

## Israel's Wandering (Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)

### ➤ Intro:

#### - overview Bible Class curriculum: Year 1, Quarter 3 — Israel's Wandering

- **NASA photo:** show Goshen, desert they wandered in, Promise Land - rf. green area on photo

### ➤ - trek of Israelites: Goshen to east of the Jordan

- **have to move fast**, forty years history (96 chapters) in 2 lessons, can't review much historical narrative

- **less than 1 minutes** per chapter / **lesson than 6 minutes** on each of the 13 lesson / can't repeat all lessons

- **follow along**, use outline and answer questions - How does it help?

- **mostly focus on the application from Bible stories**

### ➤ Overview - last three books of Pentateuch, written by Moses

#### - Leviticus:

- laws dealing with the tribe of Levi, and in particular the priests

- laws regarding the ark of the covenant, the sanctuary and it's furnishings, the priests and their worship

### ➤ - Numbers:

- records the two censuses taken in the desert:

- one at Sinai at the beginning of the exodus

- one on the plains of Moab near the end of the wilderness wandering

- records several events leading up to the Exodus and during the wilderness wandering, and the settlement of Reuben and Gad in Gilead

### ➤ - Deuteronomy:

- second stating of the law, review — Moses speaking to the children of Israel

- composed of three discourses followed by three short appendices (ISBE)

### ➤ Sacrifices had to be offered (Lev. 8-9 - Lesson 1)

- **animal sacrifices had to be offered** for their forgiveness and consecration (priest and people)

- **Heb. 10:4-6** could not take away sin

### ➤ - Jesus is our sacrifice

- **Heb. 10:7-10** Jesus our sacrifice, sin taken away

- **1 Cor. 5:7b** "For **Christ our Passover** also has been **sacrificed.**"

- **Heb. 5:9** we must obey Jesus to be saved

### ➤ - Jesus is our High Priest

- **Heb. 4:14-16** hold fast confession, sympathetic high priest who helps, draw near with confidence

- **Heb. 6:19-20** Jesus is our hope and anchor

➤ **Nadab and Abihu / Moses and Aaron punished for their sins (Lev. 10; 20 - Lesson 1, 7)**

- **Lev. 10:1-3**

- **story of Nadab and Abihu:** firepans, incense, strange fire (unauthorized), died, fire from heaven, not treat God as holy

- **Num. 20:8-12**

- **story of Moses and Aaron:** struck the rock rather than speak to it, not treat God as holy, punishment was not entering Promise Land

➤ - **we must do the things God has authorized — not more or less** (rf. series, Authority)

- **1 Pet. 4:11** speak utterances (oracles) of God — **say what God has said, not more or less**

- **Col. 3:17** only do the things authorized by Christ (“in the name” - authority, *stop in the name of the law*)

- **God not give us all the do nots — illus.: first century Christians studying about Internet pornography**

- **1 Cor. 4:6** not think beyond what is written (NKJV), exceed what is written (NASB)

- **illus.: parent tells child to go to store** and get a loaf of bread, goes to store then runs around going a lot of other places, comes home after midnight, excuse “You didn’t tell me not to” — big trouble - exceeded

- **God not give us all the do nots — illus.: how big would Bible be if had all the do nots** - too big to read

- **2 Jn. 1:9** if exceed (go too far) not have God — **do what God authorizes, not more or less**

- **Rev. 22:18-19** not add or take from — do what God authorizes, not more or less (cf. Deut. 4:1-2)

- **we must do what God commands today, not what He’s commanded in ages past**

- **Moses:** struck the rock like God had previously commanded, disobeyed, punished

- **today:** we can’t try to worship God as commanded in OT, or we will be punished

- **if we do things God hasn’t authorized (silent), we are not treating Him as holy, punished**

- e.g., Nabad and Abihu / Moses and Aaron

- **not respect God,** not treat Him as special person He is and deserves to be treated

- **secular illus.: ask my kids to stay home and clean their rooms** while I’m gone, come back and rooms aren’t clean, ask later why not do what I asked, say they wanted to do something else - not respect me

- **religious illus.: God asks us to assemble on the first day of the week for Lord Supper and Collection,** we assemble on a different day and do those things - not respect Him, treat Him holy

➤ **We must be holy (Lev. 19:2 - Lesson 2) — you must be holy to treat God as holy**

- **Lev. 19:1-2** the people of Israel had to be holy to please God and go to heaven

➤ - **We must also be holy, to please God and go to heaven.**

- **1 Pet. 1:15-16** we must be holy because God is holy - if want to go to heaven, when God is

- **In general, "holy" represents** the sanctity of deity (God) and anyone in a right relationship with God.

