

Topic – The Book of numbers

Theme – Wilderness Wandering/Failing to cross the finish line.

Goal – To learn from the people’s mistakes and avoid them in our lives.

- **Important Events**

- 1- Spies sent into Canaan, Chapter 13.
- 2- The people refuse to cross the finish line, Chapter 14.
- 3- Moses Strikes the Rock, Chapter 20:1-13.
- 4- Balak and Balaam, Chapter 22, 23 and 24.

- **The book of Numbers gives a clear picture of the failures of man and the goodness of God. Below are examples.**

A- We see a Rebellious people.

B- A Faithful God.

A- A Forgetful People.

B- A God of Miracles.

A- A people that Sinned.

B- A forgiving God.

A- A people that turned to Idolatry.

B- A God of Grace and Mercy.

A- A people that wasted Valuable Time.

B- A God that Allows Choices.

Finally a people that failed to cross the finish line which brought severe consequences. Disobedience to God, come with consequences.

- **Spies Sent to Canaan, Chapter 13**

NOTE- According to Deuteronomy 1:19-22, the people made the request to send men before them to spy out the land. In Numbers 13, God allowed this to take place. It’s important to remember that God

promised them this land. Their job was to “go up, take possession, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has told you.” (Deuteronomy 1:21) Ten out of the 12 spies that were sent reported the people were too strong to defeat. Only Joshua and Caleb encouraged the people to enter the promised land.

- **Failure to Cross the Finish line, Chapter 14**

In chapter 14 the people looked only at the situation through the eyes of human frailty. Once again, they rebel against Moses and Aaron and finally against the God that had preserved and promised them the land of Canaan.

NOTE – When God makes a promise, we can be assured the promise will be fulfilled. God cannot lie. (Titus 1:2)

- **God’s response the people’s unbelief**

“How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them?” (Numbers 14:11)

“None of the men who has seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers.” (Numbers 14:22-23)

- **Moses Strikes the Rock, Numbers 20:1-13**

Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces.

NOTE: When one demonstrates the attitude of humility and servant hood, God’s presence and blessing are realized most fully.

- **Moses Sin and Penalty**

And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice. (Numbers 20:11)

“Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes in the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them.” (Numbers 20:12)

NOTE: The failure to follow instructions and the attitude displayed were a violation to God's holiness.

- **Balam and Balaam, Numbers 22-24**

At face value Balaam was a man of God. After deeper investigation, some important points about Balaam becomes known.

- 1- Balaam was from Pethor, a city on the Euphrates River, where the existence of a cult of prophets have been found, whose activities resemble those of Balaam.
- 2- Balaam practiced magic and divination. (Numbers 24:1)
- 3- It was God that worked in Balaam. **God used him** for the purpose of blessing Israel. And God came to Balaam. (Numbers 22:9) The word that God put in my mouth, that must I speak. (Numbers 22:38) Speak only the words that I tell you. (Numbers 22:35)
- 4- Later Scripture identifies Balaam as a false prophet (Deut. 23:3-6; Josh. 13:22; 24:9-10; Neh. 13:1-3; Micah 6:5; 2 Pet. 2:15-16; Jude 11; Rev. 2:14).
- 5- Balaam led Israel into apostasy (Numbers 31:16). Behold these on Balaam's advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the Lord in the incident of Peor. Chapter 25:2 states that the "people ate and bowed down to their gods."
- 6- Conclusion from the Scripture about Balaam.
 - A- God knows the heart and intent of man. Man cannot see the desires of the heart of man.

- **Lessons that we can take away from the Book of Numbers**

- 1- There is no place for murmuring or complaining in the life of a Christian.
- 2- This is only one way to the Father and that is through the Son. God will not tolerate idolatry.
- 3- There are consequences for sin.
- 4- God is **faithful**. God fulfills his promises.
- 5- God is **forgiving**. God is **merciful**. God is **full of grace**.