

## STUDY NOTES ON THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

- Why must we die to ourselves (daily)? How? Where? When?
- God’s kingdom is about heart to heart connection to obtain true peace.
- God’s kingdom will only come about through death to sin and being alive to God.
- God’s purpose through His agent of redemption, Israel, was to invade and conquer pagan, godless nations and to bring God’s freedom and blessing into those societies.
- Why were the 10 spies greatly condemned?
- God’s plan of salvation supersedes all things.
- In light of Numbers, why must the Cross of Christ be central in our daily journey through wilderness wanderings?
- What about Balaam?
- The incident with Balaam occurred at the end of the wilderness travels. What does this imply about the old generation?
- In order to successfully travail the wilderness, God’s people must battle spiritually through acceptable worship to the Lord, the Holy One of Israel.
- It’s not just about becoming better people. It’s got to be total transformation totally according to God’s will and word!
- To be in Christ, we must have the reality of the wilderness experience where we are baptized into Christ’s death through dying to the old nature. This is the experiential gateway into the Spirit-filled life of resurrection and renewal.

<b>Numbers</b>	<b>A Journey that only the New survive</b>
<b>“Into the Crucible [wilderness] to be refined and proven”</b>	

**Ch.1-10      Numbering and preparing for wilderness travel:**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1,2       | Census for <b>army</b> ; Tribal arrangement   |
| 3,4       | <b>Worship Team</b>   |
| 5,6       | <b>Camp Purity</b>  |
| 7,8       | <b>Dedication</b>   |
| 9, 10     | Final Preparations<br>- spiritual - Passover<br>- physical - Trumpets                       |
| 10:11-12  | Israelites set out from the Desert of Sinai and traveled from place to place...             |
| 10:35, 36 | <b>Words of warfare</b> [indicating the spiritual warfare aspect of wilderness experiences] |

**The Crucible:**

- |           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| 11:1      | hardships              |
| 11:4      | food cravings          |
| 12: 1,2   | pride and jealousy     |
| 13: 28-33 | intimidating obstacles |
| 14: 1-4   | peer pressure          |
| 14: 44    | presumption            |

*Verses in bold reveal the centrality of Christ's sacrifice and priestly ministry for followers in the crucible [wilderness]*

- 15: 1-41** faith (in God's sacrificial system) not works produces obedience  
16: 1-3 insolence  
**17: 1-13** God's chosen One will resurrect  
**18: 1-32** God's chosen One will bear the responsibility for offenses against the sanctuary and the priesthood  
**19: 1-22** Water of cleansing for daily uncleanness  
**20: 2-5** thirst  
**21: 5** impatience  
**22 - 25** seduction into idolatry and sexual immorality  
**Success of refinement:**  
**26: 63-65** death of old generation [the old sin nature] and succession of the new [Spirit's nature]

**An edifying thought from New Testament Scripture:**

“Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined...then you are illegitimate children and not true sons...God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness.”  
Hebrews 12:7-10

**Biblical worldview:**

A significant aspect of the Christian's life is the struggle against the sin nature [represented by the old generation of Israelites who came out of Egypt]. This old nature (inherited and ratified by our own desires and decisions) is hostile towards the things of God; it cannot please God nor can it possess eternal life. Only through the sacrifice and ministry of Christ in our lives can we die to the old nature so that we can live from the new Spirit nature, the new identity in Christ. Through God's resurrection power, we can be raised to this new life where mortality is swallowed up by immortality, ie. grace overcoming sin to the glory of God. This ministry is carried out by the indwelling Holy Spirit through the Word of God. He uses the Word of God to help us have a truthful knowledge and understanding of the Lord. With this renewed mind, we see all of life differently and begin growing in true love for God and people.

**Email reflection:** Genesis through Deuteronomy provides an overview of the redemption plan of God. From Abraham, trace the redemption up to this point and see how many people and events you can draw out that speak of the One [Jesus Christ] to come who would truly and fully redeem His people.

## **Christ in Numbers**

**Matthew 4:1-2** “Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.” Just as Israel traveled the wilderness to be tested, so was the Son of God, the true Israel (the Prince of God). Also, everyone in Christ will travel through the wilderness to be disciplined as true children of the Father.

With each temptation, Jesus responded with Scripture because “the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation [not even the devil] is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” (**Heb. 4:12**) Faith and obedience to the Word of God is the key to overcoming the test of the wilderness.

**Romans 8:13** “For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.” Read the entire chapter of Romans 8 to get a fuller picture of this truth. Or better yet, start back at Romans 6 and read through Romans 8.

Also look up **Galatians 5:16 - 26**. In the wilderness, after 40 years of wandering due to their rebellion, the adult generation that came out of Egypt, except for Joshua and Caleb, died in the desert. Only their children would enter the Promised Land. This was a foreshadowing indication that the old nature which grew up in and according to the world’s influence (symbolized by Egypt), could not possess the promises of God. Only a new nature is capable of entering and experiencing the Promises of God. How central and prominent must be the Cross of Christ!

### **Preparations for the Wilderness Journey**

#### **I. Numbering for war**

A. Romans 7:21-23

#### **II. Centrality of Worship**

A. Deuteronomy 6:4-19, Matthew 4:10; 22:34-40

#### **III. Centrality of the priesthood**

A. Ephesians 4:11-16

#### **IV. Purity**

A. Hebrews 12:14-17

#### **V. Voluntary Offerings by the leaders for the people**

A. Romans 12:1

B. II Corinthians 9:6-15

C. Mark 10:45

#### **VI. Observance of the Passover**

A. Luke 22:14-23

B. John 6:53-58

B. John 15:5

#### **VII. The Covering Cloud and the Silver Trumpets**

A. Psalm 80:3

B. Psalm 29

C. I Corinthians 15:52

D. I Thessalonians 4:16

### **The Wilderness**

11:1 Hardships

11:6 Boring food

13:31-33 Fear of large enemies / unbelief  
14:1-4 Unbelief and rebellion  
16:1 insolence  
20:18, 21:23, 22:2-3 external enemies  
21:4-5 impatience and complaining  
25:1-3 Seduction

### **Christ in the Wilderness**

- 6:3 Nazirite vow
- 9:11-13 Passover
- 21:4-9 Bronze snake
- 19:1 Red Heifer and Cleansing water
- 16:28 “God sent”
- 21:8-11 Water from Rock
- 9:17-23 Cloud
- 27:17 Shepherd / Leader
- Budding of Aaron’s staff
- Silver trumpets
- Manna

### **The Second Census ch.26 = New Birth**

- John 3:3, Rom. 6-8

### **Getting ready to go into the Promised land ch.27-36**

Pay close attention to the daughters of Zelophehad. They significantly exemplify the right attitude of those ready to possess God’s promises – a passionate and bold desire to...