated phrase, "Aaron will be gathered to his people", means?
3. Did the Israelite community respond to Aaron's death as you expected?

Prayer: Praise God for His holiness and mercy as they're displayed in this passage.

Shedding the Old Generation

DAY 4

Read Numbers 21:4-9

1. Israel complained again. What has God failed to provide them with?
2. There is a cycle to what happens between Israel and God throughout Numbers. Can you see a pattern?
3. After they've spoken to Moses, what do the Israelites have to do to be saved from the snake venom?

Prayer: Thank God for His continual forgiveness of our continual sin.

WEEK 5: NUMBERS 20:1-22:1

DAY 5

Read John 3:1-18

1. What one thing does being “lifted up” involve for both the snake and Jesus?
2. What did people have to do to benefit from the lifting up of the snake? Is it any different with Jesus?
3. What is the venom that Jesus’ death cures us of, and what is the consequence of being cured?

Prayer: Thank God for Jesus’ death that cures us of condemnation and gives eternal life. Thank God that we don’t have to do anything except to look, or believe.

Shedding the Old Generation

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 6: NUMBERS 22:2-24:25

DAY 1

Read Numbers 22:1-20

1. Israel have been constantly complaining about how they're suffering in the wilderness, but from the perspective of other nations, how does God appear to have been treating Israel?
2. Why doesn't Balaam simply refuse to consider cursing the Israelites after God's first word to him in verse 12? What might Balaam be after?
3. Some passages in the New Testament explain more about this situation with Balaam (2 Peter 2:15 and Jude 11). How do you see Balaam's sin in this section of Numbers?

Prayer: Ask God to help you be content with what He's given you, and to never use sin as a way of changing those circumstances.

Curse into Blessing

DAY 2

Read Numbers 22:21-41

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

1 Samuel 5-14; Proverbs 15-17;
Acts 25-26

1. God told Balaam to go with these men, so why is God angry?
2. Balaam doesn't seem too surprised by his talking donkey, he simply engages in the conversation! It's the angel of the LORD who causes a big change in Balaam. Is the angel of the LORD simply a messenger of God, or is it God himself? What might sway you in either direction?
3. What impression does verse 41 give you about the size of the nomadic nation of Israel at this stage?

Prayer: Praise God for His protection of His people, even controlling the impact of events happening in neighbouring nations for Israel's sake.

WEEK 6: NUMBERS 22:2-24:25

DAY 3

Read Numbers 23:1-26

1. What was Balak's intention in employing Balaam, and what did he get instead?
2. God is unchangeable (verse 19). How does this attribute result in the blessing of His people?
3. How do the different images of animals display God's care for His people while they've been in the wilderness?

Prayer: Praise God for how different He is to humanity – He doesn't change – and that God's unchanging nature means He blesses His people as He promised.

Curse into Blessing

DAY 4

Read Numbers 23:27-24:25

1. Why didn't Balaam ask God for the third message?
2. How are Balaam's remaining messages also blessings for Israel?
3. What are your impressions of Balaam: good guy, bad guy, or something else?

Prayer: Praise God because He uses every opportunity to bless His people, "God works all things for the good of those who love him" (Romans 8:28).

WEEK 6: NUMBERS 22:2-24:25

DAY 5

Read 1 Peter 4:12-19

1. How are curse (suffering) and blessing connected in the Christian life?
2. How is the Christian experience of God's blessing different to the Israelite experience in Numbers?
3. What is a good reason for Christians to suffer, and what are bad reasons for Christians to suffer?

Prayer: Ask God to help you commit yourself to Him and continue to do good.

Curse into Blessing

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 7: NUMBERS 25:1-27:23

DAY 1

Read Numbers 25

1. Who was putting the Israelites to death – the judges or the plague?
2. Why do the Midianites deserve to be treated as Israel's enemies?
3. What conviction is behind Phinehas' extreme act? What would it look like for you to have the same conviction today?

Prayer: Ask God to help you be zealous for God's reputation.

