**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 1-2 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

* **Numbers 1.1-46: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **Numbers 1.47-54: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
* **Numbers 2.1-34: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

(please refrain from answering until you have studied the text and answered the previous questions)

1a & b. Why would Israel be required by God to conduct a census of those “*able to go to war*” (1.3)? Why is this a promising sign?

2. Out of the many tribal leaders in ch. 1, one name should stand out. Which is it, and why?

3. Which tribe was left out of the census, and why?

4. Fill in the chart outlining the camp of Israel as described so far. (also, see Num. 3 for the Levite clans)
(Disclaimer: No one knows the precise shape of the camp. Aerial photos have yet to be unearthed.)



5. A word about why the book of Numbers should interest us as Christians:
“*The apostles regularly reference the wilderness generation without comment or explanation. When Paul is warning against idolatry, three of his four illustrations come from Numbers (1 Cor. 10:7–10). Balaam’s story comes up several times to make a variety of points: immorality (Rev. 2:14), greed (Jude 11 and 2 Pet. 2:15), and Messianic expectation (2 Pet. 1:19). The comparison in Hebrews 3 draws on Numbers 12. And Jesus points Nicodemus to his crucifixion by assuming he knows Numbers 21 (John 3:14).*

**How can studying the book of Numbers give us a better perspective on the New Testament?**

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 3-4 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 3.1-4:
 |  |
| * Numbers 3.5-39
 |  |
| * Numbers 3.40-51
 |  |
| * Numbers 4.1-49
 |  |

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| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

(please refrain from answering until you have studied the text and answered the previous questions)

1. How does Num. 3.1 suggest the book’s common authorship with the book of Genesis?

2. Which two groups of people were the Levites commanded to guard and why?

3. Who were the “sons of Levi” and what was assigned by God to each clan?

4. How does 3.39-51 indicate that the figures given in ch. 3 are exact? Why is this important?

5. Why was the tribe of Levi taken into service by God?

6. How can the age for Levitical service begin at 30 in Num. 4, when Num. 8.24 says 25 and Ezra 3.8 says 20?

Bonus. How can the count of Israel’s firstborn children given in 3.40-43 only be 22,273, when Israel’s *fighting men* numbered 603,550?

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 5-7 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 5.1-4:
 |  |
| * Numbers 5.5-10
 |  |
| * Numbers 5.11-31
 |  |
| * Numbers 6.1-21
 |  |
| * Numbers 6.22-27
 |  |
| * Numbers 7.1-89
 |  |

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| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

(please refrain from answering until you have studied the text and answered the previous questions)

1. Numbers 5.5-10 restates the law given in Leviticus 6.1-7, but with one clarification. What is it?

2. Explain why the jealousy offering (5.11-31) is so important as to warrant such an elaborate description.

3. How does Num. 5.17-18 connect with Genesis 3.14?

4. Give three examples of lifelong Nazarites in the Bible.

5. What is the source of Israel’s blessing?

6. These three chapters mirror the organization/orientation theme of 1-4, but what is being organized/oriented in 5-7?

7. Why weren’t the sons of Kohath given wagons for their service?

8. Why does the gift-giving in Num. 7 properly conclude with v.89?

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 8.1-10.10 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 8.1-4:
 |  |
| * Numbers 8.5-22
 |  |
| * Numbers 8.23-26
 |  |
| * Numbers 9.1-14
 |  |
| * Numbers 9.15-23
 |  |
| * Numbers 10.1-10
 |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

(please refrain from answering until you have studied the text and answered the previous questions)

1. Why is it important that the tabernacle lampstand is lit at this point? (hint. See 7.89)

2. How do the lampstands of Rev. 1 point to the deity of Christ? (hint: compare with 7.89-8.4)

3. The Levites are required to shave their entire bodies prior to entering God’s service.
a. From who else is this required?
b. What would be a N.T. parallel to this concept?

4. What defiled God’s people? (8.21)

5. How is God’s graciousness shown in Num. 9.1-14?

6. What impression is (heavily) made in 9.15-23?

7. Num. 10.10 allowed Israel to express joy as well as warning by way of sounding the trumpets.
a. List some of the circumstances in which the trumpets were sounded in the O.T.

