

Genesis to Numbers

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GENESIS

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Pentateuch				
1445-1405 BC	Genesis 50 Chapters	The Beginning	Creation of the universe, the origin of man and sin, the curse on the earth due to sin, the promise of the Savior, the creation of false religion, the flood and the Patriarchs.	The book is foundational to Christian beliefs. Genesis contains many pictures of Christ. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph; these all portray different aspects of the coming Christ.	Creator and promised Redeemer

GENESIS

Genesis can be broken down into two parts:

1. Gen 1-11 – Creation, the Great Flood and the Tower of Babel.
2. Gen 12-50 the story of the Patriarchs.
These men make up the start of the nation of Israel.

GENESIS

Genesis 1: 1

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1: 27

27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 17: 7

7 “I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.

GENESIS

Genesis (means beginning):

Creation

God (also called Yahweh or Jehovah) said, "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). Then... the heavens and earth -- all taking six days. God rested on the seventh day and declared it holy, giving rise to the observance of a holy day. God created the first man (Adam) and then the first woman (Eve) from one of the ribs of the man.

First Sin Story

(Genesis 2,3): God provided the Garden of Eden, telling Adam and Eve not to eat fruit from the Tree of Life, since it provided awareness of right and wrong, good and bad, and caused eventual death. A snake convinced Eve to eat the fruit. This act condemned mankind to die and womankind to have painful childbirth, because God's instructions were not followed.

Lineage of Adam and Eve:

Cain was their first child, followed by Abel. Cain was jealous of Abel and eventually killed him. Adam died at 930 years old. The oldest man was Methuselah, living to 969.

GENESIS

Noah:

A large population occurred and humans had become wicked, so God told Noah that He was to destroy the life but that Noah (the truly righteous person of the time) would be saved, along with his family and a pair of each kind of bird and animal and reptile. Noah built a boat according to God's instruction ([Genesis 6:15] 450 ft. long, 75 ft. wide, 45 ft. high). Noah, at 600 years old, boarded the boat, and it rained for forty days and forty nights. After 150 days, the boat rested upon the mountains of Ararat. After almost six months more, Noah left the boat to restore the people and animals of the earth. Noah had three sons (Shem, Ham, and Japheth): from these three sons of Noah came all the nations of the earth. God promised to never send another flood to destroy the earth.

Tower of Babel (Genesis 11):

A temple-tower was to be built, rising high to the skies, to demonstrate mankind's power. God gave people different languages to prevent this being built.

GENESIS

Abram/Abraham:

God promised Abram (75 years old at the time) that He would cause him to be "the father of many nations."

When Abram was 99 years old, God changed his name to Abraham (meaning Father of Nations) and changed his wife's name from Sarai to Sarah (meaning Princess).

God told Abraham that He would give all the land of Canaan to Abraham and his children, forever. As part of the contract with God, Abraham was to circumcise every male [Genesis 17: 10-12] on the eighth day after birth. God then told Abraham that he (at 100 years old) would have a son with his wife, Sarah (90 years old), and she gave birth to Isaac (meaning "he laughs").

GENESIS

Sodom and Gomorrah (two cities that were wicked): God allowed Lot (a nephew of Abram) and his family to leave while God destroyed the cities. Lot's wife looked back at the cities, against instructions of God, and was turned into a "pillar of salt" (Genesis 19:26).

Test of Abraham (Genesis 22): Abraham was asked by God to sacrifice his son, Isaac, and Abraham was willing to carry out God's wishes. God stopped him from killing Isaac, and Abraham sacrificed a ram to God.

Abraham and Sarah were both buried near Hebron in the land of Canaan.

GENESIS

Isaac:

Isaac married Rebekah and had two twin sons -- Jacob and Esau. Esau was a very hairy person who liked the outdoors and hunting. Jacob was not hairy and liked to cook, not to hunt. Isaac favored Esau; Rebekah favored Jacob. Jacob traded food to Esau for his "birthright," and Jacob and Rebekah tricked Isaac into giving his blessing to Jacob instead of Esau (Genesis 27). Jacob wore furry material so that his near-blind father would "feel" him to be like hairy Esau.

Jacob left his father to go find a mate to not marry one of "the daughters of the Canaanites." He met Rachel and worked for her father for seven years to marry her. He was tricked into marrying her sister, Leah, first, and had to work an additional seven years to marry Rachel. Finally, he left his father-in-law, Laban, and went back to where his brother Esau lived, Edom. Jacob was given a friendly reception by his brother Esau. Jacob moved to Bethel, where God told him his name would be changed from Jacob (meaning "he grasps the heel") to Israel (meaning "he struggles with God") [Genesis 35:10]. Rachel, Jacob's wife, had two sons -- Joseph and Benjamin. Jacob had twelve sons in all, leading to the twelve "tribes" of Israel.

GENESIS

Coat of Many Colors:

Joseph, 17, was given a "richly ornamented (i.e., bright-colored) robe" (Genesis 37:3) by his father, Jacob. His brothers were very jealous of him. They threw him into an empty well, then sold Joseph into slavery (going to Egypt). Joseph's brothers dipped his robe with goat's blood, convincing his father that he had died. In Egypt, Joseph became a great leader there by telling the fortunes of several men and eventually the Pharaoh. Reading the Pharaoh's dream, he predicted seven years of harvest followed by seven years of famine. The Pharaoh made Joseph leader of the project to prepare for these fourteen years. Joseph later met his brothers when they needed to buy food in the seven years of famine. He tricked them at first, but later let them all come to Egypt and live in the land of Goshen in Egypt.

EXODUS					
DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Pentateuch				
1445-1405 BC	Exodus 40 Chapters	God's Deliverance	Moses, the exodus of Israel from Egypt, Israel's desert wanderings, the establishment of the law and the tabernacle, sacrifices and directions for worship.	God's Redemption is always for the purpose of bringing people to Himself.	The Passover Lamb

EXODUS

Exodus contains:

Moses saved by Pharaoh's daughter

Moses at the Burning Bush

The Ten Plagues of Egypt

The Passover

Moses parts the Red Sea

Complaining in the Desert

The Ten Commandments

The Golden Calf (sin)

The Tabernacle

EXODUS

Exodus 3: 14

14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ”

Exodus 20: 3

3 You shall have no other gods before Me.

EXODUS

Exodus (meaning "exit" or "going away from"):

The beginning of 70 of Jacob's family in Egypt grew to a large nation, filling the land of Goshen. So the Egyptians made slaves of the Israelites (also called Hebrews).

One of the sons of Jacob was named Levi. Out of the family of Levi, at a time when the Pharaoh had tried to kill all Israeli babies, the baby Moses was born. He was raised by Pharaoh's daughter.

When Moses was grown, he killed an Egyptian that was beating a Hebrew. Moses then had to leave Egypt to avoid being killed. Moses went to the land of Midian, where he met Reuel (also called Jethro) and married his daughter Zipporah.

EXODUS

Burning Bush (Exodus 3:2):

An Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses as "flames of fire from within a bush." Then God told him to be the person to free the Hebrews from Egypt. Moses begged to not be the person chosen as this spokesman. The Lord insisted and told him to throw down his staff (i.e., shepherd's rod) onto the ground -- at which point it was turned into a snake.

The Lord told Moses to put his hand into his cloak (i.e., robe); it became "leprous, like snow" and then became all right when put into the cloak and withdrawn again. The Lord then told him that water would also be turned into blood. These things would allow the people in Egypt to know that Moses was indeed sent by God to them. Moses begged God further, so God allowed Moses' brother Aaron to be the spokesman to the people with Moses being the messenger from God.

EXODUS

Moses (80 years old) and Aaron (83 years old) went to Pharaoh and requested that the Hebrews be allowed to worship God for three days in the wilderness. Pharaoh did not allow this, so Moses and Aaron had to demonstrate the power of God with miracles and finally plagues, such as frogs, flies, hail, and locusts.

