



### **What is It?**

Numbers shows God's love in providing for the Israelites as they wandered through the wilderness for forty years and God's plan for them as they approached Canaan.

### **Who, What, When, Where and Why**

- Who** Numbers was written to the tribes of Jews at the time and the nation of Israel going forward. It is a history lesson on God's providence and grace as the Israelites continued to grumble and complain that they should have stayed in Egypt. Although it is directed to Israel, it has important messages for us too.
- What** The 36 chapters track the Israelites and their acts of unbelief from Mt. Sinai to Kadesh, where they rebelled, to the plains of Moab.
- When** Numbers begins a year after the exodus through the 40 years the Israelites spent wandering in the desert wilderness waiting for the Egyptian generation to die, about 1410 B.C.
- Where** The Israelites set camp 31 times after leaving Mt. Sinai. Numbers captures their wanderings to their final camp on the plains of Moab, on the east side of the Jordan opposite Jericho. It was here that Numbers includes a second census and God set the boundaries for Israel in the Promised Land.
- Why** Numbers is a testimonial that God will keep the covenant He made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob even though the Israelites continue to sin and forget His providence. His patience and forgiveness are boundless. It tells of God teaching the Israelites to walk in faith and trust His promises.

### **Reading Advice**

To get through Leviticus in one week you will need to read about 6-7 chapters a day. That should be about 30 minutes a day, Monday through Saturday. If you include a Sunday reading, then you can reduce the chapters and minutes per day a little.

Numbers is not as difficult to read as Leviticus, but it does contain a lot of detail that builds on that written in Leviticus. If you gave up thinking, "Why do I need know this?" start up again with Numbers. Understanding the New Testament will be much easier if you have familiarity with these early writings.