

Discipleship University Bible Reading Guide

Early Old Testament Foundations: Numbers 1-14

For class to be held Jan. 16, 2016

Numbers 1-2 – The Census and the Camp Set Up

1. How long were the Israelites camped at Sinai? (See Num. 1:1) _____.
2. Which tribe could supply the most men for an Israelite army? _____. The least? _____.
3. Which tribe was exempt from the army? _____. Why? _____.
4. Where were the Levites to camp relative to other tribes? _____.
5. Which tribe was the standard tribe on the east side of camp? _____. Which tribes were also on the east side? _____, _____.
6. Which tribe was the standard tribe on the south side? _____. Which tribes were also on the south side? _____, _____.
7. When Israel broke camp to march, what tribe was to march in the middle of the line? _____.
8. Which tribe was the standard tribe on the west side of the camp? _____. Which tribes were also on the west side? _____, _____.
9. Which tribe was the standard tribe on the north side? _____. Which tribes also camped on the north side? _____, _____.

Numbers 3-4 – The Levites and Their Responsibilities

1. On which side of the tabernacle was each group of families from the three sons of Levi to camp?
2. Who camped on the east side of the tabernacle? _____.
3. In chapter 3, what was the duty of each group of families from the three sons of Levi?
4. What had to be done before the sons of Kohath could come in to carry away the sanctuary furniture? Who prepared the way for them? _____.
5. Who was in charge of the sons of Gershon and Merari? _____.
6. What was the acceptable range of age for Levites to perform their duties? _____

Numbers 5-6 – Other Laws and Regulations

1. Do you think that the requirement to remove from the camp every leper, anyone with a discharge and anyone defiled by a dead body was a punishment or the practice of quarantine? _____.
2. If it wasn't possible to make restitution with an individual (they're dead or too far away), what could be done to make restitution? (see 5:6-10) _____.
3. What were the restrictions for one making a Nazirite vow? _____.
4. What was the purpose of doing a Nazirite vow, and how long did it last?

Numbers 7:1-10:10 – Dedication of the Altar and Preparations for the Journey to Canaan

1. Which Levites were to use wagons for transporting sanctuary items? _____, _____. Which were not? _____. In Num. 7:12-88 what took place over 12 days?
2. Who was set apart and consecrated for service in the work of the tabernacle in chapter 8? _____. What was the acceptable range of age for this service? _____.
3. What special ceremony did God remind them to have near the start of their second year since leaving Egypt? _____. Which two cases were allowed to participate? _____.
4. What determined whether Israel remained in camp or they traveled? _____.

5. What different purposes were served by blowing the silver trumpets?

Numbers 10:11-12:16 – Departure from Sinai, Serious Complaints and Problems along the Way

1. What happened on the 20th day of the 2nd month, in the second year? _____.
2. Where in the marching line were the sons of Gershon and Merari and their wagons transporting the tabernacle, boards, pillars, hangings and such? _____.
3. Which tribe led the march? _____. Which 3 tribes took up the rear guard? _____.
4. Why were the people complaining in 11:1? (read through verse 6 and see PP p. 377 for 3 answers)
5. Why was the complaint for flesh more grievous in Numbers than in Exodus? _____.
6. Was the appointment of the 70 elders good or bad? _____.
7. How can God be seen as both just and merciful in the events of Num. 11?
8. What was Miriam's problem in Num. 12? _____.
9. Why was she dealt with more severely than Aaron? _____.

***Suggested Reading: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 33 (p. 374-386). **Very Important!!!**

Note: Having a right concept of the character of God is critical to our growth in trust and faith in Him. This chapter helps to answer some of the questions above and has lessons for us when dealing with difficult situations. *What do each of us need to learn from Miriam's sin?*

Numbers 13-14 – Rebellion at the Border of the Promised Land

1. How many days had the spies been gone learning about the land and people of Canaan? _____. Why did most of the spies think they could never take possession of the land? _____.
2. When Caleb and Joshua encouraged the people not to rebel but to have faith in God to give them the land, what was the peoples' response? _____. What stopped them? _____.
3. Why didn't Moses go along with God's suggestion in Num. 14:12? _____.
4. In response to Moses' prayer God pardoned Israel, but why did He declare that all those 20 years of age and older, except Caleb and Joshua, would never see the promised land but instead would die in the wilderness? _____.
5. How did God determine that Israel would have to remain in the wilderness for 40 Years?
6. What happened to the 10 spies who gave the evil report that influenced Israel to rebel? _____.
7. How did Israel continue to rebel against God the next day? _____. What were the results? _____.

***Suggested Reading: *PP* chapter 34 (p. 387-394). **Very Important!!!!**

Note: When people say that the God of the Old Testament was harsh, they don't give Him fair consideration. Whenever God had to take stern measures there was no better alternative. This chapter helps us see this better. For instance, After Israel was given the divine decision that they must remain in the wilderness for 40 years, Num. 14:39 says they mourned greatly. Was this true repentance?

1. What showed that their sorrow over their punishment was not true repentance? _____.
2. In what way were they legalistic? _____.
3. What kind of confessions will the wicked give in the end of time? _____.
4. What effect did the defeat of Israel have on the surrounding nations? _____.