



**COMING UP ...** APR 21 NO CLASS (Easter) **APR 28** Deuteronomy **MAY 5** Hebrews **MAY 12** Joshua part 1

**GOD'S EXPECTATION: CLAIM CANAAN**

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

**OUTLINE OF NUMBERS**

- First Generation Ordered by Covenant (1:1-9:14)
  - Preparation for victory; live "on mission"
- First Generation Wanders in Desert (9:15-25:18)
  - Testing, failure and discipline
- Second Generation Prepares to Settle in Canaan (26:1-36:13)
  - Exhortation to victory; live "on mission"

**WHAT MOSES LEAVES BEHIND**

- Men and women who could be counted on to pursue God's purpose in their generation
- Men and women who were aware of and eager to possess their inheritance
- Joshua: a leader who'd follow in his footsteps
- Men and women who'd approach each day as a new day for worship and fellowship
- Men and women who'd make wise choices

**LESSON THEME:** Who's following you?

**1. Prepared The Soldiers**

- All the new fighting-age men are counted
  - There's no neutrality in this mission
  - There's no negotiating God's will – you either obey it ... or you ignore it
- God's mission and expectations – take Canaan
  - There's territory to gain and an enemy to fight
  - Take your place and serve
  - Be counted on for battle

As you look behind you ... are there younger soldiers following you who can be *counted on* to advance God's purpose in their generation?

**2. Pointed To Their Inheritance**

- Each tribe would receive an inheritance based on its size, except for the Levites
- The Levites' inheritance was God, and 48 cities scattered throughout the Promised Land (Num 35:1-8)
- A family's inheritance wouldn't be jeopardized if they didn't have sons to receive it
- God rewards faith and desire for His Word
- (see "Land Allotted to Israel's Tribes" chart, p. 4)

As you look behind you ... are there younger men and women following you who're *aware of* and *eager to possess* their spiritual inheritance?

**3. Appointed New Leadership**

- Moses' sin kept him from entering the Promised Land (see Num 20)
- Moses undoubtedly shared leadership with Joshua to ensure a smooth transition
- Moses knew that the *mission* is always more important than the *messenger*

As you look behind you ... are there younger men and women following you who're able to lead in your absence?

#### **4. Promoted Worship & Fellowship**

The daily and weekly offerings

The monthly offerings

The offerings for the annual events

Passover/Unleavened Bread

The Festival of Harvest ("Pentecost")

The Feast of Trumpets

The Day of Atonement

The Feast of Tabernacles

The sacrifices were costly

The priesthood was necessary to accomplish God's work in the world

All of life revolved around worshiping God and pursuing fellowship with Him

For the Christian, the offerings typified and have been fully and completely fulfilled in Jesus Christ

As you look behind you ... are there younger men and women following you who see each day as a new day to worship God and fellowship with Him?

#### **5. Required Wise Commitments**

With respect to relationships

All relationships bring responsibilities

Open communication is critical

With respect to authority

The head of the household has the final say

With respect to commitments

Are you a man or woman of your word?

Only make commitments you intend to keep

#### **Including Pursuing Purity**

They needed to make "holy war" against their enemies ...

Follow God's Word completely

Allow no compromise with sin makers

Show those enemies no mercy

They remembered to thank God in a special way following victory

Trusting God means fully obeying God

#### **Including Trusting God's Path**

Though circumstances change ... He is faithful!

Though hardships arise ... He is faithful!

Though leadership changes ... He is faithful!

Though we are many times unfaithful to Him ... He is still faithful to us!

Remember: the walk of faith seldom goes around difficulties; instead it most often goes through them

As you look behind you ... are there younger men and women following you who've been taught about making all manner of wise commitments?

#### **Don't Stop Short!**

Are you claiming *your* inheritance in the "Promised Land" ... or stopping short?

Some believers are like the first generation

They waste their lives wandering the desert as a result of unbelief, disobedience and faithlessness

Some believers are like the ten spies

Look the land over but never enter it

Some believers are like the 2½ tribes

Live on the border of the "Promised Land"  
Some believers are like the rest  
Claim it; enter it; battle for it; enjoy its blessings

### **Possess Your Inheritance**

God's gift of a "general" inheritance  
To become like Jesus (Romans 8:29)  
Every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3)  
The fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)  
God's gift of a "specific" inheritance  
You are His "masterpiece" (Ephesians 2:10)  
Do you know your S.H.A.P.E.?  
Are you living it out?  
Where do you sense He's calling you to serve?

### **Are You Leaving Behind You ...**

Men and women who can be counted on to pursue God's purpose in their generation?  
Men and women who are aware of and eager to possess their spiritual inheritance?  
Leaders who'll follow in your footsteps?  
Men and women who'll approach each day as a new day for worship and fellowship?  
Men and women who'll make wise commitments with their mouths, their bodies and their paths?

### **You Can Begin Tomorrow!**

Pray for someone (same gender) to disciple  
Time: make it a priority in your schedule  
Truth: use the Word of God  
Transparency: share your life with them  
Transformation: God will bring about life change in His way and on His timetable as you just "do life" together  
Don't stop short. Possess your inheritance!

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

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**The Book of Numbers** is a lesson in the importance of trust and obedience. The Israelites frequently failed to trust and obey God in the hours of their trials, and consequently God postponed His blessing. Most of them never enjoyed the good things that God had for them. Obedience to God is essential on our part.