* Num. 31.6; 2 Ch. 13.12:
* 1 Ch. 15.24:
* 2 Ch. 5.12:
* Ezra 3.10:
* Neh. 12.35:
* 2 Ch. 29.27:

b. Connect the trumpet of Num. 10 with the trumpet of 1 Th. 4.16. How are they related?

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 8.1-10.10 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 10:11-28:
 |  |
| * Numbers 10:29-32:
 |  |
| * Numbers 10.33-36:
 |  |
| * Numbers 11.1-3:
 |  |
| * Numbers 11.4-15
 |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

1. History Review: Give the references in scripture to these major events in Israel’s journey to Canaan

|  |
| --- |
| **Places and Events Since Leaving Mt. Sinai** (credit to Bob Waldron, “You Shall Be My People” |
| Rameses – Starting Point |  |
| Succoth |  |
| Etham |  |
| Red Sea – Crossed on Dry Land |  |
| Marah – Bitter Waters |  |
| Elim – Natural Oasis |  |
| Wilderness of Sin – Quail, Manna Began |  |
| Rephidim – Water from Rock, Battle with Amalek |  |
| Mt Sinai -  |  |
| * God’s Covenant with Israel
 |  |
| * Ten Commandments
 |  |
| * Moses Gone 40 Days
 |  |
| * Tabernacle Built and Set Up
 |  |
| * Priests Consecrated
 |  |
| * Gifts from Tribes
 |  |
| * Passover Observed
 |  |
| * Census of Soldiers
 |  |
| * Organization of Tribes
 |  |
| * Levites Redeem Israel’s Firstborn
 |  |
| * Passover for Those Unclean
 |  |
| * Blessings and Curses Pronounced
 |  |
| * Signal to Travel Again
 |  |

2. How long was Israel at Mt. Sinai?

3. How does Moses’ comment in 10.36 allude to the number of Israelites?

4. Why are the two descriptions given to the Tabernacle (10.11) and the Ark (10.33) important?

5. Did Hobab consent to go with Moses? (Judg. 1.16; 1 Sam. 15.6, 22.10)

6. Which “*misfortunes*” (11.1, ESV) occurred to spark Israel’s complaining? What was God’s response?

7. How does Israel’s complaining affect Moses?

Bonus: The manna was never expected to last forever. How can we learn from Israel’s discontent?

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 11.16-12.16 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 11.16-20:
 |  |
| * Numbers 11.21-23:
 |  |
| * Numbers 11.24-30:
 |  |
| * Numbers 12.1-15:
 |  |
| * Numbers 12.16:
 |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Where did the 2nd leg of Israel’s journey to Canaan start (10.33) and finish (12.16)?

2. Why does God describe Israel’s complaining about food as a rejection of Himself (11.20)?

3. How does Moses reveal his own weaknesses in ch. 11?

4. How does this section highlight the wisdom of shared leadership?

5. How much quail was gathered by modern measurements? What does this indicate about Israel’s attitude toward God?

6. The 70 elders are given a portion of God’s spirit, as Moses had been given. This would enable them to provide leadership and *spiritual oversight*. Why is Israel in need of this at this point?

7. How is Moses’ response to Joshua prophetic? (hint: Joel 2.28-29)

8. How does Ps. 76.26-31 compare to Num. 12.31-35?

9. How is Israel’s deeper problem (rebellion) hidden behind another issue (the nationality of Moses’ wife) in 12.1-2?

10. Describe God’s response to Miriam and Aaron in 12.1-15.

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 13-14 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 13.1-16:
 |  |
| * Numbers 13.17-24:
 |  |
| * Numbers 13.25-33:
 |  |
| * Numbers 14.1-12:
 |  |
| * Numbers 14.13-38:
 |  |
| * Numbers 14.39-45:
 |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

1. This section begins the 2nd major geographical division in the book of Numbers. Where is Israel?
(by way of review, what are the three major geographical sections in the book?

2. Numbers 11-14 are marked by three rebellions, followed by three responses by God.
What are the rebellions, and how does God respond each time *in accordance with each rebellion*?

