

Numbers Chapter 26

V: 1-4 After the plague: the plague that came upon Israel as a result of their committing whoredom, and worshipping the gods of the Moabites, as a result of the counsel of Balaam to Balak.

- God now speaks to Moses and Eleazar for the first time, as opposed to Moses and Aaron. All part of the changing of the guard.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”

- Number the children of Israel as when they came out of Egypt approximately 40 years ago, this is the 2nd census.
- Number those who are 20 years old and above, able to go to war.
- The purpose of the numbering the children of Israel wasn't a tactical move; how big is our army? Can we overcome the enemy? The stated purpose, as we will see was to determine the division of the inheritance, dividing up the land amongst the children.
- The victory at this point was assumed, already accomplished in the eyes of the Lord.

Romans 8:37 “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.”

- They are encamped in Moab, modern day Jordan, along the Jordan River across from Jericho – the location of the Allenby bridge today.

V: 5-7 We see that over the 40 years of wandering the nation of Israel experience a zero population growth, they actually experienced a slight decrease which is a miracle all by itself.

- Of the tribe of Reuben: 43,730 men. (46,500) - 2,770

V: 8-10 A parenthetical sub-category describing part of the tribe of Reuben who had rebelled against God and Moses: Dathan and Abiram + the 250 men that offered incense who all perished when the earth opened up and swallowed them, then fire came down and consumed the 250.

V: 11 A distinction is made in that the children of Korah didn't die in this judgment:

Ezekiel 18:20 “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son; the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”

V: 12-14 Simeonites: 22,200 men. (59,300) - 37,100

Numbers 25:6 “And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.”

Numbers 25:14 “Now the name of the Israelite that was slain, even that was slain with the Midianitish woman, was Zimri, the son of Salu, a prince of the chief house among the Simeonites.”

- Genesis 34 Shechem to son of Hamor took Dinah, a daughter of Jacob, and laid with her, defiling her.
- Her brothers Simeon and Levi subsequently tricked then slaughtered Hamor, Shechem, and all their men.

Jacob is blessing his sons:

Genesis 49:5, 7 “⁵Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations.” – “⁷Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob (cut them down to size), and scatter them in Israel.”

- Simeon & Levi went out and killed the inhabitants of the land because they had taken their sister. Now a Simeonite had taken a woman, an inhabitant of the land and the Simeonites are slaughtered.

Galatians 6:7-8 “⁷Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap, ⁸for he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

V: 15-18 Gad: 40,500 men. (45,650) - 5,150

V: 19-22 Judah: 76,500 men. (74,600) + 1,900

V: 23-25 Issachar: 64,300 men. (54,400) + 9,900

V: 26-27 Zebulun: 60,500 men. (57,400) + 3,100

V: 28-37 Joseph

Manaseh: 52,700 men. (32,200) + 20,500

Ephraim: 32,500 men. (40,500) - 8,000

V: 33 Another parenthetical break mentioning the descendants of Manaseh, specifically Zelophehad the son of Hepher having no sons, only daughters who are listed:

1. Mahlah: Weak or sickly.
 2. Noah: Rest / Comfort.
 3. Hoglah: Partridge.
 4. Milcah: Queen.
 5. Tirzah: Friendly / Favorable.
- This is our introduction; these 5 sisters will be the subject of the next chapter.

V: 34-37	Ephraim:	32,500 men	(40,500)	- 8,000
V: 38-41	Benjamin:	45,600 men.	(35,400)	+ 10,200
V: 42-43	Dan:	64,400 men.	(62,700)	+ 1,700
V: 44-47	Asher:	53,400 men.	(41,500)	+ 11,900

V: 46 Asher's daughter was Sarah, again a special mention of a daughter.

V: 48-50	Naphtali:	45,400 men.	(53,400)	- 8,000
V: 51	The grand total of 601,730 men over the age of 20.		(603,550)	- 1,820

V: 52-56 Instructions for dividing up the land, on a pro-rated, or per-capita basis. The amount of land based on the size of the tribe, the location to be determined by lot.

- This is another indication that ours is a God of order, not disorder:

1 Corinthians 14:33 "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

V: 57-62 The numbering of the Levites, and the genealogy of the priesthood.

- The Levites males were numbered from one month old and above, not 20 and above like the rest of Israel.
- 23,000 up from 22,000 and a net increase of 1,000.
- They had a different office / function – and a different inheritance, a different reward:

Numbers 18:20 “And the Lord spake unto Aaron, thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel.”

V: 63-65 God's word has been fulfilled:

Numbers 14:22-24 ²²“Because all those men which have seen My glory, and My miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted Me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to My voice; ²³surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked Me see it: ²⁴But My servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed Me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.”

- In this 2nd census there was not a single man who had been there for the 1st census except Moses, Joshua, and Caleb – all the rest died before they were 60 years old.
- In a way the nation has been wiped out and started over.

Psalms 119:160 “Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our Lord shall stand forever.”

Numbers Chapter 27

V: 1-5 The 5 daughters of Zeloph-e-had make their case to Moses about receiving a share, an inheritance to continue the posterity of their father's name.

