

NUMBERS 5-10

REVIEW...

- **OUTLINE & THEME...**

- Numbers is broken down into 4 sections...
 - Final instruction at Mt. Sinai 1-10 / Mt. Sinai to Kadesh Barnea 11-14...
 - 40 years in the wilderness 15-19 / the 40th year 20-36
- The Theme of the book...
 - Being obedient - trusting in the Lord is the key to entering the 'Promised Land'...
 - If we want to have a fruitful - effective life - we need to listen to God's Word...
 - If we don't - like Israel - we will find we are left to 'wander' through the wilderness
 - We will miss out on all God has for us - we will wander aimlessly through life!

- **NUMBERS 1-4...**

- Numbers 1 - God commanded Moses to take a Census of the nation...
 - The purpose was to prepare / organize the people of Israel to travel...
 - The final count of all 12 tribes was 603,550 men over the age of 20 (*3-5 million total*)
- Numbers 2 - The camp of Israel - dividing the 12 tribes...
 - There were 3 tribes on each side of the Tabernacle - formed the shape of the cross...
 - Each had their own banner - Lion / Man / Ox / Eagle - the presence of God!
- Number 3 & 4 - The tribe of Levi...
 - God choose the tribe of Levi to be the priestly tribe - serve in the Tabernacle...
 - 22,000 over the age of 1 month - exchanged for the 1st born of all Israel...
 - Three groups - Gershon / Kohath / Merari - each with their own responsibility

FINAL PREPARATIONS...

- **NUMBERS 5...**

- In preparation for leaving Mt. Sinai...
 - God rehearsed some of the laws/instructions He had given in Exodus & Leviticus...
 - He also gave some new commands not previously mentioned...
- Leprosy / Sin & restitution... vs. 1-10... **READ: NUMBERS 5:1-2, 7**
 - All those who had contagious skin diseases were to be put outside the camp...
 - The reason was because God was going to live among the people...
 - Leprosy is a picture of sin in the Bible - causes you to be spiritually unclean...
 - We are the temple of the Holy Spirit - God does not want us to have sin in our lives...
 - When we choose to live in sin - we are choosing not to walk with the Lord...
 - We put ourselves 'outside the camp' - separate ourselves from fellowship with God!
 - Anyone who committed a sin against his neighbor...
 - Had to confess what they had done - offering a sin sacrifice to God...
 - As well make restitution to the one they sinned against - plus 20%...
 - If the person who you wronged was dead - you were to pay God...
 - It's far too easy to simply say 'I am sorry' - God wanted you to back up your words...

- Show you're sorry by your actions - make an effort to right what you did wrong...
- o Jealous husband... vs. 11-31... READ: NUMBERS 5:11-15
 - If a husband was suspicious of his wife having an affair...
 - But there was no proof - there were no witnesses / she was not caught in the act...
 - The husband had to bring a 'jealousy' offering to the priest...
 - The jealousy offering...
 - The priest would take a jar with water mixed with dust from the tabernacle floor...
 - He would then place it in the woman's hand - with her hair let down...
 - The priest would write a curse of 'bareness' on leather - wash it into the water...
 - The woman would have to swear an oath she was innocent - then drink...
 - If she was telling the truth - it would have no effect - if not she would be barren...
 - The 'drink' itself had no power - it was about the ceremony...
 - In fear of the 'consequences' - it gave the opportunity for the wife to confess...
 - Or if the husband were just overly jealous - it would restore the husband's faith...
 - Sometimes husbands and wives have a hard time communicating...
 - Trust between them has been lost - perhaps they are not longer even talking...
 - The wife becomes bitter/distant towards an 'unloving' husband...
 - The husband becomes jealous/suspicious towards his 'un-submissive' wife...
 - The solution is to come before the Lord - who can restore a broken marriage!
- NUMBERS 6...
 - o Vow of a Nazarite... vs. 1-21 READ: NUMBERS 6:1-3
 - A vow of separation - for however long you wanted - set apart for the work of God...
 - You could not cut your hair - you could not touch a dead body...
 - You could not drink wine - eat grapes - or even raisins!
 - **Ephesians 5:18** - "Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, let the Holy Spirit fill and control you."
 - If they broke their vow - dead body/wine - they had to start all over again!
 - At the end they were to shave their head / offer a sin & peace offering to the Lord...
 - Sampson - **Judges 13:7** - was a Nazarite from his birth till his death...
 - He was unstoppable for the Lord - as long as he was dedicated to the Lord...
 - The secret of his strength (*not his long hair*) - was he was set apart for God...
 - But Sampson gave in to sin - and it cost him his strength - effectiveness for God...
 - God has called us to be set apart for Him - we are not to be like the world...
 - If we look and act just like the world - why would they want to hear about Jesus!
 - The world gambles / drinks / parties - all they have is momentary pleasure...
 - If we are doing the same things - how are we any different from the world...
 - When we are dedicated ourselves to the Lord - full of the Holy Spirit...
 - We are unstoppable for the Lord - but when we give in to sin - lose our strength!
 - o The blessing of Israel... vs. 22-27 READ: NUMBERS 6:23-26
 - God commanded Aaron and the priests to bless Israel with this benediction...
 - The LORD is used three times - protect / grace / peace...
 - The triune nature of God - God the Father - God the Son - God the Spirit...
 - Our Father in heaven protects us - we have nothing to fear...

