



**COMING UP ... APR 14 Numbers part 4 APR 21 NO CLASS (Easter) APR 28 Deuteronomy MAY 5 Hebrews**

**GOD'S EXPECTATIONL CLAIM CANAAN**

| Leviticus                  |  | Deuteronomy | Joshua                           |
|----------------------------|--|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Genesis/Exodus             | Numbers                                |             |                                  |
| Inheritance Promised       | Testing of Faith                       |             | Inheritance Possessed            |
| Egypt "perceived security" | Wilderness "unbelief and disobedience" |             | Canaan "experiencing God's best" |

**BIG LESSON FROM NUMBERS**

From heaven's point of view ...

There's obviously more to being rescued from Egypt than just being counted among the number of the redeemed ...

There's fulfilling God's expectation—being one of those on whom He can count to pursue His purposes and His ends in that generation

So what do we see in these chapters about the *first* generation who left Egypt?

**WE SEE "SUBSTANDARD" SAINTS**

- It may, at times, be hard to distinguish them from the unsaved or the "natural/carnal" man
- Their thinking and actions are prompted by the flesh and/or the world rather than the Spirit
- They are spiritual infants or children ... and seem content to remain as such
- They haven't grow spiritually ... which is abnormal
- Don't act in accordance with who they are in Christ or who God has made them to be
- So they don't enter into the "Promised Land"
  - All that God has promised them (Eph 1:3)
  - All He's designed them for (Eph 2:10)
  - Where He's designed them to serve (1 Pet 4:10)
- Instead, they wander in the wilderness and waste their lives

*Lessons from the Wilderness: ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE "CARNAL" MIND*

It's the spiritually-minded, not the carnally-minded saint who'll enter into God's full inheritance for him in his generation

**1. The Carnally Minded**

- Won't accept or obey God's Word (15)
  - They don't honor His holiness in their worship
  - They don't imitate His holiness in their walk
- The spiritually minded ...
  - Accept God's Word and follow it
  - Is there a particular passage or area of Scripture that you know and understand, but are struggling to follow in your life?

**2. The Carnally Minded**

- Won't accept or follow God's leaders (16-17)
  - 250+ didn't want the role God had given them
  - Instead they selfishly desired leadership, authority or greatness over other men rather than service
- The spiritually minded ...
  - Accept God's leaders and follow them
  - Is there a particular spiritual leader in your life to whom you're struggling to submit?

### **3. The Carnally Minded**

Neglect their privileged calling (18:1-7)

The priesthood is God's gift to His people

The Levites are God's gift to the priests

To leave off the work is to cut off the people

The spiritually minded ...

Serve under the direct supervision of the Lord Jesus Christ, the High Priest

Serve as His gift of a priesthood of believers to all men (1 Pet 2:4-10)

### **4. The Carnally Minded**

Neglect to care for God's servants (18:8-32)

The priests (sacrifices and offerings of the people)

The Levites (tithes of the people)

The High Priest (tithes of the Levites)

The spiritually minded ...

Care for God's servants

Steward their resources appropriately (1 Cor 3:14; Gal 6:6-10; Phil 4:10-19; 1 Tim 5:17-18)

### **5. The Carnally Minded**

Are casual/optional toward holiness (19:1-22)

The red heifer (vv. 1-10)

The cleansing process (vv. 11-22)

The penalty for refusing cleansing (19:20)

The spiritually minded ...

Pursue holiness for fellowship with God

"Be holy as I am holy." (1 Pet 1:16)

1 John 1:9

### **6. The Carnally Minded**

Don't heed God's rebuke (20:1-13)

Same people, same sin, same spirit (vv. 1-8)

A different response (vv. 9-11)

A painful discipline (vv. 12-13)

The spiritually minded ...

Know testing will bring more maturity ... or reveal their immaturity (Jas 1:2-8)

Realize leadership is held to higher standards

Know faithfulness is more important than reward

### **7. The Carnally Minded**

Seek the quickest, easiest path (20:14-21)

Israel (Jacob) and Edom (Esau) had a common father (Isaac)

Israel has been in bondage and mistreated

The spiritually minded ...

Go out of their way, not the most direct way, to live at peace with all men

"As far as it is possible with you, live at peace with all men." (Rom 12:18)

### **8. The Carnally Minded**

Lack humility about their role (20:22-29)

It's around the fifth month of the 40th year (compare Num 33:37-39)

Aaron dies and is mourned for 30 days

Eleazar, his son, replaces him as High Priest

The spiritually minded ...

