

**Series "Fixed On 66"**  
**"Numbers"**  
**Book-4**

**Key Passages: Numbers 14:22-23; 20:12**

**Numbers: "Our need to trust God rather than our own reason."**

"Numbers" is a book of wanderings. **Until the people of Israel learn to trust their God, they must endure the desert of discipline.**

**Numbers – Israel is tested in trusting God and found guilty of unbelief.**

**"For Israel, an 11-day journey became a 40-year agony."**

**Numbers** - takes its name from the two numberings of the men for war in **Numbers 1-4** and **26-27. Numbers 1:3**

**The Author** – Moses, who authored the first five books.  
**Exodus 17:14 Daniel 9:11-13.**

More than 80 claims in Numbers that **"the Lord spoke to Moses."**  
**Numbers 1:1**

**When Written** – Numbers covers almost 39 years, as Leviticus covers only one month. It has been one year since Israel was delivered from Egypt.

**Numbers 1-10:10** is 20 days at Mount Sinai.

**Numbers 10:11-25** is 38 years, three months, and ten days in the wilderness.

**Numbers 26-36** is five months in the plains of Moab.

**Where it was Written** – During Moses' wanderings with Israel.

**(Not much is recorded out of the almost 40 years)**

**Purpose** – As Israel stands on the verge of entering the wilderness, their faith fails, and God disciplines them by making them wander in the wilderness for one generation. The unbelievers would die, and a new generation would be raised up to enter the land.

**Theme** – **"Wanderings"** The consequences of disbelief and disobedience to God and His will. Called **"The Book of the Journey's"** **"The Book of Murmurings"** and **"The Fourth Book of Moses."**

**Key Words** – **"Wanderings"** **"Wilderness"**

## **Key Passage – Numbers 14:22-23; 20:12**

**Key Chapter – Numbers 14** Israel would not believe God, so God pronounces judgment that Israel would not enter the promised land.

### **Outline –**

#### **1. The Old Generation Set Aside (1-20)**

**Counted (1-4)**

**Counseled (5-10)**

**Chastised (11-12)**

**Condemned (13-20)**

#### **2. The New Generation Set Apart (21-36)**

**Their Journeying (21-25, 33)**

**Their Numbering (26-27)**

**Their Offerings (28-30)**

**Their Dividing of The Inheritance (31-36)**

**The Census of Israel's Warriors: Numbers 1-4 Numbers 1:1-3**

**Levites Exempt: Numbers 1:49-50**

**Arrangement of the Camps: Numbers 2: Numbers 2:34** We see from Exodus thru Numbers how orderly they are and even how God repeats the instructions.

**Numbering and Duties of The Levites: Numbers 3-4**

**Defilement: Numbers 5:1-10 Numbers 5:5-7** Restitution follows repentance.

**The Adultery Test: Numbers 5:11-31**

**The Vow of the Nazirites: Numbers 6:1-27**

1. No fruit of the vine
2. No razor shall cut their hair
3. They shall not touch a dead body

**The Offering of The Leaders: Numbers 7 Numbers 7:89**

**above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the testimony.**

How we need to be reminded that a relationship with God, even the benefit of God directing us, is all due to His mercy.

**Retirement of The Levites: Numbers 8 Numbers 8:23-26**

**The Passover: Numbers 9:1-14 Numbers 9:1-4** The feast was the constant reminder that their redemption depended on the blood of the lamb and the power of God.

**God Gives Direction In Our Daily Walk: Numbers 9:15-23**

**Numbers 9:15-17** It is encouraging to know that the same God who saves and keeps us also guides us in our journey.

**Numbers 9:22 God's leading is beyond human calculation:**

**God Gives Warning (Trumpets): Number 10:1-10**

1. To assemble the camp at the door of the tabernacle (vv. 3, 7)
2. To call the heads of the tribes together (v. 4)
3. To sound an alarm, either for war or for the journeying of the camp (vv. 6, 9)
4. To announce the special days, the new moons (v. 10). **1 Thessalonians 4:16**

**God Does Not Need The World's Wisdom: Numbers 10:29-36 Numbers 10:29-32** God had promised to guide His people, yet Moses wanted to lean on the arm of flesh.

**Chastised: Numbers 11-12** After the remarkable evidence of God's love in **Numbers 9-10**, it is amazing that we read of the people complaining.

**People Complain, and God Sends Fire: Numbers 11:1-3**

It is a serious thing to complain against God.

