

NUMBERS 32-34

REVIEW...

- **NUMBERS 1-12 - ORGANIZE THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL TO TRAVEL / JOURNEY TO THE PROMISED LAND...**
- **NUMBERS 13-16 - REFUSING TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND / REBELLION OF KORAH...**
- **NUMBERS 17-21- ROD OF AARON / THE ROLE OF THE PRIESTS-LEVITES / RED HEIFER / 40TH YEAR...**
- **NUMBERS 22-25 - BALAAM THE PROPHET...**
- **NUMBERS 26 - THE 2ND CENSUS...**
- **NUMBERS 27-29 - A NEW LEADER FOR ISRAEL...**
 - The Law of inheritance - the five daughters of Zelophehad...
 - God told Moses to go to Mt. Nebo - there he would see the Promised Land - then die...
 - Moses didn't argue with the Lord - instead he asked for God to raise up a shepherd...
 - God gave Israel Joshua - a man full of the Holy Spirit - to lead them into His land!
 - The many required sacrifices of Israel...
- **NUMBERS 30-31 - TRUE TO YOUR WORD / WIPING OUT A NATION...**
 - God commanded Israel to be men of their word - vows / promises / idle conversation
 - Women were under the covering of their father's / Husband's...
 - If a daughter/wife made a rash vow - the father/husband had the right to over rule it...
 - But if the father/husband said nothing - the vow/promise stood
 - God commanded Israel to wipe out the Midianites - Moses sent 12,000 men...
 - They killed all the men - taking all the women / children / and cattle as spoils of war...
 - In the fight they did not loose a single man - a perfect victory over their enemies!

CHAPTER 32 - LIVING ON THE FENCE... (3 THINGS)

- **1ST - THE DANGER OF COMPLACENCY... vs. 1-5 READ: NUMBERS 32:1-18**
 - Israel had already conquered the lands east of the Jordan River.. - *MAP (12 Tribes)*
 - The nations of the Amorites - King Og of Bashan / King Sihon - **Numbers 21...**
 - The lands there was pastureland - ideal for grazing cattle and livestock...
 - The 3 tribes of Reuben / Gad / ½ of Manasseh all had a LOT of livestock...
 - They were content to stay there - they saw no reason to go across the Jordan...
 - So they asked Moses if they could settle there...

- There is a great danger in the Christian walk of becoming complacent/comfortable...
 - We believe in Jesus / we are going to heaven / we go to church / read our Bible...
 - So we come to a place where to feel like we are safe - we don't need to go any further...
 - Yet part of growing in God - is continuing to step out in faith - doing new things...
 - Like a muscle that atrophies when it is not used - faith needs to be exercised...
 - When the things that were once a step of faith - praying in public - no longer stretch us...
 - We need to step out again - reaching out further - going beyond our comfort zone...
 - The moment we stop stepping out - stretching our faith - we start to drift from the Lord
 - We run the risk of losing our excitement - falling into an empty routine of Christianity!
- **2ND - CHECK YOUR HEART... VS. 6-27**
 - Moses was furious with the request...
 - Assumed the request was motivated by fear - there were powerful nations in the Land...
 - And it was because of fear - Israel not to enter into the Land 40 years earlier...
 - The 10 spies (*not Joshua or Caleb*) had given a bad report and the people rebelled...
 - The cost was enormous - everyone over 20 had died during the 40-year wandering...
 - Now here were their children - about to commit the same mistake again!
 - A fool learns from his own mistakes - a wise man learns from the mistakes of others...
 - We certainly can learn from our mistakes - but then we also have consequences...
 - It is far wiser to learn from the mistakes of others - rather than repeating them...
 - The compromise...
 - Rueben / Gad / and Manasseh clarified their position to Moses...
 - They would build fortified cities for their children and wives - for protection...
 - They would build barns for their flocks and livestock...
 - But then all the men of war would march with Israel into the Promised Land...
 - They would fight along side their brothers - till they also had victory!
 - Only then would they return to the east side of the Jordan and settle down...
 - It is easy to justify ourselves - even as we are drifting away from the Lord...
 - We reassure ourselves that we attend Bible studies along with everyone else...
 - But where is our heart - are we excited / or just going through the motions...
 - **II Corinthians 13:5** - "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you."
 - If we are not drawing closer to the Lord - then we are drifting away...

- We run the danger of falling back into the world - returning to our old ways...

● 3RD - DON'T FALL OFF THE FENCE... VS. 28-42

- Moses agreed to their request - so long as they fought with Israel...
 - Moses commanded Joshua and Eleazar the high Priest to give them the east side...
 - So long as they fought with their brothers - till the whole nation had victory...
 - They kept their word - they'd enter into the Land - and stay till Israel had victory...
 - But when they left - they'd make an altar by the Jordan River - **Joshua 22:10**...
 - A memorial - because they feared future generations of Israel would forget them...
 - They feared Israel would no longer accept the 'Eastern tribes' as part of the nation...
 - Because they were far away - they feared they would fall away from God...
 - It was a prophetic concern - the eastern tribes are not mentioned again until...
 - We read again of Reuben / Gad / ½ tribe of Manasseh in the NT...
 - They came to be known as the Gergesenes (*from the Hebrew – Gergishite*)...
 - Gergishites were the original Canaanite dwellers of the east side of the Galilee...
 - Because they were content to settle in the grazing lands east of the Jordan River...
 - They lacked the natural barrier of the river - making them vulnerable...
 - So they were the first of the 12 tribes to be conquered - **II Kings 10:32-33**...
 - They tried to live on the fence - close to God / but still in the world...
 - As a result they fell off the fence on the wrong side - they fell back into the world!
 - Often we try to reason with God – how far away from the world do we need to be...
 - Can we at least look at the world – how about touch – just a light touch...
 - We don't want to be in the world – just really close – is that OK God...
 - There is no compromising – there is no middle ground – no fence...
 - The danger of living life on the fence – is falling off on the wrong side...
 - It is not worth the danger to play around with the love of this world...
 - It is far too easy to fall in love with this world – and miss Jesus!

