

“The Pentateuch”
Numbers 12
Wednesday Oct 20, 2010

Numbers – Israel is tested in trusting God and found guilty of the sin of Unbelief.

- 1. Numbers 1:1-10:10 Order and Organization**
- 2. Numbers 10:11-22:1 Testing’s and Failures**

Numbers 12 – Moses’ own family gets into the act; Miriam and Aaron speak against Moses; Jealousy comes out!

- 1. Verses 1-3 – Backbiting**
- 2. Verses 4-10 – Judgment**
- 3. Verses 11-13 – Intercession**
- 4. Verses 14-16 – Setback**

1. Verses 1-3 – Backbiting:

Numbers 12:1

Numbers 10:33

Num 11:35 – “and they remained at Hazeroth.” This is 40 miles Northeast of Sinai.

Micah 6:4

Miriam – God had used Miriam to save her younger brother’s life Ex. 2:1-10, and she was also a prophetess who led the Jewish women in praising God after the deliverance of Egypt Ex 15:20-21

Aaron – Aaron was the elder brother in the family Ex. 7:7, appointed by God not only to assist Moses in confronting Pharaoh Ex. 4:10-17, but also to serve as the first high priest.

spoke against – the verb “spoke” is feminine in form, and Miriam alone was disciplined by the Lord.

Heb 12:15

Degrading Moses by Suggesting that He Had Committed a Questionable Act: “because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman);”

Numbers 12:2

Miriam finally got around to her real complaint: “Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us as well?”

The real issue was Jealousy: "Hasn't God spoken to us also, not just Moses?"
– Yes!

Numbers 12 – Jealousy or Envy – “a feeling of discontent or covetousness with regards to another’s advantages, successes, position or possessions”
Envy is the chief enemy of unity because it breeds discord and discontentment.

Psalms 133:1

1 Cor 12:18

Phil 2:1-2

Eph 4:1-3

Prov 6:16-19

Envy is a Mark of Carnality - 1 Cor 3:3

Numbers 12:3

Psalms 26:1-3

meekness is not weakness: it's power under control.

Gal 5:13-16

1 Peter 4:8

Prov 20:19

2. Verses 4-10 – Judgment:

Numbers 12:4-5

Numbers 12:6-8 – What Was Special About Moses? Numbers 12:6

Numbers 12:7 – Moses Was Faithful – Numbers 12:7

Numbers 12:8 – Moses Had An Intimate Relationship With God – Numbers 12:8

Numbers 12:9-10

3. Verses 11-13 – Intercession:

Numbers 12:11

1 John 2:1

Heb 7:25

Numbers 12:12-13

1 Peter 3:8-9

4. Verses 14-16 – Setback:

Numbers 12:14

Miriam's Consequences:

1. She brought shame upon herself – Numbers 12:14
2. She was isolated – Numbers 12:14
3. She held up the camp's movement – Numbers 12:15

Deut 24:9

Numbers 12:16

Numbers 13:26

1 Tim 5:20

Application:

1. We are all part of the same body, We are on the same team fighting the same enemy – and it's not each other.
2. God is the One who calls and places us in the positions as He desires; We should rejoice with those whom God is using
3. We need to be faithful to where we are now – He who is faithful in the small things will be granted greater things.
4. Be humble – look to serve others not yourself, Develop intimacy with God. Be careful of challenging God's authority
5. Check your motives –

Heb 13:17