

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

Part 1: The Pentateuch



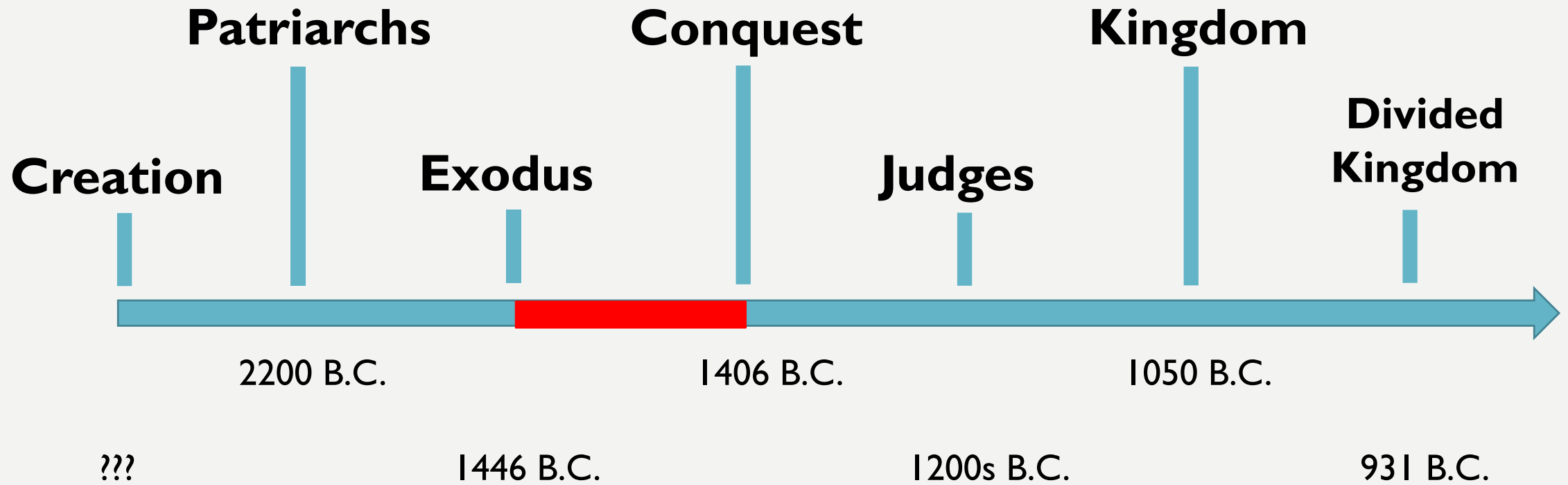
WEEK 6: BOOK OF NUMBERS

WILDERNESS WANDERINGS

PENTATEUCH

GENESIS	EXODUS	LEVITICUS	NUMBERS	DEUTERONOMY
CREATION	REDEMPTION	WORSHIP	FAITH	OBEDIENCE
God Of Promise	God Of Power	God Of Purity	God Of Perseverance	God Of Preparation
Formation of the Family of God	Deliverance out of Bondage & Slavery	The people shall treat God as Holy	Wilderness Wanderings	Revisit the Law before entering the Land

Old Testament Timeline



NUMBERS: THEME

The theme of Numbers is the gradual fulfillment of the promises to Abraham that his descendants would be the people of God and occupy the land of Canaan. The book shows the reality of God's presence with Israel in the cloud of fire over the tabernacle, but the repeated displays of unbelief by Israel delay the entry into Canaan and cost many lives. Nevertheless, by the end of the book, Israel is poised to enter the land.

(ESV Study Bible Intro)

NUMBERS: OVERVIEW

- Numbers traces the **40-year journey** from Mount Sinai to the edge of the Promised Land.
- Numbers is **not exhaustive** about this journey but illustrates unbelief through selected stories.
- God **judges** unbelief among the adult generation by not allowing them to enter the Land.
- Numbers contrasts the **faithfulness** of God with the **unfaithfulness** of His people.

Parallels Between Exodus & Numbers

Ex. 18:1	Advice from Jethro	Advice from Jethro	Num. 10:29
Ex. 15:22	Three-day journey to Sinai	Three-day journey from Sinai	Num. 10:33
Ex. 15:22–26	Complaint about water	Unspecified complaint	Num. 11:1–3
Exodus 16	Manna and quail	Manna and quail	Num. 11:4–15, 31–35
Exodus 18	Leaders appointed to assist Moses	Leaders appointed to assist Moses	Num. 11:16–30
Ex. 15:20–21	Miriam’s song of praise	Miriam and Aaron rebel	Numbers 12
Ex. 17:8–16	Israel defeats Amalek	Israel defeated by Amalek	Num. 14:39–45
Ex. 17:1–7	Water from rock	Water from rock	Num. 20:1–13
Ex. 32:6	People sacrifice to other gods	People sacrifice to other gods	Num. 25:2
Ex. 32:27	Killing of apostates demanded	Killing of apostates demanded	Num. 25:5
Ex. 32:28–29	Levites’ status enhanced	Levites’ (Phinehas’s) status enhanced	Num. 25:6–13
Ex. 32:35	Plague on the people	Plague on the people	Num. 25:9