(Exodus 11) God told Moses that He would send the "Destroyer" to kill the firstborn (i.e., oldest) sons of all in Egypt, except for those oldest sons of the people of Israel. The Hebrews were instructed by Moses to kill a lamb and coat the sides and tops of their doorframes with the blood of the lamb, so that the "Destroyer" would pass over their home (Exodus 12:23) -- hence the celebration thereafter of the Passover (celebrated forevermore, always around late March or first of April by our calendar).

Pharaoh let the Hebrews go, after their 430 years in Egypt. Moses took the bones of Joseph with him out of Egypt. Pharaoh went after them when he realized that they were not coming back after their leaving to worship their God. The sea opened up for the Hebrews and they walked on dry ground, whereas it closed onto the following Egyptians, killing the army of Pharaoh. The time of the Exodus from Egypt was around 1250 B.C.

EXODUS

A few months after leaving Egypt, the Hebrews arrived between Elim and Mt. Sinai.

The people griped about their condition, so God provided them with "manna" ([Exodus 16:31] meaning "what is it?") -- a bread-food that was white and tasted like wafers made with honey; formed from dew on the ground.

At his father-in-law's suggestion, Moses appointed "judges" to administer justice to the people.

EXODUS

TEN COMMANDMENTS: God issued His Ten Commandments (Exodus 20):

Exodus 20:3: (1) You shall have no other gods before Me.

Exodus 20:4: (2) You shall not make for yourself an idol...

Exodus 20:7: (3) You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God...

Exodus 20:8: (4) Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy... the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work...

Exodus 20:12: (5) Honor your father and your mother...

Exodus 20:13: (6) You shall not murder.

Exodus 20:14: (7) You shall not commit adultery.

Exodus 20:15: (8) You shall not steal.

Exodus 20:16: (9) You shall not give false testimony (i.e., not lie)...

Exodus 20:17: (10) You shall not covet your neighbor's house.... or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

EXODUS

God told Moses the laws that were to be applied to the people. There were twelve tribes of Israel, and altars were arranged to signify this. God instructed Moses on how to build a Tabernacle and an Ark (Exodus 25:10: of acacia wood, 3 3/4 ft. long, 2 1/4 ft. wide, 2 1/4 ft. high overlaid with gold (inside and out) containing inside the stone tablets engraved with the Ten Commandments). The Ark would be a place in the Holy of Holies for God to reside.

Aaron and his sons were designated as the priests for God. The requirements for altars, incense, and offerings were described to Moses by God.

EXODUS

Moses first went to Mt. Sinai to get the Ten Commandments and was there for 40 days and 40 nights. Since Moses was gone so long, his brother, Aaron, at the request of the people built a golden calf that they all worshipped.

Moses saw this and, in disgust, destroyed the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments that God had given to him. He then went back to Mt. Sinai for another 40 days and 40 nights and made a contract (or Covenant) with God to not destroy the people if they would obey the Ten Commandments. God created the tablets again.

Leviticus					
Date	Book	Key Thought	Content	Key Lessons	Jesus in the Books of the Bible
	Old Testament				
	Pentateuch				
1445-1405 BC	Leviticus 27 Chapters	Holiness, Atonement, Sanctification and Worship	Laws about the priesthood, sacrifices, priestly holiness and worship	God's people must be holy.	The High Priest

LEVITICUS SUMMARY

Chapters 1–7 outline the offerings required of both the laity and the priesthood.

Chapters 8–10 describe the consecration of Aaron and his sons to the priesthood. Chapter 10: 1-2 describe the sin of Nadab and Abihu.

Chapters 11–16 are the laws for various types of uncleanness.

Chapters 17-25 are God's guidelines to His people for practical holiness. Various feasts were instituted in the people's worship of God, and were convened and practiced according to God's laws.

Chapter 26 shows the blessings or curses that would accompany either the keeping or neglect of God's commandments.

Chapter 27 covers vows to the Lord.

