

NUMBERS 11

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
- **NUMBERS 1-4 - ORGANIZE THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL TO TRAVEL...**
 - God commanded Moses to take a Census of the nation - 603,550 men...
 - There were 3 tribes on each side of the Tabernacle - formed the shape of the cross...
 - God choose the tribe of Levi to be the priestly tribe - serve in the Tabernacle...
 - Three groups - Gershon / Kohath / Merari - each with their own responsibility
- **NUMBERS 5-10 - FINAL PREPARATIONS..**
 - Numbers 5 - Clean the camp (*all lepers outside*) / Jealousy offering...
 - Numbers 6 - Nazarite vow / Priestly blessing for the nation..
 - Numbers 7 - Offering of the leaders (*example*) / Moses hearing from the Lord...
 - Numbers 8 - The Levites dedicated to the Lord - people laid hands on them...
 - Numbers 9 - Keeping the Passover (*2nd time*) / Led by the Cloud/Pillar...
 - Numbers 10 - The silver trumpets / Leaving Mt. Sinai / Hobab...

COMPLAINING AGAINST GOD... (4 THINGS)

- **1ST - LIFE IS TOO HARD... VS. 1-3**
 - No sooner had the people set out - they began to complain...
 - They had gotten comfortable at Mt. Sinai - set into a daily routine of life...
 - Now they had to break down their tent every time the cloud/pillar moved...
 - It was hot in the desert - they had to depend on the Lord daily for food and water...
 - But it was A LOT better than being beaten as slaves by godless Egyptians...
 - Now they were not alone - the Tabernacle - God dwelt in the midst of His people...
 - And the journey had a purpose - it was only for a season - the Promised Land...
 - When hard times come in life perspective is so important...
 - God makes no promises the Christian walk will be easy - but there is a purpose...
 - The Journey may take us through valleys - we are heading for our Promised Land!
 - Psalms 23:4 - "Even when I walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me..."
 - And the Lord is right beside us every step of the way - watching over us!
 - The anger of the Lord blazed out...
 - Fire broke out among the tightly packed tents - spreading quickly through the camp...
 - The fire began on the outskirts - those who were the farthest from the Tabernacle...
 - The suggestion is this is where the 'complaints' had originated...
 - Those who were the farthest from God - were the ones to begin complaining...
 - Complaints that spread through the camp like fire - igniting the hearts of the people

- So God sent His fire to consume them - stop them from infecting others!
- The farther we are from the Lord - the more likely we are to complain in life...
- When we complain about their husband/wife - upset about our family...
- When we complain about how little money we have - our work...
- We will find others pick up the same tone - also begin to complain along with us...
- If we don't stop - God will step in to stop us - keep the bad example from spreading
- God does not play around when it comes to stumbling His kids...
- * **Mark 9:42** - "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea."
- In **Acts 5** - Ananias and Sapphira lied about giving to the Lord - bad example...
- God's solution was swift - God killed them both - to keep the church safe!
- The result of the fire - they cried out to the Lord - and the fire stopped...
 - We can choose instead to be a good example - crying out to the Lord...
 - As we draw close to the Lord - we become a godly pattern for others to follow!
- **2ND - NOT CONTENT WITH WHAT WE HAVE... VS. 4-9**
 - A bad example...
 - There were foreigners among Israel - Egyptians who came with them - **Exodus 12:38**
 - They 'remembered' all the good food of Egypt - longingly talking about it with others...
 - Soon all of Israel began to complain - we want meat / fish / fruits / vegetables...
 - **I Corinthians 15:33** - "Bad company corrupts good character."
 - We are foolish if we think those around us do not affect us...
 - If you hang out with people who gamble - tell bad jokes - and get drunk...
 - But you think to yourself - I will not be like them - I am a godly Christian - foolish...
 - Choose VERY wisely who you spend time with - because you will become like them!
 - Not content with what we have...
 - There is nothing but this 'manna' - we have to look at it every day!
 - We make manna bread / manna soup / fried manna - we are TIRED of manna!
 - Every morning with the frost - the Lord reigned down the manna from heaven...
 - When the people saw it they asked - 'what is it?' - the word in Hebrew is 'manna'
 - It tasted like sweet pastries - it was the food of Angels - **Psalms 78:25**...
 - Yet the people were not content with Angel's food...
 - They remembered what the world had - and they thought that was better...
 - So often in Christ we look at the things the world has - and think it is better...
 - We have church - Bible studies - we have Jesus - but we get tired of them...
 - We want the Discos / the drinking / parties / boyfriends - girlfriends...
 - We think the world will make us happier than life in Jesus Christ...
 - We would trade in the eternal rewards of God - for the momentary pleasure of sin!
 - The best this world has to offer - only last only a few years...
 - What Jesus has in store for us is eternal! Why do we sell ourselves short