NUMBERS: OUTLINE

Focus	Old Generation		Tragic Transition				New Generation		
Divisions	Organization	Sanctification	To Kadesh-Barnea	At Kadesh-Barnea	In Wilderness	To Moab	Re-Organization	Regulations of Offerings & Vows	Conquest & Division of Israel
Passage	1:1-4:49	5:1-10:10	10:11-12:16	13:1-14:45	15:1-19:22	20:1-25:18	26:1-27:23	28:1-30:16	31:1-36:13
Topics	Order		Disorder				Reorder		
	Preparation		Postponement				Preparation		
Place	Mount Sinai		Wilderness				Plains of Moab		
Time	20 Days		38 years, 3 months, 10 days				~ 5 months		

From: *Talk Thru The Bible* by Wilkinson & Boa (p. 27)

NUMBERS BY THE NUMBERS

- Example: 36 = # of chapters in Numbers
- $603,550 + 22,000 = 11$ tribes census >20 yrs + Levites census >1 mo.
- 1.25 to 1.5 million = estimated total census departing Egypt
- 70 = # of Jacob's relatives who entered Egypt (Gen 46:27)
- 273 = difference between # of Levites and # of 1st borne to redeem (Num 3:41)
- 8580 = # of Levites eligible to serve in Tabernacle
- 25 to 50 = age of tabernacle workers; yep, retirement age = 50!
- 40 = # of encampments recorded in 40 years, days spies were gone
- 2 = # remaining from first census by time to enter the land
- 14,700 = # killed by murmuring/plague in Ch. 16
- 24,000 = # killed by Sin of Peor, post-Balaam (Ch. 25)
- $603,000 + 23,000 =$ # in final census before entering the Land

12 days = est. most direct trip length



The Exodus

From the Land of Egypt

SO MANY REBELLIONS

- “...have put me to the test these ten times...” – God (14:22)
- Progression: grumbling/murmuring, complaining, sedition, open rebellion, Moses’ intercession, God’s grace
- Exodus 14:11, 15:23/4, 16:2/3, 17:2/3 then
- Numbers 11:1, 12:1/2, 14:1-4, 15:32, 16:1-3, 20:12, 21:5, 25:1-4, 25:6
- Everybody turns on Moses at some point; God intervenes dramatically!
- Human rebellion vs. God’s authority is a recurring Pentateuch theme

WHAT PREACHES THESE DAYS?

- Avoid Israel's mistakes (1Cor 10:1-11)
 - Idolatry, immorality, testing the Lord, grumbling
 - Walking by sight, not faith (2 spies vs 10 spies in 13:25-33)
- The Sin of Balaam
 - Placing a stumbling block (Jude 11, 2Pet 2:15-16, Rev 2:14)
- Rebellions of Korah/Miriam/Aaron
 - Defying God's ordained human authority (Jude 11)
- Jesus' explanation of the world already judged (John 3:14-17)
 - Parallel to the snake on the stick in Numbers 21:9

