

## **OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY**

### **Numbers**

Numbers continues from Leviticus recounting of the preparations of God's people to move out from the foot of Mount Sinai. The book also narrates the transition from the generation that left Egypt to the new generation that stood on the brink of the Promised Land.

Numbers shows how the promises God had made to Abraham would be kept despite the repeated unfaithfulness and rebellion of Israel. There are many recorded incidents of Israel provoking God to wrath and yet God persists in maintaining His faithfulness to Israel, not on the basis of anything they had done but out of His own character, His faithfulness, patience and grace.

**“Past promises will prevail in spite of present problems”**

### **Outline of Numbers**

#### **I. The First Generation in the Wilderness (1:1-25:18)**

- A. The Preparation and Inauguration of the March of Israel (1:1-10:36)
  - 1. The first census and orders for encampment around the tabernacle (1:1-4:49)
  - 2. The test for purity and the nazirite vow (5:1-6:27)
  - 3. Dedication of the tabernacle and observance of the Passover (7:1-9:23)
  - 4. The Israelites begin their journey (10:1-36)
- B. Repeated Rebellion, Death, and Deliverance of Israel with Elements of Hope (11:1-25:18)
  - 1. Complaints of the people and God's judgment (11:1-14:45)
  - 2. A collection of laws (15:1-41)
  - 3. Korah's Rebellion (16:1-50)
  - 4. The Budding of Aaron's staff (17:1-13)
  - 5. Additional commands concerning the priests (18:1-19:22)
  - 6. Journey to the plains of Moab, further disobedience (20:1-21:35)
  - 7. Balaam's oracles (22:1-24:25)
  - 8. Israel's apostasy and the end of the first generation (25:1-18)

#### **II. The Second Generation Prepares to Enter the Promised Land (26:1-36:13)**

- A. The Preparation of Israel as They Ready Themselves to Enter the Promised Land (26:1-36:13)
  - 1. The second census (26:1-65)
  - 2. Inheritance for women (27:1-11)
  - 3. The successor to Moses (27:12-23)
  - 4. Commands regarding feasts, offerings, and vows (28:1-30:16)
  - 5. The war against Midian (31:1-53)
  - 6. Settlement of the Transjordan tribes (32:1-42)
  - 7. Appendix: travel logs and instructions for land inheritance and transfer (33:1-36:13)

## **Major Themes**

### **The Promises of God Fulfilled**

-**Promise of People** (Genesis 12:2; 13:16; 15:4-5; 17:4-6)

-**Promise of a Place** (Genesis 12:7; 13:15; 15:18-21)

-**Promise of God's Presence** (Genesis 15:1)

-**Promise of Blessing to the Nations** (Genesis 12:3)

### **The Grumbling, Disobedience, and Rebellion of Israel**

### **The Holiness of God**

## **Shadows of Christ**

**The bronze snake** (21:8)

**The one who is the star of Jacob and scepter of Israel** (24:17)

**The work of the priest in atonement** (16:41-48; 25:6-11)

**The death of the high priest as it pertains to those sheltered in cities of refuge** (35:25-28)