"... the point of the book of Numbers is important for God's people in any age: Exact obedience to God is crucial. Numbers makes the point most especially through examples of disobedience such as those found in chapters 11-21." (Walter Riggans, *Numbers*)

The book also teaches us that the failures of His chosen human instruments do not frustrate God's plans any more than the opposition of His enemies. The Israelites' unfaithfulness to God did not turn Him back from faithfully carrying out His commitments to His chosen people. I believe the outstanding characteristic of God that Numbers reveals is His graciousness.

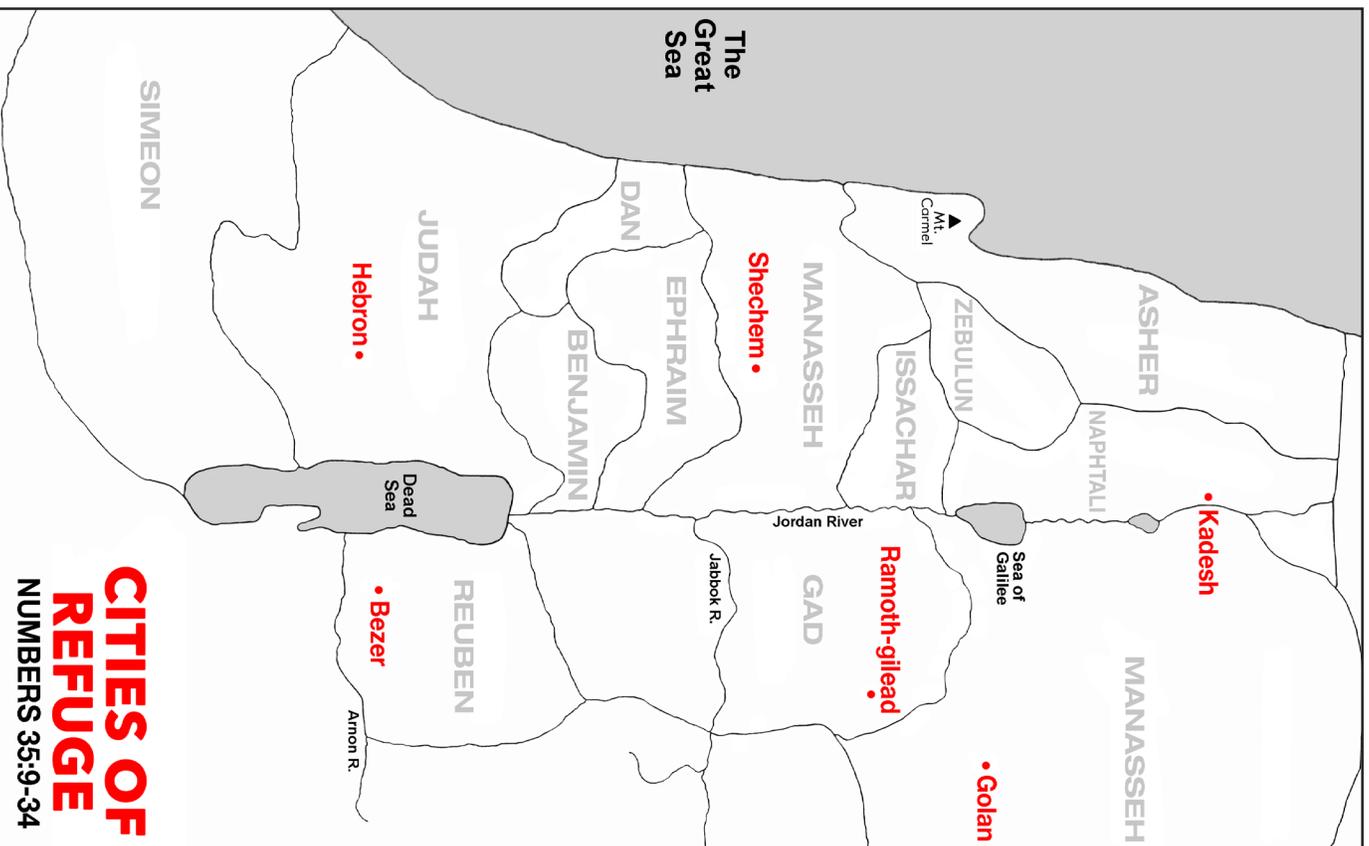
"Perhaps the most prominent theme is that of the gracious providence of the Lord in caring for all of Israel's needs—militarily, physically, nutritionally and spiritually—in spite of constant rebellions by the people, both leadership and rank and file." (Timothy R. Ashley, *The Book of Numbers*)

The process of divine discipline is another important revelation. We see in Numbers how God deals with His people when they fail to trust and obey Him. On the one hand, He does not permit them to enjoy what He has promised. On the other hand, He works with them to prepare them to be stronger when they face the same tests again. Where their sin abounds, His grace abounds even more greatly. He makes the broken bone stronger at the place of the break than it was before the break.

Regarding the Israelites' and our entering into all that God wants us to enjoy, everything depends on one's attitude toward God. If we allow the giants and walls that stand between ourselves and God's will to block our view of God, we will fail. Unbelief will lead to disobedience, that will lead to discipline, that will lead to frustration and death. However, if we see the giants and walls overshadowed by God, as Caleb and Joshua did, we will succeed. Trust will lead to obedience, that will lead to blessing, that will lead to progress and life.

*Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through following the same example of disobedience. Hebrews 4:11*

—Dr. Thomas Constable, Notes on Numbers, [www.planobiblechapel.org/soniclight](http://www.planobiblechapel.org/soniclight)



**CITIES OF REFUGE**  
NUMBERS 35:9-34