NUMBERS: ORGANIZATION

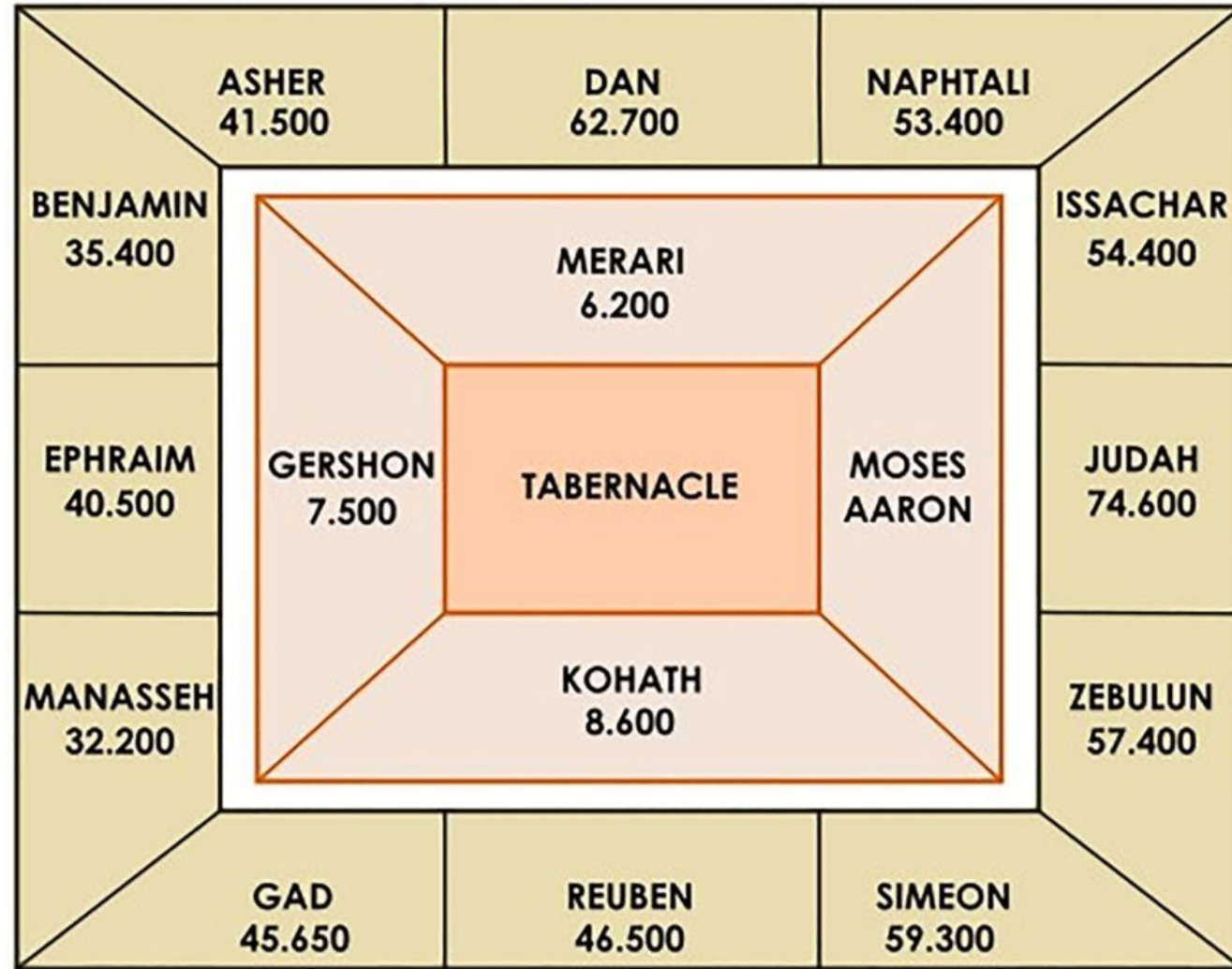
The LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying, “**Take a census** of all the congregation of the people of Israel, by clans, by fathers’ houses, according to the number of names, every male, head by head.

(Numbers 1:1–2 ESV)

TABERNACLE CONSTRUCTION

- YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMEQ-WIsWsc&t=331s>

**ENCAMPMENT OF ISRAELITE TRIBES IN THE WILDERNESS
NUMBERS 2,3**



TRIBE OF LEVI



12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL

From: www.commonwealththeology.com

NUMBERS: ORGANIZATION

Those who were to camp before the tabernacle on the east, before the tent of meeting toward the sunrise, were Moses and Aaron and his sons, guarding the sanctuary itself, to protect the people of Israel. And any outsider who came near was to be put to death.

(Numbers 3:38 ESV)

NUMBERS: SANCTIFICATION

- Instructions about clean & unclean (5)
- Instructions about interpersonal sin (5)
- Instructions about suspected adultery (5)
- Instructions about Nazarite vows (6)
- Instructions about consecrating tabernacle (7)
- Instructions about purity of Levites (8)
- Instructed to celebrate the Passover before breaking camp... (9)

NUMBERS: SANCTIFICATION

And the LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying, “Let the people of Israel keep the Passover at its appointed time. On the fourteenth day of this month, at twilight, you shall keep it at its appointed time; according to all its statutes and all its rules you shall keep it.”

(Numbers 9:1–3 ESV)

CONQUEST: PROMISE & WARNINGS

But *if you do not drive out* the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those of them whom you let remain shall be as ***barbs*** in your eyes and ***thorns*** in your sides, and they shall ***trouble*** you in the land where you dwell. ***And I will do to you as I thought to do to them.***”

(Numbers 33:55–56 ESV)

END OF STEW SLIDES

- The following are all Adam's slides

DEPARTURE FROM SINAI

So they set out from the mount of the LORD three days' journey. And the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them three days' journey, to seek out a resting place for them. And the cloud of the LORD was over them by day, whenever they set out from the camp. And whenever the ark set out, Moses said, "Arise, O LORD, and let your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate you flee before you."