Know that God's workmen change, but His work continues (2 Tim 4:6-7)

### 9. The Carnally Minded

Lack alertness toward enemies (21:1-3)

The Israelites were caught off-guard

Their fathers had been here before (see 14:39-45)

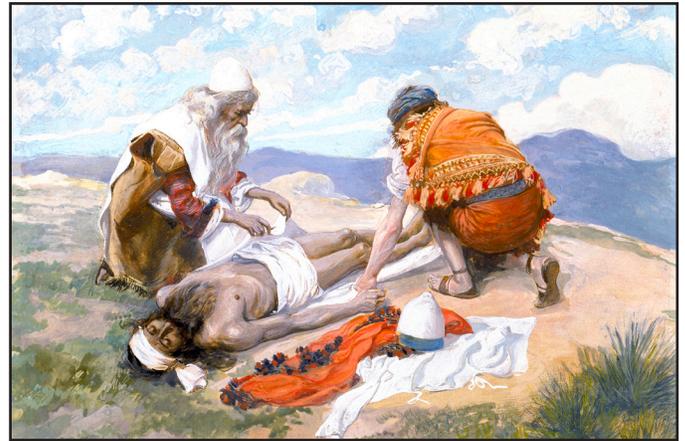
But the sons were given "do over's"

The spiritually minded ...

Know the enemy is on the prowl (1 Pet 5:8)

Seek the Lord for help and strength for battle

Show their enemies no mercy



"The Death of Aaron" by James Tissot

### 10. The Carnally Minded

Become easily discontented (21:4-9)

They became impatient with God's path and their progress ... and complained

The Lord judged their sinful attitudes

The spiritually minded ...

Repent of complaining against God

Go to Him first with their needs ... and frustrations

Learn, as Paul did, to be content in any circumstance (Phil 4:11)

### 11. The Carnally Minded

Take God's provisions for granted (21:5; 10-20)

The spiritually minded ...

Remember that God provided manna to eat in the desert six days a week for 40 years

Are reminded that God anticipated their need for water and provided it

Gratefully rejoiced over His faithful provision

### 12. The Carnally Minded

Don't want to battle or progress (21:21-35)

The spiritually minded ...

Israel's enemies attempted to stop them by attacking them

Their strength to fight came from the Lord

They defeated their enemies and then occupied their land

Understand that making spiritual progress means overcoming many "enemies"

### 13. The Carnally Minded

Are unaware of ongoing spiritual warfare around them (22-24)

The spiritually minded ...

Understand they're in a constant battle

Stay properly "dressed" and prepared for battle as good soldiers should

They're always ready to fight (Eph 6:10-18)

### 14. The Carnally Minded

Become complacent about compromising with the world (25)

The spiritually minded ...

Know that God will protect His saint against many things ... but He won't protect him from a choice to compromise

Do whatever it takes to "put to death" the enemy within his camp (2 Cor 7:1)

### The First Generation

Though redeemed from Egypt ...

Were characterized by unbelief, faithlessness and disobedience

Spent most of their lives led by carnal minds—doing what was right in their own eyes ...  
 ... and wasted their lives in the wilderness  
 Never realizing all God had for them and had intended for them—"It might have been."

**Yet In The Midst Of This, See ...**

How God treats His saints with ...

- Grace
- Faithfulness
- Longsuffering

This is how He treated these people for 40 years ...

... and this is how He's treated me and how He's treated you all of your life

*It's the spiritually-minded, not the carnally-minded saint who'll enter into God's full inheritance for him in his generation*

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

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[www.ccbcfamily.org/sermons/old-testament-survey](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/sermons/old-testament-survey)