LEVITICUS

The purpose of Leviticus is to provide instruction and laws to guide a sinful, yet redeemed people in their relationship with a holy God.

The primary theme of Leviticus is holiness. God's demand for holiness in His people is based on His own holy nature.

A secondary theme of Leviticus is atonement.

Holiness must be maintained before God, and holiness can only be attained through a proper atonement.

The message of Leviticus is sanctification. The book communicates that receiving God's forgiveness and acceptance should be followed by holy living and spiritual growth.

LEVITICUS

Leviticus is very much a how-to book for **ceremonies and worship practices** within the Old Testament system.

Leviticus also illustrates that God was concerned that His people do what is right, and do it in the right way.

Leviticus contains many laws for the children of Israel under the Mosaic Covenant.

LEVITICUS - HOLINESS

Leviticus reveals that a God who is set apart from all other “gods” must have a similar people.

Lev. 11: 44-45

44 ‘For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. And you shall not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that swarm on the earth.

45 ‘For I am the Lord who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy.’ ”

Lev.19: 2

2 “Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

Lev. 20: 7-8

7 ‘You shall consecrate yourselves therefore and be holy, for I am the Lord your God.

8 ‘You shall keep My statutes and practice them; I am the Lord who sanctifies you.

LEVITICUS – ATONEMENT

The Levitical laws would set the stage for laws that would one day be written on the hearts of God's people rather than on stone, replacing external obligation with internal motivation.

Lev. 17: 11

11 'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.'

LEVITICUS – SANTIFICATION

God asked the Israelites to sanctify themselves in two ways:

- A. Doing ceremonial laws (purification)
- B. Keeping God's laws.

LEVITICUS - WORSHIP

Approaching a holy God is not a casual undertaking.

Dealing with the sin that separates man from God requires sacrifice, which reflects death as the consequence of sin.

The payment for sin was through the offering of sacrifices “without blemish” or “defect”. God’s ultimate forgiveness of sins was through the death of Jesus on the cross.

The sacrificial system was a lesson concerning the importance and cost of maintaining fellowship with the Holy God.

LEVITICUS - WORSHIP

Lev. 22: 17-25

17 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

18 “Speak to Aaron and to his sons and to all the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘Any man of the house of Israel or of the aliens in Israel who presents his offering, whether it is any of their votive or any of their freewill offerings, which they present to the Lord for a burnt offering—

19 for you to be accepted—*it must be* a male without defect from the cattle, the sheep, or the goats.

20 ‘Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it will not be accepted for you.

21 ‘When a man offers a sacrifice of peace offerings to the Lord to fulfill a special vow or for a freewill offering, of the herd or of the flock, it must be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no defect in it.

22 ‘Those *that are* blind or fractured or maimed or having a running sore or eczema or scabs, you shall not offer to the Lord, nor make of them an offering by fire on the altar to the Lord.

23 ‘In respect to an ox or a lamb which has an overgrown or stunted *member*, you may present it for a freewill offering, but for a vow it will not be accepted.

24 ‘Also anything *with its testicles* bruised or crushed or torn or cut, you shall not offer to the Lord, or sacrifice in your land,

25 nor shall you accept any such from the hand of a foreigner for offering as the food of your God; for their corruption is in them, they have a defect, they shall not be accepted for you.’ ”

Matt. 5: 48

48 “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

LEVITICUS

God gave Moses specific instruction for sacrificing oxen, sheep, goats, birds, or grain to God. Rules for "burnt" offerings were given.

God instructed Moses and Aaron to tell the people what food to eat -- any animal with a split hoof (or cloven hoof) which chews the cud (Leviticus 11:2-3). This meant that camels, rabbits, and pigs were not to be eaten.

It was all right to eat any that have "fins and scales" (Leviticus 11:9) but no other water creatures.

Some birds (eagles, "kites," ravens, hawks, owls, gulls, vultures, storks, bats) were also forbidden to eat, along with four-legged flying insects.

LEVITICUS

The laws that God wished for the Hebrews were told to Moses.