3. How is the description of the land (13.25-29) different from the 10 spies’ assessment of the situation (13.30-33)?

4. How is Numbers 14.11-20 a repetition of the events of Exodus 34?

5. What parallels are there between Numbers 14 and the Flood (Gen. 6-9)?

6. To what does Moses appeal in his intercession on Israel’s behalf?

7. What happened to the 10 spies?

8. Compare and Contrast Numbers 14.9 and Numbers 14.41-42 with Romans 8.31.

9. How is God’s judgment of Israel an example of *Lex Talionis* (eye for an eye)

10. The term “*dead bodies*” (“*carcasses*”: KJV) used in Num. 14.29, 32, 33 is used most often in the O.T. of those who have fallen in battle (Lev. 26.30; 1 Sam. 17.46; Jer. 33.5; etc.).
Against whom would Israel fight instead of the Canaanites of whom they were so afraid?

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 15 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 15.1-21:
 |  |
| * Numbers 15.22-36:
 |  |
| * Numbers 15.37-41:
 |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

1. The book of Numbers makes a rather abrupt halt to the narrative at ch. 15 with three sections of law. How does each section of legislation below address a specific problem that was raised in the previous narrative?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Numbers 15.1-21:
 |  |
| 1. Numbers 15.22-36:
 |  |
| 1. Numbers 15.37-41:
 |  |

2. How does v.1-21 reiterate God’s promise of a land “*flowing with milk and honey*”?

3. What is the difference between the two types of sin described in v.22-36?

4. How does v.22-31 help us understand the context for the crime committed (and the punishment rendered) in v.32-36?

5. What connection would Israel have made with the color blue required in the tassels?
(hint: the word “blue” occurs 34 times in Exodus)

6. Forms of the Hebrew verb עָשָׂה (‘*asah*: do, make, accomplish, etc.) are found 21 times in ch. 15.
How is Israel’s commitment to God to be expressed in this chapter?

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 16-17 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 16.1-19:
 |  |
| * Numbers 16.20-24:
 |  |
| * Numbers 16.25-30:
 |  |
| * Numbers 16.31-35
 |  |
| * Numbers 16.36-40
 |  |
| * Numbers 16.41-49
 |  |
| * Numbers 17.1-11
 |  |
| * Numbers 11.12-13
 |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

1. The narrative of Numbers resumes in ch. 16 with another trio of rebellions (ch. 16-21).
What are the three main rebellions in this section?

2. What is the substance of the complaint made by Korah and company, and how is this complaint ultimately interpreted by both Moses (16.11) and God (16.21)?

3. What is significant about Dathan and Abiram’s description of Egypt in 16.13? Where have we seen something similar to that before in Numbers? In Exodus?

4. How is Numbers 16.21 relate to Genesis 18.22-25?

5. How is the inverse of Numbers 16.21 fulfilled in Christ? (hint: John 11.49-52)

6. How is Numbers 16.35 connected to Leviticus 10?

7. What was the point of the budding of Aaron’s staff in ch. 17?

8. How is Israel’s statement in 17.12-13 different from their other grumblings throughout the journey?

9. What ultimately stops grumbling against God?

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 18-19 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 18.1-7:
 |  |
| * Numbers 18.8-24:
 |  |
| * Numbers 18.25-32:
 |  |
| * Numbers 19.1-10
 |  |
| * Numbers 19.11-13
 |  |
| * Numbers 19.14-22
 |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How is 18.1-7 God’s answer to Israel’s question in 17.12-13?

2. What would the priests and Levites do for Israel?

3. Given their important work on behalf of Israel, how would the priests and Levites be supported?

4. What is remarkable about the instructions given in 18.25-32?

5. What was the defiling action for which the ritual of Numbers 19 as created to address?

6. Why are the instructions for cleansing in Lev. 19 of specific importance to the Israelites who received this instruction? (Hint: Num. 11.33, Num. 16.49)

7. Compared to the other purification rituals we have studied (Lev. 12-15, Num. 6, etc.) what is notably missing in the instructions of Num. 19, and how is THAT an example of God’s mercy and compassion?

8a. How does the Hebrew writer use the ritual of Num. 19 to express the cleansing efficacy of the blood of Christ? (Heb. 9.13-14).

8b. From what does the blood of Christ cleanse us?

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 20 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 20.1:
 |  |
| * Numbers 20.2-13:
 |  |
| * Numbers 20.14-21:
 |  |
| * Numbers 20.22-29:
 |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Ch. 20.1-22.1 forms the 2nd geographical transition in Numbers. Where does Israel start and finish this leg of the journey?