Perfect Holiness

DAY 2

Read Numbers 26:1-14 and Numbers 26:51-65

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

1 Samuel 15-24; Proverbs 18-20;
Acts 27-28

1. How do you see Israel's experience in the wilderness reflected in this census?
2. Which individuals have been included in both censuses (Numbers 1 and Numbers 26)?
3. Why have only these few been included in both censuses?

Prayer: Praise God that He does not change His mind – He fulfils all His promises.

WEEK 7: NUMBERS 25:1-27:23

DAY 3

Read Numbers 27:1-11

1. Why were Zelophehad's daughters in danger of missing out on an inheritance?
2. How does this new law maintain the normal line of descent through male heirs, but also protect families without sons?
3. Some modern Bible translations have helpfully started translating the word "sons" into the phrase "sons and daughters" (e.g. Hebrews 2:10). How does this passage help us to understand the greater blessing implied by both male and female Christians being called God's sons (e.g. Galatians 4:6-7)?

Prayer: Thank God that although He is holy, He's made it possible for us to have an inheritance of eternal life with Him.

Perfect Holiness

DAY 4

Read Numbers 27:12-23

With Moses gone, the only people to survive the forty years in the wilderness as adults were Caleb and Joshua. Joshua will be leading a 600,000-person nation of people all under 60 years of age.

1. The words breath (verse 15) and spirit (verse 18) both translate the same word (ruah). How will Joshua be able to lead this nation?
2. Why can't Moses simply elect and appoint his own replacement?
3. Jesus is concerned about people being like Israel (Matthew 9:35-38). How will leaders be found for God's people?

Prayer: Ask God to send you out as a worker into His harvest field.

WEEK 7: NUMBERS 25:1-27:23

DAY 5

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

1. How did Israel survive in the wilderness with a holy God?
2. Why couldn't we survive living with a holy God?
3. Who is our holiness, making us fit to survive in the presence of a holy God?

Prayer: Thank God for Jesus – our righteousness, holiness and redemption – who makes it possible for us to live with Him.

Perfect Holiness

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 8: NUMBERS 28:1-29:40

DAY 1

Read Numbers 28:1-15

1. What do the Israelites have to do to please God and deal with their sin?
2. Why do these offerings please God?
3. What do these offerings actually achieve (compare with Hebrews 10:1-10)?

Prayer: Thank God for Jesus – the real offering – who brought an end to the shadows.

Shadows

DAY 2

Read Numbers 28:16-31

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

1 Samuel 25-31; 2 Samuel 1-3;
Proverbs 21-22; Mark 1-2

1. What is the Passover meant to remind Israel of?
2. Why might the animals offered need to be “without defect”?
3. Why don't we need to give these sacrifices anymore?

Prayer: Thank God for the ultimate passover that has been provided for us in Jesus' atoning death.

WEEK 8: NUMBERS 28:1-29:40

DAY 3

Read Numbers 29:1-11

1. What would this constant shedding of blood have taught Israel?
2. Israel have so many reminders of their need for atonement (i.e. to have their relationship with God restored). Are you regularly reminded of your need for atonement?
3. Why might Jesus' death have been able to put an end to so many ongoing sacrifices? One sacrifice to end them all?

Prayer: Ask God that you would constantly be reminded of your need for atonement, and that you'd always remember that Jesus' death has fully supplied what you need.

Shadows

DAY 4

Read Colossians 2:9-17

1. What state were we in before being “circumcised with Christ”?
2. What state are we in now that we have been “circumcised with Christ”?
3. What place should religious festivals, New Moon celebrations, Sabbath days and any other types of “shadow” hold in our lives now?

Prayer: Praise God for Jesus, who is fully God! Thank God that we don't need to hold on to shadows or signposts anymore, but we have the real thing in Jesus.

Shadows

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 9: NUMBERS 30:1-32:42

DAY 1

Read Numbers 30

1. What might some people find offensive about these laws?
2. How do these laws clash with our individualism (the idea that our individual identity is much more important than our relational identity)?
3. God has always dealt with humanity relationally (e.g. Numbers 27:8-11). When we make promises, how do they affect people we're connected to?