(Numbers 10:33–35 ESV)

DEPARTURE FROM SINAI

“The timing of the move, starting at Passover, reminds them of the great deliverance from Egypt by their incomparable God, Yahweh, as they begin this most important trek home. The luminescent cloud again guides the tribes and trumpet signals are ordered for facilitating an orderly march.”

(Bayliss, *From Creation to the Cross*, p. 131)



I'm going on an adventure!

DEPARTURE FROM SINAI

And the people *complained* in the hearing of the LORD about their misfortunes, and when the LORD heard it, his anger was kindled, and the fire of the LORD burned among them and consumed some outlying parts of the camp. Then the people cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the LORD, and the fire died down.

(Numbers 11:1–2 ESV)



ISRAEL TESTS THE LORD

And the LORD said to Moses, “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? I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they.”

(Numbers 14:11–12 ESV)

MOSES INTERCEDES

Now if you kill this people as one man, then the nations who have heard your fame will say, 'It is because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land that he swore to give to them that he has killed them in the wilderness.' And now, please let the power of the Lord be great ***as you have promised, saying...***

(Numbers 14:15–19 ESV)

MOSES INTERCEDES

‘The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.’ Please pardon the iniquity of this people, according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now.”

(Numbers 14:15–19 ESV)

MERCY & JUSTICE

Then the Lord said, '*I have pardoned* according to your word. But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD, *none of the men who* have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet *have put me to the test* these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, *shall see the land* that I swore to give to their fathers. *And none of those who despised me shall see it.*

(Numbers 14:21–23 ESV)

GROUP PROJECT



Get into groups of 4-6 people.



Read through assigned passage.



Summarize what is happening in this passage.



What should we learn from these passages?

IN THE WILDERNESS

Numbers 13:
Spies Trip &
Report

Numbers 16:
Korah's
Rebellion

Numbers
20:2-13:
Water @
Rock

Numbers
21:4-9 &
John 3:9-15:
Bronze
Serpent

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From: *Talk Thru The Bible* by Wilkinson & Boa (p. 27)

THE PLAINS OF MOAB

Then the people of Israel set out and camped in the plains of Moab beyond the Jordan at Jericho. And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. And Moab was in great dread of the people, because they were many. Moab was overcome with fear of the people of Israel.

(Numbers 22:1–3 ESV)

THE PLAINS OF MOAB

... So **Balak** the son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time, sent messengers to **Balaam** the son of Beor at Pethor, which is near the River in the land of the people of Amaw, to call him, saying, “Behold, a people has come out of Egypt. They cover the face of the earth, and they are dwelling opposite me. Come now, **curse this people for me, since they are too mighty for me.** Perhaps I shall be able to defeat them and drive them from the land, for I know that he whom you bless is blessed, and he whom you curse is cursed.”

(Numbers 22:4–6 ESV)

Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And he bowed down and fell on his face. And the angel of the LORD said to him, “Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to oppose you because your way is perverse before me.

(Numbers 22:31–32 ESV)



BLESSINGS INSTEAD OF CURSES

Balaam's 1st Oracle ~ Israel unique among nations & numerous as “dust of earth.” (Numbers 23:7-10)

Balaam's 2nd Oracle ~ Israel is like a lion and the Lord is with them. (Numbers 23:18-24)

Balaam's 3rd Oracle ~ Israel will prosper in the land as the Lord is with them. (Numbers 24:3-9)

RESPONSE OF BALAK

And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he struck his hands together. And Balak said to Balaam, "I called you to curse my enemies, and behold, you have blessed them these three times.

(Numbers 24:10 ESV)

BALAM'S LAST ORACLE

I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth.

(Numbers 24:17 ESV)

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CONQUEST: PROMISE & WARNINGS

And the LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you pass over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then ***you shall drive out*** all the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy all their figured stones and destroy all their metal images and demolish all their high places. And ***you shall take possession*** of the land and settle in it, ***for I have given the land to you to possess it.***


(Numbers 33:50–53 ESV)

GLIMPSES OF REDEMPTION

- Focus on the tabernacle represents the **presence of God** among the people (9, 14)
- Moses is a **type of Christ** as a mediator and intercessor between God & the people (12, 14, 16)
- God miraculously provides **manna from heaven** foreshadowing the “true manna” of Jesus (11)

GLIMPSES OF REDEMPTION

- God miraculously provides **water** from the **rock** foreshadowing Jesus as source of water (20)
- The bronze snake who **heals** all those facing certain death as a result of their sin (21)
- Balaam could not curse Israel, but only bless them & even prophesied about **coming Messiah** (24)



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Part 1: The Pentateuch