
Numbers Chapter 34

V: 1-15 The borders of the Land of Canaan.

1. Kadesh Barnea / Wilderness of Zin on the South.
2. Mediterranean Sea on the West.
3. The Jordan River, Dead Sea, and Sea of Galilee on the East.
4. Mount Hor, which is North of Sidon well into modern day Lebanon on the North.

V: 16-17 Eleazar the High Priest and Joshua the leader that would replace Moses would be the ones to determine how the land was divided amongst the tribes of Israel.

- God is setting things in order.

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

V: 18-29 The Lord also designates leadership, organization, and authority within each tribe for the orderly distribution of property within each tribe.

- It is a sad truth that the children of Israel never completely took all the land that God had given them. The Philistines still held the coastal area along the Mediterranean, there were other areas as well.
- They took much, but not all – and it would later come back to haunt them. At some point they got comfortable, when they should have kept going – not allowing the enemy any foot hold.

Ephesians 4:27 “Neither give place to the Devil.”

Numbers Chapter 35

V: 1-8 The Levites did not receive an inheritance in the land amongst the children of Israel because God Himself is their inheritance, but they still needed a place to live.

- They were to be given a total of 48 cities spread out amongst the different tribes of Israel. 6 of those cities were to be “cities of refuge.”
- Had the Levites been concentrated in one area, the rest of the nation would not have benefited from their ministry / service.

- Being spread out, the Levites could instruct the people in the ways of the Lord and guide them in their worship of God.
- Kind of like all of us, being spread out in the work places and schools, places that I as a pastor might not ever get to go to. And there you are, living for Jesus and sharing the love of Christ all around you.
- They were also given the suburbs or surrounding area within 1,000 cubits of the city for their cattle and livestock.

V: 9-34 Cities of refuge from the avenger of blood.

- Homicide: the killing of one human being by another.
- Murder: the unlawful killing of a human being by another, done with deliberation or pre-meditation.
- Manslaughter: the unlawful killing of a human being without malice aforethought.
- In each case someone was killed; the issue is the motivation, the specific circumstances that brought this killing of another human being to happen.
- This adds special meaning to what Jesus uttered from the cross:

Luke 23:34 “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do...”

Acts 3:17 “... through ignorance...”

- When someone in a family was killed, and this is still the practice in some middle eastern cultures today – the family would appoint an “avenger of blood” – that man would then be sent out to avenge the death of their family member by killing the one who killed their family member.
- Understand isn’t instituting the avenger of blood, He is addressing the culture of the day.
- Even though there has been a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, and Egypt respectively – our tour guide would not travel to either of those places because of his military service – knowing that each of these cultures still engage in this practice today.

V: 9-14

1. The cities of refuge were set up to protect those that were involved in industrial accidents.
2. Perhaps during a building project or while working on a farm someone is moving a large stone that accidentally falls upon another man and kills him. The person responsible could flee to a city of refuge and stand before the elders who would

conduct an investigation and trial. If it was an innocent action or accident then that man would be spared as long as he stayed in the city of refuge.

3. If the avenger of blood got to him prior to his arrival at the city of refuge, then his blood was upon himself.
 4. During the investigation or trial if it came out that the two men hated each other, or the victim had been struck with a steel weapon or wooden club, or a throwing stone – weapons of war – then it was obviously murder and the murder was to be put to death.
- Again we shouldn't assume that God is instituting revenge killings or some kind of vigilantism.
 - What we see here is a moderation to the culture that already exists.
 - Later in the new testament all of this would be completely altered:

Romans 12:19 “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”

V: 15 6 cities were set apart and known as cities of refuge, 3 on each side of the River Jordan.

Psalms 32:7 “Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.”

V: 16-18 The use of weapons was an indication as to motive and the murderer was to be put to death.

- Affirming capital punishment for murder:

Genesis 9:6 “Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He man.”

V: 19-23 The avenger of blood is the one who is to kill / execute the murderer on site.

V: 24-29 If the slayer makes it to the city of refuge, then they are to be given a trial considering the circumstances and if found innocent – then he is to be taken out of the hand of the avenger and allowed to live in the city of refuge in safety.

- The sinner that abides in Jesus is safe as well:

John 15:5-6 “⁵I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do

nothing. ⁶If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned”

- When the High Priest dies, then the slayer is allowed to return to his home.
- Upon the death of the High Priest – the sinner was declared innocent... which is the same for us.

Speaking of Jesus, Paul wrote:

Romans 5:9 “Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”

- If the slayer goes out before that, not abiding.... and is found outside the city then the avenger may slay him and not be guilty of his blood.

V: 30 the murderer shall not be put to death except at the word of two witnesses.

Deuteronomy 17:6 “At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.”

V: 31-32 No satisfaction meaning no fine or payment can alter these arrangements. If a person has committed murder he is to be killed.

- If they did it accidentally, they are to be confined to the city of refuge on penalty of death.

V: 33-34 Do not pollute or defile the land, blood defiles the land.

- Our land, the United States is defiled with the blood of untold thousands, hundreds of thousands by the blood of innocent children murdered under the sanctioning eye of our government, culture and society – and I believe that we will be held accountable for every drop.
- We’re told that there can only be cleansing by the blood of him that shed it – for us, if we’ve been part of that – our cleansing, like all of our other sins comes through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 26:28 “For this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission / forgiveness of sins.”

- Why is it important not to defile the land – because God dwells amongst His people.
- Paul talks about the same thing with us as believers:

1 Corinthians 6:15-17 “¹⁵Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. ¹⁶What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh. ¹⁷But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.”

1 Peter 1:15-16 “¹⁵But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy.”

Numbers Chapter 36

V: 1-4 The leaders of the tribe of Manaseh approach Moses with a question related to inheritances.

- The daughters of Zeloph-e-had; from Numbers 27 – Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah – (Sickly, Comfort, Partridge, Queen, and Friendly) are to receive their father’s inheritance because he had no sons or kinsmen.
- The elders are concerned about these women marrying outside the family of Manaseh which would eventually take their inheritance to those respective tribes, in other words taking it away from Manaseh.

V: 5-6 Moses admits that they have a good point.

- This is what the Lord commands:

V: 7-13 The women can only marry within their tribe – that way the inheritance stays within the tribe.

2 Corinthians 6:14 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?”

- And that is what they did. The blessing isn’t just in the hearing of the word, or the agreeing about the word – it’s in the doing of the word.

James 1:25 “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

- This book ends on an obedient note:

Review / big picture:

Chapter 34: Describing the boundries of the promise land, giving us a vision of the promise land. Do you / we have a vision of heaven?

Chapter 35: Knowing where the priests are, where the cities of refuge are, where can you run when you are in mortal danger: Where's our refuge?

- Jesus is our refuge!

Psalm 46:7 “The Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge.”

Colossians 3:3 “For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.”

Chapter 36: Is all about securing the inheritance.

2 Peter 1:10 “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”