

Numbers 34-36 – 4 February 2021

“Protecting The People Of The Promise”

Introduction

*Israel has been in the dessert for 40 years b/c of disobedience, now they're on the plains of Moab!

*Numbers 26-30 are the final instructions b4 going in...no more instruction, it's time for a commitment to action!

*Num 31-33 God calls them into deep, thorough action, not apathetic half-hearted efforts

*Do they/us have the passion to rid sin & take God's promises for themselves?

*Today in Num 34-36, God shows **3 ways He intends to protect His people in the Promised Land**

*There's an enemy & God loves Go Israel (& us) enough to provide for our protection from the world, the flesh and the devil.

1st Way God will protect His people in the land is by Establishing Sovereignty (Chap 34:1-29)

Read Chap 34:1-5

1. This is southern border of the Promised Land
2. From southern end of the Dead Sea across the wilderness of Zin to the Mediterranean Sea

Read Chap 34:6

1. The Mediterranean Sea is the western border

Read Chap 34:7-9

1. Northern border - From the Med across the mts

Read Chap 34:10-12

1. This is the eastern border of the land
2. Notice it goes straight down to the Sea of Galilee, down the Jordan River to the Dead Sea.

Read Chap 34:13-15

1. Promised Land is all west of Jordan & doesn't include land of 2.5 tribes that settled east of Jordan

Chap 34:16-29 (Read Vs 16-20 only)

1. Each time there's a list of 12 princes, they're almost completely different (except Caleb)
2. Israel was set in such a way that man never attained too much power.
 - a. Period of Judges is the way God established
 - b. They cried for a king; God didn't tell them to
 - c. God wanted to be the sovereign over them
 - i. Decentralized govt
 - ii. Helping each other in times of burden

Application

1. What should these borders teach us?
2. God provided for their protection by establishing them in their own sovereign nation
 - a. THEY can control the land GOD'S WAY
 - b. THEY can protect from foreign ungodly influences!
3. What has God given you controls over?
 - a. You have ability to run it, pleasing to God
 - b. You can keep it unspotted from the *world*

2nd Way God will protect His people in the land is by Executing Justice (Chap 35:1-34)

Read Chap 35:1-5

1. Levitical cities; not 1 whole territory or tribe
2. Each city is to have a 2-layer pastureland
 - a. 500 ft & add'l 1000 ft around the city

Read Chap 35:6-8

1. 48 Levitical cities – 6 are Cities of Refuge
 - a. Each of 48 spaced according to population
2. They scatter to teach justice & God's law to all
 - a. People, who's occupation is to serve God, are spread out all over the land
 - b. So it is today, we scatter to spread God's truth

Read Chap 35:9-15

1. Purpose of the Cities of Refuge?
 - a. Manslaughterer flees; avenger can't kill him yet
 - b. Trial held for justice
 - i. Guilt manslaughterers stays, innocent get to go home

Read Chap 35:16-21

1. These are all examples of premeditated murder
2. The avenger should kill the murdered

Read Chap 35:22-25

1. If the manslaughter is innocent, let him go free
2. If his guilty on Voluntary Manslaughter (unpremeditated murder), he must stay at C of R
3. How long does he stay? Til death of High Priest
 - a. Could be 5 years, could be 30 years
4. So 3 answers
 - a. Murderer – avenger kills him
 - b. Manslaughterer – stays in City of Refuge
 - c. Innocent – goes home to his family

Read Chap 35:26-28

1. If he leaves, the avenger can kill him
2. Important to God to have justice served for people, God's image-bearers

Read Chap 35:29-30

1. Read Deut 19:15 – God’s standard for ensuring justice is multiple witnesses.
 - a. Physical evidence can be a witness
2. IS JESUS THE MESSIAH? It has to be established by 2 or 3 witnesses.
3. Turn to John 5:31-38
 - a. Vs 31-35 – John Baptist – witness for Jesus
 - b. Vs 36 – Jesus’ miracles – witness for Him
 - c. Vs 37-38 – God the Father bear witness for Jesus at His baptism
4. So many false religions based on ONE MAN getting a supposed dream or vision.
 - a. Where’s the witnesses, where’s the evidence?
5. God is highly interested in man judging right!

Read Chap 35:31-34

1. Vs 31-32 – Don’t take a bribe, but do justly!
2. To not avenge murder defiles even the land

Application

1. America wastes so much tax money on technicalities (didn't read him his rights properly)
 - a. Before you start complaining that Israel had a cruel or harsh system...consider America's
 - b. We execute innocent b/c of false witnesses
 - c. We free the murderers by b/c we didn't tell him he has the right to an attorney
2. The devil is the one who puts these murderous thoughts into people's hearts.
 - a. Read John 8:39-44 – Devil is a murderer
 - b. God ordained govts to execute this justice
3. We too can execute justice against the murderous thoughts of the *devil*
 - a. Execute justice in our own heart by executing any hate for our brothers & sisters
 - b. God is interested in justice (Mic 6:8)
 - i. He doesn't want us treated cruelly
 - ii. He actually shows us great grace

3rd Way God will protect His people in the land is by Endorsing Purity & Simplicity (Chap 36:1-13)

Read Chap 36:1-2

1. In Num 27 this problem came up to Moses
2. The Lord told Moses that if a man died having no sons, that his daughters should inherit the land

Read Chap 36:3-4

1. These leaders of the tribe of Manasseh (which these daughters were from) state the problem
2. That land given to women would move to another tribe at marriage & subsequent Jubilees

Read Chap 36:5-7

1. The Lord gives the answer to Moses that any women that inherited land should be restricted to marrying only within their tribe
2. Mary the mother of Jesus is the “women” that received the 3rd promise of God to Israel, that of the Messiah. She had to marry another Judahite.

Read Chap 36:8-12

1. Vs 8 – The goal is for the land to be a blessing to them, not a troublesome thing to quarrel about!
2. Vs 9 – The goal is for simplicity in inheritance

Application

1. There's a spiritual benefit to marrying within your own "kind".
 - a. There will be less issues to work thru
 - b. More commonality already
2. Even as Israelites were commanded to not marry a foreigner.
 - a. God wants us to produce a purity of godly descendants (see Mal 2:15)
 - b. Dating & marriage is not a field for witnessing!!
3. God is promoting the simplicity of purity and devotion to love God (Read II Cor 1:12-13)
4. Seeking purity & simplicity of relationships in the Lord will keep us from acting out in the *flesh*

Conclusion

So as we end the Book of Numbers, God is always looking to protect His people with His love

1. **God wants Israel to established sovereignty for them over a land**
 - a. We too can control what God has placed within our borders (our family, job, ministries)
 - b. Protect them from ungodly influences in the *world*
2. **God wants Israel to execute justice within the land**
 - a. We too should be a people that does justly, loves mercy & walks humbly w/ God
 - b. As we wait for God to deal w/ the 1st murderer, the *devil* himself
3. **God wants Israel to endorse purity & simplicity**
 - a. We too should keep our most intimate relationships simple & pure in godliness not giving occasion to the *flesh*