

COMING UP ... APR 7 Numbers part 3 APR 14 Numbers part 4 APR 21 NO CLASS (Easter) APR 28 Deuteronomy

## BIG OUTLINE OF NUMBERS

First Generation Ordered by Covenant (1:1-9:14)

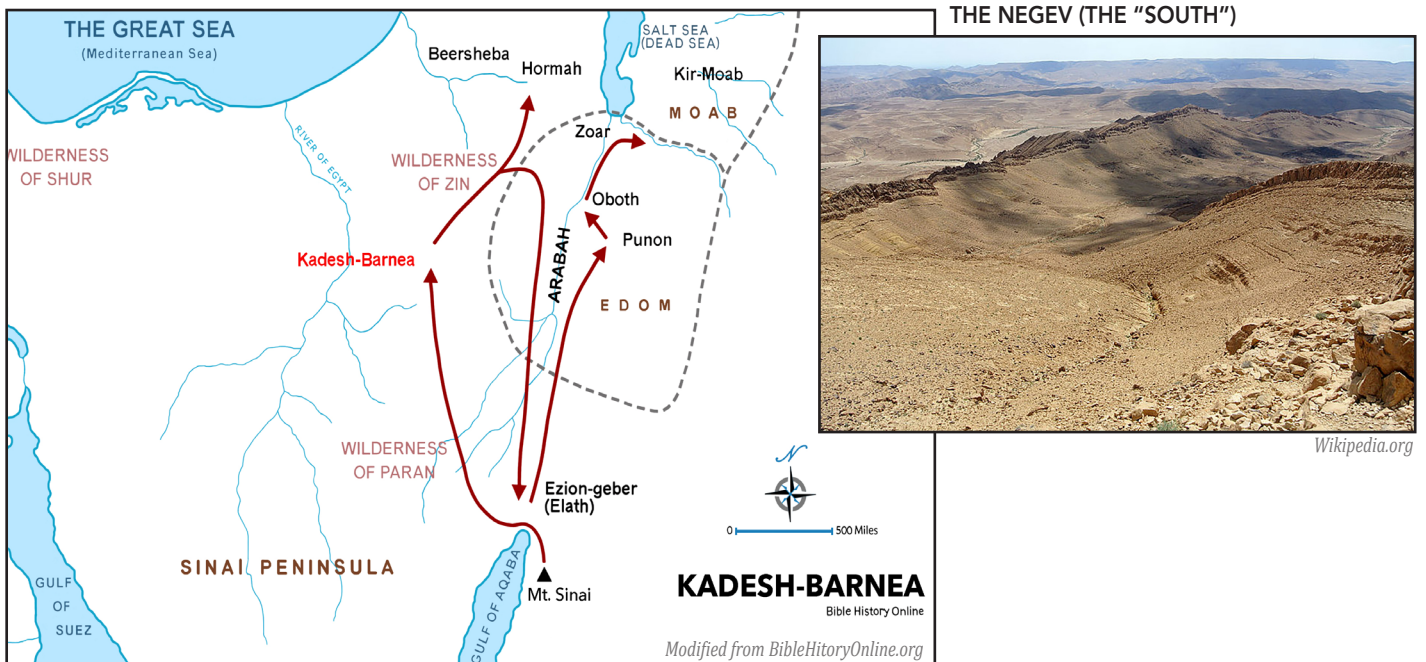
Preparation for victory; saints called to be soldiers

First Generation Wanders in the Desert (9:15-25:18)

Testing, failure and discipline

Moses warns the second generation not to repeat the faithlessness of their fathers and mothers

## KADESH-BARNEA: THE TIPPING POINT



LESSON THEME: The greatest challenges God's people face in following Him come from within

## The Story Of Chapters 10-14

(1-9) God, Moses and Aaron have called and prepared the people to live "on mission"

God leads them into, not around, the wilderness (just as He did with Jesus, Luke 4)

(9-10) They begin well—even very well—walking obediently and in an orderly fashion behind God's leadership represented by the pillar of cloud

But things deteriorate quickly ...