● **3RD - LEADING A STUBBORN AND REBELLIOUS PEOPLE... VS. 10-30**

- o Moses heard all the complaining - and he became very agitated... vs. 10-15
 - He began to complain to the Lord - do you hate me - what did I ever do to deserve this!
 - These are not my children - I am not their father - why must I take care of them...
 - Why do I have to carry these crying babies to the Land YOU promised them!
 - All they do is want - but it's never enough - I can't carry this burden alone!
 - Better to just kill me now - it would be a kinder fate than leading these people!
 - **People are sinners - and given half a chance - they will prove it to you...**
 - **There have been days when I could really relate to Moses - 'why me'...**
 - **When people you love make poor choices / when you give all you have - not enough...**
 - **A leader / pastor - must never forget that they are not his people - they are God's...**
 - **It's not my church - and you cannot blame me for it!**
- o Too much for one man... vs. 16-17...
 - God told Moses to bring 70 leaders of Israel to the Tabernacle...
 - God would take some of the Spirit that was on Moses - and put it on them as well...
 - They would help Moses bear the burden - he would not have to do it alone...
 - If we try and do all the work on our own...
 - **We end up burned out - tired - frustrated - unable to get anything accomplished...**
 - **Because we are trying to juggle so many things - nothing gets done at all!**
 - **We end up upsetting others - because we tell people we will help them out...**
 - **But we spread ourselves so thin we end up not doing what we said we would...**
 - **We keep others from being able to help out...**
 - **Because we said we would help - or because we did not ask for help...**
 - **Other people do not have the opportunity to step out and serve...**
- o The Lord heard their complaints - and He would provide meat for the people... vs. 18-23...
 - Not just enough for a day - or even five or twenty - but for a whole month!
 - They'd have meat till they gagged on it - throwing it up because they had so much!
 - Because they had rejected the Lord - complaining about going back to Egypt!
 - **When we say the world looks better - we are saying God is not enough...**
 - Moses argued with God - 'but how'...
 - Moses saw the numbers - there were over 600,000 men (*plus women and children*)
 - **Imagine if God told you to feed all of Negroes 3 full meals a day for a month!**
 - **Not just a little rice and Sudan - but enough meat that they would gag on it!**
 - If they killed every animal in their herds - it still would not be enough...
 - All the fish in the sea (*exaggeration*) - would not be enough to feed so many!
 - Is there any limit to God's power...
 - Moses was still making the mistake of thinking it was his responsibility...
 - Moses certainly could not feed the millions of Israel - no matter what he did...
 - **So often we get caught up with looking at what we have - what we can do...**
 - **We may think that we don't have enough money - enough time - or talent...**
 - **Our problem is we are focused on ourselves - but it is not about us...**
 - **We miss the point completely - it is not about us - it is about Jesus!**
- o Full of the Spirit... vs. 24-30
 - The Spirit fell upon the 70 - and they began to prophesy...

- We cannot be effective for the Lord in our own strength - we need God's strength...
- It is only when we are full of the Spirit - we will be effective for God...
- The night Jesus was betrayed - He told Peter he would deny Him 3 times...
- Peter adamantly denied it stating he would go to prison - even die for Jesus...
- But he was trusting in his own ability - his flesh - so he failed...
- Yet 50 days later - when the Holy Spirit was poured out - he preached - 3000 saved!
- **II Corinthians 4:7** - "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."
- If we are full of ourselves - our flesh - then we will be ineffective for Jesus...
- But when we are emptied - not depending on ourselves - full of Jesus - Holy Spirit
- We will find God changes our hearts - our desires - gives us His power...
- So that nothing is impossible for us - the ability to do anything for the Lord!
- Eldad and Medad...
 - Two of the 70 leaders had not come to the meeting at the Tabernacle...
 - But God's Spirit still fell on them - they began to prophesy in the camp of Israel...
 - Joshua - Moses' assistant found out and told Moses to forbid them...
 - Perhaps upset they had 'refused' to come to the meeting - not listened to Moses...
 - Yet Moses replied - 'I wish that all of the Lord's people were full of the Spirit!'
 - The Good news is God's Holy Spirit is available to EVERYONE who asks!
 - * **Luke 11:13** - "Your heavenly Father [will] give the Holy Spirit to those who ask..."
 - Not just once - but asking over and over and over again for - for the Holy Spirit...
 - * **Matthew 7:7** - "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."
 - You need gas to run a car - but you need to keep filling that car up with gas...
 - We need also need to be daily filling up on the Holy Spirit to be effective for God!
- **4TH - THE PRICE OF LUST... VS. 31-35**
 - God sent a wind - bringing with it quail from the sea - filling the camp...
 - For miles around there were quail - flying only 3 feet off the ground (*easy kill*)...
 - For 2 days the people gathered quail - no one got less than 750kg of meat!
 - While they were eating - the anger of the Lord blazed...
 - A severe plague broke out among the people - killing many of them...
 - The place became known as the 'graves of craving'...
 - Because they buried there those who had a craving for meat from Egypt...
 - When we live to satisfy our lusts - we are playing with fire...
 - **Proverbs 6:27** - "Can a man scoop fire into his lap and not be burned?"
 - Lust can never be satisfied - we will always want more
 - I love (*lust*) after chocolate chip cookies - when I was a kid I'd eat them all
 - I could never eat just one - I always wanted one more - then one more...
 - Till I was sick because of all the cookies - and still I wanted more
 - Lust wants - more money, more pleasure, more things, more power...
 - But it is never enough - in the end it costs us everything - for nothing
 - One more drink - one more cock fight - one more peso - always one more...

- The price we pay - sick (*drinking*), broke (*gambling*), broken family (*always gone*)
- When we are driven by our lusts – we will only hurt ourselves
- **Galatians 5:16** – “Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”