2a. Ch. 20.1-25.29 also forms the third “Rebellion” cycle in the book. What are the rebellions in this section?

2b. Tragically, who are the major characters who will not see Canaan due to their rebellion? (Remember 12.1-16).

3. Compare and contrast Exodus 17.1-7 with Num. 20.2-13.

4. How did Moses and Aaron fail to “*uphold* (God) *in the eyes of the people of Israel*” (20.12)?

5a & b. Why does Moses address the king of Edom in 20.14 as Israel’s “*brother*”?
How does this change the way we perceive Edom’s actions toward Israel?

6. What is the penalty for rebellion against God?

7. How does Numbers 20.29 show the importance of Aaron to Israel? (see also Gen. 50.10; 1 Sam. 31.13; 1 Ch. 10.12; Job 2.13; Deut. 34.8)

8. How does Aaron serve as a prototype of the high priesthood of Christ?

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 21 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 21.1-3:
 |  |
| * Numbers 21.4-9:
 |  |
| * Numbers 21.10-18a:
 |  |
| * Numbers 21.18b-20:
 |  |
| * Numbers 21.21-30
 |  |
| * Numbers 21.31-35:
 |  |

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| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

1. The three major journeys of Israel between Egypt and Canaan have many similar characteristics. Using the chart below, examine each journey narrative and give an example of each common theme.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Journey #1: Egypt to Mt. Sinai (Ex. 12.29-19.25)** | **Journey #2: Mt. Sinai to Paran(Kadesh) (Num. 10.11-14.45)** | **Journey #3: Paran to Plains of Moab (Num. 20.1-22.1)** |
| Victory over Israel’s Enemies |  |  |  |
| Complaints and Grumbling |  |  |  |
| Judgment from God |  |  |  |
| God’s Glory Manifested |  |  |  |
| Miraculous Provision of Food/Water |  |  |  |
| Leadership of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam |  |  |  |
| Songs and Celebration |  |  |  |
| Faith Demonstrated or Needed |  |  |  |
| Journey March |  |  |  |

2. How does this chapter begin and end on positive notes?

3. How is Israel’s reaction in 21.7 *vastly different* from the rest of the book of Numbers?

4. How did Jesus use the imagery of the bronze serpent to demonstrate His own sacrifice for us?
(John 3.10-17, 12.32-33)

5. What does Rahab’s mention of Sihon and Og (Josh. 2.9-10) indicate about God’s victory?

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 22 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 22.1-14:
 |  |
| * Numbers 22.15-21:
 |  |
| * Numbers 22.22-35:
 |  |
| * Numbers 22.36-40:
 |  |
| * Numbers 22.41:
 |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the geographical setting for Numbers 22-36? (hint: compare 22.1 with 36.13).

2. What is the difference between sorcery, divination, and prophecy? Which of these does (or will) Balaam practice in ch. 22-24?

3a &b. What does v.1-6 indicate about the Israelite population and why would Balak turn to Balaam for help against the Israelites?

4a & b. “The Book of Balaam” (ch. 22-24) is an aside from the Israelite-centered narrative (no mention of any Israelites in the story, nor of Moses). What is the message from this section to the Israelites? Why is *this* an appropriate time for this message to come to Israel?

5. How does this story connect back to the promises given to Abram (Gen. 12.3)?

6. How does Num. 22.34-35 help us understand God’s anger with Balaam in 22.19-22?
(hint: 2 Peter 2.15)

7. Who is the most spiritually observant character in Numbers 22?

8. How is the conflict between Balaam and the donkey a prefigure of the conflict between Balaam and Balak in ch. 23-24?

9. How does this account show God’s character and His intent for Israel?

Bonus. Balaam’s intention is to curse Israel, but God instructs him not to carry out his intention. Give two Old Testament examples of God warning non-Israelites to not carry out their intentions.

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 23-24 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 23.1-10:
 |  |
| * Numbers 23.11-12
 |  |
| * Numbers 23.13-24:
 |  |
| * Numbers 23.25-26:
 |  |
| * Numbers 23.27-24.9:
 |  |
| * Numbers 24.10-13:
 |  |
| * Numbers 24.15-25:
 |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Who are the two opposing characters in Numbers 23-24?

