



The LORD is loyal to His word

Lesson Summary

Israel was finally ready to enter the land, but last week we saw that the people did not trust the LORD to fight for them against the big bad people living in the land. So, instead of trusting the LORD to be their shield, they refused to go into the land out of the fear of men. The LORD desired to wipe the entire faithless nation out right there, but Moses interceded for the people; and the LORD, being merciful and loyal, forgave them...but not without leaving the guilty unpunished - this generation will not be able to enter the land. Now, as the book of Numbers comes to a close, we see the unfaithful generation start to die off in the wilderness as they bring God's judgment upon themselves through their continual grumbling and unfaithfulness. Yet, despite the generation's unfaithfulness, the LORD continues to provide for the people in the wilderness for the sake of His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This foreshadows the provision of the coming true Image-Bearer who will provide eternal life according to God's promise. So, while Israel continues to act faithlessly, the LORD continues to be faithful, yet not without leaving the guilty unpunished. The old generation who were forbidden to enter the land are entirely wiped out, except for Caleb and Joshua, and their children, the new generation, is now being prepared to go into their promised land.

Story of the Bible Chart

We are still in the "looking for the Messiah" part of the chart. Today, we see a foreshadowing of the Messiah in God's provision of water from the rock and the serpent raised up on a pole. See outline for more.

Story of the Bible Chart picture of the day:



THIS WEEK

LAST WEEK



Israel's failure to trust
the LORD
Numbers 11-14



A New Generation
Numbers 16-36



LESSON INTRO

LESSON HIGHLIGHTS

1. The LORD continues to discipline the grumbling nation.
2. The LORD provides life for His people - He will provide eternal life through the true Image-Bearer.
3. The LORD will always remain faithful, despite His peoples' faithlessness.

REVIEW TO THIS POINT

Israel did not trust the LORD to keep His promises!

1. The people feared man instead of God and did not trust the LORD to be their shield and fight for them against their enemies.
2. Because of this, the LORD will not let this unfaithful generation pass into the Promised Land.
3. Yet, because of the LORD's character, He will not abandon Israel, but keep His promises to them. He will raise up a new generation in Israel to take the land.

In today's lesson, we will watch as the LORD disciplines His special nation by laying low (killing) the old generation. Simultaneously, He is preparing the new generation to go in and take the land as their fathers failed to do. He is teaching them to fear and trust the LORD rather than fearing man and trusting in themselves. Here's how:

Lesson Outline

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LESSON OUTLINE
NUMBERS 16-36



THE OLD GENERATION (Discipline):

As Israel continues to wonder around in the wilderness, the LORD finishes off the old generation (who keep on grumbling) whom He swore would not enter the Promised Land.

1. Israel continued to grumble against the LORD and Moses, so the LORD brought judgements against the people to kill off the generation.
 - a. Those who rebelled against Moses were swallowed up by holes in the ground.
 - b. They were bitten by bronze serpents.
 - c. Those who went after other gods were executed.
 - d. Those who went after foreign wives had plagues sent upon them.
 - e. Even Moses was forbidden from entering the land because He didn't carefully observe the word of the LORD.
2. Despite their actions, the LORD continued to provide for the nation because of His covenant with them and His promise to send the true Image-Bearer.
 - a. The LORD provided water for the people by making it flow out of the Rock.
 - b. The LORD provided healing from the serpents by lifting a serpent up on a pole so that anyone who looked upon it would be healed.

Flashback

Remember, Gods provisions in the desert foreshadow the true Image-Bearer (from Lesson 23).

- The Rock represents the true Image-Bearer who will one day provide living water for believers
- The serpent on the poles represents the true Image-Bearer, who would be lifted up on a pole (the cross) to heal the nation.

THE NEW GENERATION (Preparation):

1. As the old generation died, the LORD began to give the new generation victory over the nations who surrounded the promised land.
 - a. This was in order to demonstrate to them that the LORD would surely fight their battles for them and give them victory over the people in the land, so they would not fear.
2. Now that the old generation was mostly gone, Moses began to give the new generation instructions for entering their land.

Among other things, they were...

 - a. They were counted and sorted yet again.
 - b. They were reminded to drive out and/or kill all who were in the promised land so that they would remain separate from the nations
 - c. They were instructed on how the land was to be divided up by tribe
 - d. They were reminded of the Law given at Sanai and the sacrifices done in faith... and will be reminded again by Moses in the next book, Deuteronomy.



Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.

Ages 3-5

1. **Will the people of Israel who refused to trust in God and His promises get to go into the Promised Land?**
No
2. **Will their children get to go into the promised land?**
Yes
3. **What does this part of the story tell us about God?**
God keeps His promises.
4. **Will God fight Israel's battles for them?**
Yes.
5. **Should God's special nation Israel fear anyone except the LORD?**
No

Grades 1-6

1. **Will the people of Israel who refused to trust in God and His promises get to enter the promised land?**
NO
2. **What will happen to them instead?**
The entire generation will die in the wilderness.
3. **Who will be allowed to go into the Promised Land that the LORD has prepared for Israel?**
The new generation- the children of the disobedient parents.
4. **In this part of the story how does the LORD discipline the old generation?**
 - a. Some rebelled against Moses and the ground opened up and swallowed them.
 - b. Some did not trust the LORD and they were bitten by poisonous snakes.
 - c. Some worshiped other gods and they were killed.
 - d. Moses disobeyed the LORD, and he was also forbidden to go into the Promised Land.
5. **This part of the story talks about the Rock with water flowing from it and a bronze serpent lifted high on a pole. How do these two things foreshadow or give a hint about the one true Image-bearer that the story is looking for?**
 - a. The LORD provides water from a rock to care for the people's thirst and the coming Image-bearer will give living water- eternal life- to everyone on God's Team.
 - b. The bronze serpent on the pole healed all who look at it from their snake bites and the coming Image-bearer will be lifted up on a pole (the cross) to heal those on God's Team from all the curses on creation, especially death.
6. **How does the LORD show Israel that He will fight their battles for them?**
The LORD gives the new generation victory in battle.
7. **How does Moses prepare the new generation to enter into the Promised Land?**
 - a. Moses counts all the people and sorts them into their tribes.
 - b. Moses tells the people how to remain holy or set apart from the people on the serpent's team who lived in the land where Israel is going to live.
 - c. Moses tells each tribe what part of the Promised Land the LORD is giving to their tribe.