➤ - **To be holy, we must:**

- **1 Pet. 1:13-14** prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ, be obedient, not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance

➤ - **We can be holy because of Jesus**

- **1 Pet. 1:18-19** Jesus redeemed with His blood — bought back from sin

**end Part I: inv. to be holy must obey Jesus, cleansed in His blood, sanctified and made holy**

- Acts 22:16 baptized, washed sins away

- 1 Pet. 3:21 in blood of the Lamb - Jesus

- **Intro. Part II:** overview, Israel's wandering, 40 years, sin believing evil spies, Joshua and Caleb only entered
  - **follow along**, use outline and answer questions - How does it help?
  - **mostly focus on the application from Bible stories**
- **1 - review map:** travel from Goshen to east of the Jordan
- **4 - review previous lesson**
  
- **Israel was punished for murmuring (complaining and grumbling) (Num. 11:1-2; 14:1-5 - Lesson 3)**
  - **Num. 11:1-2; 14:1-5** Israel murmured and grumbled, God punished them
  - **- If we grumble and complain, we should expect God to punish us**
    - **illus.: child complaining** about having to get up and go to church Sunday morning, or prepare Bible class
    - **1 Cor. 10:9-10; Phil. 2:14-16** not to complain, grumble
  - **- How can we avoid complaining?**
    - **don't hang around** people who complain
    - **trust in God**, His power, His providence and working in your life — have faith
      - **Phil. 4:13** "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." — **not need to grumble or complain**
      - **2 Tim. 1:12** Paul suffered but not ashamed, knew. . . . — **not want to grumble or complain**
  - **If we grumble or complain, what are we telling God? — telling the people around us?**
  
- **The Twelve Spies (Num. 13 - 14 - Lesson 4)**
  - **one man from each tribe sent out to spy out Canaan - 12 total**
  - **- map:** spies' journey, gone 40 days
    - spies returned: 10 gave evil report, 2 gave good report (Joshua and Caleb)
    - people spurned God, not believe despite all the signs (14:11) — believed evil spies
    - people wanted to stone Joshua and Caleb for their good report (14:10)
    - evil spies punished: struck down with a plague
    - people punished for believing them rather than God: that generation, 40 years wander in the wilderness, except Joshua and Caleb who remain alive
    - Israelites were repentant and tried to take Canaan anyway, after Moses told them they wouldn't succeed, they were struck down by the Amalekites and Canaanites
  - **The 12 spies - 10 evil and 2 good: what was difference** (faith, therefore confident positive attitude)
    - **they judged based on the physical not the spiritual** - not based on God and His power
      - **looked at the giants** and were afraid
      - **looked at the land flowing with milk and honey**, according to God's promise, and forgot
  - **- we must be like Joshua and Caleb** - spiritual thoughts and wisdom
    - **1 Cor. 2:13, 15-16** taught by Spirit, spiritual thoughts, appraise all things
    - **like Joshua and Caleb:**
      - must be different to make a difference
      - stand alone, with the few, upon occasions
  - **- we shouldn't be like the sinful Israelites**
    - **1 Cor. 10:1-13** history of Israel's sin, no temptation uncommon (today), way of escape

➤ **Korah, Dathan, and Abiram revolt against Moses and Aaron (Num. 16 - Lesson 5)**

- **Num. 16:1-5** these 3, with 250 leaders of Israel, rose up and revolted against Moses' authority

- Moses had them all get a firepan, put fire and incense in it, and assemble at the tent of meeting
- then they went to their tents, and God caused the ground to open up and swallow them, their families, all their possessions, punished with death

- **Num. 16:31-35** what would your reaction be? — murmur (Num. 16:36ff)

- fire came down from heaven and devoured 250 with firepans

➤ - **God warned them to get away from the rebels so they were killed along with the wicked**

- **2 Cor. 6:14-18** separate ourselves from sinful world — flee lusts

➤ - **We must be careful not to reject authority established by God** (church, government, family, etc.)