2. Balaam’s four main oracles concerning Israel are delivered in the form of poetry, which typically is highly structured and often uses figurative language to express truth.
List some of the main ideas expressed in each oracle below:

|  |
| --- |
| Oracle #1 (23.7-10): |
| Oracle #2 (23.18-24): |
| Oracle #3 (24.3-9): |
| Oracle #4 (24.15-19): |
| Oracles 5-7 (24.20-24) |

4. How does the main conflict in ch. 24-25 intensify as the oracles are given?

5a & b. How is Balaam’s fourth oracle (24.15-19) different from the preceding three, and who is the subject of the oracle?

6. What is remarkable about the prophecy in 24.15-19 being delivered by Balaam?

7. Before Balaam went home to Peor, what advice did he offer the Midianite and Moabite leaders concerning Israel? (Num. 31.8,16; Josh. 13.22)

8. What is the overall message of Balaam’s oracles concerning Israel?

Bonus: An old saying goes, “The Lord can strike a mighty blow with a crooked stick.” How can this help us as we consider Balaam?

Name some other non-Israelites that God will use as tools to accomplish His purpose.

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 25 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 25.1-5:
 |  |
| * Numbers 25.6-9:
 |  |
| * Numbers 25.10-13:
 |  |
| * Numbers 25.14-15:
 |  |
| * Numbers 25.16-18:
 |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Where is Israel in Num. 25.1, and how is this account related to ch. 22-24 chronologically?

2. List the parallels between Numbers 25 and Exodus 32.

3. How does this chapter bring the sinful wilderness generation to a close?

4. How does this chapter show us the relationship between God’s blessings, His grace, and our merit?

5. How is God’s judgment of Israel’s sin in Ch. 25 similar to other accounts in Numbers?

6. How does Phinehas’ actions demonstrate Yahweh’s own zeal for His honor?

7. What is tragically ironic about Israel’s having joined themselves to the “Baal **of Peor**” (Num. 23.28)?

8. How did Phinehas show himself as a worthy mediator between God and Israel?

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 26-27 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 26.1-2:
 |  |
| * Numbers 26.3-51:
 |  |
| * Numbers 26.52-56:
 |  |
| * Numbers 26.57-62:
 |  |
| * Numbers 26.63-65:
 |  |
| * Numbers 27.1-11:
 |  |
| * Numbers 27.12-23
 |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

1. At this point in Numbers 26, who is left of the 1st wilderness generation?

2. This genealogy is not merely a list of names and numbers but also includes important historical markers. List the references to earlier events that are found in this genealogy.

3. What is the difference in number between the original wilderness generation and this one?

4. Who decided which land each tribe would inherit?

5. What is the issue the daughters of Zelophehad raise in 27.1-11, and what is God’s response?

6. Moses is instructed to “*Go up into this mountain*” where he would be “*gathered to his people*” (27.12-13). Where in scripture does this take place, and what is Moses largely occupied with doing beforehand?

7. Compare Num. 27.15-17 with Matthew 9.36-38. What do you see?

8. Moses and Aaron have led Israel for many years. Who will take their place as they prepare to enter Canaan?

9. How do Num. 27.63 and Num. 36.36.13 serve as bookends for the rest of the book of Numbers?

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 28-29 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 28.1-8:
 |  |
| * Numbers 28.9-10:
 |  |
| * Numbers 28.11-15:
 |  |
| * Numbers 28.16-25:
 |  |
| * Numbers 28.26-31:
 |  |
| * Numbers 29.1-6:
 |  |
| * Numbers 29.7-11:
 |  |
| * Numbers 29.12-38:
 |  |
| * Numbers 29.39-40:
 |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

1. In preparation for entrance into Canaan, Israel’s yearly calendar is established in Num. 28-29. Around what is the Jewish calendar centered (and why is this important)?

2. What does v.2 show concerning God’s attitude toward these sacrifices?

3. When a special day occurred, would those sacrifices be offered in place of the normal sacrifices or in addition to those sacrifices?