- He was one of the one's who died, but not in Korah's rebellion.
- Moses isn't quite sure what to do, so he asks God.

James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

- Moses is consistent in this; whenever an issue comes up that hasn't already been addressed directly by God he doesn't just make a snap decision; he seeks God's will; because God is the one in charge and everyone knows it.

V: 6-11 God relates that these women had a just case, then He relates the law on the matter, God's word on the matter.

- The right of inheritance is established. If there is a son then it goes to him, if there are no sons, then to the daughter. If there are no children, then to his brothers, if he doesn't have any brethren, then to his nearest family.
- This was such a foreign concept to the cultures around them; but God was way ahead of the feminist movement.

Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

- Divine order, eliminates hassles later on.

V: 12-14 Moses is being called home: Notice carefully what God didn't say; God didn't say "Moses, your going to die" – He said "you're going to be gathered to your people"

- He was going to be gathered to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – as they were in Abraham's bosom waiting for the Messiah to set them free.
- God's promise would be fulfilled through the crucifixion of God's only Son, Jesus Christ upon the cross.

Luke 16:19-31

1. Jesus describes a certain rich man who fared sumptuously every day.
 2. There was also a poor man named Lazarus who daily laid at the rich man's gate, covered with sores. The dogs would lick his sores, and he ate the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table.
 3. Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom.
 4. The rich man died and while in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torment.
 5. Seeing Abraham afar off, and Lazarus being comforted he said, "send Lazarus, that he might comfort me"
 6. So they both were in a conscious state – Abraham comforting those who were waiting for the Messiah to come and preach to them that were in prison, and lead them from captivity.
 7. "Gathered to your people."
- Go to the top of Mt. Abarim: ("Regions beyond".) Actually a mountain range, the highest point being Mt. Nebo which is also called Mt. Pisgah.
 - Moses is going to have a mountain top experience that will never end.
 - God explains that Moses will get to see the promise land, but that he won't get to go into it because of his sin, not sanctifying the Lord before the people, not representing God properly or accurately.

2 Corinthians 5:20 “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.”

2 Corinthians 3:3 “Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.”

- Moses is told that like his brother Aaron, he will be gathered to his people – a comforting description.

V: 15-17 Moses loves the people and he is concerned for them when he’s gone – he knows that they need a leader.

“Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh...”

Numbers 16:22 “... O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh...”

- An acknowledgment that God is the ultimate life giver, and the life taker.
- Herein also is the understanding that the “spirit” is the real person – not the physical body. The physical body is just the tent, the temporary covering, the medium used to express the real us which is a spirit.
- Inferior trinity: Body – Soul – Spirit.
- The soul & the Spirit are permanent, eternal – but the body is temporary.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”

- Moses understands that the sheep need a shepherd.

Matthew 9:36 “When He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.”

God rebuked the shepherds of Israel during the time of the Babylonian captivity:

Jeremiah 23:1-4 “¹Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! Saith the Lord. ²Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people, ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord. ³And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. ⁴And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord.”

Acts 20:27-28 ²⁷“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. ²⁸Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with His own blood.”

V: 18-23 The Lord responds to Moses’ concern; it’s funny at this point that Moses should have known that God already had a plan knowing the needs of the children.

V: 18 ^{18a}“Take thee Joshua the son of Num, a man in whom is the spirit,…”

Numbers 14: 24 “But My servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed Me fully,…”

God describes a good character or personality trait:

1 Peter 3:4 “... the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”

- What boils down to is that Joshua’s “different spirit” is somewhere between faithful & teachable, humble, and not full of himself – meek as Moses had been.

^{18b}... and lay thine hand upon him;”

1 Timothy 5:22 “Lay hands suddenly on no man...”

- At this point Joshua has been Moses’ assistant for 40+ years, so from Moses’ stand point Joshua fits that particular qualification.
- The real distinction here, and we see the wisdom in it, is that God has chosen Joshua to be the next leader, the next under shepherd of Israel.
- Real ordination into ministry can only come from God, then we as men come around and affirm that which God has already ordained.

V: 19-20 Lay your hand upon him, and set him before the priest, before all the people, instructing him in their sight – this is his commission, his ordination – the validation of his authority – establishing Joshua as the new leader before the people.

- Vesting Moses’ authority, honour unto Joshua, the mantle of leadership being passed on.

V: 21-23 Joshua and Eleazar will work together much like Moses and Aaron.

- Eleazar being the high priest, wearing the Urim & Thummin (lights & perfections) – not knowing how they were used yet used none the less to determine God’s will.

- And Moses did so. – But this isn't quite the end of Moses just yet.
 - Over the next few chapters God directs Moses to remind the people of their responsibilities, then God directs Moses to smite the Midianites who tempted the children of Israel – a few more chapters then Moses will fade from the scene.
-
- Moses was certainly a great man of God, he's lived a good long life, a blessed life – but he too like the rest of us has to face that day when he will step from this life to the next.
 - Moses was prepared, Moses was probably very glad that his ministry was drawing to a close.
 - Are you prepared? Are you looking forward to being with the Lord?