Homosexuality was forbidden (Leviticus 18:22).

Holy feasts (i.e., festivals) were given for observing (Leviticus 23).

The "Year of Jubilee" was explained as every fiftieth year (Leviticus 25:10), where all debts were forgiven and all land passed back to the original owners or their heirs.

God constantly promises to remember the promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Leviticus 26: 42) and is often referred to as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Leviticus basically outlines the things that the Lord gave to Moses on Mount Sinai.

How does Leviticus relate to Christians today?

1. Holiness extends to the church.

1 Peter 1: 15-16

15 but like the Holy One who called you, **be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior**;

16 because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

How does Leviticus relate to Christians today?

2. Those who are redeemed by the mercies of God offer different sacrifices today; they offer themselves.

Rom. 12: 1-2

1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

How does Leviticus relate to Christians today?

3. God redeems Christians.

Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice on our behalf, taking the punishment that we deserved so that we might be forgiven.

Eph. 2: 8-9

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

How does Leviticus relate to Christians today?

4. God sanctifies Christians through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

Heb. 10: 1-4

1 For the Law, since it has *only* a shadow of the good things to come *and* not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.

2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?

3 But in those *sacrifices* there is a reminder of sins year by year.

4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Heb. 10: 8-10

8 After saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin You have not desired, nor have You taken pleasure *in them*" (which are offered according to the Law),

9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will." He takes away the first in order to establish the second.

10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

How does Leviticus relate to Christians today?

5. God's expectation for Christian worship.

I. In worship Christians recognize God for His attributes.

II. Christians honor God in worship through adoration, praise, glory, thanksgiving, service and living holy lives.

A. In the New Testament, Christ is recognized as the divine Son of God and worshiped by his followers.

Lk. 24: 50-53

50 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.

51 While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

52 And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

53 and were continually in the temple praising God.

How does Leviticus relate to Christians today?

5. God's expectation for Christian worship.

B. Following the birth of the church, believers gathered regularly for worship.

Acts 2: 46-47

46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

How does Leviticus relate to Christians today?

5. God's expectation for Christian worship.

C. Following a period of instruction, new believers identify with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection through baptism.

Matt. 28: 18-20

18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

How does Leviticus relate to Christians today?

5. God's expectation for Christian worship.

D. The Lord also commanded his followers to observe the Lord's Supper on a regular basis (Matt 26:17–30; Mark 14:12–26; Luke 22:7–39; 1 Cor. 11: 23-34).

Acts 20: 7

7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul *began* talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

How does Leviticus relate to Christians today?

5. God's expectation for Christian worship.

E. Besides participating in the Lord's Supper, the congregation worships through the reading and teaching of Scripture, singing "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs", praying together and giving their offerings.

2 Cor. 9: 7

7 Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Heb. 10: 23-25

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,
25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

GENESIS TO LEVITICUS

In **Genesis**, God makes promises to Abraham, the patriarch of Israel.

God specifically promises to Abram (Gen. 12: 1-4):

1. Abraham's descendants will be given the land of Canaan
2. The nations would be blessed through him
3. God will bless those who bless Abraham and curse those who curse Abraham.

GENESIS TO LEVITICUS

At the start of **Exodus**, the nation of Israel has grown—but they've been enslaved by their Egyptian overlords.

God sends His people a prophet, Moses, who speaks on God's behalf to both Israel and Pharaoh.

God frees Israel, and leads them to a mountain in the wilderness (Mount Sinai), where He makes a special agreement with them.

GENESIS TO LEVITICUS

The book of **Leviticus** focuses on how a nation of mortals can cohabitate with the God of heaven under His rules.

NUMBERS

DATE	BOOK	KEY THOUGHT	CONTENT	KEY LESSONS	JESUS IN THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
	Old Testament				
	Pentateuch				
1445-1405 BC	Numbers 36 Chapters	Disobedience and discipline	More laws concerning worship, Israel's complaining and lack of faith, God's discipline of Israel in the wilderness.	Sin causes God to be angry; our relationship with God demands our compliance; our confession grants us God's mercy.	Water in the desert

NUMBERS

Christ is called the “spiritual Rock” who provided spiritual drink to the Israelites in the wilderness and living water for our souls.