4. What major themes are expressed in these two chapters?

5. Which month was the most sacred in this system, and which feasts were celebrated?

6. How many bulls, rams, male lambs, and male goats were sacrificed as public offerings over the course of the year?

7. How do these chapters relate to Leviticus 23?

8. How are these sacrifices fulfilled in Christ (Eph. 5.2) and in Christians (Rom. 12.1)?

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 30-31 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 30.1-2:
 |  |
| * Numbers 30.3-16:
 |  |
| * Numbers 31.1-12:
 |  |
| * Numbers 31.13-20:
 |  |
| * Numbers 31.21-47:
 |  |
| * Numbers 31.48-54:
 |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

1. “*An honest man's word is as good as his bond*.” (Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote*).
How does this phrase compare to today’s reading in Numbers 30?

2. What does the silence of the father/husband in Num. 30 accomplish regarding the vow of their daughter/wife?

3. How do Numbers ch. 27 and 30 serve to protect women as well as elevate their status within the patriarchal society of Israel?

4. What position did Jesus take on the swearing of oaths? (Matt. 5.33-37; 15.3-9)

5. Against whom does the Lord take vengeance in ch. 31?

6. Give the four aspects of how Israel was to conduct warfare in a holy manner:
a. Num. 32.38-18:

b. Num. 32.19-24:

c. Num. 32.25-47:

d. Num. 32.48-54:

7. Under the standards set forth by Jesus, what law has superseded the Israelite law of holy war?

8. In what ways is God’s providence highlighted in Num. 32?

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 32 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 32.1-5:
 |  |
| * Numbers 32.6-15:
 |  |
| * Numbers 32.16-19:
 |  |
| * Numbers 32.20-24:
 |  |
| * Numbers 32.25-27:
 |  |
| * Numbers 32.28-32:
 |  |
| * Numbers 32.22-42:
 |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

1a. On the map provided, circle/sketch where the land requested by Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh was located.

2. Also on the provided map, circle/sketch the borders of the Promised Land acc. to Num. 34.1-12.

3. Why does Moses respond so vigorously to their request?

4. What was Moses’ fear in 32.15?

5. Who’s voice is noticeably absent in this narrative, and why is this silence significant?
(hint: compare 32.20-27 with ch. 30).

6. Were Gad, Reuben, and the half-tribe of Manasseh faithful to their vow? (provide the reference with your answer)

7. Generally speaking, how big of a deal was it for these 2.5 tribes to decide to dwell east of the Jordan?

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 33-34 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 33.1-49:
 |  |
| * Numbers 33.50-56:
 |  |
| * Numbers 34.1-15:
 |  |
| * Numbers 34.16-29:
 |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

1. When did Israel leave Egypt, acc. to Num. 33, and from where did they leave? (compare with Ex. 13.3)

2. How many different stops did Israel make between the Exodus and the plains of Moab?

3a & b. How were the Israelites instructed to conquer Canaan? What was the goal of the Canaanite conquest?

4a & b. Did Israel keep God’s instructions concerning the land of Canaan? What was the result?
(hint: Judges 1-2)

5. What is the first reference to the boundaries of the promised land in the scripture?
(Hint: Who was this land initially promised to?)

6. Which two methods would be used to determine where each tribe would settle?

7. Which of the tribal chiefs listed in Num. 34 is the same as those listed in Num. 1?

**BEFORE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS: read Numbers 35-36 (minimum 3 times)**

Summary/Outline: what is this section of Numbers about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Numbers 35.1-8:
 |  |
| * Numbers 35.9-34:
 |  |
| * Numbers 36.1-12:
 |  |
| * Numbers 36.13:
 |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see in the text?(note structure, references, patterns, repetition, key ideas, anything that stood out to you) | **Interpretation:** What did this section of Numbers mean to the original hearers? |
|  |  |
| **Application:** How does the interpretation apply today? | **Connection:** How does this section connect to other parts of the Bible?  |
|  |  |

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Num. 26-36 are in large part concerned with preparing Israel to do what?

2. What positive effect(s) on Israel would the scattering of the Levites among them have had?

3. Who was protected from vengeance in the cities of refuge?

4. What is the summary principle found in 35.34, and how does that connect to other portions of the Law?

5a & b. How many generations are there from Abraham to the daughters of Zelophehad?
How is this similar to other genealogies found in Gen. 5 and Gen. 11?

6a & b: Geographically speaking, where is the next stop for Israel in the story? How does Deuteronomy fit into this part of Israel’s history?