**The People Lusted and God Gave Them What They Wanted:**

**Numbers 11:4-35 Numbers 11:4-6**

**Rabble, The "mixed multitude" who were traveling with Israel**

**Numbers 11:8** Make God's bread taste like the food of Egypt, **Exodus 16:31**

**Numbers 11:11** Moses gets discouraged over the people, and he even starts to complain and fall into sin.

**The Quail and The Plague:**

**Numbers 11:31-35** The greedy kill themselves.

**The Leaders Criticized and God Chastened Them: Numbers 12**

But the real cause was their jealousy over Moses' leadership.

**Numbers 12:2-3** The key thought is that **unbelief robs us of blessing.**

**Sending In The Spies: Numbers 13:1-27**

**Deuteronomy 1:20-23** Moses makes it clear that the sending of the spies was the desire of the people, not the commandment of the Lord.

**Numbers 11:28** Joshua is called **the attendant of Moses from his youth**, "Moses' servant"; ultimately, he becomes Moses' successor (Josh 1).

**Numbers 13:8** Joshua is said to be one of the spies.

**Refusing To Go Into The Land: Numbers 13:28-33**

Unbelief always sees the obstacles; faith always sees the opportunities.

## **Rebelling Against Their Leaders: Numbers 14:1-39 Numbers 14:9**

**Numbers 14:20-23** Forgiveness but consequences to sin will follow.

**Attempting To Battle Without God: Numbers 14:40-45** Far better to wander in the wilderness in the will of God than to fight a losing battle out of the will of God.

**Laws For Canaan: Numbers 15** The people are reminded of sacrifices and the witness that they are to be in the land.

## **Korah's Rebellion Against Moses and Aaron: Numbers 16**

**Numbers 16:1-3** Moses and Aaron did not defend themselves; they let God do the defending.

**Numbers 16:13-14** The men blamed Moses for their failure to enter the Promised Land when it was their own unbelief that brought this defeat.

**Numbers 16:32-34** Guilty conscience! The wicked flee when no one is pursuing!

**Numbers 16:49** It is tragic when a few people sin and cause the deaths of many others. Before this rebellion was over, nearly **15,000 people had died**.

## **Aaron's Rod Buds: Numbers 17**

This was God's defense on behalf of Aaron and his calling.

## **Roles of The Levites: Numbers 18-19**

God speaks of the obligation and the portion of the priests in their service.

## **Ordinance of The Red Heifer: Numbers 19**

## **The Sin Of Israel, The Failure of Moses (Jesus the Smitten Rock): Numbers 20 Numbers 20:9-12**

## **The New Generation Set Apart: Numbers 21-36**

## **The Bronze Serpent (Jesus would be lifted up): Numbers 21 Numbers 21:5-6 (Cried out to Moses)**

**Numbers 21:8** Jesus would be lifted up! **John 3:14** But the serpent of brass pictures Christ, who became sin for us (**2 Corinthians 5:21**)

**Balaam, The False Prophet: Numbers 22** Balaam was a false prophet, but not because of his message. What made him false was his character.

### **The Oracles of Balaam, The False Prophet:**

**Numbers 23-24** When He opened his mouth, God gave a blessing instead of a curse. God will accomplish His will even if the vessel is unwilling.

**Israel Sins With The Moabites: Numbers 25** It was thru Balaam that the children of Israel fell into sin and judgment. **Revelation 2:14**

**The Reorganization and Renumbering of Israel:  
Numbers 26 Numbers 26:1-3**

**The Appointment Of Joshua, The New Leader:  
Numbers 27 Numbers 27:17-18**

**The Reinstitution of Offerings And Vows: Numbers 28-30**  
The new generation is re-taught the rules regarding the offerings and vows.

**Their Dividing Of The Inheritance: Numbers 31-36**

**The Slaughter of Midian: Numbers 31 Numbers 31:1-2**

**Numbers 31:16** God's judgment does not come immediately, but it will come.

**The Borderline Christians: Numbers 32** This typifies those Christians that see the things of this world and don't want to enter into all that God has for them.

**Israel Recounts Where They Have Gone: Numbers 33**  
God promises again to a new generation that they are going to inherit the land.

**Israel's Borders: Numbers 34**

**Israel Inheritance: Numbers 35-36 Numbers 35:6** These six cities of refuge are types of Christ, to whom we have fled for refuge (**Hebrews 6:18**)

### **Application:**

1. God Honors Faith And Punishes Unbelief: At the root of all of Israel's sins in the wilderness was unbelief: They did not trust God's Word.
2. Canaan Was A Land Of Battles And Blessings, As Is The Christian Life Today: Too many Christians come to the place of decision (their own Kadesh-Barnea), and they fail to enter into their inheritance by faith.
3. Instead Of Being Conquerors, Israelites Become Wanderers, As Described In Numbers: Yes, they are saved, but they fail to fulfill God's purpose for their lives.
4. Because Of Unbelief, The Nation Wasted 38 Years And Endured Unnecessary Afflictions: