



WEEK 3: Leviticus & Numbers Overview

Leviticus Overview

Main Point: God is holy. And He expects the Israelites to live holy lives, devoted to him. He gives them rules to live by as a way for them to express their devotion and to maintain their holiness.

Writer: The book doesn't identify the writer. Jewish and Christian tradition says Moses wrote it. Most of the book is a collection of instructions God gave Moses. But many scholars argue that these could have been passed along as spoken words long before anyone wrote them down.

Date: Some Bible experts say the story is set in about 1440 BC. Others say about 200 years later.

Location: Camped at the foot of Mount Sinai, in Egypt's rugged Sinai Peninsula

Key People, Places & Events

- The Burnt Offering (Leviticus 1)
- The Grain Offering (Leviticus 2)
- The Peace Offering (Leviticus 3)
- The Sin Offering (Leviticus 4)
- The Trespass Offering (Leviticus 5)
- The Laws for Offerings (Leviticus 6:8 through 9:38)
- The Ordination of Priests (Leviticus 8)
- The Priestly Ministry Begins (Leviticus 9)
- Conduct for Priests (Leviticus Ch)
- Foods Permitted and Forbidden (Leviticus 11)
- Instructions for Holy Living (Leviticus Ch. 12-27)
- The Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16)

Homework

1. Which animals were permitted to eat? Which were not?
2. On the day of atonement, what animal was sacrificed for Aaron and his household?

Numbers Overview

Main Point: God punishes sin. It's a fact He dramatically illustrates when he sentences the Israelites to 40 years in the badlands—punishment for failing to trust and obey Him.

Writer: The book doesn't identify the writer. Ancient Jewish and Christian tradition points to Moses. But many Bible experts today say ancient Jewish leaders compiled Genesis through Deuteronomy from a variety of sources. Moses may have provided material for at least some of those sources. But it would have been out of character for him to write that he was "more humble than any other person on earth" (Numbers 12:3). If he did, he wasn't particularly humble.

Date: About 1400 BC or 200 years later.

Location: The story starts in the rugged Sinai Peninsula in what is now Egypt, south of Israel. It ends in a country called Moab, in what is now Jordan.

Key People, Places & Events

- The First Census (Numbers 1)
- Instructions for the unclean and unfaithful (Numbers 5)
- The Law of the Nazarite (Numbers 6)
- The Offerings of Leaders (Numbers 7)
- The Second Passover (Numbers 9:1-14)
- The Cloud and the Fire (Numbers 9:15-23)
- The Seventy Elders (Numbers 11:16-30)
- The LORD Sends Quail (Numbers 11:31-35)
- Dissension of Aaron and Miriam (Numbers 12)
- Spies Sent into Canaan (Numbers 13)
- Israel Refuses to Enter Canaan (Numbers 14:1-10)
- Moses Intercedes for the People (Numbers 14:11-25)
- The 40 Year Sentence (Numbers 14:26-38)
- Failure Without God (Numbers 14:39-45)
- Insurrection of Korah (Numbers 16)
- Moses Error (Numbers 20)
- Balaam Prophecies of Jesus (Numbers 24:17)
- The Second Census (Numbers 26)

Homework

1. What is the purpose of the Vow of a Nazarite?
2. How many spies were sent into Canaan?
3. Why were they afraid to go?