Prayer: Thank God that he's concerned to protect human relationships. Ask for God's help in making and keeping promises that aren't selfish, but benefit people you're connected to.

WEEK 9: NUMBERS 30:1-32:42

DAY 3

Read John 18:28-40

1. What are some differences between Jesus' kingdom and the nation of Israel?
2. How did the nation of Israel grow and advance?
3. How does Jesus' kingdom grow and advance?

Prayer: Pray for some people who don't know that Jesus is the king of a heavenly kingdom. Ask God to open their ears to the truth, so they'd listen to Jesus.

The Holy Army

DAY 4

Read Numbers 31:25-54

1. What might someone find troubling about taking thousands of people captive?
2. In Ephesians 6:5-9 we see that Paul knew that some Christians were slaves, and some Christians were masters of slaves. What do you think would have been the difference in Israel between a good master and a bad master?
3. This passage isn't really about slavery. What does this passage show us about the relationship between Israel's soldiers and civilians?

Prayer: Ask God to help you do good, both to those you serve, and those who serve you.

WEEK 9: NUMBERS 30:1-32:42

DAY 5

Read Numbers 32:1-42

1. What were the Reubenites and Gadites proposing?
2. What was Moses concerned about?
3. Why were Moses and the two tribes all satisfied with the final plan?

Prayer: Praise God. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. No power or difficulty can stop Him.

The Holy Army

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 10: NUMBERS 33:1-36:13

DAY 1

Read Numbers 33

“The Exodus generation is dead (chapter 25), the new generation has been counted (chapter 26), and thoughts have turned, once more, to life in the land of promise (chapters 27–31). Indeed, the inheritance of two and one-half tribes has already been granted in the Transjordan (chapter 32). Before turning to matters concerning division of the land of Canaan itself (33:50–36:12), there is time to cast the eye back over the way that has been crossed. The list of sites has the effect of levelling all the happenings of the last 40 years—the important sites (Pi-hahiroth, Sinai) and the (to later generations) unknown sites (Rissah, Mithkah, etc.) are all merely stopping places on the road to Canaan. And each stopping place is a witness not only to the leadership of Moses (who is about to die; cf. 27:12–23), but also to the mighty grace of God who led the people on, in spite of all, toward the promised land. The motif of “the journey of life” is a powerful one in the Bible, and it is helpful, at points throughout the journey, but especially toward its end, to look back and reflect. This supposedly bare list of site-names is a device to help the people of God remember.”

1. What does this list of place names help Israel remember?
2. Why is it so important that Israel completely drive out all of the inhabitants of the Promised Land?
3. How does verse 56 help us to understand where Israel’s strength comes from?

Prayer: Ask God to help you to be able to look back, especially to the Cross, and see how He’s bringing you to His eternal rest.

Life in the Promised Land

DAY 2

Read Numbers 34

BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

2 Samuel 14-24; Psalms 76-77;

Mark 5-6

1. What effect would the allotment of the tribes' boundaries have on them as they get ready for war?
2. Why does God appoint people from each tribe to help assign the land?
3. What can you remember about Eleazar, Joshua and Caleb from Numbers?

Prayer: Thank God for the way He brings about His promises, without the possibility of failure.

WEEK 10: NUMBERS 33:1-36:13

DAY 3

Read Numbers 35

1. What is the purpose of the cities of refuge?
2. How significant an effect does accidentally killing someone have on the life of the killer?
3. Why must Israel be so careful about what they do in the Promised Land?

Prayer: Thank God that He cares so deeply about justice, and protecting the innocent.