- **Jude 1:8-11** like Korah (vs. 11)

- **Heb. 13:17** in the church

➤ **The Brass Serpent (Num. 21 - Lesson 8)**

- **Num. 21:4-9** Israel became impatient, murmured, Lord sent serpents to bite and kill, repented, Moses made bronze serpent and put on standard, everyone who looked at lived

➤ - **Jesus relates this to Himself and our salvation**

- **Jn. 3:13-16** Jesus lifted up like serpent in wilderness, believe in Him and eternal life

- **Moses and the serpent:** to believe God through the word of Moses meant to do whatever necessary (hard trip, look at serpent) to obey and look at the serpent - not merely a mental ascent

- **Jesus, today:** to believe today means to do whatever is necessary to obey Jesus - not merely a mental ascent

- **Jesus commands:** believe, repent, confess, baptized, faithful

- **illus.: comparison** between Moses and serpent / Jesus

- **What if the Israelites** thought they could be saved by **grace only** and didn't have to make the trip to look at the serpent - die

- **What if people today** think they are saved by **grace only** and don't have to obey Jesus - believe, repent, confess, baptized

- **What if Israelites** thought they could be saved by **praying a prayer** and didn't make the trip to look at the serpent - die

- **What if people today** think they can **pray to be saved rather than** obey Jesus - believe, repent, confess, baptized

- **What if Israelites** thought, "there's no power in the serpent, the power is with God, I don't have to look at it to be saved."

- **What if people today** think, "there's no power in the water, the power is with God, I don't have to be baptized to be saved" — **rf. Mk. 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21**

- **What if the Israelites** thought they could go to where the serpent was but didn't have to look at it

- **What if people today** think they can be saved by **believing, repenting, confessing, but not be baptized**

- **we must obey Jesus to be saved, just as Israel had to obey and look at the serpent to be saved**

➤ **Balaam and Balak (Num. 22 - 26 - Lessons 11-12)**

- **Balaam / Balak / Israel's Sin**

- **Balak wanted Balaam to curse Israel, so they could not defeat Him and the Moabites**
- **Balaam wouldn't curse Israel, but he told Balak how to deceive them with a stumbling block**
  - Balaam told Balak he could only say what God told Him - Balaam blessed Israel rather than curse
  - Balaam eventually told Balak what to do put a stumbling block before Israel whereby they trespassed against God resulting in their punishment with a plague (Num. 31:16)
    - the Israelites played the harlot with the daughters of Moab, sacrificed to their gods, ate and bowed to their gods, joined themselves to Baal of Peor
    - therefore, Balak accomplished his objective - Israel was out of favor with God
- **God ordered Moses to execute the Israelites who had joined themselves to Baal of Peor**
- **Phinehas was zealous to execute a sinful Israelite man who was with a Midianite woman**
  - **God stopped the plague** — saved Israel

➤ - **lessons taught in the NT from this story**

- **2 Pet. 2:15-16** deception of false teachers - **rf. description 2 Pet. 2:1-3, 10-14**
- **Jude 1:10-11** the error of Balaam, rebellion of Korah - those who teach in such a way and those who follow their teaching will be punished - **rf. what they do Jude 1:12-13**
- **Rev. 2:14** false teachers similar to Balaam who taught Balak to put stumbling blocks in people's path to get them to sin - **rf. must repent if believe Rev. 2:15-16**
  - **today, we must be like Phineas who was zealous to do what was right** (Num. 25)

➤ **Moses' death on Nebo at the top of Pisgah (Deut. 34:1-12 - Lesson 13)**

- **Moses went up, see Promise Land but not enter, died**

- Moses was 120 years old, eyes not dim and vigor not abated
- Moses went up Mount Nebo to Pisgah, the highest point of the mountain
- Moses got to look over into the Promise Land, but not enter
- Moses died — punishment for his sin at Meribah - struck rock rather than speaking as commanded - not believe or treat God as holy
- Israel wept 30 days, like with Aaron — no prophet like him, until Jesus was born
- **Jude 1:8-9** Michael the archangel contended for Moses' body — **illus. not revile like false teachers**

➤ - **lessons:**

- **never idolize or stake your salvation on a man**, men will let you down (e.g., Moses' sin and punishment)
  - **they should not imitate his sin**
- **godly religious leaders may not meet their greatest aspirations** (e.g., Moses died without entering Promise Land)
  - **may work hard and not achieve highest goal** - another generation may achieve it
- **all men (great and small) must die**
  - **we must be ready to die** (Heb. 9:13)

➤ **Inv.**