

## **Numbers**

### ***“The Love of God and Human Responsibility”***

#### **Numbers 1-10: Israel’s Preparation to Enter the Land**

1. How strong was the army of the Israelites? 1:35,36
  
2. How were the tabernacle and the people’s tents arranged when they encamped in the wilderness? 2:1,2 What picture does this give of God’s presence?
  
3. Skim Numbers 5-6. What kind of commands were given for the purity of the people?
  
4. How willingly did the people give to the dedication of the tabernacle? 7:1-4

*“The spontaneous offering of gifts from the people shows, once again, the healthy benefits of living within the boundary of the covenant. The conclusion of this chapter finds Moses in the Tabernacle enjoying uninhibited communication with God (7:89). None of this is to be found in chapters ten through twenty-one.” - Dr. Miller*

5. How did the Lord guide the people?
  - 9:15-23
  
  - 10:1-10
  
6. What would you say about the people’s readiness to enter the promised land as a nation under God?

#### **Numbers 11-12: The People’s Rebellion**

7. List the ways that the people began to doubt and rebel against God’s word:
  - 11:1-3
  
  - 11:4-6
  
  - 12:1-2

#### **Numbers 13-27: Spying on the Land of Canaan**

8. What happened when the people got close to the promised land? 13:17-25

9. What report did the men bring back? 13:26-28

- How did the men react? 13:30-33
- How did the people react? 14:1-4,10a
- How did Joshua and Caleb react? 14:5-9

10. How did Moses intercede for the people? 14:12-19

11. What was the judgment for this rebellion? 14:20-35

12. How did some of the people continue to rebel? 14:39-45

13. List who rebelled and why in:

- 16:1-3
- 20:1-5
- 21:4-5
- 25:1-3

14. How did even Moses disobey the Lord? 20:6-11

- What were the consequences? 20:12 (See also Deuteronomy 32:51.52)

15. What were some battles Israel had on the way to the promised land? 21:1-3; 21-24 What happened with Moabites? 26:1-3

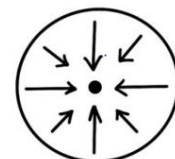
16. Who took Moses' place to lead the people into the promised land? 27:12-23

*VIDEO NOTES*

*NOTES*

## For Small Group Time: Numbers

1. What did you find most interesting or meaningful to you in this video?
2. How did Dr. Miller sum up the book of Numbers?
  - In what ways had God historically prepared the people for marching into the promised land?\*"miraculously delivered from Egypt..."
3. How obedient were the Israelites to God's commands in the first 9 chapters of Numbers? (1:19, 54; 2:34; 3:51; 4:49; 5:4; 8:4,20; 9:5,23).
4. What connection did the people have with the Lord? Numbers 7:89
  - How carefully and specifically did He lead them in the wilderness? 9:15-23
5. How did Dr. Miller trace Israel's steps away from God? What emotions were involved in each case? What kind of downward progression was there?
  - 10:29-31 (Why was this a questionable thing to do in view of 9:15-23?)
  - 11:1-3
  - 11:4-10
  - 12:1
  - 13:31-14:4
  - 14:6-10



What started on the outskirts traveled to the heart of the nation.

6. How was God's punishment giving them what they wanted? 14:26-35
  - What did He promise to Caleb? 14:24
7. How did Dr. Miller finish the following statement: *"If God is really good and really in charge, I ought to give..."* (See Philippians 2:14)
8. What did Balak, the king of Moab, hire Balaam to make? 22:11,16,17
  - What happened with the "curses" that Balaam wanted to pronounce? How were the pronouncements that Balaam made similar to God's promises? See 23:9-10; 23:19; 24:9; and 24:27. *What does this show about God's power and faithfulness to the nation?*
9. How did God's dealings with Israel show both unconditional and conditional love? *How did Dr. Miller compare this to the conditional love of a father to his unconditionally loved child or the story of the Prodigal son?*
10. How should the story in Numbers have ended?
  - What would you say to the questions: *"How will your story end?" "How can you keep yourself in a place where the Lord can bless you."* What challenges so you face in doing that?

\* *"The natural expectation of the reader at this point might be the immediate invasion and settlement of the land based upon a well-established confidence in God's commitment to, and fulfillment of His promises. This expectation would fail, however, to take into account the contingency in God's plan which is dependent upon the people's response to His plan. Because of their unbelief, the generation of the Exodus failed to enjoy the promises which God offered them. The message of Numbers is: Israel's walk in covenant relationship is initiated and ordered by God, but is delayed and disrupted by Israel's disobedience."*

- Dr. Chris Miller "Old Testament Lit. Written Notes"