1 Cor. 10: 1-4

1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea;

2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

3 and all ate the same spiritual food;

4 and all drank the same **spiritual drink**, for they were drinking from a **spiritual rock** which followed them; and **the rock was Christ**.

John 4: 10

10 Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you **living water**.”

NUMBERS

The first 25 chapters of the book chronicle the experiences of the first generation of Israel in the wilderness, while the rest of the book describes the experiences of the second generation.

In **chapters 1-9** the Israelites are preparing for their journey and entry into the promised land. Moses begins by taking a census of all the tribes, primarily to see how many men are available and in shape for military service. Next, Moses dedicates the Levites and explains the Nazirite vows and laws. During this time, the Israelites celebrate the 2nd Passover one year after their exit from bondage.

In **chapters 10-12** the Israelites travel from the wilderness in Sinai to approach the promised land. The people complain about their food, God gives them quail, and because of their greed, He also sends them a plague. Miriam and Aaron learn a lesson about whom God places in leadership.

NUMBERS

In **chapters 13-19** we see severe punishment for disobedience and unfaithfulness to God. Moses sends out 12 spies to perform reconnaissance on the promised land. The 12 spies return and only two of them bring good news. The people fear the occupants and rebel against taking the land. For this, God punishes them and sends them into the wilderness to roam for forty years.

In **chapters 20-36** the new generation of Israelites again attempt to enter the land to take it as God promised. This time they easily destroy two nations that confront them as they are entering. Balak uses his prophet Balaam to learn to seduce the Israelites to worship Baal. Because of this disobedience, about 24,000 people die, including Balaam. Before the book of Numbers ends, Moses again conducts a census, and Joshua assumes the leadership of Israel in place of Moses who is banned from the promised land, due to his disobedience.

NUMBERS

In the book of Numbers, the people of Israel tested God's patience, and He, in turn, tested their endurance and faithfulness.

Though the people failed many times, God showed His own faithfulness by His constant presence leading the way: through a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

The book of Numbers reveals how God reminded Israel that He does not tolerate rebellion, complaining, and disbelief without invoking consequences.

God taught His people how to walk with Him—not just with their feet through the wilderness, but with their mouths in worship, hands in service, and lives as witnesses to the surrounding nations. He was their God, they were His people, and He expected them to act like it.

NUMBERS

The first census of all of the Hebrew men over twenty years old was taken two years after they had left Egypt, with the total being 603,550, excluding the Levites' 22,273 who were designated to take care of the Tabernacle.

Only Aaron and his sons were designated for priesthood. The people of Israel had a special blessing designed for them to be given by Aaron and his sons (Numbers 6:24-26): "May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace."

The people were constantly griping about having only manna to eat and their situation in the desert.

NUMBERS

Moses sent 12 "spies," one from each tribe, into the land of Canaan, where they stayed for forty days. They reported that the Promised Land was magnificent but with powerful people there, including giants. Two of the "spies" (one originally named Hoshea [meaning "salvation"] and later named Joshua [meaning "Jehovah is salvation"] and one named Caleb) said that the land could be taken by the Hebrews, for God was with them. The others did not agree.

God was not pleased and stated (Numbers 14: 29) that no-one over twenty at the time of the census would ever enter the Promised Land, other than Joshua and Caleb. God also stated (Numbers 14:34) that the Hebrews must wander in the desert for forty years because of their rejection of Him.

NUMBERS

Num. 14: 30-34

30 ‘Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.

31 ‘Your children, however, whom you said would become a prey—I will bring them in, and they will know the land which you have rejected.

32 ‘But as for you, your corpses will fall in this wilderness.

33 ‘Your sons shall be shepherds for forty years in the wilderness, and they will suffer *for* your unfaithfulness, until your corpses lie in the wilderness.