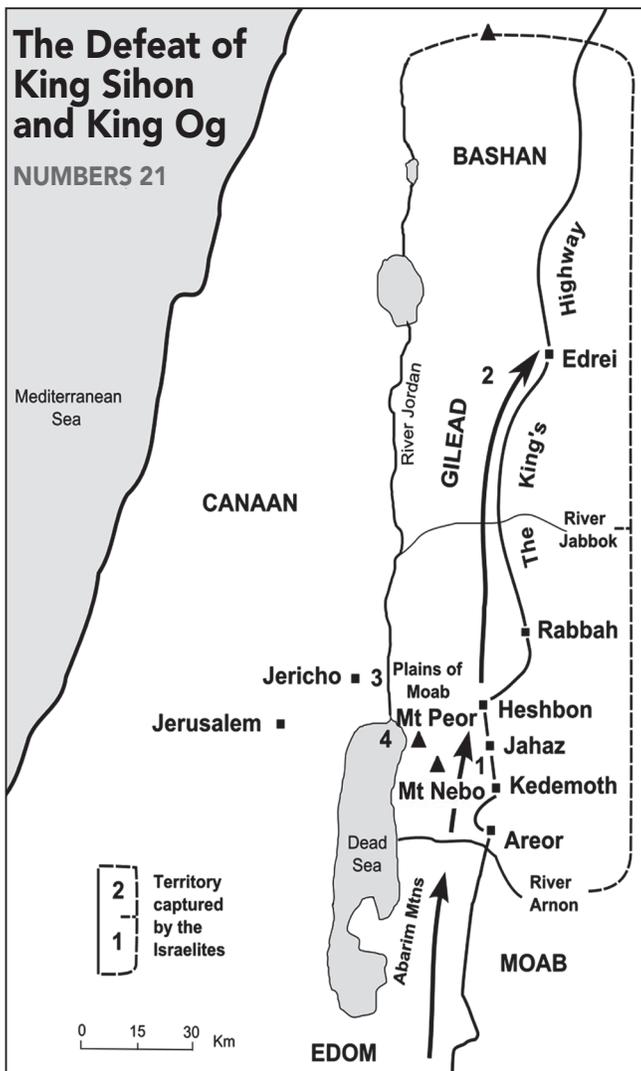
**AUDIO PODCASTS (no handouts) ON ITUNES:**

search "Christ Chapel Bible Church Old Testament 2018"

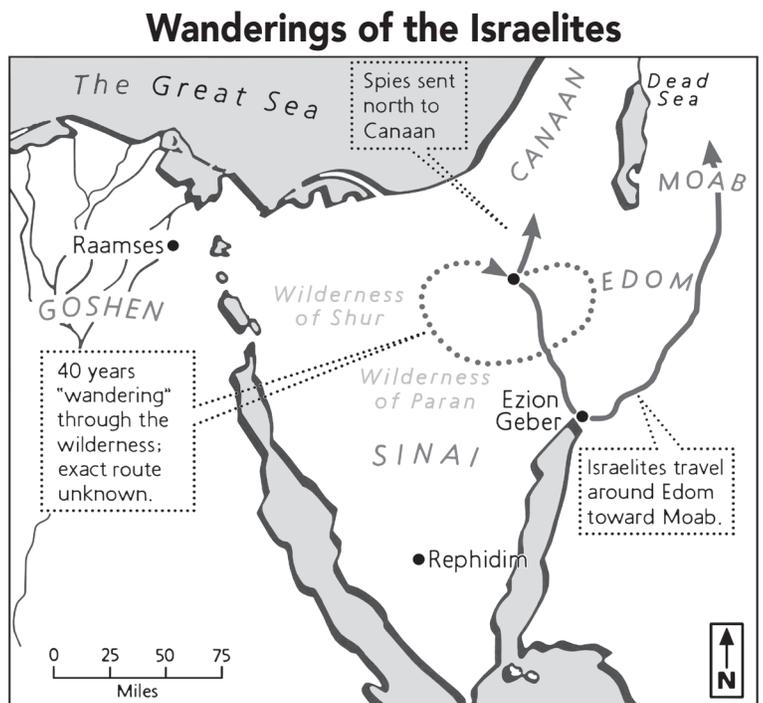
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"The Conquest Of The Amorites, As In Numbers 21:25" by James Tissot