- We receive the Grace of God through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross...
- We have peace from God through the work of His Holy Spirit!
- **NUMBERS 7...** **READ: NUMBERS 7:1-3, 89**
 - o The offerings for the Tabernacle... vs. 1-89
 - On the day Moses set up the Tabernacle - anointing it as Holy - set apart for God...
 - The 12 leaders of Israel (*1 for each tribe*) brought special offerings to the Lord...
 - They gave 6 carts and 12 ox to be used by the Levites in moving the tabernacle
 - Then over 12 days (*one each day*) the 12 leaders each gave individual gifts...
 - We get the idea that we are supposed to give to God - support the pastors / church...
 - The common view is the pastors are the 'end of the line' - they don't have to give...
 - But it is the pastors who are called to set the example for the people...
 - If they are unwilling to give to the Lord - how can they ask others to sacrifice to God!
 - o God spoke to Moses...
 - Whenever Moses went into the Tabernacle - God spoke to him from the Mercy Seat...
 - **Exodus 33:11** - "The LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend."
 - God did not talk to Moses in vague dreams - He spoke to him like you would a friend!
 - A leader should be someone who not only sets a good example for the people...
 - He should be someone who take the time to hear from the Lord - directed by the Lord
 - If the leader does not know where he is going - where is he leading the people...
- **NUMBERS 8...** **READ: NUMBERS 8:14-18**
 - o Dedicating the Levites... vs. 1-26
 - All of the Levites were to come to the Tabernacle with a Burnt & Sin offering...
 - They were to shave their whole body - wash - and put on clean clothes...
 - Then Israel would come and lay their hands on them - giving them to the Lord...
 - They were to serve from 25 years old - until they were 50 years old
 - o The laying on of hands...
 - According to **Hebrews 6:2** - this is an elementary principal of our Faith...
 - In the early church there was a need - someone to help the Apostles - **Acts 6:1-7...**
 - They chose 7 men full of the Holy Spirit - to minister practically to God's people...
 - After the Apostles had prayed for them - they laid hands on them...
 - The picture is of setting apart someone for the service of the Lord...
 - Lord willing - one day - we will have the privilege of 'laying hands' on someone here...
 - Recognizing God's work - a calling to love and minister to God's people!
 - But never be in a rush - **I Timothy 5:22** - "Do not lay hands on anyone hastily..."
 - It is not about appointing a leader - it is about recognizing God's anointing!
- **NUMBERS 9...**
 - o Keeping the Passover... vs. 1-14 **READ: NUMBERS 9:1-3**
 - It had been two years since God brought Israel out of Egypt...
 - It was time to hold the first Passover to remember the 10th and final plague...
 - Everyone was required to attend - you were to be 'cut off' from Israel...
 - But there were some who could not take part - unclean (*touched a dead body*)...
 - God allowed for a 2nd date - one month later - for those who were unclean/away...

- There is only one way to heaven - through Jesus - the Lamb of God...
- But if someone is far away (*has not heard about Jesus*) - or caught up in sin (*unclean*)...
- God is VERY patient - He is the God of 2nd chances - desiring that all men be saved!
- o Following the Lord... vs. 15-23 **READ: NUMBERS 9:21-23**
 - The Lord covered the Tabernacle with a cloud by day - pillar of fire by night...
 - If the cloud/pillar moved so did Israel - if it stopped Israel made camp...
 - It did not matter if it was a day / a month / or a year...
 - Israel did not move unless God went before them...
 - We have the tendency to want to rush out - then look back to see if God is following...
 - We make our plans - set out to get to work - then ask God to bless what we are doing...
 - Then we are shocked/surprised when God does not get on board with 'our plan'!
 - God is not bound to our plan - He does not promise to follow us...
 - We are called to follow Him - we need to keep our eyes on the Lord...
 - If God stays put - we wait / If He moves - that is when we step out in faith and follow!
- **NUMBERS 10...**
 - o The silver trumpets... vs. 1-10 **READ: NUMBERS 10:1-2**
 - Israel was to have two trumpets - only to be blown by the priest - to call the people...
 - They were to have different calls for different purposes: move / war / celebration...
 - When I was in Israel in 2006 in Haifa - we were heard the air raid sirens...
 - We are still waiting for God to blow the trumpets - to call us home!
 - **I Thessalonians 4:15** - "The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God."
 - One day soon - no one knows exactly when - Jesus is going to come for His church...
 - If Jesus came today - if those trumpets sounded - what would Jesus find us doing...
 - **Matthew 24:44** - "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."
 - o Setting out for the Promised Land... vs. 11-28 **READ: NUMBERS 10:11-13**
 - One day - during mid-spring - the cloud lifted from the Tabernacle...
 - They had been over a year sitting - listening to God's Word...
 - Not it was time to leave Mt. Sinai - it was time to head to the Promised Land...
 - According to God's plan - each tribe broke down according to their order...
 - The Levites and the priests carried the Tabernacle!
 - It is a blessing to be able to sit and listen to God's Word - be prepared...
 - But the time comes when we are called to step out in faith - follow the Lord...
 - If we do not we will become stale in our walk - no longer challenged in our faith...
 - What once took a great deal of faith (*praying in public*) is now comfortable...
 - God is always nudging us to step out further - into a place where we depend on Him!
 - o Hobab... vs. 29-36... **READ: NUMBERS 10:29-32**
 - Moses had a brother-in-law Hobab (*loved*)...
 - Hobab wanted to go back home - but Moses pleaded with him to stay...
 - Moses argued - he knew the desert and could help guide the people...
 - Also God had given Israel amazing promises - Hobab could share in them...
 - The reality was God (*the Ark in front*) was leading Israel - they did not need Hobab...

- Apparently Moses was depending on his friend - and did not want him to leave...
- God often moves people in / and out of our lives...
 - If God left the same people in our lives - we would begin to depend on them...
 - So God moves people around - there only for a season - to keep us trusting in Him!