CHAPTER 33 - THE PATH TO FREEDOM... (4 THINGS)

● 1ST - OUT OF EGYPT... VS. 1-5 READ: NUMBERS 33:1-4

- God had Moses record the journey from Egypt to the Promised Land...
 - The purpose of the 'journal' was to recall what God had brought Israel from...
 - And to look forward to where God was going to take them!
 - It is a good idea to 'record' or 'journal' your walk with Jesus...
 - There are times when your circumstances can overwhelm you - it is easy to forget...
 - And it is REALLY helpful to be able to look back at all God has done in your life...

- To see the answered prayers - see His provision - how He has guided your every step...
- It gives you confidence - the Lord has always been faithful - and He always will be!
- The journey began on the 15th day of the 1st month - the day after Passover...
 - With all the Egyptians still burying the bodies of those the death angel had killed...
 - They marched out like a conquering nation - a mighty people (*rather than slaves*)...
 - God had proved He was greater than the gods of Egypt - the true and living God!
 - You may recall all 10 plagues were directed against one of the gods of Egypt...
 - God wanted Israel and Egypt to know - there is no God like the LORD!
- **2ND - FROM EGYPT TO MT. SINAI... vs. 6-15**
 - God took Israel to the edge of the Red Sea - where He parted the waters...
 - Leading Israel into the wilderness - where there was no water - and they complained...
 - Arriving at Mt. Sinai - and after the 'golden calf' - God entrusted Israel with His Law...
 - Right from the beginning Israel was a rebellious and stubborn people...
 - They would follow great acts of faith - with unbelievable acts of failure!
 - Yet God never gave up on them - His patience and Love for Israel was unshakable...
 - The good news is God has not changed - He is still very patient and loving with us!
 - He choose us knowing exactly who we were - the foolish - **I Corinthians 1:26-28...**
 - He is not surprised when we fall - it comes as no shock when we make mistakes...
 - God is always there for us - to pick us up and dust us off - send us on our way again!
- **3RD - FROM MT. SINAI FOR THE PROMISED LAND... vs. 16**
 - They camped at the 'graves of lust' - where they had demanded meat to eat...
 - And in a short 11 day journey made it to the border of the Promised Land...
 - It had already taken a year to get Israel this far - and it would take another 40...
 - But God was not interested in taking Israel on the fastest path...
 - God was looking to make Israel into a nation / people who knew and loved the Lord!
 - God has a plan for each an every one of our lives – but He is not is a rush...

- Before God can fulfill His plans for our lives – He has to prepare us...
- If God told you would become a pastor / or a missionary to a muslim country...
- If God told you were He was taking you – you might turn around and run away!
- So God takes us the long way – so we spend time with Him – learn to depend on Him...
- So He can prepare us for the work He wants to do in our lives...
- It does not matter to Him if it takes 40 minutes or 40 years - He is a patient God...
- He will wait for us to learn to depend on Him - so He can do amazing works through us!
- **Psalms 86:15** - “You, O Lord, are a merciful and gracious God, slow to get angry, full of unfailing love and truth.”
- **4TH - 40 YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS... vs. 17-38**
 - At the end of the 40 years - all of those who had rebelled were dead... vs. 19-49
 - God took Israel to the border of the Promised Land - across from the city of Jericho...
 - God commanded Israel to destroy the all the idols of the people in the Land...
 - And to kick the pagan nations out - so they could inherit the Promised...
 - If they did not remove the people/idols - they would become a thorn in Israel’s side...
 - They would influence Israel - dragging them into their sinful lifestyles...
 - In the end they would become like the pagan nations they were to have kicked out...
 - Then God would do to Israel - what He had intended to do to the pagan nations!
 - We often have a light hearted attitude towards sin - as though its no big deal...
 - After all - Jesus forgives us - all we have to do is ask!
 - But are playing with fire - sin is deadly - it has the power to harden our heart to God...
 - Sin is a dangerous enemy - either we destroy it - or it will come back to destroy us...

CHAPTER 34 - THE BOUNDRIES OF THE LAND...

- **THE MAP OF THE PROMISED LAND... vs. READ: NUMBERS 34:1-2**
 - North / South / East / and West... vs. 1-15
 - The boundaries of the Promised Land were to follow the Land of Canaan...

- On the East the boundary would be the Mediterranean Sea...
- On the West the boundary would be the Jordan River...
- On the North the boundary would be to Mt. Herman...
- On the South the boundary would be to the southern end of the Dead Sea...
- All of this Land Israel was to divide up among the 9 ½ 'western tribes...
- God choose one leader from each of the 9 ½ tribes to oversee the division...
- A permanent possession for Israel... - *MAP (Israel History)*
 - As Israel rebelled against the Lord - they slowly lost territory to other nations...
 - Until they were finally completely conquered by the Romans in 132 A.D.
 - But Israel was declared a nation again on May 14th, 1948...
 - At first they were only given a small portion of the Promised Land back...
 - But - after 7 wars - and in spite of constant debate in the U.N. - Israel has the Land again!
 - **When God gives a promise - there is no question - He will keep His Word!**
 - **II Corinthians 1:20** - "For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us."