Life in the Promised Land

DAY 4

Read Numbers 36

(Zelophehad's daughters made their earlier appearance in Numbers 27)

1. Given Israel's behaviour throughout the book of Numbers, how did you expect Zelophehad's daughters to respond to this additional condition?
2. Moses is still alive, and Israel are not in the Promised Land yet. Moses finishes his life giving a series of farewell speeches in Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy finishes by describing Moses like this, "Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone." (Deuteronomy 34:7). How is Moses an example of God's protection of Israel as they wandered for forty years through the wilderness?
3. Finally, Deuteronomy ends, "Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, who did all those signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel." (Deuteronomy 34:10-12). Given how spectacularly God worked through Moses, what do you think of the way Israel treated God and Moses throughout Numbers?

Prayer: Confess to God how you've mistreated Him, despite His great acts of salvation on your behalf.

WEEK 10: NUMBERS 33:1-36:13

DAY 5

Read Hebrews 4:6-13

1. Did Israel ever actually enter the Promised Land?
2. On which day should we expect to hear God's voice?
3. How many different motivations are there in this passage to "not harden your hearts" when you hear God's voice? What are they?

Prayer: Thank God that He has prepared a greater rest for us than He did in Canaan. Ask Him to give you ears to hear, and a heart that is soft towards Him, for every day that is still called 'today'.

Life in the Promised Land

NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS



Paul and Sandra King **(CMS) Strasbourg, France**

Paul and Sandra are finishing up their 14-year university ministry in Strasbourg in July this year. Pray for the leaders they are handing over to at the University Bible Group (GBU) and the continual work of the gospel in this area as they return home.

Derek and Anna Brotherson **(OMF) Southeast Asia**

Derek and Anna (Liam, Jasmine and Juliet) are working in theological education and cross-cultural worker mobilisation in Southeast Asia. Pray for Derek as he continues with his classes in a local Bible college and is starting to train people to reach out to minority ethnic groups where there is no church. They are also trying to reach out to their local community, developing friendships and read the Bible with those interested.



Craig and Samantha McCorkindale **(CMS) Cambodia**

Craig and Samantha have moved to Cambodia, in this first year they are beginning formal language learning and connecting in with the community. Craig will be forming relationships at Phnom Penh Bible School, where he plans to teach.



The Geneva Push **Australia**

Geneva Push is an Australian Church Planting Network aiming to inspire, equip and unleash a new generation of church planters dedicated to evangelising churches into existence. Pray for the assessment process, provision of ongoing support and training through coaching, mentoring, and conferences to ensure the biggest impact as church planters.



Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches **Australia**

These churches are committed to praying for one another and continuing to promote planting of evangelical churches throughout Australia. Their pastors seek to provide support and encouragement to one another. FIEC is aiming, with God's help, to plant 100 churches across Australia during the next 15 years.





Jono and Grace Wright
(AIM) Cross cultural ministry in Australia

Jono and Grace Wright, with their kids, are working amongst Aboriginals in Camooweal and the surrounding communities along the Sandover Highway. Pray for their ongoing ministries including; preaching at Sunday meetings, weekly Bible study groups and prayer meetings, Sunday School, Scripture in the local primary school, weekend Bible schools and also an itinerant ministry.



Liam and Lucy Doyle
Lake Mac Church (NSW Australia)

Liam and Lucy Doyle head up the church plant in Lake Macquarie and are now mentored through the Geneva program. There is a great range of ages, and despite differences - like age, education and nationality - they enjoy a real sense of warmth, friendship and love as they hear God's word together and help each other follow Jesus. Pray for a good mentor relationship with Dave Sheath from Lakes Evangelical Church.



Martin and Jen Shadwick
(AFES) Newcastle University

Martin and Jen (Hannah and Evie) work with AFES discipling and training Christian students. Martin continues work with both local and overseas students, pray for wisdom in balancing ministry and family life, and for new partners to help them continue in this important ministry.



Colin and Jill Bakon
(SIM) Church and Missionary Mobilisation

Colin's two roles are in church mobilisation in Latin America where he is raising up national teams to run Kairos, with special focus this year on Ecuador and Peru. And he is working with a task force to mobilise for new initiatives within SIM to see work happening in areas where there is no church.

evchurch
solid hope - Jesus

© EV Church 2017