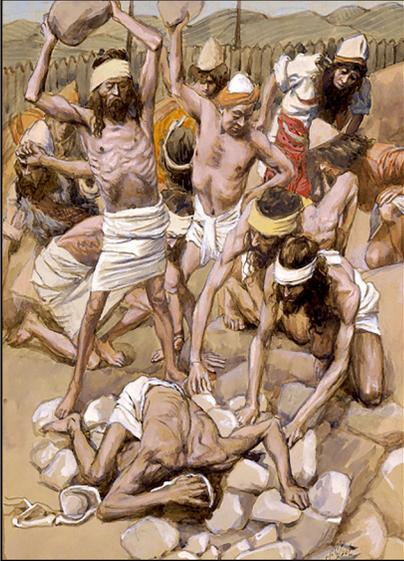


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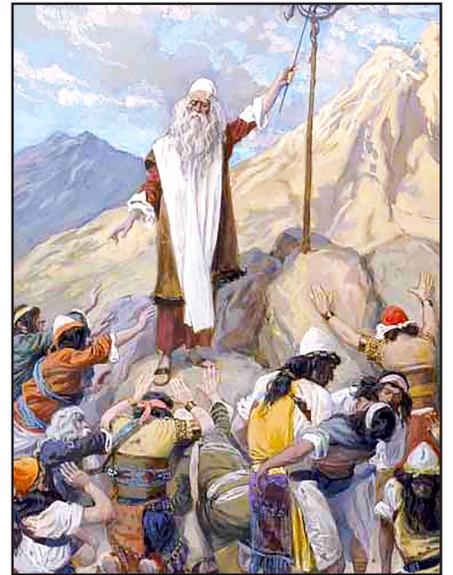


"The Sabbath Breaker Stoned"  
by James Tissot



"The Death of Korah, Dathan and Abiram" by L. Dumont

NUMBERS 21

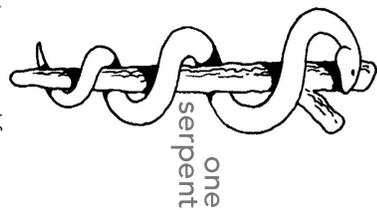
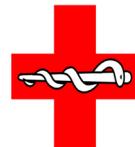


"The Brazen Serpent" by James Tissot

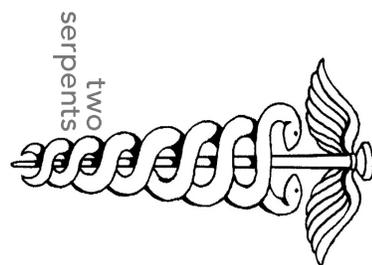
**SERPENT ARCHETYPE IN MEDICINE**



**ROD OF ASCLEPIUS**  
symbol of medicine



one serpent

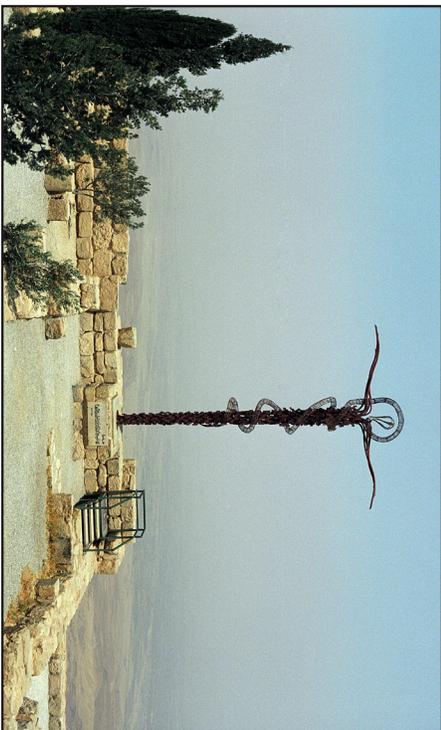


two serpents

**STAFF OF HERMES**  
(The Caduceus)  
NOT the symbol of medicine

**Rod of Asclepius**  
The caduceus is the traditional symbol of Hermes and features two snakes winding around an often winged staff. It is often mistakenly used as a symbol of medicine instead of the Rod of Asclepius, especially in the United States. In Greek mythology, the Rod of Asclepius, also known as the Staff of Asclepius (sometimes also spelled Asklepios or Aesculapius) is a serpent-entwined rod wielded by the Greek god Asclepius, a deity associated with healing and medicine. The symbol has continued to be used in modern times, where it is associated with medicine and health care. (Wikipedia)

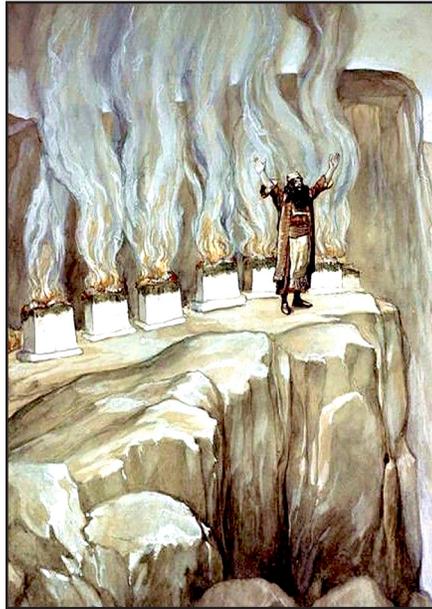
This modern brazen serpent sculpture located at the summit of Mt. Nebo in Israel commemorates the incident in Numbers 21.