(11) They *complain* about their hardships

Taberah (the place of "burning")

(11) They *crave* meat from Egypt

Kibroth-hattaavah (the "graves of craving")

(12) They *rebel* against Moses' leadership

Hazereth; Miriam is made leperous

(13) Moses and the Lord send 12 spies into the Promised Land

10 see giants and walled cities; only 2 say go!

(14) More rebellion the next morning

They become *resistant* to following God's will

They *refuse* to trust God and obey His Word

They *rebel*: we won't go!

God's discipline falls: 40 years for 40 days

## **The Result**

The first generation is set aside because of their faithlessness and disobedience

None of the first generation will possess God's promised inheritance (except Joshua & Caleb)

The first generation won't receive the full measure of God's blessing

They lose out on His best for them in their generation

What happened?!

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*Application:* The greatest challenges God's people face in following Him come from within

## **Faithlessness Infected Their Hearts**

They had discontented hearts (11:1-3)

Their complaint

Their hardships and their circumstances

Their hearts

2nd time of complaining after 3 days (Ex 15:22)

They had a weak "fair weather" faith

Their complaining (therefore questioning God) revealed ungrateful, unsundered hearts

## **A Discontented Heart**

In light of your current circumstances ...

What are you complaining (to yourself) about?

What are you focusing on ... your circumstances or God's faithfulness and generosity?

Are you finding fault with God's leadership?

Maybe like Job you should be asking "What can I get out of this?" rather than "How can I get out of this?"

Does your heart lack contentment tonight?

## **Faithlessness Infected Their Hearts**

Discontented hearts (11:1-3)

They had divided hearts (11:4-35)

Their complaint

We're tired of manna! We want meat!

Their hearts

They were double-minded (Ex 16:3-4; Dt 8:3)

They took God's daily provision for granted

They had unsatisfied appetites for Egypt's food

Thought "not THY will but MY will be done"

## **A Divided Heart**

What's your attitude towards God's "manna?"

Do you spend more of your time with substitutes or with the "real thing," the Word of God?

How would you rate your level of gratefulness for God's everyday provision from 1-5?

Do you have an unsatisfied appetite and desire for the "meat" the world offers?

According to James, is such a one a friend of God or a friend of the world? (Jam 4:1-10)

## **Faithlessness Infected Their Hearts**

Discontented hearts (11:1-3)

Divided hearts (11:4-35)

They had prideful hearts (12:1-16)

Their complaint

Is Moses God's only leader here? What about us?!

Their hearts

Filled with envy and/or selfish ambition

Their desire is to lead rather than to serve

### **A Proudful Heart**

Are you critical of one ... or some ... of your spiritual leaders?

Have you gone to them privately (Mt 18) or do you "shop it around" for agreement in public?

Are you discontent with your current role in God's service?

Have you gone to God with it first?

Will you serve God 100% ... according to His appointment and will rather than your own?

### **Faithlessness Infected Their Hearts**

They had discontented hearts

Unhappy with God's leadership and/or His ways

They had divided hearts

Unhappy with God's "diet" and provision

They had prideful hearts

Unhappy with God's current role for them

Not only that, but their infected hearts dulled their spiritual eyesight ...

### **Faithless Hearts Dulled Their Sight**

They second-guessed God (13:1-24)

They learned nothing new in 40 days ...

Their enemies were known (Gen 15:18-21)

The land was theirs (Gen 12:7; Ex 3:8, 17)

God promised to (and did) lead them (Num 10:33-36)

Dulled eyesight revealed their yet unspoken doubt in God's Word and God's character

They lost perspective (13:25-33)

10 only saw ...

