

THE MESSAGE OF NUMBERS

Introduction – The people of Israel are the result of the promises of God to the Patriarchs. God miraculously delivered Israel from Egyptian slavery. They journeyed to Mt. Sinai where God spoke to them and delivered the Law to Moses.

A. Preparation for the Conquest of Canaan (Numbers 1-10)

1. God commands that a census be made of all Israel.

Genesis 15:4-6

2. These chapters are organized around the tabernacle which is a symbol of God's presence.

Numbers 9:15-17

B. Seven Wilderness Rebellions (Numbers 11-21)

1. In four cases, the people complained about their circumstances, especially about food and water.
2. In two cases, they reject the leadership given by God.
3. In the central case, they explored the Promised Land and concluded they could not conquer the inhabitants.

C. A New Generation (Numbers 22-36)

1. The Moabite King hires Balaam the prophet to curse Israel; instead he blessed them.
2. Moabite women seduced some to engage in idolatry and sexual immorality.
3. Joshua is selected to replace Moses as leader of the conquest.
4. The Midianites are defeated also and some tribes of Israel ask permission to settle in their territory.

1 Corinthians 10:1-6

Conclusion – The Old Testament presents the recurring theme of God being faithful to His promises while Israel continues to rebel and disobey the Lord.

Philippians 2:12-14