34 ‘According to the number of days which you spied out the land, forty days, for every day you shall bear your guilt a year, *even* forty years, and you will know My opposition.

NUMBERS

At one point in their wanderings, the people were rebelling against Moses and Aaron (as they had done many times) and had no water. God told Moses (Numbers 20: 8) to use Aaron's staff and to summon the people and talk to a rock and tell it to pour out water.

Instead, Moses (Numbers 20: 11) "struck the rock twice" with the staff, and water gushed out. Because of Moses' disobeying God at that place called Meribah (meaning "quarreling" or "Rebel Waters"), God said that Moses would not bring the people into the Promised Land.

NUMBERS

A second census was ordered for men of twenty or older, with the number being 601,730, not including the Levites with their number of 23,000; however, none of the men over twenty were in the first census except Joshua and Caleb.

God told Moses (Numbers 27: 12-14) that he could look from the Abarim mountains and see the Promised Land but could not go there and was to die in those mountains and Joshua would be his replacement as leader.

Aaron died on Mount Hor (Numbers 33: 38-39). He was 123 years old.

God explained to Moses the setting up of the "Cities of Refuge" (Numbers 35:6) where one could be safe if he killed someone by accident.

NUMBERS

The story in chapter 19 is of the sacrifice of the red heifer “without defect or blemish”.

This represents Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God without spot or blemish, who was sacrificed for our sins.

Chapter 21 tells of the image of the bronze snake lifted up on the pole to provide physical healing.

This represents the lifting up of Christ, either upon the cross or in the ministry of the Word, so that whoever looks to Him by faith may have spiritual healing.

NUMBERS

In chapter 24, Balaam's fourth oracle speaks of the star and the scepter which will rise out of Jacob.

This is a prophecy of Christ who is called the "morning star" for His glory, brightness, and splendor, and for the light that comes by Him.

Rev. 22: 16

16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

NUMBERS

God's demand for holiness in His people is completely and finally satisfied in Jesus Christ, who came to fulfill the Law on our behalf.

Matt. 5: 17

17 “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.

NUMBERS

Paul speaks about the “kindness and severity of God.”

Rom. 11: 22

22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God’s kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.

A. The kindness of God is realized in the new generation. God protected, preserved, and provided for these people until they possessed the land.

B. The severity of God is seen in the death of the rebellious generation in the wilderness. Those never entered the Promised Land.

C. This reminds us of the justice and love of God, which are always in sovereign harmony.

Some important lessons we learn from the book of Numbers

A. Numbers is not only a thorough history of Israel's early days but also a renewed sense of God's delight in obedience.

1. He is our God, too, and He wants us to live righteously, worshipping Him through our words and works.

2. Christians should be humble and sincere, pray for a soft heart and be open to God's guiding hand.

Some important lessons we learn from the book of Numbers

B. The Book of Numbers essentially bridges the gap between the Israelites' receiving the Law (Exodus and Leviticus) and preparing them to enter the Promised Land (Deuteronomy and Joshua).

C. God will not tolerate sin and will punish those who rebel against Him.

Some important lessons we learn from the book of Numbers

D. God is faithful to His people, even when they are faithless.

E. God is always faithful to His promises and will fulfill them, even if that seems impossible.

Some important lessons we learn from the book of Numbers

F. Complain, Complain, Complain! (Num. 11: 1-35)

1. Only three days into their renewed journey, the Israelites began complaining again. They whined about how much better life had been in Egypt, apparently forgetting all the misery they had suffered as slaves. They forgot about the many miracles the LORD had already performed to help them during their travels.
2. Christians often overlook the many good things God provides for them.
3. God did not tolerate grumbling from the Israelites and He does not want us to waste our time complaining either. Christians should be thankful for the way God is taking care of us, day by day.

Some important lessons we learn from the book of Numbers

4. Numbers gives hope to all Christians, especially those who are prone to discouragement in the face of opposition.

5. God wants to bless and protect Christians.

6. Christians can make God glad with our faith and love.