Enemies who appeared larger than life

Walled cities that couldn't be overthrown

Personal weaknesses that loomed larger than God

Dulled eyesight caused them to focus on obstacles and problems rather than focusing on God

They followed their own counsel rather than God's will (14:1-12)

Going back to Egypt seemed to be their only hope

Returning to a place of perceived security

Unbelief has turned into outright rebellion

Dulled eyesight caused their discouragement to turn into fear – and they took matters into their own hands

And so God disciplined them (14:13-38)

Moses interceded for the people (vv. 13-19)

God forgave His people at Moses' request (vv. 20-22)

But although God has forgiven them, He still disciplines His people (vv. 23-38)

Dulled eyesight eventually brought God's corrective discipline upon them

Which revealed more self-reliance (14:39-45)

They'd made up their minds concerning what they were going to do

They'd go against God's revealed Word if needed

They even believed this would *please* God

They believed they could accomplish God's work in their own strength (cf. John 15:5c)

Dulled eyesight tricked them into putting more trust in the power of their flesh than in the power of God

### **Faithlessness/Self-Reliance**

How's your spiritual eyesight?

Do you second-guess God and/or His choices?

Do you focus more on obstacles & problems ... or God?

Does discouragement usually turn to fear which makes you take matters into your own hands?

Do you have spiritual cataracts that trick you into putting more confidence in *your* ability than in *God's*?

The heart of the matter ...

Your heart may be flirting with faithlessness

In reality your heart may be discontented, divided or even struggling with pride

### Striking Back At Faithlessness

Acknowledge to God that your heart is infected and in need of His grace ... daily

Settle (or resettle) four issues tonight ...

Authority: Take God at His Word

Trust: Look up to your Father 1st in faith more than focusing on the facts and circumstances you see

Perspective: Remember that God leads us *through* hardships, not around them, for our *good*

Confidence: "God's path will never lead you where God's grace cannot sustain you." (W. Wiersbe)

*The greatest challenges you and I face in following God come from within*

**FOR NEXT TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**AUDIO PODCASTS** (no handouts) **ON ITUNES:** search "Christ Chapel Bible Church Old Testament 2018"

"Even though the wilderness wanderings consumed the majority of the years that Numbers records, Moses passed over the events of this period of Israel's history fairly quickly. No one knows for sure how much time the Israelites spent in transit during the 38 years between their first and last visits to Kadesh Barnea. God's emphasis in Numbers is first on His preparation of the Israelites to enter the land from Kadesh (chs. 1-14), and lastly on His preparation of their entrance from the Plains of Moab (chs. 20-36). This indicates that the purpose of the book was primarily to show how God dealt with the Israelites as they anticipated entrance into the Promised Land. It was not to record all the events, or even most of the events, that took place in Israel's "wilderness wandering" history. This selection of content, presented to teach spiritual lessons, is in harmony with the other books of the Pentateuch."

-Dr. Thomas Constable, Notes on Numbers

## ISRAEL'S COMPLAINTS IN THE WILDERNESS

Complaint	Moses' Response	God's Response	Reference
Pharaoh's army	encouraged Israel to trust God	divided the Red Sea and drowned the Egyptians	Exodus 14:1-31
bitter water	prayer	made the water drinkable	Exodus 15:22-27
lack of food	rebuked Israel	sent manna from heaven	Exodus 16:1-36
lack of water	prayer	supplied water from the rock	Exodus 17:1-7
hardships of desert life	prayer	sent fire to consume part of the camp	Numbers 11:1-3
lack of meat	frustration & prayer	sent quail and plague	Numbers 11:4-35
size & power of those living in the land	prayer	made them wander 40 years; generation dies off	Numbers 14:1-35
authority & leadership of Moses and Aaron	rebuke, anger & prayer	killed Korah & those who rebelled with him	Numbers 16:1-35
killing Korah & those who rebelled with him	sent Aaron to make atonement	sent a plague	Numbers 16:41-50
lack of water	rebuked Israel, struck the rock	denied Moses entry into the Promised Land	Numbers 20:1-13
manna & being brought into the desert	made the bronze serpent on a pole	sent poisonous snakes	Numbers 21:4-9

# JOURNEY OF THE SPIES

Numbers 13



The spies traveled as far as the central highlands of Galilee ... the Promised Land



"The Grapes of Canaan" by James Tissot



"Quails Are Sent To The Israelites" by James Tissot



"The Gathering Of The Manna" by James Tissot