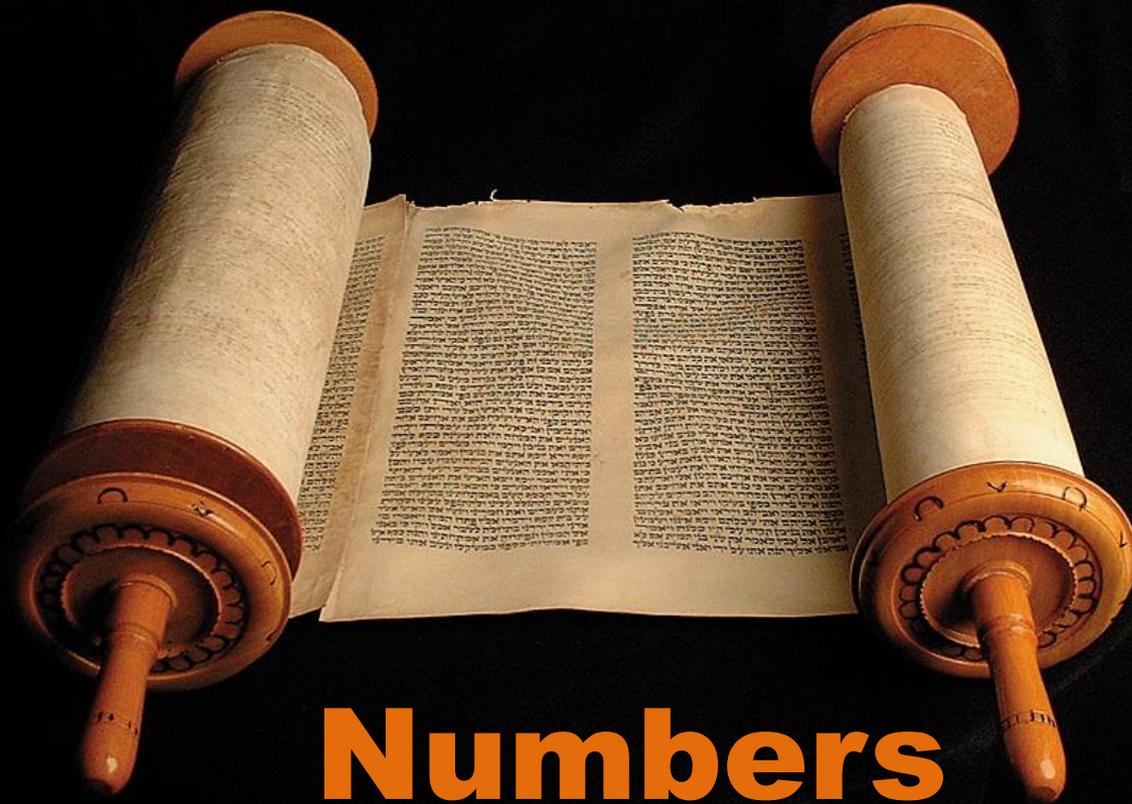


Encountering the Old Testament



Numbers

Geographical divisions



plains of Moab
20–36



wilderness wanderings
10–20



Mt. Sinai
1–10

I. 1:1–10:10

II. 10:11–20:21

III. 20:22–36:13

3 LEGS OF JOURNEY

- **#1. Goshen to Mt. Sinai**
 - **Num. 1-10:10**
- **#2. Sinai to Kadesh-Barnea**
 - **Num 10-14**
 - **Desert Wanderings (Num 15-19)**
- **#3. From Kadesh-Barnea to Moab**
 - **New start! (Num 20-21)**
 - **Num 22-36 Events on plains of Moab**

Time to leave Mt Sinai

Numbers 10:11-12

- **How many chapters – 1 year, 2 months?**
 - **65 chapters (Ex 12 to Num 10).**
 - **What a year it has been!**
 - **Gone from being freed slaves/refugees to being a distinct nation of people (Gen 12).**

Numbers (1-36)

Lessons from Numbers



The journey from Mt Sinai to Kadesh Barnea was an 11-day journey (Deut 1:2).

– Instead, it took 38 years! Why?

– Hebrews 3: 5-19

• “Take heed, brethren, lest haply there shall be in any one of you an **evil heart of unbelief** in falling away from the living God” (Heb 3: 12).

– How so? They heard God’s voice and saw miraculous manifestations of His care.

– It is not that they didn’t believe in God, they just didn’t believe God!

– What lessons are to be learned for us today?

Numbers (1-36)



- II. Disobedience in the Desert (10:11-20:21). [38 years]
- A. Faith-filled optimism and praying (10).
 - B. Faithless pessimism and grumbling (11-14).
 1. Complaining about food (11).
 2. Complaining about leadership (12).
 3. Complaining about giant enemies (13-14; cf. 14:1-4).

Numbers 11

- **11:1-3 – Complaining. What do?**
 - **Taberah – “place of burning.”**
 - **Did they learn?**
- **11: 4-34 Complaining.**
 - **What problem (11:4-6)?**
 - ***Greed vs. thankfulness (11:33).***

“IF”

**If you can keep your head when all about you
are losing theirs and blaming it on you,**

**If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;**

**If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
or being hated, don't give way to hating,
and yet don't talk too good, nor talk too wise.**

**If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue
or walk with Kings---nor lose the common touch..**

And which is more, you'll be a man my son!



**Rudyard Kipling
1865-1936**

Numbers 12

- **What was Miriam and Aaron's complaint (Vs 2)?**
 - **Challenge authority!**
 - **How does God deal with it?**
- **How meek is Moses - See vs 3, 13?**
- **What was her punishment?**
- **Why appropriate?**

Num 13

Sending out the spies

- **Can anyone tell me the names of the 10?**
- **Vs 16 – what did Moses do?**
- **Joshua = Jesus = “Savior”**
- **How long take? 40 days!**
- **How long take next time?**
 - **Josh 1:22 3 days!**
- **How many send out Josh 2:1?**

Caleb's testimony

- **Josh 14:7-8**
- **I brought word back to him as it was *in my heart*. 8 "Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people *melt with fear*; but I followed the LORD my God fully. **NASU****

Caleb's spirit

"But My servant Caleb, (shall enter in) because he has had a *different spirit* and has followed Me fully" (Num 14:24).

Numbers 14

Joshua's testimony

- **Numbers 14: 8-9**
- **What was the people's response? Vs 10**
- **What was God's response? Vs 11?**
- **Moses' argument? Vs 15-16**
- **What about vs 33-34?**
- **What showed how fickle the people were? Vs 39-45**