TheBibleJourney.com

**THE SNAKE IN THE WILDERNESS**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Israelites</i> Numbers 21:7-9                      | <i>Christians</i> John 3:14, 15             |
| Bitten by snakes . . . . .                            | Bitten by sin                               |
| Little initial pain, then intense suffering . . . . . | Little initial pain, then intense suffering |
| Physical death from snakes' poison . . . . .          | Spiritual death from sin's poison           |
| Bronze snake lifted up in the wilderness. . . . .     | Christ lifted up on the cross               |
| Looking to the snake spared one's life . . . . .      | Looking to Christ saves from eternal death  |



"Balaam Prophecies The Glory Of Israel" by James Tissot



"Balaam And The Ass" by James Tissot

"It is neither Balak nor Balaam who bestows 'blessings or cursings' on nations. It is God who blesses and curses, and this all takes place in relationship to the nation Israel, on whom He has pronounced a blessing. Now the only question is, 'Will the Moabites and Midianites be blessed or cursed?' This will be determined by their response to the nation Israel. Those who bless Israel will be blessed; those who curse Israel will be cursed. In the light of the Abrahamic Covenant, we see that Balak's plan to curse Israel is destined to bring a curse upon him and the Moabite nation."

-Bob Deffinbaugh, bible.org

## Numbers 15-25

# 14 Illustrations of the "Carnal" Mind

(compare with 1 Corinthians 3:1-4)

The thoughts and actions of the first generation, wandering the wilderness, perhaps give us some pictures of what the "carnal" mind might look like; the thoughts and actions of unspiritual saints.

|     | The Carnally Minded...                                       | The Spiritually Minded...   |
|-----|--|---|
| 1.  | Won't accept or obey God's Word (15)                         | Accept and obey God's Word  |
| 2.  | Won't accept or follow God's leaders (16-17)                 | Accept and follow God's leaders   |
| 3.  | Neglect their privileged calling (The Levites of 18:1-7)     | Serve as God's gift of a priesthood of believers toward all men (1 Peter 2:4-10)                    |
| 4.  | Neglect to care for God's servants (18:8-32)                 | Care for God's servants (1 Tim 5:17-18)   |
| 5.  | Are casual toward holiness (19:1-22)                         | Pursue holiness (1 Peter 1:16)  |
| 6.  | Don't heed God's rebuke (20:1-13)                            | Grow from testing and realize faithfulness is more important than reward                            |
| 7.  | Seek the quickest, easiest path (20:14-21)                   | Go out of their way, not the most direct way, in order to live at peace with all men (Romans 12:18) |
| 8.  | Lack humility about their role (20:22-29)                    | Know that God's workmen change, but His work goes on (2 Timothy 4:6-7)                              |
| 9.  | Lack alertness toward their enemies (21:1-3)                 | Know the enemy is always on the prowl (1 Peter 5:8) and then show him no mercy                      |
| 10. | Become easily discontented (21:4-9)                          | Learn to be content in any circumstance or situation (Philippians 4:11)                             |
| 11. | Take God's provisions for granted (21:10-20)                 | Gratefully rejoice over God's faithful provisions (Matthew 6:33)                                    |
| 12. | Don't want to fight or make progress (21:21-35)              | Understand that there are enemies to fight and promised ground to be taken                          |
| 13. | Are unaware of ongoing spiritual warfare around them (22-24) | Stay properly dressed and ready for battle as good soldiers should (Eph 6:10-18)                    |
| 14. | Become complacent about compromising with the world (25)     | Do whatever it takes to "put to death" the enemies in his "camp" (2 Cor 7:1)                        |

**Balaam**  
obeys God and blesses the Israelites

**Balak**  
wants Balaam to curse the Israelites

**BALAAM IN MOAB**

Balak, the king of Moab, recruited a "diviner" named Balaam to travel there and curse the Israelites to keep them from moving in toward Moab. Balaam was interested in the monetary rewards, but God told Balaam to bless the Israelites instead.

ISRAELITES

▶ View from Mount Nebo, looking northeast



Num 22-24