

NUMBERS

A Quick Reference Guide for Personal Study

THEMES: Numberings & Grumbings. Man's Failure and God's Faithfulness (from Wiersbe's Commentary on the New Testament)

WORDS/PHRASES TO DEFINE

- census (ch. 1)
- consecrate (chapter 7)
- shekel (chapter 7)
- meek (12.3)
- Nephilim (13.33)
- restitution (14.7)
- "visited by the fate of all mankind" (16.29)
- "anger was kindled" (22.22, 27)
- divination (22.7)
- discourse (24.3)
- inheritance (26.52)
- commission (27.23)
- convocation (29.1)
- pledge (30.3)
- vengeance (31.3)
- plunder (31.9)
- refuge (35.11)

QUESTIONS TO ASK OF THE TEXT

CHAPTER 1:

- Why do we need to know how many Israelites?
- Why the repetition of the phrase: "The people of [Tribe], their generations, by their clans, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, head by head, every male from twenty years old and upward, all who were able to go to war"?

CHAPTER 2:

- Why is the arrangement of the camp important? Draw a picture of the arrangement.

CHAPTERS 3-4:

- What is the significance of the assignments of duties within the tribe of Levi?

CHAPTER 6:

- Who within the Bible took the Nazirite vow? (Judges 13, Judges 16.7)

CHAPTER 7:

- Where the donations to the tabernacle small or large?
- What can we learn from the offerings of the Israelites for the Tabernacle?
- What kind of giver should we be?

CHAPTER 8:

- What do you notice about the cleansing of the Levites? How do you think this helped them prepare for service?
- How are we cleansed under the New Covenant? How can we prepare ourselves for service daily?

CHAPTER 9:

- Why was it so important to observe the passover?
- What does the Passover foreshadow? Who is our “passover lamb?”
- What does “the cloud” signify? What do we learn about God from “the cloud”?

CHAPTER 10:

- Do the Israelites proceed the way God instructed them?
- Notice the mention of the cloud in verse 34. Does God go with us in a similar way?

CHAPTER 11

- Do you think the Israelites’ description of Egypt fits the reality of their former situation? What critical detail do they overlook in their complaining?
- What effect does the Israelites’ complaining have on Moses? What can we learn in regard to how we treat our leaders within the church?
- How does God respond to the Israelites’ complaint compared to Moses’ complaint? Why the difference? How does God supply Moses’ need?

CHAPTER 12

- Would you have reacted the way Moses did toward Aaron and Miriam? What does this say about Moses’ character? What can we learn from his example?

CHAPTERS 13-14

- Does “might” (the majority) make “right”?
- What is wrong with the accusation of the Israelites against Moses, Aaron (and ultimately) God?
- What is encouraging about Caleb & Joshua’s view of the land of Canaan?
- Moses intercedes for the people. Who intercedes for us under the New Covenant?
- What happened to the men who influenced the Israelites to sin? What does this tell us about God’s feelings towards leaders who lead others astray? How does He honor those who stand for truth?

CHAPTERS 16-17

- What can we learn from the insolent rebellion of Korah?
- How should we treat our leaders? Who is the ultimate judge of our leaders?
- What did God do to establish Aaron’s authority.

CHAPTER 20

- Why did God punish Moses so harshly? Was it because he struck the rock or because he dishonored God with his words?

CHAPTER 21

- Why are the people still complaining? Do I complain frequently about God’s gifts? What should I do to change this habit?
- How were the people healed from their sins? Does God give us something similar? (see John 3.12-15)

CHAPTERS 22-25

- Why was God angry with Balaam for going with the men, even though he told him to go?
- Why does Balak think he can influence the future with money? What is humorous about this situation?
- Look at what Balaam says to Balak in verse 12-13. Should this be our thoughts as well?
- In Balaam's prophecy (24.15-19) do you think this points to the Messiah?
- Do you think Balaam was a godly man or simple a vehicle for God to speak to Balak at this time? Why? (see Numbers 31.8, 16, Nehemiah 13.2, 2 Peter 2.15)

CHAPTER 26

- Why do we have this second census?
- Who is not included in the numbering?
- What do we learn about God in this chapter? Does He keep His promises?

CHAPTER 27

- Why does Moses ask for a leader to replace him?
- Why would Joshua make a good leader?

CHAPTERS 28-29

- Look at verse 40. Did Moses withhold information? What can we learn from this example, particularly in a culture that wants us to keep silent on certain issues?

CHAPTER 30

- How serious are vows?
- Have you ever made a vow (like a marriage vow)? How would God feel about you breaking your vows?
- What did Jesus say in the gospels regarding vows?

CHAPTER 31

- Why were the Israelites to "execute vengeance on Midian?"
- How much of the plunder did the Israelites give to the Lord?

CHAPTER 32

- Why did the Moses command Reuben and Gad to help their brethren conquer the land?

CHAPTER 33

- Were the Israelites supposed to destroy some of the inhabitants of Canaan or all of them? What would happen if they did not? What descriptive term is used to encourage them to obey?

CHAPTER 35

- What do the cities of refuge show us about God's mercy and justice?
- What is the difference between murder and accidental death?